

Seeing is Freeing

What if the key to overcoming sin, fear, and spiritual stagnation had nothing to do with trying harder? What if it was simply about seeing God more clearly? That is the heart of what we are exploring here. When God is truly revealed to us, not just as a concept or a set of rules, but as a living reality, everything changes.

Why Do People Run From God Instead of Running to Him?

In Exodus 19 and 20, God descended on Mount Sinai in fire, smoke, lightning, and thunder. The mountain shook. A trumpet sounded. It was an overwhelming display of His presence. And the people ran.

"Now all the people witnessed the thundering, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off." - Exodus 20:18

They begged Moses to speak to God on their behalf. They did not want God speaking directly to them. And while Moses walked into the cloud of God's presence, the people drew back until they were completely out of sight. It was not long before they worshiped a golden calf.

This pattern is still common today. Many people prefer a God they can manage, a God smaller than themselves. A God they can control. But the real God does not fit that description, and deep down, people know it. So they keep their distance.

What Does It Mean That God Wants to "Take Over"?

God did not come to Mount Sinai to destroy the people. Moses told them clearly: "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, and that His fear might be before you so that you may not sin." - Exodus 20:20

God wanted them to see Him as He truly is. Not to terrify them into submission, but to transform them through revelation. He wanted to take over, not in a forceful, destructive way, but in the way that heaven itself is overtaken by God. That is why there is no sickness, no poverty, no depression in heaven. God's presence fills it completely.

The Apostle Paul captured this idea when he said, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." - Galatians 2:20. That is the invitation. Let Him take over and die to self. Then watch what happens.

Are the Ten Commandments Rules to Follow or Promises of Who You Become?

Most people read the Ten Commandments as a list of restrictions. "You shall not" sounds like a warning, a threat, a rule. But read them again with fresh eyes.

"You shall have no other gods before Me." - Exodus 20:3

That is not a command in the threatening sense. It is a declaration of what happens when you truly see God. When He is revealed to you, you will not want other gods. You will not be chasing idols or addictions or distractions. You simply will not. The desire fades in the light of who He is.

That is why these can be called the Ten Confessions rather than the Ten Commandments. They describe the natural outcome of a life that has encountered the living God.

How Does Seeing God Change the Way You Live?

First John 3:2 says it plainly: "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

This is not talking about heaven someday. First John 4:17 confirms it: "As He is, so are we in this world." Right now. In this life. As He is revealed to us, we become like Him.

This is not about trying harder to be a good Christian. It is about seeing more clearly. When your heart gets a genuine revelation of who God is, your behavior changes naturally. You grow out of old habits the way a child grows out of old clothes. You do not strain to leave sin behind. You simply lose interest in it because something far greater has captured your attention.

What Happened When Isaiah Saw God?

Isaiah 6 gives one of the most vivid pictures of God's presence in all of Scripture. Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. Seraphim surrounded Him, each with six wings, covering their faces and feet in His presence. They cried out:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory." - Isaiah 6:3

The doorposts shook. The house filled with smoke. And Isaiah's response? "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." - Isaiah 6:5

He felt destroyed. Cut off. Finished. Not because God was going to harm Him, but because the contrast between God's holiness and His own condition was so overwhelming that He could not pretend otherwise.

Then a seraphim flew to him with a live coal from the altar and touched his lips. His iniquity was taken away. His sin was purged. And immediately after, when God asked, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Isaiah did not hesitate. "Here am I! Send me." - Isaiah 6:8

That is what an encounter with God produces. Not shame that paralyzes. Cleansing that launches you forward.

What Does "Walking in the Spirit" Actually Look Like?

Hebrews 12 draws a direct contrast between what the Israelites experienced at Mount Sinai and what believers have access to now.

"You have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire... but you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels." - Hebrews 12:18, 22

What the Israelites saw with their physical eyes did not transform them. They saw fire and smoke and heard the voice of God, and within days they were worshiping an idol. Seeing with your physical senses is not enough.

But being born again opens spiritual eyes. You can now perceive the kingdom of God with your heart. Angels surround you. The Holy Spirit lives inside you. The same God who shook Mount Sinai has made His home in you.

