

Theme: Christians live in the New Covenant, and are being progressively transformed by the Spirit into the image of God as we consistently behold His glory.

I. Intro – The Work of the Spirit

- A. Till We Have Faces – Myth Retold
- B. Lot of parallels with our text
- C. Classic story retold, change of perspective, veil
- D. What is Paul telling us in this text?
- E. What is the Spirit's role in all of this?

II. OT Background: Moses and the Veil

- A. Not like Moses who put on veil (v13)
 - 1. Moses face radiant after Sinai (Ex 34:29-30)
 - 2. Covered face with veil (Ex 34:33-34)
 - 3. Unveiled before Lord, veiled with people
- B. Veil over unbelievers minds/hearts (2Co 3:14-15)
- C. Conversion: Christ removes veil (2 Co. 3:14-16)
- D. Spirit gives freedom from veil and law (2Co 3:17)

III. The Spirits Transforming Work

- A. We **all** have unveiled faces now (v18a)
 - 1. Greek is emphatic – we ALL unveiled faces
 - 2. Only Moses went before God like this (Num 12:6-8)

- B. We all behold God as in a mirror (2 Cor 3:18a)
 - 1. NIV – reflect; KJV/NASB – behold mirror
 - 2. κατοπτρίζω – behold as in mirror usually
 - 3. Corinth mirrors – 1 Cor 13:12; 1Clem 36:2
 - 4. We do not see God directly yet but as in mirror
- C. We are being transformed into His likeness (v18c)
 - 1. Word used 4x – Mt 17:2/Mk 9:2, Rom 12:2
 - 2. We begin to bear God's glory increasingly
- D. Transformation is a process as we behold His glory
 - 1. Ever increasing glory (v18d)
 - 2. Beholding in mirror & transformed – present ptc
 - 3. Will be completed future - 1Co 13:12; 1Jn 3:2; Ro 8:18
 - 4. Bodies transformed – Phil 3:21
- E. This is the Spirit's work (2Co 3:18e)

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see the veil that blinds unbelievers?
 - 1. There is a veil over minds and hearts
 - 2. Has Christ taken away the veil for you?
 - 3. Turn to Him for true freedom today!
- B. Do we see glory & privilege we have in New Cov?

1. Only Moses saw – we all see
2. The glory we behold & receive is greater
3. Moses' glory faded – ours grows
4. Thanks be to God for this!

C. Are we beholding God's glory daily?

1. Transformation is a process
2. Only happens as we regularly behold His glory
3. Mirror – Word, sacraments, means of grace
4. Do we behold Him regularly in Word, prayer, fellowship?
5. Do we behold Him as we gather together?
6. Come and behold His glory at the table
7. Come and be transformed!

Transformed by the Spirit

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

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Communion

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24//1 Timothy 1:17

²⁹ When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that **his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD.** ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and **they were afraid to come near him.**
Exodus 34:29-30

³³ When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴ But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, Exodus 34:33-34

he said, "Listen to my words: "**When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams.** ⁷ But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. ⁸ **With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD.**
Numbers 12:6-8

all reflect the Lord's glory (NIV)
Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord (KJV)
Beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord (NASB)
2 Corinthians 3:18

¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.
1 Corinthians 13:12

Through Him let us look steadily into the heights of heaven; **through Him we see as in a mirror His faultless and transcendent face...**
1 Clement 36:2 Clement writing to Corinthians in 95 AD.

² There he was **transfigured** before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Matthew 17:2 (also Mark 9:2)

¹² Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.
1 Corinthians 13:12

² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the **glory that will be revealed in us.** Romans 8:18

²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, **will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.**
Philippians 3:21

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it..... 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24//1 Timothy 1:17