



Removing The Veil
2nd Corinthians 3:13-18

Removing The Veil

- Cheryle – Cherished or Beloved
 - Jonathan – God has given
 - Randall – Wolf Shield
 - Ericka – Xena Warrior Princess or Ever Powerful
- Jacob’s name in the Hebrew language means “trickster, deceiver, cheater”
 - And that is proven out by the way he deceived his older brother Esau of his birthright
 - What you throw around in life has a habit of coming back to you
 - **Galatians 6:7 NIV**, Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

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- Jacob's name in the Hebrew language means "trickster, deceiver, cheater"
 - **Genesis 29:21-25 ESV**, 21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." 22 So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. 23 But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. 25 And in the morning, **behold**, it was Leah!
 - The truth was hidden by a veil and Jacob didn't look behind it
 - Thus comes the wisdom of Roy Baird, "Make sure you look behind the veil before saying 'I do'"

Removing The Veil

- Veils are used to separate, conceal, cover
 - Veil restricting access to the Holy of Holies
 - A barrier between man and God, showing man that the holiness of God could not be trifled with
 - Veil or covering Moses had to wear after he had been in the presence of God
 - **Exodus 34:29-30,33 NIV**, 29 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. 30 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. 33 When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face.

Removing The Veil

- The Bible also describes a veil of sin that prevents people from hearing God's voice and knowing him, and from understanding what is true
 - **2nd Corinthians 3:14-15** NIV, 14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.
- This veil can affect both unbelievers and Christians
 - For Christians, the veil of sin can separate us from God's voice if we hold onto unrepented sin or negative emotions
 - For unbelievers the veil of sin prevents them from seeing the truth of Jesus Christ or seeing truth at all

Removing The Veil

- God longs to remove the veil through the presence of the His Holy Spirit
 - **2nd Corinthians 3:14b NIV**, Because only in Christ is it taken away
 - **2nd Peter 3:9 NIV**, The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
 - **John 16:12-13 NIV**, 12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.
- So, what happens when that veil of sinfulness is removed?

Scripture

- **2nd Corinthians 3:13-18 NIV**, 13 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. 14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.
 - 16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away (*or lifted*). 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (*liberty*). 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Removing The Veil

- We all begin our life separated by God because of our sin to such an extent we cannot see the truth of our own existence
 - In and of ourselves we will never see the glory of God and the sinfulness of ourselves
 - It is all God's grace that reveals the true us to us
- **Vs. 16,** But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.
 - The veil is lifted, and we see the truth of our sinfulness and separation from God
 - We see and begin to understand the truth of Jesus Christ

Removing The Veil

- **Vs. 16**, But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away (*or lifted*).
 - And a decision is presented to us at that time
 - Will we reject it and be made miserable because we have denied to ourselves the truth of Jesus and the only way to eternal life rather than eternal death
 - Or will we turn completely to the Lord and accept the salvation offered us by Jesus which allows the veil to be completely taken away
- Wonder of wonders, we are not just forgiven but set free
 - **Vs. 17**, where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (*liberty*).
- Paul tells us what that freedom, liberty looks like

We are set free to learn to live the life we were created for

- We each were created to live our lives to and for the glory of God
 - We were to reflect His glory like creation and not our own
 - Our sinfulness inverted that, and our lives became all about us
- Because our sinfulness God the Father sent Jesus to take upon Himself the penalty of our sins
 - **1st Peter 2:24 NIV**, “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”
 - Liberty has come to our lives here on earth
 - Because our Heavenly Father has implanted in us His Holy Spirit
 - Because the Holy Spirit is leading us to all or complete truth

We are set free to learn to live the life we were created for

- Moshe Teitelbaum
 - “Liberty is an internal force that compels us to do the right thing. It is the innate sense of responsibility that we feel towards ourselves and others. Liberty is the moral imperative to act in a just and responsible way, even when it might be easier or more convenient to do otherwise.”
 - “Freedom, on the other hand, is an external force that enables us to do what we want. It is the ability to act on our desires and impulses without any interference. While freedom can be liberating in many ways, it can also be dangerous if it is not tempered by responsibility and morality.”

We are set free to learn to live the life we were created for

- We now have freedom to act upon the liberty that has come into our lives
 - We have liberty to See the truth of God's Word
 - We have liberty to Act upon that truth, Teach that truth, and Grow in our understanding of absolute truth
 - All because of our filling of the Holy Spirit
 - **2nd Peter 3:18 NIV**, But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

We are set free to contemplate the Lord's glory

- Contemplate - look thoughtfully for a long time at, think profoundly and at length, meditate
- The Israelites had to turn away from the glory of God shining on the face of Moses
 - It scared them and made them want to pull away
- We no longer come before God in fear and tremble, nor do we come before him in pride or haughtiness

We are set free to contemplate the Lord's glory

- **Hebrews 4:14-16 NIV**, 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
 - We are free to contemplate the Lord's glory in creation, the work in our lives and the lives of others, but mostly in the blessed Word of God

We are set free to contemplate the Lord's glory

- Paul used a Greek word that could mean both contemplate and/or reflect
 - Unlike Moses we do not have to cover up the glory of God in our lives
 - We are free to shine for Jesus with all humility and without judgement
 - Please, don't let any one or any circumstance prevent you from letting God's glory shine in your life
 - We do not shine in arrogance or pride, but joyful appreciation and anticipation of what God is doing in our lives and where He is taking us
- How or why is that statement true?

We are set free to be transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory

- As we contemplate regularly the Lord's glory the last part of verse 18 is happening
 - **Vs. 18,** We are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
 - Transformed in the Greek (*metamorphoo*) means to change into another form, to allow ourselves to be fundamentally changed
- Our character and desires slowly but consistently are being transformed in the character of Christ
 - We begin to see and accept the truth of Christ's life and desire to see that lived in our day-to-day life
 - We see our lives and learn to let loose of us and grasp onto Jesus

We are set free to be transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory

- **Galatians 2:20 NIV**, I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
 - The old sinful me has been crucified on the cross with Jesus
 - Stop seeing yourself as the old battered, unloved, unacceptable you
 - Stop carrying the old you around like a corpse strapped to our backs
 - It no longer is about me but Christ who lives in me
 - It's no longer is my strength, wisdom, determination
 - I am now choosing to live by faith in a God who loved me at my worst
 - It is no long me walking around in this body but Jesus

We are set free to be transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory

- This mindset will begin to rewire your spiritual thinking which will rewire your physical thinking which will rewire your life
 - **Philippians 2:13 NIV**, For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.
 - **2nd Peter 1:3-4 NIV**, 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Removing The Veil

- The Apostle Paul was set free on the Damascus Road where he met our living Savior
 - **Acts 9:18-22 NIV**, 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.
 - 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. 21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" 22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

Removing The Veil

- We have the free will to enjoy Christ and live blessed or fight Him and eventually fail
 - As a Christian you can lose your peace, joy, blessings on earth
 - As a non-believer you will lose eternally
- Christian liberty allows us to possess the blessings of God and walk in them
 - And to that I say this morning, “Hallelujah!”



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