

King's Way Church
Message for Mar 4, 2007
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UNVEILED: I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW
2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-4:2

We're in a series called *My Place In This World*. We've been talking about how to discover and how to live God's plan for your life. God's plan includes "living without a veil." He wants you to be able to see the radiance of his glory, and he wants you to radiate his glory to the world around you. Today we will look at three areas in which the veil has been lifted, and we can follow him unencumbered, untangled from the world. Three key words I want you to notice. Let's take a look at each one.

• **BOLDNESS** (v 12)

Such a hope—what is the hope he refers to? The hope of a personal relationship with God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our lives:

It is a glorious hope. 2 Cor. 3:7-8

It is a hope that brings us into a right relationship with God. 2 Cor. 3:9

The Modern New Testament, which was translated from Aramaic sources, says it this way: (v. 12) *Seeing therefore that we have such a hope, we conduct ourselves bravely.* We can have a boldness about us—a courage about us—because we are not stumbling through life as if we were attempting to follow a dimly lit path; we make this journey in the brilliance of God's light. We can see clearly now. The veil has been lifted, and that gives us reason to be bold.

We don't have to live with fear of what man can do to us. Why? Because our hope is not in this world. Our hope is in the everlasting love of God, and our inheritance goes far beyond what we experience in this material realm. Our inheritance is in heaven with him forever. Because of this, we can speak out with boldness, and we can pursue his call with courage. John Wesley said, "I am immortal until my work is done." He was saying that he has nothing to fear from any man as long as he is engaged on fulfilling God's call for his life.

You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you. (Jeremiah 1:7-8)

Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

We can boldly approach God's throne with confidence, but that doesn't take away from his **awesomeness**. It doesn't take away from his **power**. It doesn't take away from his **majesty**. We don't approach his throne with boldness and confidence on the basis of our character, but on the basis of his character.

• **FREEDOM** (v. 16-17)

Paul is comparing the New Covenant of Jesus Christ with the Old Covenant of the Law. (Romans 8:2)

... *So Christ has really set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.* (Galatians 5:1)

Most non-Christians (and many Christians) equate the Christian life with a life of slavery, not freedom. They see being a Christian as following a law—a list of do's and don'ts. But what's the truth? The truth is that most non-Christians don't do whatever they want—unless all they want to do is sin. When a non-Christian attempts to live a righteous life, he quickly discovers that he can't—he doesn't have that kind of power within him—but because he doesn't have something the believer does have: God's grace at work in his life. God's grace—which gives total and absolute forgiveness.

Paul is saying that Jesus Christ has set us free. It is no longer about trying to earn God's favor through fulfilling the demands of the law. It is about receiving God's favor through faith in Jesus Christ. Now we are free—not free to sin, but free to enjoy God in

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our lives. Free to bask in his mercy and grace. Free to worship him. Free to live in the light of his love. Free to approach his throne and bring our needs and requests before him. Free to discover his plan and to fulfill his calling on our lives. **It is not about living in fear of his punishment, it is about experiencing freedom in his presence.**

• TRANSFORMATION (v. 18)

Do you want to be transformed into a new person? Do you want to become like Jesus? Spend time with him. After Moses ascended Mount Sinai and spent time in the presence of God, he came down from the mountain radiating the glory of God. The principle hasn't changed. When you spend time in God's presence, you radiate his glory. When you spend time in God's presence, you are transformed into his likeness.

Do you know what I recommend? Every day of your life, get in God's presence as soon as possible, and stay there for as long as possible. Whether you feel like it or not. In fact, you should do this especially when you don't feel like it. The primary purpose of worship is to give him the honor and praise that is due his name, regardless of what is happening with us emotionally. The secondary purpose of worship is to allow him to transform us into his likeness by the awesome power of his glory.

CONCLUSION

The veil has been lifted. We can see clearly now. **Do you know where our place in this world is? It is in the presence of God.** We can enter into his presence with boldness and confidence because of the blood of Jesus Christ, and there we find mercy and grace in our time of need. We can live in his presence with a sense of freedom, because where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And in his presence, we can experience total transformation into his likeness. This week I challenge you: each day, as early as you can, as often as you can, and for as long as you can, spend time in his presence.

“Our vision is to make a change in our community by being a **life-giving** church that is **true** to the Bible and **relevant** today by helping You find **Your way!**”

-King's Way Church

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