
HOW CAN I CHANGE?

EXODUS 34:29-35



How can I change? Ever asked that question? I'm sure we all have. And we've all tried, haven't we...and failed. We might change slightly for a short time but the change is not deep or lasting. How can we change in a way that transforms and endures? Exodus 34:29-35 helps us answer that question.

LEARNING

GOD'S OLD TESTAMENT GLORY FRIGHTENED (29-31)

After showing Moses his glory from a safe distance (1-9), Moses spent 40 days with God during which God re-published his covenant commands on two stone tablets (10-28). Moses then made his way back down the mountain and returned to the camp of Israel, only to find the Israelites running away from him (29-30). Why? Because, although Moses himself was unaware of it, 40 days in God's presence had made his face shine with a heavenly beauty and glory no one had never seen before. Eventually he persuaded the Israelites to come near to him and shared God's commands with them.

GOD'S GLORY IS
FRIGHTENINGLY BEAUTIFUL

So, did Moses's face shine forever?

GOD'S OLD TESTAMENT GLORY FADED (32-35)

Something strange happened next. Moses spoke with God unveiled, he then spoke to Israel with his shining face unveiled, and when he finished talking with them he put the veil on until he went to speak with God again, when he removed it (33-35). It's strange isn't it. You'd think he would put the veil on to speak with God and then take it off when he was among Israel again.

The Apostle Paul gives us an inspired commentary on these events in 2 Corinthians 3. He answers two big questions there: First, why did he put the veil on after speaking to Israel? Moses put a veil on his face because he did not want Israel to see God's glory fading from his face (7, 13). Paul, says, this fading glory spoke of fading grace. The grace and glory of the old covenant was temporary.

Second, why did Moses take the veil off when speaking with God? Paul answers, **When one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away...we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord** (16-18). Moses took the veil off when speaking with God because he wanted to be directly transformed by God's glory. The veil was a picture of Israel's unbelief which prevented them from seeing the glory of God.

THE MORE WE SEE JESUS IN THE MIRROR OF THE WORD
THE MORE WE WILL MIRROR JESUS IN OUR LIVES

LOVING

In 2 Corinthians 3, Paul is encouraging New Testament believers to rejoice in the brighter, more accessible, more permanent, and more transformative glory of God in Jesus Christ. Indeed, the glory of the New Covenant is so much brighter and so much better that it's almost as if the Old Covenant had no glory at all. What a privilege to live in such times when we can all see the permanent glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, and we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord (18).

LIVING

By the Spirit, gaze upon the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ to be deeply and permanently transformed into his glorious image.
