

Removing the Veil for 2019

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; so, Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴ But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD. Exodus 34:29-35

⁷ Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, ⁸ will not the ministry of the (Holy) Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹ If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! ¹⁰ For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. ¹¹ And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

¹² Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³ We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. ¹⁴ But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶ But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 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.

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 2Corinthians 3:7 - 4:2

- ❖ Religion blinds us to the truth of God but a relationship with Jesus Christ sets us free to fully experience God's truth and Grace.

The question we have to ask ourselves is: where are we having trouble understanding God's will in our lives?

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2Corinthians 3:16-18

Turning to Christ means to "reverse course" or "change direction."

Turning to Christ means "to rely fully upon."

Key verse: "but whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away." 2Corinthians 3:16

What are the benefits of trusting fully AND allowing God to remove the veils in our lives?

Benefit One - "We will not lose heart" in our walk with the Lord (4:1)

My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food. In my distress I groan aloud and am reduced to skin and bones. I lie awake; I have become like a bird alone on a roof. My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass. Psalm 102:4-6

"But, you Lord, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations. You will arise and have compassion on your people and bestow your favor upon them. Psalm 102:12-13

Benefit Two – We can walk with a clear conscience before all people.

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The challenge for 2019:

- As God to remove any veil we may have that keeps us from being fully filled and used by him.
- As a church would commit to reading through God's Word for 2019.
- As a church would continue to pray our break through prayer asking God to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine in us individually, in our church, and in our community.
- As a church would commit to joining a bible study or small group or starting one.
- As a church would commit to sharing our faith, through our lives, our actions, and our words, with all we interact with.
- And as we draw closer to God this year – we can stand on the truth that God promises to draw closer to us and we can look forward with eager expectations of what God is going to accomplish --- for our lives, for our church, and for our community.