

THE APOSTLE PAUL: INCREDIBLY SPIRITUAL AND FULLY HUMAN

- When Moses came out of God's presence glowing, he came with a word from the Lord and people gathered to hear it...and to see the powerful effect it had on Moses.

¹²Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in *our* speech, ¹³and *are* not like Moses, *who* used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. ¹⁵But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; ¹⁶but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty. ¹⁸But 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 from the Lord, the Spirit. **2 Corinthians 3:12-18 NASB**

- The people of God were very 'tuned in to Moses' face,' but not as focused on the words God gave him to speak.
 - Their attention was to the level of 'glory' that remained shining on the face of Moses and not the power or purpose of what God spoke when Moses was with Him.
 - Their minds, their thoughts, their process of thinking got hardened.
 - They missed the purpose of the fading of Moses' countenance...they were supposed to see and understand that the temporary 'glory' was about the covenant that Moses brought...they missed the true nature and meaning of the old covenant itself.
 - This could be why the 'veil' still remains un-lifted when the old covenant is read.
 - Important point of notice: the veil is not moved so people can get close enough to God to believe...no...it is when someone turns to the Lord, this is when the veil comes down and truth can be seen and accepted.
 - This turning can be a genuine change of mind or thinking.
 - It can also be a turn of attention or 'notice'...like a 'wink' it causes momentarily, to think about God or think about Him differently.
 - Intercession is of incredible value here.
 - It says that their minds (hearts) were hardened (**v14**) so you can pray for hardheaded, hard hearted

people to ‘turn’ to the Lord, too. This prayer applies to non-Jewish people, too!

- Liberty, freedom, release! Freedom from legalism, freedom from condemnation, guilt, shame, rejection, fear and bondage.
 - Freedom to know God and love Him and grow in Him.
 - Believers have an unveiled face...

And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His *very own* image in ever increasing splendor *and* from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit. **2 Corinthians 3:18 AMPC**

- The powerful process of transformation unto the likeness of Jesus.

³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵*We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NASB**

- Our weapons are ‘mighty before God’...**v4 AMPC**
 - They are ‘divinely potent to demolish strongholds.’ **V4 New English Bible**

“...for the weapons of our warfare are not human but mighty in God’s sight, resulting in the demolition of fortresses, demolishing reasoning, and every haughty mental elevation which lifts itself up against the experiential knowledge which we believers have in God...” **V4 Wuest’s Expanded NT**

- We have weapons:
 - The Word
 - The Holy Spirit
 - Love
 - Praying in the Spirit
 - Power
 - Compassion
 - Prayer/Intercession
 - Persistence

We are out to destroy ‘speculations’ or arrogant reckoning as **Weymouth** translates the word. These are things that are primarily lies or mis-information that help build the ‘house of thoughts’ that are the strongholds that need destroyed so people can be freed to see and embrace the truth.

- We need to act on **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** and **2 Corinthians 3:18**.
- Prayer...intercession for ourselves and others is a powerful tool.
- Let’s take a stubborn person or a hard hearted person...how do we help that person to get free?
 - We want to tear down speculations and lofty thoughts that they value more than truth and peace.

²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water that we may drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, “Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me.” ⁵Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us, or not?” **Exodus 17:2-7 NASB**

Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the wilderness. **Psalms 95:8 NASB**

Then the Lord said, “Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*. **Isaiah 29:13 NASB**

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. **Romans 2:5 NASB**

How blessed is the man who fears always, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity. **Proverbs 28:14 NASB**¹⁷ So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their

mind, ¹⁸being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. ²⁰But you did not learn Christ in this way. **Ephesians 4:17-20 NASB**

¹⁴And they had forgotten to take bread, and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them. ¹⁵And He was giving orders to them, saying, "Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." ¹⁶They *began* to discuss with one another *the fact* that they had no bread. ¹⁷And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you discuss *the fact* that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart? ¹⁸Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember, ¹⁹when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?" They said to Him, "Twelve." ²⁰"When *I broke* the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?" And they said to Him, "Seven." ²¹And He was saying to them, "Do you not yet understand?" **Mark 8:14-21 NASB**

According to **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**, by the weapons God has given to me and by the power of the Holy Spirit being released, in Jesus' name I take authority over every belief system, high thing and thought which keeps (my friend) blinded to the Truth. I capture and demolish that in Jesus' name. Amen.

