



THE PROSPEROUS SOUL - THE GLORIOUS CHURCH

Apostle Stephen Smith, 24 August 2014

And may GOD, the God-of-Your-Fathers, keep it up and multiply you another thousand times, bless you just as he promised.

Deuteronomy 1:11 (Message)

Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

Romans 12:2 (Amplified)

Without a lifestyle dedicated to the Lord, the spirit of a Christian's mind can drag him back into the behaviour of the "old man," and the old pre-conversion lifestyle can take over again.

Paul calls this reprogramming a transformational process which takes place by the renewing of the mind. **In Ephesians 4:23 he says to be renewed in the spirit of your mind. James calls this process the saving of our souls (James 1:21).**

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

They exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for the image of a worthless calf, and they rejoiced and offered worship to it.

²⁰ ***For from the first making of the world, those things of God which the eye is unable to see, that is, his eternal power and existence, are fully made clear, he having given the knowledge of them through the things which he has made, so that men have no reason for wrongdoing:***

²¹ ***Because, having the knowledge of God, they did not give glory to God as God, and did not give praise, but their minds were full of foolish things, and their hearts, being without sense, were made dark.***

²² ***Seeming to be wise, they were in fact foolish.***

Romans 1:20-22

Today, when one turns to the Lord, the veil (the curtain of the Law that blocks the Spirit's presence) is taken away and the Word of God becomes a living epistle written on our hearts (2 Cor. 3:16).

The Spirit is the changer who brings the change to pass, but we must want to be changed.

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 splendour and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

16 Whenever, though, they turn to face God as Moses did, God removes the veil and there they are-face to face!

17 They suddenly recognize that God is a living, personal presence, not a piece of chiselled stone. And when God is personally present, a living Spirit, that old, constricting legislation is recognized as obsolete. We're free of it!

18 All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him (Message).

As He gets brighter and clearer in my mind and heart, He also becomes bigger – and a bigger part of my life. And as He becomes brighter in my life, I start looking and living more like Him.

“Glory to glory”, or from presence to presence – that’s what *glory* (doxa) means: “presence.” God is bright and full of abundance.

This is how we are changed into His image; we take on a new self-image.

A Life Of Conforming To Christ’s Image Is The Life Every Christian Is Called To Live.

Get your eyes on becoming more like Him and you will find yourself at the next level.

We meet to rise a little higher in our lives, to grow a little larger in our hearts and to gain more wisdom and understanding for tomorrow.

When we, God’s people, have a proper image of who we are in the Lord, our attitudes should get better. Our sensing God’s presence should get stronger. Our decisions should get sharper.

Satan’s Blinding Process

1 Since God has so generously let us in on what he is doing, we're not about to throw up our hands and walk off the job just because we run into occasional hard times.

2 We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't manoeuvre and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don't twist God's Word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open, the whole truth on display, so that those who want to can see and judge for themselves in the presence of God.

3 If our Message is obscure to anyone, it's not because we're holding back in any way. No, it's because these other people are looking or going the wrong way and refuse to give it serious attention.

4 All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get.

Because the god of this world has made blind the minds of those who have not faith, so that the light of the good news of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not be shining on them (Basic English).

5 Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you.

6 It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful.

⁷ If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us.

2 Corinthians 4:1-7 (Message)

Jesus died to make His followers new creations, and the god of this world blinds so many from the basics of Bible truth.

And God said; Let us make man in our image, like us. And God made man in his image, in the image of God he made him: male and female he made them.

Genesis 1:26, 27

God created you for two reasons:

1. To be like Him.
2. To be close to Him.

This is why the enemy comes to blind born-again Christians' minds – to separate them from communion and intimate fellowship with God.

Truly I say to you, He who puts his faith in me will do the very works which I do, and he will do greater things than these, because I am going to my Father.

John 14:12

Today the Lord is still saying, *If you walk with Me, if you believe in Me, you're going to be like Me.* And this is still God's goal – for us to be like Him!

What Was Jesus Like?

Everywhere Jesus went, He healed and fed people and answered their problems. Everything He did was victorious.

Walking out the reality of our Christian life is learning how to be brighter and more beautiful, going from glory to glory!

Let's move along now into the transformational process that renews our minds and gets us thinking like this.

It's time to move forward and be like Jesus. It's time to become Christ's glorious Church!