

## Three Phases of Revelation

*2 Corinthians 3:18, "We all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."*

As you look at those scriptures, you begin to see that there is a progression. That progression starts with an individual who is looking into the Word of God and in the process of revelation. This is speaking of people who have really begun in the Revelation of Christ, because it says, "with unveiled face", and the word "unveiled" comes from the same Greek word as revelation. So "veiled" and "unveiled" is revelation. It follows along the pattern of the Old Covenant where God was in the Holy of Holies and you could not see God because there was a veil. But this person has begun to move as it were "past the veil", or to have the "veil rent". The veil is no longer confining it, it is opening it up. The point being that it is open now. It is when we are looking into the Word of God and no longer seeing the law. That is what this whole chapter three in 1 Corinthians, is really about: seeing the letter or the spirit.

Remember that the New Testament scriptures were not written at the time this was written, this became New Testament scripture but at the time it was just a letter. The scriptures they are referring to here, (when they talk about New Testament, Old Testament; New Covenant, Old Covenant) was what we call the Old Testament scriptures. The trick was, it became New Testament when instead of seeing the law and everything applying to you, you began to see Jesus. You begin to see that the focus is upon Jesus and not us. The work of the cross was to put away everything that pertained to the old, not just the Old Covenant but the people to whom it pertained to. And to raise up from that a people to whom the New Covenant pertained. While it does not apply to you as an individual; it applies to you as one with Christ, in Christ, in union with Christ. It does not apply to you as a separate Christian, or a separate religious person trying to get a hold of a God far-away. It is not trying to find the truth by reading scriptures and applying it to ourselves and being diligent to discipline ourselves.

So in order to apply it to you in Christ, the Holy Spirit begins to reveal the resurrected Jesus of whom you are a part, to you with an "unveiled face". That is who you are now. You may think of yourself in terms of that person before you ever met Jesus, but I have got news for you; the Lord doesn't! You may think of yourself in terms of that person of how you have acted over the past five years of being a Christian, or the last ten years of being a Christian. And you may say, "I have tried hard, and I have failed, and I have come short." I think that is the message that brought us out of the old and into the new, that we have all come short. Anybody that is going to try to stand in their own righteousness has already come short. You can go through the process and find it out, or you can just admit it. The fact is that most of us end up going through the process to find

out, "If this thing is about us, we are in trouble!" If it is about Christ, and when I say Christ, I am talking about that resurrected New Man of whom you are a part, then all that is His: through the fact that He didn't sin, through inheritance, through the resources that come through union are yours in Christ. I am talking about resources that come by union: His Spirit, His gentleness, His patience. He prayed that, "That my joy may be in you." So we read it and we set out to be joyful, because Jesus wants us to be joyful. That is not what He meant, that is not what He said, "I want my joy to be in you, I want my love to be in you, I want my peace to be in you." And the only way it can be in you is by Him because of union. His resources of His life and nature come into you. All of that is only discovered by the revelation of Christ. When I say discovered: I mean that we ultimately become partakers of this, by the revelation of Christ.

When we are talking about the first part of this verse, this man is seeing the truth, but if you haven't even seen the truth, then what you are trying to do is what every good Jew would try to do. You are trying to please God with your own efforts, you are trying to do good and you are trying to feel bad, when you are bad. It is all about our individuality apart from Christ. It is like Christ is far away and I have to measure up to satisfy Jesus Christ. He already knows that does not work. He came and He brought an end to that Covenant. That means, "I will no longer relate to you trying to please me apart from union." He said, "I put that away. I put that thought pattern away, I put that covenant away." No man can please God through the works of the law.

This man in 2 Corinthians has begun, "but we all with unveiled face". The veil has begun to be removed and with that instead of seeing the Law, instead of seeing demands, instead of seeing simple commands on your life, you begin to see that which relates to His life. And the first effect that begins to have is you begin to see Christ as you have never seen Him before. He is not just Jesus of Nazareth that was here 2,000 years ago who is now seated on a throne waiting for us. You begin to see Him in resurrection. When I used to think about Jesus in resurrection, I thought about Him in His robe and sandals and all; going up and now He is sitting on a big throne in that sense. I am not discounting that, but that reality will not change anything in your life, compared to the reality that this New Man has now risen, which is Christ and we are one with Him and in Him, and by Him and through Him, and to Him and from Him all things consist, and it all flows. It is a whole new understanding, it is more than just a man that made it and nobody else really has yet, no it is that the work is finished for us, but only by union. Only as we comprehend what that death, burial and resurrection brought about will we be changed.

One of the things you discover as you have an "unveiled face" is a whole new realm of seeing, a whole new realm of relating, a whole new realm of understanding, and many people who begin to see Jesus by revelation say, "It is like I got a brand new bible. It's totally different than how I used to read it." That is good, but the truth in the initial stages of the revelation of Christ is only bringing light of life and it is not yet forming that life in you. So this thing begins to move into a progression. This word "beholding" can be translated, "reflecting". Let's put this in a way so that we can see the break down. Let's look at in phase 1, phase 2 and phase 3.