A wise man scales the city of the mighty and brings down the stronghold in which they trust. **Proverb 21:22**

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, ²but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **2 Corinthians 4:1-2 NASB**

- Paul says we have received this ministry and (regardless(we do not lost heart.
 - Why would Paul say that? Likely it is due to the fact that there were any number of reasons for him and his team to lose heart and 'throw in the towel.' Really? Paul? Yes, Paul, really.

Because of this, having this ministry [of the new testament] even as we were made of the objects of mercy [in its bestowal], we do not lose courage, but we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not ordering the manner of our lives in the sphere of craftiness, nor even adulterating the word of god [by an admixture of error], but by means of an open declaration of the truth commending ourselves to every variety of the conscience of men in the sight of God. **2 Corinthians 4:1 Wuest NT**

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; ⁸*we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death works in us, but life in you. ¹³But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak, ¹⁴knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you. ¹⁵For all things *are* for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God. **2 Corinthians 4:3-15 NASB**

- The gospel is veiled or covered to those who don't know Jesus.
- The enemy blinds the minds (or thoughts of people who don't believe). This word is most often translated thoughts...
- They are blind to 'The light of the glory of the gospel of Christ (the first covenant was glorious...Moses and his veiled face).
- The new covenant is far more glorious.

"Because God, the One having said "Light will shine out of darkness," is He who shined in our hearts will shine out of darkness, is He who shined in our hearts for the illumination of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." **2 Corinthians 4:5-6 Transline N.T.**

- The light of the glory in Jesus' face eclipses the glow of glory on Moses' face...the glory of the New Covenant is powerfully glorious.
- We have this treasure in our bodies, these earthen vessels so the power we experience and express come from God and not from us. The treasure is His Spirit and the powerful knowledge of His Word, the Gospel.
- Paul describes the circumstance he has ministered in. He says we: **(v8-11)**
 - Afflicted in every way but not crushed.
 - Perplexed but not despairing.
 - Persecuted but not forsaken.
 - Struck but not destroyed.
- The constant reality of the death of Jesus is carried inside him and the life of the living Jesus being manifested through him.
 - Paul and his team were experiencing the suffering of Jesus and the manifestation of His life in them simultaneously.
- A ministry principle, death works in Paul and his team, so life can work in the ones being ministered to.
 - We too believe, so we speak...
 - I have taught **v13** this way...we deeply believe so that we might boldly say – Jesus is alive and powerful in His church...that's us! **(v13-14)**

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NASB**

- Paul and team were preaching the gospel all around and grace was spreading everywhere.
 - So again...don't lose heart!
 - Our outer man is decaying...yet the inner man is being renewed daily.

¹⁶Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying *and* wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day. ¹⁷For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing *and* producing *and* achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all

comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!], ¹⁸Since we consider *and* look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless *and* everlasting. **2**

Corinthians 4:16-18 AMPC

- We need to be wise and not measure our ‘momentary light afflictions’ as fateful and unyielding.
 - These issues are overwhelmed by the everlasting weight of glory beyond all measure, calculation or comparison.
 - We can not afford to be planted in this ‘age’...we need to focus on the eternal unseen realities of the kingdom!
 - God is immortal, eternal, invisible and setting our sights on Him will help us.

For we know that if the tent which is our earthly home is destroyed (dissolved), we have from God a building, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²Here indeed, in this [present abode, body], we sigh *and* groan inwardly, because we yearn to be clothed over [we yearn to put on our celestial body like a garment, to be fitted out] with our heavenly dwelling, ³So that by putting it on we may not be found naked (without a body). ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan under the burden *and* sigh deeply (weighed down, depressed, oppressed)—not that we want to put off the body (the clothing of the spirit), but rather that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal (our dying body) may be swallowed up by life [^[a]after the resurrection]. ⁵Now He Who has fashioned us [preparing and making us fit] for this very thing is God, Who also has given us the [Holy] Spirit as a guarantee [of the fulfillment of His promise]. **2 Corinthians 5:1-5 AMPC**