

A SECRET MAP

2 Corinthians 3:18 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.

Introduction:

- True of all and for all → this is emphatic!
- The text contains no commands / imperatives
- The text contains only assumptions → this is just what we do
- This is matter-of-fact / as expected / the norm

What does Paul tell us?

1. This is a process and not an act!

2 Corinthians 3:18 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.

False maps come in many varieties and have strong appeal:

➤ Surrender your all	➤ Put your all on the altar!
➤ 2 nd blessing	➤ Getting right with God
➤ Justified as an act of faith (This is true!)	➤ Then sanctified as an act of faith (This is false!)
➤ Let go and let God!	➤

The powerful appeals:

➤ Instantaneous	➤ An act
➤ No more struggles	➤ (sadly & sinfully) Something others do
➤ The higher life	➤ The victorious life → and who doesn't want to be victorious?

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; **and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.**

Mark 3:13 And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. **Mark 3:14** And he ordained twelve, **that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, Mark 3:15** **And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:**

Philippians 3:10 **That I may know him**, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

2. This is communion and not commitment!

2 Corinthians 3:18 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.

This concept immediately gets to **the very purpose of salvation. Why** does God save us?

- To keep us out of hell
- To get us into heaven
- To put us to work / get work out of us

- To have us follow a list of rules / standards
- To cause us to give

John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, **that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.** **John 17:3** And **this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**

John 17:24 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.

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. **Philippians 1:22** But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. **Philippians 1:23** For I am in a strait betwixt two, **having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Philippians 1:24** Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, **whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 2 Corinthians 5:7** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) **2 Corinthians 5:8** We are confident, I say, and willing rather **to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, **Galatians 4:5** To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. **Galatians 4:6** And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. **Galatians 4:7** Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

It's not that we are not committed enough / (re)committed often enough but that we are not communing!

3. This is about a person and not an experience!

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John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, **that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: **The LORD** our God is one LORD: **Deuteronomy 6:5** And thou shalt love **the LORD** thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. **Deuteronomy 6:6** **And these words**, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

In some ways this is **too simple**:

- **Knowing Him and Him knowing you!**
- **Talking with Him → prayer**
- **Listening to Him → Bible**
- **Loving Him and being loved by Him**
- **Obedying Him!**
- **Trusting Him!**
- **Following Him!**

4. This is every day and not a big / special day!

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed (μεταμορφούμεθα)** into the same image **from glory (ἀπὸ δόξης) to glory (εἰς δόξαν)**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. **1 John 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. **1 John 3:3** And every man that hath this hope in him (ἐπ' αὐτῷ) **purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

D. M. Lloyd-Jones – the two dangers:

- The conference mentality → we could add any kind of special meeting
- Looking for it

Isaiah 50:4 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: **He wakeneth morning by morning, He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.**

5. This is **indirect & not direct!**

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face (ἀνακεκαλυμμένω προσώπω) beholding as in a glass (κατοπτριζόμενοι) the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

This text reveals several facts:

- An unveiled face → so much better than the OT
- Through / via a mirror -- so **not yet direct contact with the Lord**

1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see through a glass (Βλέπομεν...δι' ἑσόπτρου), darkly (ἐν αἰνίγματι); but **then face to face (πρόσωπον πρὸς πρόσωπον)**: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. **1 John 3:2** Beloved, **now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**

Revelation 22:3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: **Revelation 22:4** **And they shall see his face;** and his name shall be in their foreheads.

- We are (being) changed

Matthew 17:2 And was transfigured (μετεμορφώθη) before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Mark 9:2 And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and **he was transfigured (μετεμορφώθη)** before them.

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

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- From glory to glory!
- Not really about the change but about the Lord

Exodus 34:28 And he was there **with the LORD** forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments. **Exodus 34:29** And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, **when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.**

- Transformed by the Lord the Spirit!

How do we summarize this?

A process
Of communion
With a person
Done every day
In an indirect way.