



Transforming Glory, 2nd Corinthians 3:17-18



Transforming Glory

- Let your mind go back to the time Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden before the fall
 - **Genesis 1:31 NIV**, God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.
 - **Genesis 2:25 NIV**, Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.
 - Why do you think we needed to know this?
 - In their innocence they reflected the glory of God perfectly
 - They were able to see, recognize, and experience God's glory in everything

Transforming Glory

- Let your mind go back to the time Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden before the fall
 - All who have been in the presence of God reflect His glory
 - Angels, Moses, Jesus
 - Nation of Israel in the cloud and fire
 - Simple shepherds when Jesus was born
 - **Luke 2:8-8 NIV**, 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

Transforming Glory

- Let your mind go back to the time Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden before the fall
 - **Genesis 3:7a NIV**, Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked
 - They no long reflected the glory of God after their sin
 - **Genesis 3:7b-8 NIV**, so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Transforming Glory

- Let your mind go back to the time Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden before the fall
 - **Genesis 3:23-24 NIV**, 23 So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.
 - Not only did they lose access to the Tree of Life in the Garden
 - Close fellowship of walking with the Lord
 - They lost the Glory of the Lord
 - This is what sin always does

Transforming Glory

- One of the greatest phrases in scripture is, “but God”
 - **Romans 5:5 NIV**, But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - **Romans 5:1 NIV**, Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - What was lost in the Garden has been restored
 - We once again have access to the Tree of Life who is Jesus Christ

Transforming Glory

- **Romans 5:2 ESV**, Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
 - We now have the hope of restoring the Glory of God in our lives, reflecting the character of God in this chaotic world
 - God is restoring His glory in His children's lives by transforming us into the character (*glory*) of Jesus Christ

Scripture

- **1 Corinthians 3:17-18 ESV**, 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all (*who have been set free by the Spirit of the Lord*), with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Transforming Glory

- *“Now the Lord is the Spirit”* – the power, change agent, drawing agent
 - Scripture tell us it is the Father who draws us to Himself
 - **John 6:44 NIV**, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.”
 - It is the Son who provides a way of salvation
 - **John 3:16 NIV**, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Transforming Glory

- “*Now the Lord is the Spirit*” – the power, change agent, bring something from nothing
 - It is the Holy Spirit who takes our seed faith and seals us into God’s family beginning the transformation process
 - **Ephesians 4:30 NIV**, “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for (*until*) the day of redemption.”

Transforming Glory

- *“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”*
 - Not freedom to live like we want or decide how we will live
 - Freedom to behold the glory of God which allows us to be transformed into the image/glory of God reflecting His character with ever increasing depth
 - Without the Spirit there is no freedom, salvation

Transforming Glory

- *“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”*
 - Without the Spirit there is no freedom, salvation
 - **Romans 8:9-11 NIV**, “9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.”

Transforming Glory

- We are all being transformed so the questions today are, “What are you being transformed into and how does transformation happen in people’s lives?”
 - Or “How do people change?”

People become like that which they behold

- Marshall McLuhan, a Canadian philosopher, coined a phrase: “We become what we behold.”
 - He was born in 1911 and lived to see the rise of television and media influences on people
 - He believed people should be cautious with the media they consumed
 - What you are taking in, consuming, and beholding will shape you, You will become like what you behold

People become like that which they behold

- “Behold” is used 1,298 times in the King James version of the Bible, the literal translation is, *“Be sure to see”*
- What you behold you will migrate towards
 - If you behold wealth, you will reflect those attributes (constantly working, family down your priorities list...)
 - If you behold popularity, you will reflect those attributes (hides mistakes and flaws, vanity...)
 - If you behold political commentators all day, you will stay mad and see conspiracies everywhere

People become like that which they behold

- People transform, will be influenced by, or move toward what they behold over time
- What occupies your mind, what influences are you allowing in, what are you striving for, and how are you justifying it

Becoming like Jesus happens as eyes are fixed on him

- George Harrison recorded a song, “Mind Set On You”
 - “It’s going to take time, patience, money...to do it right”
- Jesus gives the church the challenge in Matthew on making disciples *“teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”* so they can behold or see the glory of Jesus

Becoming like Jesus happens as eyes are fixed on him

- As born-again children of God we have the privilege of beholding the glory of the Lord with *“unveiled”* faces
 - Moses had to veil or cover his face after being on the mountain with God’s glory to keep from scaring the people
 - Peter, James, and John saw the glory of Jesus as He was transfigured

Becoming like Jesus happens as eyes are fixed on him

- As born-again children of God we have the privilege of beholding the glory of the Lord with *“unveiled”* faces
 - When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they lost the glory of God and immediately saw they were naked and alone
 - They immediately tried to take care of their nakedness themselves
 - They hid from their creator
 - They made excuses for their nakedness by blaming others, even God

Becoming like Jesus happens as eyes are fixed on him

- Upon salvation we have the privilege of fixing our eyes on Jesus allowing His truth to transform us
 - “Fix your eyes” means to admire, imitate, desire, learn from
 - Since our veil of sin is gone, we have the freedom to grasp the truth of the person of Jesus Christ with ever increasing depth and understanding
 - **Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV**, “1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer (*author*) and perfecter (*finisher*) of faith.

The Fruit of the Spirit becomes alive in lives being changed

- Paul outlines the marks of spiritual growth in a believer in **Galatians 5:22-23 NIV**, “22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance (*long suffering*), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”
 - What does the fruit of this world produce?
 - God’s spiritual fruits grow in the one whose life is firmly rooted in the gospel, imitating the life of Jesus

The Fruit of the Spirit becomes alive in lives being changed

- **Romans 12:2 NIV**, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
- The one who beholds the glory of Christ will manifest attributes or character of Jesus
 - Not in perfection but perpetual, seemingly slow, maturity

Community is the Context for transformation

- Spiritual growth is personal but never private, we need others, even those who rub us raw
 - Consider for a moment this reality: “*spiritual fruit can only be truly tested in community*”
 - Who can claim to love or have patience or gentleness apart from community?
 - An isolated lifestyle is not where kindness and self-control are tested and practiced, these fruits grow in community

Community is the Context for transformation

- Spiritual growth is personal but never private, we need others, even those who rub us raw
 - As we behold Christ vertically, and live with others horizontally, we manifest and practice spiritual fruit in our lives in the real world
 - This is why we encourage people to move from rows (*at church*) to circles (*in groups*) rubbing elbows with those who need the Gospel of Jesus Christ demonstrated with skin on it

Transforming Glory

- Transformation is not easy, nor quick, but it happens as we consistently behold Jesus
 - We must give ourselves and others grace and mercy
 - We must take the motto for our lives to be, *“As Christ has been to me, I will be to others.”*
 - As Christ has been patient with me, I will be to others
 - As Christ demonstrated gentleness towards me, so I will be to others
 - As Christ showed love to me, so I will be to others

Transforming Glory

- In other words, the fruit of the Spirit manifests in our lives as we set our eyes back on Jesus and behold how he has treated us
- The gospel reminds us of how undeservingly and lavishly good Jesus has been to us
 - As we consistently behold him, it changes us
 - As we change, it is will be evident in our feelings towards, and interactions with, others
 - And we will be carrying out the command of Jesus to us to, *“Go and make disciples.”*



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