

# 2 Corinthians 3:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

## Analysis

**But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.** Paul concludes with the glorious result of the unveiled life. **We all** (Greek *hēmeis pantes*, ἡμεῖς πάντες) emphasizes universal access—not just apostles or Moses, but all believers—**with open face** (Greek *anakekalymmenō prosōpō*, ἀνακεκαλυμμένω προσώπῳ, literally "with unveiled face") **beholding** (Greek *katoptrizomenoi*, κατοπτριζόμενοι). This verb can mean "looking into a mirror" or "reflecting like a mirror"—likely both: we gaze at Christ's glory and reflect it simultaneously.

**The glory of the Lord** (Greek *tēn doxan kyriou*, τὴν δόξαν κυρίου) is Christ Himself, "the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4). As we behold Him, **we are changed into the same image** (Greek *metamorphoumetha tēn autēn eikona*, μεταμορφούμεθα τὴν αὐτὴν εἰκόνα)—the verb *metamorphoō* (μεταμορφόω) means transformation at the deepest level (Romans 12:2). The process is **from glory to glory** (Greek *apo doxēs eis doxan*, ἀπὸ δόξης εἰς δόξαν)—progressive, ever-increasing transformation. The agent is **the Spirit of the Lord** (Greek *apo kyriou pneumatōs*, ἀπὸ κυρίου πνεύματος), God's active presence effecting metamorphosis.

## Historical Context

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The concept of transformation into divine likeness was revolutionary. Greek philosophy spoke of becoming virtuous through discipline; Jewish tradition emphasized law-obedience. Paul presents a radically different mechanism: Spirit-wrought transformation through beholding Christ. This echoes Genesis 1:26-27 (humanity created in God's image), the Fall's corruption of that image, and Christ as the perfect image of God (Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3) into whose likeness believers are being restored. This is progressive sanctification, culminating in glorification when we "shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does regular, focused contemplation of Christ's glory through Scripture, worship, and prayer transform you "from glory to glory"?
2. In what specific areas of your life have you seen evidence of the Spirit transforming you into Christ's image?
3. What "veils" need to be removed so you can more fully behold Christ's glory and be transformed by it?

## Interlinear Text

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ἡμεῖς	δὲ	πάντες	ἀνακεκαλυμμένῳ	προσώπῳ	τὴν	δόξαν
<b>we</b>	<b>But</b>	<b>all</b>	<b>with open</b>	<b>face</b>	G3588	<b>glory</b>
G2249	G1161	G3956	G343	G4383		G1391
κυρίου	κατοπτριζόμενοι	τὴν	αὐτὴν	εἰκόνα		
<b>of the Lord</b>	<b>beholding as in a glass</b>	G3588	<b>into the same</b>	<b>image</b>		
G2962	G2734		G846	G1504		
μεταμορφούμεθα	ἀπὸ	δόξαν	εἰς	δόξαν	καθάπερ	ἀπὸ
<b>are changed</b>	<b>by</b>	<b>glory</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>glory</b>	<b>even as</b>	<b>by</b>
G3339	G575	G1391	G1519	G1391	G2509	G575
κυρίου	πνεύματος					
<b>of the Lord</b>	<b>the Spirit</b>					
G2962	G4151					

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Corinthians 4:6** (Glory): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Romans 12:2** (Parallel theme): And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**1 Corinthians 13:12** (Parallel theme): For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** (Glory): In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

**Romans 8:29** (Parallel theme): For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

**Colossians 3:10** (Parallel theme): And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

**1 Corinthians 15:49** (Parallel theme): And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** (Parallel theme): Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**John 1:14** (Glory): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**John 17:24** (Glory): Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.