

1. Why did Moses' face shine after speaking with the LORD (Ex. 34:29-30)? What does this teach us about the transforming effect of being in God's presence? In 2 Cor. 3:7, Paul refers to Moses' ministry as the "ministry of death," which, though it came with glory (3:7), yet was a fading glory. What does this suggest about both the greatness and the limitation of the old covenant? How does regular time in God's presence (prayer, Scripture, worship) visibly or inwardly affect us? (See Ps. 34:5.) Do/would others notice a difference?
2. Why did the people react with fear (vs. 30)? What does their response reveal about human sinfulness and the holiness of God? (See Isa. 6:1-5; Luke 5:8.) Are there ways we shrink back from God because of guilt, shame, or fear? How does the gospel address that fear?
3. In verses 33-35, why did Moses put a veil over his face? According to Paul, what deeper meaning did that veil have? Paul explains that the veil symbolized the fading glory of the old covenant (2 Cor. 3:13) and spiritual blindness apart from Christ (3:14). What changes when someone "turns to the Lord" (3:16)? What "veils" might keep people today from clearly seeing Christ? How can we help others see with unveiled faces?
4. What does it mean to behold the Lord's glory with "unveiled face" (2 Cor. 3:18)? How does Paul describe the believer's transformation, and in what way is this different from Moses' experience? What practical habits help us "behold" the Lord? Where have you seen evidence of gradual spiritual transformation in your life?