

Let God Remove the Veil

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Many precious but unsaved people read the Bible over and over. They study it diligently. There are students and scholars who examine its every letter. Still, there remains a veil. Yet, when anyone truly turns his heart to the Lord, the veil will be taken away (2 Corinthians 3:16).

The “veil” obscures the truth from all who practice a religion but never establish a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. For example, many do not perceive that Jesus is the Messiah spoken of throughout Isaiah 53. But that veil has been done away with in Christ.

As Christians, however, we often approach people and circumstances as through a veil. That is, we do not know how to let God live and love through us. While we look forward to all the blessings awaiting us in heaven, God wants us to learn how to tap into the glory of the Finished Work that is in us, here and now.

Though the flesh and worldly attachments

tend to obscure the glory of God, the Holy Spirit wants to shed abroad the love of God in us and let it touch others in every situation.

How will this happen? We simply need to recognize, from moment to moment, who we are in Christ. The work of God is finished. Jesus Christ has authored and finished our faith. We have been made complete by His sacrifice on the Cross. This is the reality of God. May this booklet inspire each of us to reveal the Lord in all of His glory.

Chapter One

LETTING THE LIGHT SHINE

“And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

“But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.

“But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

“Nevertheless when it shall return to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:13-18).

The children of Israel made Moses put the veil over his face. In Exodus 20:19, they said to

him, “Don’t let God speak to us—you speak to us, Moses.” In other words, they didn’t want to establish a personal vertical relationship with God. They wanted to keep the relationship horizontal, through a man.

It is so easy for many Christians to fall into the same kind of trap. We will go to church, hear messages, read the Bible, and go on about our business. We are born again and saved, but a veil prevents us from having a close relationship with Christ. The veil causes so many heartaches because as long as it is there, we cannot receive all of the provisions God has for us.

The veil keeps sick people in defeat when they could be victorious, even if they do not get well. It keeps them in sorrow when they should have tremendous joy. It keeps them in a state of confusion when they should enjoy the tremendous unity of truth. This is so sad because all anyone needs to do is turn to the Lord and the veil is taken away.

Revealing His Glory

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

A precious young man was in my office recently, and I asked him what he liked about our church.

“Jesus Christ is lifted up, and we really see the glory of God through the Word of God,” he said.

That’s quite a statement coming from one so young. He doesn’t have a veil obstructing his spiritual discernment.

In Moses’ day, most of the Israelites could not stand to see the glory of God upon the face of a man. They saw the glory upon Moses, and they didn’t want any part of it. They didn’t want to hear the voice of God, and they didn’t want His glory shining out from the face of a man.

But this is precisely what God wants to do in every believer. The Holy Spirit comes inside of each of us to do the work and to put His glory upon our faces. Then, when we laugh with godly joy, it is revealing God’s glory; when we cry with godly sorrow, it is revealing God’s glory; when we smile with godly compassion, it is revealing God’s glory. It is God shining through us.

Chapter Two

REFLECTING CHRIST'S IMAGE

Everyone reading this booklet has gone to a mirror at some time or another. Perhaps, there have been times when you were troubled by the mirror. Your face seemed fine—so you thought. The problem was in the mirror. It was dirty, with spots all over it, you thought. So you cleaned it up. Still, the mirror did not reproduce the image of yourself that you were expecting. Perhaps you had refused to acknowledge the fact that you are little older, and the mirror succeeded in getting you occupied with the mirror instead of you being occupied with the reflection of your beautiful face.

Face it: A mirror only gives back exactly what you give it. It does not lie. It doesn't give back something you haven't put into it.

We do not have to be occupied with our reflection in the mirror of life. Instead, we can behold Christ with an open face as in a glass,

through His Word. We can behold Christ at work in us.

