

“Being with God”

August 24, 2025

2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Introduction:

God desires to have a “face to face” relationship with you - not a long distance “email only” one !

When are you most aware of God’s presence?

The Stages of Prayer:

1. Talking to God
2. Talking with God
3. Listening to God
4. **Being with God**

- We never mature beyond any stage, we will always need to “talk to God” and “talk with God” and “listen to God” - it’s the essence of relationship.
- The ultimate purpose in prayer isn’t to GET something but to be WITH someone.
- Which more defines your relationship with God - getting something or being with someone?
- Being with God looks differently in each of our lives, but we could, in general, describe it as routine, and spontaneous, time consciously communing with God, meditating on who He is and what He has done!

The Old Way and The New Way:

“Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses’ face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it.

2 Corinthians 3:7-10

- It’s not that the law (ministry of death) was bad, but the experience of God’s presence was limited to Moses and the priests.
- The Law showed them sin, but gave no power to overcome sin.
- The New Way - Jesus has made a way back to God, and given the Spirit. (Heb. 10:19-22). The letter kills but the Spirit gives life (v6).

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The Veil is Removed: Access to God

For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory. Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away.

2 Corinthians 3:11-14

- We now have direct access to God - not “email only”, long distance communication.
- We can boldly and confidently enter His presence (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Freed to Enter His Presence:

“Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit”.

2 Corinthians 3:15-18

- The word for “beholding” means to *contemplate or reflect on*, but also carries with it the idea of reflecting to others what we are **intently looking at**.
- It seems to be conveying the idea = observation leads to transformation (see also 1 John 3:2). More than just physical observation, but an intent beholding of Jesus with spiritual eyes.

Amazingly, what was only available to Moses, and the High priest, is now available to all who through Jesus come to faith in God!

Sadly, our experience, for the most part, is that prayer is boring, unproductive or a huge disappointment.

How might you move from an “email only” (veiled) experience of God to a “face to face” (unveiled) experience of God?

What might “beholding” Jesus look like in your life?

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