



5/29/25

Today's passage has been life transforming for me. I teach this passage to women I counsel, so I know it well. And yet, as the Lord loves to do, studying this passage has given me deeper insight than I saw before. I'm so amazed that there's always more to learn with the Lord, and so thankful that He takes pleasure in teaching it to us!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

Today, I continue to study and understand this new way of the Spirit that far exceeds and trumps the way of the law. Romans 7:5-6 says, "For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code." What do I learn about the new way of the Spirit from this passage in 2 Corinthians?

Vs. 12-13 ~ Paul said, "Since we have such a hope..." What is that hope? The ministry of the Spirit who brings a life giving, permanent, eternal glory... HOPE... confident expectation... absolute certainty.

Since we have that hope, "we are VERY bold." We use GREAT boldness.

"Not like Moses..." I don't know... When I read the exodus, I see that Moses started out pretty fearfully but grew in boldness as he led the Israelites. But maybe he just grew in arrogance. Maybe those aren't the same. Maybe it was his lack of boldness and his growing arrogance that made him put a veil over his face so that the Israelites wouldn't see the glory fading from his face as he left the presence of God.

I definitely cannot judge him or think I'm superior to him. God described him as "a friend of God." He wasn't perfect by any means, but he wanted to be close to God, and he drew near to

Him in worship. Yet he knew that the Israelites were afraid of God's glory, and he covered his face so that the glory of God would fade behind a veil. The beauty of the ministry of the Spirit is that I am now ALWAYS in the presence of God because the Spirit dwells in me, His temple. His glory never has to fade from my face as I stay close to the Lord.

Vs. 14-15 ~ Moses' heart and mind weren't hard, but the Israelites' hearts and minds were. They were fine not to see the glory of God shining on Moses. It terrified them. While Moses had a veil over his face, they had a veil over their hearts and minds... "The god of this age has blinded the minds of those who don't believe" (1 Corinthians 4:4). They refuse to remove that veil to this day because they refuse to acknowledge Jesus as Lord.

"Only through Christ is the veil taken away." It was through Christ that the curtain, separating us from the Holy of Holies where the presence of the Lord dwelled, was torn from top to bottom. But they still hold to the law for their claim of salvation... and some don't even hold to the law, but to their ethnicity. They hold to the fact that they are in the bloodline of Abraham. Yet Galatians 3:7-9 says, "Know then that it is those of FAITH who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel (that's about salvation through JESUS) beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'In you shall all the nations be blessed.' So then, those who are of faith (in JESUS) are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith."

Vs. 16-18 ~ So... when one TURNS to the Lord... by faith in Jesus... the veil that keeps us from seeing the glory of the Lord is removed. Who removes it? Not the law. Not me. THE HOLY SPIRIT! The Holy Spirit is the one who brings FREEDOM!

Wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. Freedom FROM sin. Freedom FROM deception. Freedom FROM the veil. Freedom FROM blindness. Freedom FROM the condemnation of the law. Freedom TO follow Jesus. Freedom TO know the truth and live the truth. Freedom TO see the glory of God. Freedom TO walk in newness of life with the Spirit. Why would I not CONTINUALLY turn to the Lord? Not for salvation... I have that... but for a relationship with Him!

What do I do once I turn to the Lord, having the veil removed from my heart and my mind by the power of the Holy Spirit? I "behold His glory." The Israelites refused to see His glory. But I get to fix my eyes on it! I get to see it as in a mirror. I get to reflect His glory. I am like the moon. It has no light in itself, but it reflects the glory of the sun. When anything blocks it from the sun, it has no light. The veil has been removed from me so that I can ALWAYS reflect His glory. O Lord, please help me not to cover my eyes! If I look into the sun, I go blind. But if I look at the SON, I can see everything! The eyes of my heart are enlightened!

As I continue to keep my heart and my mind turned to the Lord, walking in the freedom I have through Jesus, the Holy Spirit continues to transform my life so that my reflection becomes a perfect reflection of Jesus more and more... one degree of GLORY to another.

From glory to glory. This is a big deal and one I need to keep paying attention to. He transforms me from one degree of glory, honor, splendor... to the next degree of glory, honor, splendor... little by little... until I look so much like Jesus that the people around me can see HIS glory shining through me.

The opposite of glory is shame. God never shames me into transformation. That's what the law did... and it didn't work. God glories me into transformation. HIS glory, not mine. I'm a reflection. But this is the greatest place to be... the greatest hope to have.

For this comes from the Lord who is the SPIRIT... This does NOT come from the law. It does NOT come from me muscling it until I get it right. How much would my life change if I stopped trying to take the Spirit's role, and just do mine. He removes the veil. He gives freedom. He transforms me to look like Jesus. MY role is to turn to Him and behold His glory. The problem comes when I am trying to take HIS role and expecting Him to turn to ME and give ME glory. O Lord, may that NEVER be!