

2 Corinthians 3:4-18:

⁴ Such confidence we have through Christ before God. ⁵ Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶ He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

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, transitory though it was, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹ If the ministry that brought condemnation was 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 transitory 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 prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing 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 all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Series: Burning Questions: Sermon Topic Requests

May 20, 2018: Transformed by the Spirit (2 Cor 3:4-18)

The Gift of the Spirit

*What do you think of when you hear of "The Holy Spirit?"
Have you ever experienced an extreme overemphasis, or neglect?*

*Why is it so special that God is Trinitarian?
What special role does the Holy Spirit play in God's relationship with us?*

The Ministry of the Spirit

*4-11 – What effect does the Holy Spirit have on people?
How is the Spirit's ministry different from that of the law?*

*12-16 – Why did Moses veil his face? How did people respond to God's glory shown through the law?
How does Christ remove the veil?*

17-18 – As Christians, we see God's glory in Christ, and reflect God's glory by the transforming work of the Spirit. How does this relate to our mission to the world? (Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 2:12)

Spiritual Gifts

*What is "common grace?" Who has it, and how can we use it?
What is the "fruit of the Spirit?" How do we get it? Is it optional?
What are the "gifts of the Spirit?" (Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 28)
How do we get them, and what is their purpose?*

The Gift of Ourselves

*Romans 12:1-2 – Before we can offer & exercise spiritual gifts, what must we first offer to God?
What is the effect of this step of faith?*