Free to Reveal the Creator

Jesus said to Philip, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." The Father was the origin and image of all that Jesus Christ is and all that He expressed as the God-Man on earth. Through the Word of God, the Holy Spirit encourages us to execute the divine prerogatives of the Lord Jesus Christ in His eternal program and process, so then we will come to the place where we will bear the image of His own initiations. We exactly represent God on the earth when we reflect the glory of God on our faces.

Oh, how fortunate we are to know such an amazing Savior. Oh, how blessed we are to be saved and not be blinded by a veil as so many are. Oh, how blessed we are to have God alive in us—men and women who are able to reveal His glory. The Lord Jesus manifests of His power, glory, nature, essence, and character through believers. Therefore, people see us as the light of the world (Matthew 5:14).

A man came to me one Sunday. He was weeping with joy because he had been a drug addict but was now delivered.

“Two years ago, I came to church and got saved,” he said. “Since then, I have felt so clean, so guilt-free. Others may feel tempted, but I don’t feel tempted at all. The shame is gone, and everything about my life is brand new. I was on drugs for twenty-five years. Now, I don’t even desire it. I am just free to live, walk, and enjoy God and His people. I enjoy my family so much. I am just so free.”

Active Grace

Another man had been wrapped up in pornography and fornication. I met with him privately, prayed with him, and asked God to deliver him. He came out of a wrong relationship and entered a personal relationship with Christ. Now he is a completely free and cleansed man. He is clean in his conscience and so free to experience, exhibit, and illustrate the life of Christ in his humanity (Hebrews 9:14). He is absolutely available to God right now. He is free to be what God has made him to be in Christ.

“I was so frustrated with defeat,” this man said. “Now, I can look in the mirror and honestly say of myself, ‘You are a man of God.’” Now he goes and serves on different outreaches to share the love of God with others.

This is the ontological nature of the grace of God in action. Jesus Christ was filled with grace before He ever created the angels and before He ever created man. When the man and the woman fell in the Garden of Eden, that did not bring out God's program of grace. No, God's grace existed years and years and years before the creation. God had grace before man came into existence.

Constrained by Grace

"And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:16-17).

"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

"And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

"Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more" (2 Corinthians 5:14-16).

Cheap grace means that I apply the grace of

God without the truth of God first. Grace is abused when it is used to get me through my sinful pleasures and all the activity of my human nature without repentance or changing my ways. The true love and grace of God helps me, through the Word and the Holy Spirit, to turn from my wicked ways.

God's grace is always active—it is never passive. Grace enables us with power, and then we reproduce the very life of Jesus Christ. Grace always empowers, and grace is always ready to act on behalf of the believer.

For this reason, Paul wrote, "The love of Christ motivates me and constrains me to live unto God and to know no man after the flesh."

What does this mean? It means we are to know no one according to human viewpoint, natural standards, or moral excellence. A Finished Work Christian knows no one after natural standards, human viewpoint, or human evaluation. His values are not established by sight.

Where once Jesus Christ was known after the flesh, we know Him no more in that way (2 Corinthians 5:16). We do not know Jesus after the flesh. Now we know Him as the glorified Man, representing us before God the Father, forever and ever. He is ever living to make inter-

cession for us. We now know Him with His victory over sin, over death, and over everything we have ever done wrong—past, present, and future. We were, we are, and we will be absolutely clean and absolutely complete in Jesus Christ forever.

“What if I sin?” you ask.

Rebound.

“What if I don’t rebound?”

If you are saved, you will be exposed to God’s discipline, which He applies in a progressive way (Hebrews 12:6). God’s discipline is always applied in a sweet, kind, and loving way. It is always done in love. He never disciplines His children in anger. He simply wants to help us.

Chapter Three

OUR GOD FINISHED THE WORK

“For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world” (Hebrews 4:3).

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

These verses of Scripture reveal the absolute nature of the Finished Work. Jesus Christ has finished the work. He is not going to wait for us to work our way to heaven; He is not waiting for us to get better. He is not waiting for us to exhibit a more consecrated life, a more dedicated soul, or a more committed spirit. He is not going to wait for those things. Instead, He finished the work and says, “Only believe, and I will give you My righteousness.” That’s it.