Walking in the Spirit means staying aware of that reality. It means keeping your spiritual eyes open. Jeremiah described what happens when that fire gets inside you: "His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not." - Jeremiah 20:9

You stop holding back. You cannot help but speak about Him, share your faith, live differently. It is not forced. It is the natural overflow of a heart that has been touched by heaven.

What Happens When We Lose Sight of God?

James 1 makes it clear: each person is tempted when they are drawn away from God and pulled toward their own fleshly desires. The moment you take your eyes off Him, temptation gains power. Sin becomes appealing again. Old habits creep back.

That is what backsliding actually is. Not a dramatic fall, but a slow drift away from the revelation of Him. Living off what you once knew instead of continuing to grow in the knowledge of Him.

Hebrews 12:28-29 calls believers to respond with reverence: "Since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire."

That reverence is not fear that drives you away. It is the kind of awe that keeps you close, keeps you clean, and keeps you hungry for more of Him.

Life Application

This week, make one specific change to how you start your day. Before you check your phone, before you scroll through anything, take five minutes to ask God to open the eyes of your heart. Pray the prayer from Ephesians 1:17-18, asking for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you, not just to give you information about Him, but to make Himself real to your heart.

Then pay attention throughout the day. Notice what shifts. Notice what loses its grip on you. Notice what you are less tempted by, less anxious about, less controlled by.

Ask yourself these questions as you reflect:

- Am I drawing near to God, or am I just drawing near to church and religious activity?
- Is there anything in my life I am holding onto because I have lost sight of how holy and awesome God truly is?
- When was the last time I was genuinely in awe of God, not just going through the motions of faith?
- Am I walking in the Spirit, staying aware of His presence, or have I been living mostly in the flesh and relying on willpower to resist sin?

The Christian life was never meant to be a grinding effort to follow rules. It is a growing revelation of a God so holy, so consuming, and so present that when you truly see Him, everything else loses its power over you. Keep seeking that revelation. Keep asking Him to be revealed. That is where transformation lives.

Quotes

1. Many people prefer a god they can manage rather than the God who rules them.
2. Before Almighty God, every person is nothing—yet in Christ, God joins us to Himself.
3. The Ten Commandments become ten confessions when you truly see who God is.
4. Those who behold God's presence lose their appetite for idols.
5. Spiritual maturity isn't managing old habits—it's outgrowing them.
6. The clearer your vision of Christ, the closer your life reflects Him.
7. Backsliding begins when yesterday's revelation replaces today's relationship.
8. Christlikeness isn't just a future hope—it's a present calling.
9. Don't just hear a sermon—pray for revelation.
10. One glimpse of God's glory will make yesterday's priorities seem worthless.
11. The holiness of God doesn't inflate man—it utterly humbles him.
12. A heart ignited by God's Word cannot remain silent.
13. A revelation of God's holiness makes you tremble at the very thought of sin.
14. Rules restrain the heart until revelation transforms it.
15. Temptation begins when your eyes leave God and turn toward yourself.

16. It isn't human effort that changes us—it's the reality of God.

17. Our God is not merely loving—He is a consuming fire.

18. The awareness of God's presence slows your tongue and purifies your heart.

19. The Christian life is learning to see Him more clearly every day.

20. Where there is true revelation, discipline ceases to be a struggle—it becomes your nature.

Verses

1. Ephesians 1:18

2. Exodus 19

3. Exodus 20:18

4. Exodus 20:20

5. Exodus 20:3

6. 1 John 3:2

7. 1 John 4:17

8. Hebrews 12:18

9. Hebrews 12:22

10. Hebrews 12:25

11. Hebrews 12:28

12. Isaiah 6:1

13. Isaiah 6:3

14. Isaiah 6:5

15. Isaiah 6:6

16. Isaiah 6:7

17. Isaiah 6:8

18. Jeremiah 20:9

19. 1 Corinthians 3

20. James 1

Summary

Many people keep God at a distance because they prefer a version of Him they can manage and control. But when God is truly revealed, not as a concept or a set of rules, but as a living reality, everything changes. The Ten Commandments are not simply a list of restrictions. They are a description of what naturally happens in a life that has genuinely encountered God. When He is revealed to us, we become like Him, not through straining or trying harder, but through seeing Him more clearly. Transformation is not the result of greater effort. It is the overflow of a heart that has been captured by the holiness and presence of God.