

To See and Reflect God's Glory

Exodus 34:29-35

Pastor Guy Gray

A Transformed Relationship

The first time Moses ever encountered the reality of God, he was terrified. The Bible tells us that Moses "hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God." (Exodus 3:6). But by the end of Exodus, things had radically changed for Moses. In Exodus 33:11 we are told that Moses would go into the presence of God and God would speak with him "face to face, as a man speaks with his friend." This is incredible! Moses' relationship with God had been transformed: from fear, insecurity, ignorance, reluctance and even resistance to close intimate fellowship that longs to see and know God to the depths of His glory. The new and amazing intimacy of Moses' relationship with the Lord is captured in the words "face to face—as with his friend." Later, when Moses speaks to the Israelites, his face is radiant in the aftermath of deep fellowship with God. So much so that he has to cover his face with a veil because they are actually frightened by the light that is shining from his face! But again, to illustrate the transformed relationship Moses has with God, we are told that when Moses went back to speak with God, he would remove the veil from his face and encounter the Lord in unobstructed closeness! This is undoubtedly the high point of Moses life experience!

A Transformed Life—Reflecting the Glory of God

The effect of Moses' fellowship with God was apparent to all. The radiance of his face was the testimony to the incredible, transformed relationship he is experiencing. Moses had become a man whose very life reflected the glory of God to the people all around him! This is a huge biblical principle. Spend time with God and you will begin to change. Draw near to the Lord in intimate fellowship and your life will be transformed, from the inside out. This is so much more powerful than simply trying to keep the rules because you know you are supposed to. This is transformation through close relationship. I have no doubt that the people, though frightened at first, soon began to long for that same type of transformed relationship with God. This is the pattern we always find in scripture. When someone reflects the radiance of a close, loving relationship with God, we begin to desire that experience in our lives too!

The Gift of the Spirit and the Christian Believer

Of course all of this points forward to Jesus and our lives as followers of Christ. 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 and 4:1-6 expand on this idea. In this passage we have a dramatic contrast between Moses' radiant face, which soon began to fade, and the experience of the believer in Christ. Because as believers we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit (in the New Covenant), we EACH have access to intimate fellowship with God at ALL times. This is amazing and life giving! The key verse is 2 Corinthians 3:18: "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." This is both a promise and an invitation. We have the promise that through the Spirit of Christ, we can have intimate fellowship with the LORD, at any time and any place. This is His gift to us. The Holy Spirit has been given for the express purpose of showing us more of Jesus (John 16:12-15). The very glory of God is revealed "in the face of Jesus" (2 Cor. 4:6). So even as Moses, we have the privilege of coming to God in prayer, worship, bible study and coming face to face with the glory of God's heart, love, power and presence. But this is also an invitation. Will we come? Will we seek the LORD? Do we desire to become transformed people so that we can also reflect the glory of God through our lives to others? Those are key questions for us as followers of Christ! Let's determine today to draw near to the LORD so that we might see and reflect His glory. Let's seek out opportunities to do that, both in our personal experience and in our shared times of worship and ministry in the church body. If we do, it will be the high point of our life experience with the LORD!

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

Read again Exodus 34: 29-35 & 2 Corinthians 3:7-4:6.

Reflect the LORD's Glory

Read again Exodus 34: 29-35 & 2 Corinthians 3:7-4:6. "Moses had become a man whose very life reflected the glory of God to the people around Him!" Respond to this statement. Is it encouraging to you, convicting, motivating? To what degree does your life reflect the Glory of God? How would the people who are closest to you describe your relationship with the LORD?

Transformed by the Spirit of God

What does the 2 Corinthians passage teach us about what we have in Jesus Christ? Explore this. Journal about it. How would you explain this passage to a new believer?

A Promise and an Invitation

We have been given an amazing gift through the Spirit of Christ. But, a gift only has meaning when we open it. So, do you desire today to become "transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory"? Do you desire to reflect that glory to people around you? What is the LORD encouraging you to do in your life today to continue in that direction?

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 05/16

HS Pure Choice 07'
OSU, Corvallis
Meet @ 4:30, RWLG
Flyers in the lobby
Call Josh for Info

FRI/SAT 05/18-19

4TH/5TH Safari Sams
Overnighter
Check in starts at
Safari Sams @ 8:45

SUNDAY 05/20

Jr. High Movie Night
5:00 @ The Halvorson's
See Josh for Details

SATURDAY 05/20

El Salvador
Information Meeting
7:15 @ Lake Grove

SATURDAY 05/26

Family Fellowship
Day at the Park

EVERY WEEK

Thursday Night Group
7pm, RWLG
A drop-in Community
Group with Pastor Adam.
Childcare is available

COMING UP

- HS Summer Retreat
June 20th-24th
- Vacation Bible School
July 9th-13th
- JH Summer Retreat

July 16th-20th