



2 Corinthians 3:12-18 – Part 2

LEARNING TO ANTICIPATE AND FOCUS ON JESUS



THE HOPE FOR LIFE CHANGING POWER IS CONNECTED WITH THE NEW COVENANT NOT THE OLD COVENANT (12-13)

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold,

- Paul's confident expectation is that we serve in the power of the Holy Spirit who gives life and creates openness and receptivity.
- Boldness represents the confident expectation that God is active in gospel communication and comprehension.
 - There is no reason not to expect to see mental and moral transformation.
 - This boldness in communication is not just for Paul!

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Verse 13

- Exodus 34:29–35
- The Law exposed their sinfulness, and the glory of God overwhelmed them with shame, so Moses would veil his face to protect the people.
- Moses and the Law could not change the hearts of the people.
 - Moses did not present the glory of the Lord openly, because the Law could not change their hearts.
 - The Law only exposed their sinful hearts and produced fear and shame.
 - Romans 3:20

JEW'S SEEKING GOD THROUGH THE OLD COVENANT DO SO WITH HARDENED AND DARKENED HEARTS (14-15)

Verses 14-15

- People in the Old Covenant suffered from stone hard hearts.
- God's word makes little to no sense to those who have not been given life by the Spirit of God.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14
- To the hardened, gospel truth is as repulsive as the smell of death.
 - 2 Corinthians 2:14-16
- The veil must be removed by the life of the Spirit.

JEWES SEEKING GOD THROUGH THE OLD COVENANT DO SO WITH HARDENED AND DARKENED HEARTS (14-15)

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

- The Spirit of God gives life and a new heart that values the work of Jesus.
- In humble surrender the believer turns to the Lord, the veil is removed and the glory shines.
- Turning to the Lord is not a man-centered action.
 - You cannot get yourself there.
 - No one will be argued there.

THE LIFE-GIVING POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CHANGES EVERYTHING (17-18)

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

- In context, *freedom* would mean the removal of the veil and that is what verse 18 clarifies.
- Because God removes the veil on the heart through the gospel of the New Covenant, there is freedom to be bold, honest, genuine, humble, and most of all filled with anticipation.
- Through the work of the Holy Spirit the glory of God in the gospel becomes desirable and good.

THE LIFE-GIVING POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CHANGES EVERYTHING (17-18)

Verse 18

- “*we all*” – this is not limited to Apostles.
- “*with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord*” – Like Moses, we can all appear in the presence of the Lord to bask in His life and glory.
 - Through the life and power of the Holy Spirit, we are drawn to Jesus by our need and filled with His grace to experience growth, victory and concern for others.
 - Our concern for others should motivate compassionate and confident expectation for God to accomplish His purpose.

THE LIFE-GIVING POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CHANGES EVERYTHING (17-18)

"are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another" – transformation indicates change for the better, because it is shaping us to be like Jesus.

- What makes the difference for any and all activities in life is walking in the light of the glory of the Lord.
 - Romans 8:29
 - We are becoming more and more like Jesus and we unite with Him in His gospel ministry bringing glory to our God.

For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- The transformation is not passive.
- The Spirit gives us life and exposes our need, driving us to Jesus to find the flowing fountain and transforming grace, and we joyously share this hope with others.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Do you live for Jesus anticipating His activity to open gospel opportunities with others?
- Are you enthralled with the glory of Jesus?
- If people spend time with you, will they be spending time with Jesus?



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