



DATE: 31 July 2024 WED

TEXT: **2 Corinthians 3:18**

TITLE: **:: For Yourself**

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass
the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image
from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:18

INTRODUCTION

- the message tonight concludes our series and connects with last week's example of thinking like The Sons of Korah...intimacy with God

The Greatness of God the Goodness of God

- intimacy with God is possible, but it is not simple...many Christians are failing miserably in life because they do not pay attention to details

God is *holy* and *righteous*...to draw near to Him is a privilege, not our right and must be done according to His standards

Familiarity breeds contempt

- our text this evening outlines five principles to show us how we might gain intimacy with God

intimate = to know very well; to have a thorough knowledge of; the closest of relationships

NOTE: my Sunday School lesson this past Sunday showed us the **purpose** of God: *to bring Himself glory in everything*...that purpose has great bearing on tonight's challenge

the glory of the Lord...from glory to glory

- the context of **2 Corinthians, chapter 3** concerns closeness with God...the chapter is given in light of a popular notion of the day in which letters of recommendation gained false teachers an entrance into the church

Paul used the story of Moses on Mount Sinai and his wearing of a veil to illustrate his message

Exodus 34:29-35

1. GETTABLE

But we all...

believe it or not, this is an actual word,
meaning *accessible*

whereas Moses alone was summoned to the top of Mount Sinai to speak with God, every believer has access to the presence of God

Hebrews 10:19-20

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh...**verse 22a** Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith...

James 4:8a

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

this personal relationship with God is not limited to those with a church title or other self-imposed qualification

Revelation 22:17b

And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

2. GLIMMER

...with open face

having been in the presence of God, Moses' face had a glow about it that intimidated the people of Israel

by extension, if we have an intimate relationship with God, then it will be apparent to those around us

we may not *shine*, but the Spirit of God dwelling in us will make Himself known

John 13:35

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

in addition, because God is *holy* and *righteous*, this 'open face' implies there is no hidden sin to inhibit our walk with the Lord

Hebrews 10:22b

...having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

James 4:8b

...Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

anything that might hinder our view of Christ, be it guilt over past sins or conviction because of present sin, prevents intimacy with God

3. GAZE

...beholding in a glass

Paul wanted his audience to take this personally, so he illustrated with a mirror and challenged them to look long and hard at themselves

behold = to look at earnestly; to examine

a mirror reflects only what is present; it cannot make the image better or worse

yes, you really do look like your drivers
license photo!

Paul challenged his audience to look for the presence of God in their own lives

James 1:22-25

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Job 42:5-6

I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Isaiah 6:5

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips...

being in the presence of a *holy* and *righteous* God will cause us to see all the blemishes

4. GENERATE

...are changed into the same image

the very essence of our salvation is **CHANGE**...the old man has died and given place to the new man

Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

in the same manner, our walk with God changes us as we draw closer to Him

changed = metamorphosis

being close to God convicts of us sin and shows us the weaknesses in our character when compared to God

Moses had been with God and it changed his face outwardly...he glowed

Christians have the Spirit of God living inside of them...they glow from the inside out

1 Peter 1:16

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

NOTE: one of the points Paul was making is that the Law could never make a person holy...**verse 6**...the Law could only pronounce a person guilty

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

5. GUIDED

...even as by the Spirit of the Lord

in our own power to change, we would be reduced to guilt and defeat...there is no human way to be like God

but God has placed His Spirit inside each believer to empower and enable us to change

2 Corinthians 3:3

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Colossians 2:11

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

in other words, it is a spiritual surgery that takes place in your life

Galatians 5:22-23 identifies the result of the Spirit working in the life of the believer

love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance



THINK reading list:

Galatians 3-4 Job 38-41



THINK playlist:

O To Be Like Thee!

Behold Our God by Brandon Heath

NOTE: to fully appreciate Paul's argument in **chapter 3**, one must also understand the promise of the New Covenant which God made with Israel...**Jeremiah 31:33** and **Ezekiel 11:14-21**

the old covenant involved the Law of Moses and each person's observation of every ordinance in it

James 2:10

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

the author of *Hebrews* used this new covenant to defend the believer's position in Christ and to challenge those Jewish Christians to remain in their faith of Him

Hebrews, chapters 8-10