

**Author:** Robbie Freeman

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (ESV)

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.

**Insight/Story:**

This passage is comparing God's covenant with the Israelites to the New Testament covenant that Christians have through Jesus. Paul describes the veil Moses wore over his face after he saw the glory of God on Mt. Sinai. Then he says that now when we behold the glory of God, we are transformed into the person that God desires us to be. You might be wondering, "How do I see God's glory," "Where can I find God's glory?" Isaiah 6:3 gives us a clue when he writes, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" God does not hide his glory; the glory of God is present in and throughout all of God's creation and his Word. When we look with our eyes, our heart, and mind towards the Lord, we will see his glory. When we see God's glory, we are transformed.

**Prayer:**

Father, thank you for removing the veil from our eyes. Thank you for the freedom that we have in you Lord. Open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts. Let us experience your glory and let that glory change who we are.

**Author:** Randall Raxter

**Scripture:** John 1:1-2; 14 (NIV)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.” “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

**Insight/Story:**

Long ago, I got the idea that I would just figure Jesus out for myself. I read the Bible some, but I was more interested in books about the history of God and religion than I was in his Word. I gained a head full of knowledge, but very little of it was heart knowledge.

Then one day, God made it abundantly clear to me that Jesus was the very incarnation of his Word. My face flushed with that revelation, and with an almost audible voice the Holy Spirit said, “Gotcha!” My life was changed!

I asked God to forgive me and remove from me everything that I had read that did not honor him. But God said, “No. We can use that.” And for many years, God has shown me how to use my head knowledge to flesh out lessons I teach. To God be the glory!

**Prayer:**

Lord, teach us to not deny or hide from our shortcomings, but to surrender them to you and then be willing for you to use them through us to help others with their struggles. Amen.

**Author:** David Breaux

**Scripture:** Luke 11: 9-10 (NASB)

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.

**Insight/Story:**

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find;”

This all seems pretty simple, but you have to look at it in context. When Jesus spoke these words, he had just told a parable about a man banging on his neighbor’s door after midnight asking to borrow bread for a traveler who had just arrived. In Jesus’ example, He said the neighbor would relent, not out of friendship, but because of the man’s persistence.

Many times we get frustrated when our prayers are not answered right away. But how persistent are we? On more than one occasion, Jesus told us that persistence made a difference.

In a recent sermon series, Pastor Chris Stephens said, “The margin between winning and losing is the level of commitment.” He said this applies to everything. So, in your prayer life, what is your level of commitment?

**Prayer:**

Father, thank you for loving us. Thank you for always being there when we reach out to you. Thank you for being a God who opens the door at all hours if we only knock. God, thank you for answering the prayers of your church as we all reach out to you today.

**Author:** Miles Creasman

**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**Insight/Story:**

In this passage Paul instructs us to do three things. Not only does he tell us to do all three, but he also commands us to do all of them without end. He says to rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances. Rejoicing, praying, and thanksgiving work together and build each other up and are often hard to separate. Prayer and thanksgiving lead to rejoicing, thanksgiving and rejoicing are types of prayers, and prayer and rejoicing lead us to thanksgiving. The three work together and feed off of each other. The three cover the entirety of the Christian life. We rejoice for present times, pray for future protection, and give thanks for past gifts.

**Prayer:**

Father, help us lead a life of continual rejoicing, praying, and thanksgiving. We rejoice in the many blessings and grace you have shown us. We are so humbled and honored to be able to come into your presence to talk with you every moment. We thank you so much for who you are and for all that you do for us every minute of our lives. Help us live our lives in such a way to be honoring and pleasing to you. In Jesus name, Amen!

**Author:** Rob Patrick

**Scripture:** 1 John 5:14-15 (NIV)

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

**Insight/Story:**

Ever ask God for something and wonder if He even heard you, or you didn't get what you asked for? I have had that happen before. For years, I was asking God to change someone's bad behavior. Their behavior kept getting worse, not better, and it was affecting me greatly. Did God not care about how this was affecting me? Sure He did, but He wanted me to be aligned with Him when I prayed. Like so many of us, I had left that "in accordance to His will" part out. The change that I was asking for was outward. God's will for this person was to have a right relationship with Him. His behavior would get better out of a result of that. So, I began asking God for this person to have a right relationship with Him. After a few years, God answered my prayer.

**Prayer:**

Father, we can have confidence knowing that when our prayers align with your will, you hear us and not only that, we can know that we have what we ask you for. Holy Spirit, help us to always strive to be aligned and live in accordance to your will. Help us to be immersed in your word daily so that we will know you intimately and know your will for our lives and how to pray accordingly. We ask this with bold confidence in Jesus' name, Amen!

**Author:** Jody Kenyon

**Scripture:** Galatians 6:2 NASB

Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

**Insight/Story:**

Several years ago, I was faced with one of the most emotionally wrenching times of my life. I cried almost every night in the arms of my husband and spent many hours in the middle of the night searching God's answer to my prayers. I ran into a staff member at the church mailbox one morning and she asked me a simple question that required a complex answer if I were to be honest. I will never forget her looking at me and asking why I had not shared what was going on so some of the staff could be praying. I was immediately convicted of how my unwillingness to share something so private was hindering my emotional and spiritual health. I sent an email later that afternoon to those closest to my family and prayers began. The answer to my prayer did not come overnight, but it did come several months later. The immediate benefit was that I was not alone anymore in my anguish and I began to have peace in the midst of my circumstances.

**Prayer:**

Father, thank you that we can come to you in prayer and ask you for miracles. Thank you also for the relationships that you place in our lives that allow us to engage an army to pray on our behalf.

**Author:** Tony Barnes

**Scripture:** Romans 8:37 (AMP)

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors *and* gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us].

**Insight/Story:**

In life, it doesn't take long to realize that things aren't always easy. Difficult circumstances such as sickness, financial stress, marriage problems, and losing loved ones can lead a person to feel like God has abandoned them. However, Paul gives us some really good news. In all things, we are more than conquerors through Jesus. God is working on our behalf to ensure overwhelming victory for us. Our job isn't to find out why bad things happen or to make sense of them, but rather to trust Jesus to pull us through. Because of his abounding love for us, we can trust him completely. And when we trust him, he removes heavy burdens from our shoulders and gives us His peace....peace that surpasses all understanding. Rest assured today that regardless of what is happening, God is working behind the scenes to ensure overwhelming victory through trust in your Abba Father.

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for your abounding love for your children. No matter what circumstances we go through in life, you are at work on our behalf. You are working in the unseen to ensure our overwhelming victory. Help us walk in complete trust and assurance that you are in control and bring good out of all circumstances. Thank you for being such an awesome Father. We love you. Amen.