



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – January 12, 2022

The Lord be with you.

Do you remember as a child, the wonder you felt the amazement as you begin to become aware to the incredible world around you? When you first learned that funny-looking little cocoon thing hanging on a tree that would morph into a caterpillar, that would morph into a butterfly...

I remember when I was a boy catching in a jar, this little thing that was swimming around in our irrigation ditch and showing it to my mom, and my mom told me something that I found hard to believe, she told me that that was a tadpole that would become a frog. It is all pretty amazing. Where pretty wonderful, but not nearly as wonderful or amazing as what God is doing in your life and my life as God is morphing us, transforming us. Making us more and more like Jesus.

I see this in 2 Corinthians 3:18. I'll read it. And all of us with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in mirror are being transformed.

The Greek word metamorpho, it's where we get our word metamorphosis. We are being transformed into the same image, Christ's image, from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord, the spirit. The Apostle Paul begins here talking about unveiled faces and seeing the glory of the Lord, and what Paul is doing is he's picking up on that fascinating story back in Exodus 34, where Moses goes up Mount Sinai and he meets with God, and he is in the glory of God. So then when Moses comes down from the mountain, Moses face glows with the glory of God. The text says that Moses face was shining, so that the people were afraid to look at Moses, and so what Moses does is he would cover his face when he was with the people. But when Moses met with God, Moses would take off the veil. And there in the presence of God, without the veil, he would behold God's glory face-to-face.

So what Paul is saying in 2 Corinthians, in the third chapter, He's saying that when a person turns to Jesus puts his faith in Jesus, it's like a veil is removed, and that person sees the glory of God in Jesus... Note, that Paul says that this is of all of us, this is true not just of the apostle, is not true, just of the spiritual lead, but all of us, all believers with unveiled faces are seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror. So as a person trusts in Jesus at that person becomes something like Moses where the veil is removed and they are beholding the glory of God revealed in Jesus.



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And I love how the Gospel of John, the first chapter puts it, the no man has seen God at any time, but Jesus, the word, He became flesh and he'd dwelt among us. And we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. So, in Jesus, you and I are catching glimpses of the glory, the incredible glory, the transcendent glory of God. In Jesus, we see God's glory. So let's follow Paul's thought here.

He says, all of us with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as a reflected in a mirror, we cannot look directly upon God's glory. But seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror are being transformed. Again, the word metamorpho, metamorphosis, think of a caterpillar morphing into a butterfly at tadpole morphing into a frog. All Paul says, All believers in Jesus, we are being transformed, metamorphosed into the same image. That is Jesus' image from one degree of glory to another. This is a process, an ever ongoing process by which we are now, is a present tense verb. We are becoming more and more like Jesus in the way we think. In the way we love. In the way we treat other people. But how does this happen?

Paul tells us, he says, For this comes from the Lord the spirit. That's why we call it the spiritual life, that only the Holy Spirit can make you like Jesus. And what I can know more make myself like Jesus than I can make myself 12 feet tall. And I find it that takes all the pressure off in Christian living, the burden is we leave of trying to make ourselves more and more like Christ. This comes from the Lord, Paul says, The spirit.

We can't do it, but the Holy Spirit can. So what's our part of becoming like Jesus. Well, Paul tells us back in the first part of the verse, he says, And all of us with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as all reflected in a mirror, we are transformed. Seeing the glory of the Lord as reflected in a mirror... We are transformed.

Our part is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, and that is the glory of Jesus, and by the Holy Spirit, we are transformed, take a piece of iron, hold that close to a magnet, keep that iron close to the magnet for a while. What happens? When the iron is transformed, we say that it is magnetized as the iron becomes like the magnet... Our part in the Christian life is to... It's to get close to Jesus. It is to center our lives on Jesus, to love him, to let Him love us, to think about him. And so this is how spiritual growth happens. Behold, and be like. Behold. And be like. Behold Jesus, Fix your eyes on Jesus. And the Holy Spirit will make you more and more like him. The Holy Spirit will transform you. For this comes from the Lord, the spirit.

Now, when I was a boy and I showed that tadpole to my mom and she told me that it would become a frog, I found that pretty hard to believe, but to tell you what, in about four or five months, that frog and all the other frogs at our ditch bank were croaking so lovely. Every night, it was hard to sleep in.

It's amazing. It's a miracle, isn't it? And what God is up to in your life? It's a miracle. A pretty special miracle.



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I'm Tim Smith, a fellow traveler on the pilgrim way. Thanks for listening. Until next time.