

Set Free for a New Everything

NET 2 Corinthians 3:15–18:

15 But until this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds,

16 but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is present, there is freedom.

18 And we all, with unveiled faces reflecting the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, which is from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

1. Salvation Removes the Veil Over Your Heart (verses 15-16)

Thou glorious Bridegroom of our hearts,
Thy radiant smile, a heaven imparts;
Oh lift the veil, if veil there be.
Let Thy redeem'd Thy beauties see.

Then on our faces shall the sight
Kindle a blaze of holy light,
And men with awe-struck wonder see
The glory we derive from Thee.

~Charles Spurgeon¹

2. The Spirit, Given at Salvation, Frees You (verse 17)

¹ Spurgeon, C. H. 1964. The Interpreter: Spurgeon's Devotional Bible. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

3. You Reflect the Lord's Glory by the Spirit (verse 18)

When a man turns to the Lord by faith, the veil of unbelief that keeps us separated from God and hinders our understanding of spiritual things is removed by the Holy Spirit. *We all—that is, all believers—are unveiled. With our veils removed, we behold the glory of the Lord. We see His glory as if we were looking in a mirror, which simply means we aren't even seeing His full glory. Yet even that partial view of God's glory causes us to reflect His glory.* When we behold His glory, we reflect His glory.

“When Moses beheld Jehovah's glory, his own face reflected that glory.” ~ Marvin Vincent²

“We become what we behold.” ~Amy Horton

“The point that Paul is making is that we shall not lose the glory as Moses did. But that is true if we keep on beholding or keep on reflecting (present tense).” A.T. Robertson³

4. You are Transformed into the Lord's Image by the Spirit (verse 18)

*How much are you going to look like Jesus
if you continue to behold Him the way you are right now?*

“There will be no marked growth in Christian holiness if we do not labor to overcome our natural disinclination towards secret spiritual exercises. Our forefathers kept honest diaries where

² Vincent, Marvin Richardson. 1887. *Word Studies in the New Testament*. Vol. 3. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

³ Robertson, A.T. 1933. *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

the soul's battles were recorded. Such men climbed high only as they labored with sweat and tears to cultivate the soul. We, too, must 'exercise ourselves unto godliness' (1 Timothy 4:7)."
~Maurice Roberts, *The Thought of God*

"When you see that clothes that fit a year ago will not fit now because they are too small, you may easily be persuaded that you have grown since that time. If your faith has not grown, those temptations which fit you then, will still fit you now!" ~William Gurnall, *Voices from the Past, Volume 2*, page 267

May I this day get nearer to heaven. May I feel at its close that I have done something for You, God—something to promote the great end for which existence was given me—the glory of Your holy name. ~John MacDuff

Never is a man in his right mind till he is converted, or in his right place till he sits by faith at the feet of Jesus, or rightly clothed till he has put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Have we ever considered what real conversion to God is? It is nothing else but the miraculous release of a captive, the miraculous restoration of a man to his right mind, the miraculous deliverance of a soul from the devil. ~J. C. Ryle, *Day by Day with J. C. Ryle*, page 251

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Oh, soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's a light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free.
Do you see God's provision?

His Word shall not fail you, He promised,
Believe Him, and all will be well;
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell.
Provision.

Through death into life everlasting,
He passed, and we follow Him there;
Over us sin no more hath dominion,
For more than conquerors we are.
Provision.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely
dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.
That is provision.

"And they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." —Acts 4:13

A Christian should be a striking likeness of Jesus Christ. You have read lives of Christ, beautifully and eloquently written, but the best life of Christ is his living biography, written out in the words and actions of his people. If we were what we profess to be, and what we should be, we should be pictures of Christ; yea, such striking likenesses of him, that the world would not

have to hold us up by the hour together, and say, "Well, it seems somewhat of a likeness;" but they would, when they once beheld us, exclaim, "He has been with Jesus; he has been taught of him; he is like him; he has caught the very idea of the holy Man of Nazareth, and he works it out in his life and every-day actions."

A Christian should be like Christ in his *boldness*. Never blush to own your religion; your profession will never disgrace you: take care you never disgrace *that*. Be like Jesus, very valiant for your God. Imitate him in your *loving* spirit; think kindly, speak kindly, and do kindly, that men may say of you, "He has been with Jesus." Imitate Jesus in his *holiness*. Was he zealous for his Master? So be you; ever go about doing good. Let not time be wasted: it is too precious. Was he self-denying, never looking to his own interest? Be the same. Was he devout? Be you fervent in your prayers. Had he deference to his Father's will? So submit yourselves to him. Was he patient? So learn to endure. And best of all, as the highest portraiture of Jesus, try to forgive your enemies, as he did; and let those sublime words of your Master, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do," always ring in your ears. Forgive, as you hope to be forgiven. Heap coals of fire on the head of your foe by your kindness to him. Good for evil, recollect, is godlike.

*Be godlike, then; and in all ways and by all means, so live that all may say of you, "He has been with Jesus."*⁴

Help me to leave my concerns in Thy hands,
For Thou hast power over evil,
And bring from it an infinite progression of good
Until Thy purposes are fulfilled.

Bless me with Abraham's faith
That staggers not at promises through unbelief (Romans 4:18-21).

May I not instruct Thee in my troubles,
But glorify Thee in my trials.
Grant me a distinct advance in the divine life.

May I reach a higher platform,
Leave the mists of doubt and fear in the valley,
And climb to hilltops of eternal security in Christ
By simply believing He cannot lie,
Or turn from His purpose.

Give me the confidence I ought to have in Him
Who is worthy to be praised,
And who is blessed for evermore.
~The Valley of Vision

⁴ Spurgeon, C. H. 1896. [*Morning and Evening: Daily Readings*](#). London: Passmore & Alabaster. *Morning, February 11*

Questions for Reflection, Discipleship, and Greater Progress in the Faith!

1. How do you “behold” the Lord while attending to details of your life?
2. What “strategies” or “habits” have you put in place to help you behold the Lord?
3. In what way does knowing that you have a “Helper” in the Holy Spirit give you courage, determination, or motivation to put off sin, to live by faith, and live a transformed life?
4. What truths from 2 Corinthians 3:15-18 strengthen your heart that a life of change is possible no matter how long you've walked with the Lord?
5. How do you *turn to the Lord* when you find your spiritual sight hampered by a veil of unbelief? What practical steps do you take to turn to Him?
6. What Scriptures encourage you to believe God and believe His Word when you are struggling with unbelief?
7. We are given the promise that “wherever the Lord is, there is liberty or freedom of heart” (2 Corinthians 3:17). How does that promise help you move forward in faith, trusting that any areas of spiritual blindness or dimness of sight can be overcome?
8. *You become what you behold.* How much are you going to look like Jesus if you continue to behold Him the way you are right now?