## **The First Phase**

Phase 1 is that there must be a revelation of Christ. It begins with seeing Christ in the Word. But Jesus said, "If you continue in my Word, you shall know the truth." Notice the wording there, "if you continue". Some people put this in a way that they are waiting for a day when they have a revelation of Christ and then everything is going to be wonderful. But Jesus said, "If ye continue in my Word you will know the truth and the truth will eventually make you free." There is a continuing just to know, there is a knowing that eventually brings about a making of someone free, you are made free. There is a difference. In the initial stages of the revelation of Christ, you are certainly set free from false doctrines, or wrong views or however you want to word it. You are set free from all sorts of religious chains and burdens that held you down. You feel like a new man, but in reality you have light, you have a new understanding of everything. But it has not worked it's way into your being, enough where it has totally brought about Christ in you, in manifestation. The first face is unveiled face.

## **The Second Phase**

The second phase is that if you keep looking you will eventually reflect that glory back to people. He says, "reflecting in a mirror." You will reflect that back and yet if I had a mirror up here and I was reflecting back your image, even if I had a mirror to my face, it might look like you, but it is only a reflection. You are only reflecting something that is not you. It is something that is you in Christ, but it is not you on the inside. It is you in the reality in Christ, it is you in that Christ who is your life, it is you spending time with Him. This is not just a one time experience, it is a conformity, a transformation. "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." "Changed from glory to glory." It is a process of what is settled in Christ being settled in you. But it is only a reflection of Him. You can see in the scriptures that you are dead, and then turn around and do something that shows you are not. But the truth is that you are dead, when you see it, it is not going to happen, you are going to be awakened to that. But you must be convinced of that by the Spirit of God and by the Word of God. Because your experience will try and change your mind about the truth. But then the scripture goes on to say, "reflecting the glory of the Lord, we are changed into that same image from glory to glory."

## **The Third Phase**

That is the third phase, eventually it is no longer a reflection. There is a change and it is a change to that same image. There was an image you were reflecting, but now there is a change to that image and the image of that is imprinted in you and you are one with it. The Lamb is formed in you, as you and that is the completion of the whole process. The revelation of Christ is not just seeing Jesus in the scriptures, that is the beginning. It is not just an experience. It is a process of conformity, of transformation. "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." "Changed into that same image from glory to glory." It is a process of what is settled in Christ, being settled in you. Let's face it you can see in the scriptures that you are dead, and then turn around and do something that shows you are

not. The truth is you are dead, He brought you to the cross two thousand years ago, it is not an experience of something happening to you, it will be an awakening to what happened to you. It will be a glorious awakening, but you must be convinced of that by the word of God and the spirit of God.

### **Holding the ground of the Truth and More on Phase 2 Reflecting the Truth**

Your experience will try to change your mind about the truth. "Let God be true and every man a liar." You have to come to a place where you say, "I am tired of God telling me one thing, and my experience telling me something else, and me believing my experience." You get sick of it. At some juncture you dig your heels into the sand and you say, "The word is the truth. My mind is not the truth my experience is not the truth." And you begin to hold the ground of the truth. And once you do that, your words will begin to reflect the glory to people. It is not so much up and down anymore, because you are steady and stable that the Word of God is true and everything else is a lie, because Jesus did this thing. You believe the Word of God above yourself. It is not just a parrot at this stage, it is a belief in the image of what God has said concerning you and concerning Him. You begin to reflect that back to people and they begin to see the glory of something that they don't have. It is more than talk, there is difference between a parrot and someone who is holding the ground of the truth in a darkened world. Fight valiantly and do it bravely. This is the real battle, the battle for the mind, the battle for what you are going to hold as true, what you believe or what you see. "We see not yet all things under His feet." The bible is clear on that, you don't see all things under His feet, but the question is; is it all under His feet? And that bible says that it is. Apparently He is not looking to get it all under His feet that is not His priority. He is looking to get us to believe that it is without seeing it. Most of Christianity thinks that the whole point is to wrestle it out of the hands of the devil and get it under His feet. The truth is it is only going to be under the feet of those that are His feet through union with Christ. It is under His feet, it is not under our feet. It is under our feet as we are one with Him. Yes, He will bruise Satan under your feet as long as you are one with Him, but He never forgets the cross.

He never forgets the resurrection ever. We forget it. But He never forgets, He has the proof of it sitting at His right hand. That was His moment of victory, that was His glory, the cross, it was the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. He is not going to go off into some silly subject and forget the whole plan of God and we shouldn't either. Every subject; every area; should be backed by the eternal plan of God, by the reality that we know first and foremost that I am dead, that number two, I am buried, I am hid, and number three that Christ is the resurrection in His body and the life. That is the heart of the Father's plan and He is not going to leave that. We get into trouble and failure when we leave that.

You may not be fully formed, you might not be changed into that same image, but you can reflect that back and hold the ground of the truth. When there is an opportunity in your mind to put back on the garments of this world, instead of the garments of Christ, you can wear the helmet of salvation, you can be covered over with this salvation that put

you into death and put Him in resurrection. That is the salvation, saved from yourself, not just save yourself, but saved from yourself. All of Ephesians six is about putting on the armor that is Christ so that when the enemy looks He sees the armor of Christ and assumes it is Christ. When it is all said and done there is no greater victory than Christ and Him crucified.