“And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD” (1 Chronicles 28:20).

David encouraged Solomon, his son, saying, “I want you to exhibit power with God. I don’t want you to fear; I want you to be very strong. The LORD God, my God, will be with you!”

“He is *my* God.” That was how David always thought of Him. We can say this just as much as David could say it. We can enjoy the same relationship with God as David had because of God’s imputed righteousness.

Receive His Righteousness

Outside of God’s righteousness, however, we are filthy and bankrupt in every way (Isaiah 64:6). The Word of God says, “He who plants is nothing and he who waters is nothing, but God who gives the increase” (1 Corinthians 3:7). When a “nothing” receives God Almighty, he becomes a saint, he is adopted into the royal family, and he becomes a child of God, a brand-new creature in Him. He becomes a “someone,”

forever going somewhere, because of who he has become, on the basis of what Jesus Christ did for him.

To Solomon, David said, "God is going to finish the work in you." Solomon lived in sin for years and years, but God still finished the work in him. Solomon wrote three inspired books of the Bible; and Proverbs and Ecclesiastes were written *after* he was left with a hunched back and only his two front teeth. He also had trouble sleeping because of bad nerves. Sin took its toll on Solomon; but glory to God, the work of the Lord was still finished through him because it was based upon God's righteousness and not Solomon's.

Under God's Finished Work principle, Jesus Christ declared this billions of years ago: "There is not a single Christian in all of the human race and in all of the vastness of time that I will not finish the work for him. No one will be able to pluck any of them out of My hand. Even those precious ones who mistakenly believe they can lose their salvation will be Mine. One day they will discover that it was something that they could never lose."

Saved to the Uttermost

God knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10; Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:4). God never saw anyone on earth as saved who then got lost. He knows the end from the beginning. He completes the work in us. Therefore, we can be confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in us will complete it (see Philippians 1:6). God perfects everything that concerns His saints (Psalm 138:8).

Jesus Christ said, "I have finished the work I was given to do. Therefore, those who believe in Me will never ever have to be charged with sin. They will never have to face death because they will never die spiritually. I have finished the work, and I will never impute sin to them at any time. They are free. Even when they fail, I will help them get up. I will hold them and hold them until they can finally get back on their feet and start walking again."

This is the God of all grace (1 Peter 5:10).

There is one way we can reveal that we have the Finished Work of Christ and really mean it personally, individually, and inwardly. It is by letting the love of God be made perfect in us. Of course, God's love is already perfect. But when

His love is perfected in us, we fulfill every single purpose in our marriage and our family. Ultimately, we will fulfill everything we are supposed to fulfill in business, in education, and in all processes of growth.

The Finished Work means we have received the love of God. It means that we understand it and are giving it to others. We are fulfilling love's purpose in maturity and honesty with the integrity of God in us. God has removed the veil, and we reveal God in the things we are doing to glorify Him.

CONCLUSION

“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well” (James 2:8).

To love our neighbors as ourselves is to fulfill every purpose God has for us on earth. It is to have the love of God shed abroad in our hearts, flowing from our innermost being, affecting the people who come in contact with it. We are lights in the world because our countenances and our actions reflect the light of Christ that is our life.

By the grace of God we manifest the love, the glory, the peace, the power, the forgiveness, the joy, and the integrity of God in wisdom. Grace means that everything is finished to fulfill the Body of Christ (Colossians 1:19-24). Jesus did it all in the past, at Calvary. We fulfill His royal law by revealing His deity in our humanity, letting people see the image of His initiations toward us.

We are those He has redeemed and restored through His divinity to be used in our humanity. We are members of a living Church; we are living epistles known and read of men as we go through Satan's world as God's guests, ambassadors of heaven, proclaiming the gospel of grace. God removes the veil, and we go forth in boldness and confidence because we are His very own.