

# The Mirror of the Word

By  
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## 2 Corinthians 3:7,8,10, 15-18 Amplified

*Now if the dispensation of death engraved in letters on stone [the ministration of the Law], was inaugurated with such glory and splendor that the Israelites were not able to look steadily at the face of Moses because of its brilliance, [a glory] that was to fade and pass away, why should not the dispensation of the Spirit [this spiritual ministry whose task it is to cause men to obtain and be governed by the Holy Spirit] be attended with much greater and more splendid glory?*

*Indeed, in view of this fact, what once had splendor [the glory of the Law in the face of Moses] has come to have no splendor at all, because of the overwhelming glory that exceeds and excels it [the glory of the Gospel in the face of Jesus Christ].*

*Yes, down to this [very] day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies upon their minds and hearts...(the minds and hearts of the Israelites who have denied Jesus of Nazareth as Messiah)... **But whenever a person turns [in repentance] to the Lord, the veil is stripped off and taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (emancipation from bondage, freedom). And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.***

Paul calls the dispensation of the Law “the **dispensation of death** engraved in letters on stone”, and he compares the glory of that dispensation with the glory of our present age of grace, which is “the dispensation of the Spirit.”

The glory of the Law, which was the glory of God reflected from the face of Moses, was so intense that he had to cover his face with a veil in the presence of the Israelites, but Paul said the glory of the Law had no

splendor at all when compared to the glory of the Gospel in the face of Jesus.

Then Paul tells us that to this very day, when the Word of God is read, there is still a veil over the hearts of the Israelites preventing them from seeing the glory of the Gospel in the face of Jesus Christ.

But for those of us upon whom the fulfillment of the ages has come, the veil is stripped off and taken away, and we behold, in the Holy Spirit revealed Word of God, the unveiled glory of the Lord.

But why “as in a mirror”?

Paul says that the purpose of the dispensation of the Spirit is to cause men to obtain the indwelling Holy Spirit and be governed by it.

Our initial faith in Jesus Christ as Savior causes us to obtain the indwelling Spirit but learning how to be governed by that same Spirit is a process. That process is known as progressive sanctification, discipleship, growing up in the Lord, being transformed by the renewing of our minds, maturing in the faith, working out our salvation, perfecting holiness, putting on the new self and a dozen other phrases.

Paul focuses the message by giving us a powerful graphic image, and if the believer gets a revelation of what this passage means, it will change his/her life forever.

The believer, who now receives revelation from the Word of God by the indwelling Holy Spirit, begins to identify with who he is in Christ, and, as he identifies with and is obedient to the image of Christ in his own spirit (participating in the divine nature through faith), he is transformed, degree by degree, into that same image.

James also uses the image of a mirror, but, by contrast, the believer who does not make an obedient faith response to the Holy Spirit revealed Word of God is not only unchanged but loses even what glory he already has.

### **James 1:22-24 Amplified**

***But be doers of the Word [obey the message], and not merely listeners to it, betraying yourselves [into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth]. For if anyone only listens to the Word without obeying it and being a doer of it, he is like a man who looks carefully at his [own] natural face in a mirror; For he thoughtfully observes himself, and then goes off and promptly forgets what he was like.***

We read in scripture the identification of who we are in Christ, but our identification with who we are in scripture must be manifested through our obedient faith responses.

It is the intention of God in Christ that we “see” by the Spirit of truth’s revelation who we are in Christ, so that we desire the Spirit’s prompting, whether “go” or “stay,” and whether reflecting the glory of the Lord in our words and actions, or, by default reflecting the flesh.

***And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].***

The word translated here as “transformed” is the word transliterated as “metamorphoo,” the same word from which we get the word metamorphosis.

Every biology student is familiar with this word typically used in the description of the process in which a female butterfly lays her eggs on a leaf. The eggs hatch out as caterpillars. Then the caterpillar, at some point creates a cocoon around itself, and in the cocoon it ultimately emerges as a butterfly.

Born again, regenerated believers in Christ go through a similar process. We all start out as caterpillars, but at the moment we receive Christ by faith as our Lord and Savior we enter into the cocoon process.

In the cocoon struggle we still look like caterpillars, but we are, in fact, butterflies going through the process of progressively manifesting the butterfly DNA (i.e. the spirit of Jesus Christ Himself).

Then it is as butterflies that we fulfill the purpose and calling that we were anointed with at the moment of saving faith.

But that process is hindered when apart from the Holy Spirit we merely attempt to conform to the Christian religion rather than progressively conforming to the spiritual DNA of Christ as the Holy Spirit guides us just as our Lord told us that He would.

***“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear [to hear] them now. But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth [full and complete truth]. For He will not***

*He will speak on His own initiative, but He will speak whatever He hears [from the Father—the message regarding the Son], and He will disclose to you what is to come [in the future].<sup>14</sup> He will glorify and honor Me, because He (the Holy Spirit) will take from what is Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Because of this I said that He [the Spirit] will take from what is Mine and will reveal it to you. ... (so that we can manifest His very character, truth, power, and love just as we were ordained to do the very moment we entered the cocoon.)*