



# SECOND CORINTHIANS

*The Comfort of God FOR and THROUGH His People*



Part 18 — “Transformed by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Cor. 3:12-18) — 3 March 2024

## Introduction:

Paul and his companions had been made to be sufficient ministers of the New Covenant in Christ and this was evidenced by the fact that God had done a work through them among the Corinthians. This ministry surpassed even that of Moses among the Israelites because it carried with it a greater glory and so Paul and his companions did not lose heart. Rather, they were very bold to display the glory of God openly in the work of transformation that was being accomplished in and through them by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Main Point:** Believers can be characterized by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ because of the promises of the New Covenant and the work of the Spirit in us to transform us ever more into the image of the Lord.

## The Glory of the Lord that Transforms His People

### Initial Considerations

I. Paul has defended the nature of his ministry by \_\_\_\_\_ the “old” and New covenants.

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>The “Old” Covenant</u>	<u>The New Covenant</u>
Medium	Written on _____ tablets	Written on the _____ of believers
Ministry	Of _____	Of the _____
Function	_____	Gives _____
Glory	_____ glory	_____ in glory
Endurance	Being brought to an _____	_____
Confidence	Confidence in _____	Confidence in _____

2. Paul has referenced the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ among the people of Israel following the renewal of the Mosaic Covenant.

Exodus 34:33-35—<sup>33</sup> And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. <sup>34</sup> Whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, <sup>35</sup> the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

⇒ Moses veiled his face in the presence of the \_\_\_\_\_ but unveiled it in the presence of the \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

• Paul continues to contrast his ministry of the New Covenant with Moses' ministry of the “old” covenant. (3:12-14a)

### Observations:

1. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the New Covenant, Paul and his companions have hope and are very bold in ministry.

“very bold”—This is a combination of two words (*chraomai*—“to act, proceed” and *parrēsia*—“frankness of speech”)

2. This differentiates them from Moses, whose ministry among Israel involved \_\_\_\_\_ them from God's glory.

“at the outcome”

“of what was being brought to an end”

⇒ To have gazed continually upon the Lord's glory would have accomplished the \_\_\_\_\_ that the Law promised.

3. It was because of Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ that they could not receive the blessings of the Mosaic Covenant.

“hardened”

“Israel's idolatry with the golden calf betrayed the hardened condition of the people...If God's glory had continued in their midst...the people would have been utterly destroyed.” —David Garland

**Key Point:** Believers can speak boldly of God and His glory because the New Covenant and the work of the Spirit to make sinners \_\_\_\_\_ to the truth.

- Paul then describes the ongoing implications of this for Israel. (3:14b-15)

Observations:

- The imagery of Moses' veil can be understood metaphorically as the reasons for Israel's persistent unbelief.

Rom. 11:25—Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

- It is only through \_\_\_\_\_ that the "veil" is taken away.

**Key Point:** Christ is the only hope for those who see that the "old" covenant condemns them as \_\_\_\_\_ and worthy of God's judgment.

- Paul further explains how the veil is removed and the ongoing work of God in the believer as a result (3:16-18)

Observations:

- Paul draws a connection between Moses' actions to go into God's presence and the believer "turning" to the Lord.

- The work of the Lord to give freedom is associated with the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

*"the Lord is the Spirit"*

*"freedom"*

Gal. 5:1—For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

- The removal of Moses' veil in God's presence is an analogy to the believer's ongoing transformation by the work of the Holy Spirit.

*"beholding"*—*katoptrizō*—"to look at something as in a mirror; to contemplate"

*"transformed"*—*metamorphoō*—"to be changed or transformed"

⇒ These verbs are associated with Christian \_\_\_\_\_ and its subsequent results. The Scriptures both warn and exhort believers that we become like what we worship (Rom. 1:18-32; 12:1-2).

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>The "Old" Covenant</u>	<u>The New Covenant</u>
Veil	Covered Moses' face, _____ glory	Removed in Christ to _____ glory
Freedom	In _____	_____ by the Spirit
Transformation	_____ transformation	_____ transformation by the Spirit

**Key Point:** The transformative work of the Spirit in the life of the believer is intended by Him to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ until it is made complete in glory.

1 Cor. 15:39—Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

"When the child of God looks into the Word of God and sees the Son of God, he is changed by the Spirit of God into the image of God for the glory of God."  
—Warren Wiersbe

### Concluding Thoughts

- The unveiling of the divine glory of the Lord Jesus at His transfiguration is instructive for us.

*God's glory that transforms us comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ and is revealed to us in the \_\_\_\_\_*

2 Cor. 4:6—For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*God's glory that transforms us is revealed through us by the work of the \_\_\_\_\_*

2 Cor. 4:7—But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.



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**Main Point:** Believers can be characterized by boldness and hope because of the promises of the New Covenant and the work of the Spirit in us to transform us ever more into the image of the Lord.

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I. Paul has defended the nature of his ministry by \_\_\_\_\_ the “old” and New covenants.

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Medium	Written on <u>stone</u> tablets	Written on the <u>hearts</u> of believers
Ministry	Of <u>death</u>	Of the <u>Spirit</u>
Function	<u>Kills</u>	Gives <u>life</u>
Glory	<u>Fading</u> glory	<u>Surpassing</u> in glory
Endurance	Being brought to an <u>end</u>	<u>Everlasting</u>
Confidence	Confidence in <u>self</u>	Confidence in <u>Christ</u>

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<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>The “Old” Covenant</u>	<u>The New Covenant</u>
Veil	Covered Moses' face, <u>hiding</u> glory	Removed in Christ to <u>display</u> glory
Freedom	In <u>bondage</u>	<u>Freedom</u> by the Spirit
Transformation	<u>No</u> transformation	<u>Ongoing</u> transformation by the Spirit

**Key Point:** The transformative work of the Spirit in the life of the believer is intended by Him to be continuous and progressive until it is made complete in glory.

1 Cor. 15:39—Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

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