

WOG (II): Where the Spirit of the Lord is, There is Freedom

I. To wait on God is to see the glory of the Lord with an unveiled face, so that we may be conformed to the image of the Son of God.

(2 Corinthians 3:16-18)

1. See the glory of the Lord with an unveiled face

- ◆ God's eternal desire, the hope of the calling, is to mold us into the image of His Son. And 2 Corinthians 3:18 points out the path that God has prepared for us. How can the hope of our calling be fulfilled in us? By seeing His glory with an unveiled/open face.
- ◆ Song of Songs 2:14 says, "*Let me see your face.*" In fact, God is everywhere, He can see our faces. Why does He still tell us that He wants to see our face? Because our faces are often turned toward people and not toward Him. Therefore, if we always open our faces to God, God says that His glory will shine back on us.
- ◆ Where is He?
He is within us, and when the eyes of our hearts are opened to Him and we gaze upon Him, it is amazing how our faces will reflect His glorious likeness.

2. To be transformed into the image of the Lord, from glory to glory

The glory of Moses is nothing compared to the glory in us. (2 Corinthians 3:10)

- ◆ Moses was face to face with God for forty days and forty nights, and did not speak much with Him, but Moses' face glowed. Through this God tells us that one way to change us into His likeness and to be transformed into His image, is to come face to face with Him.
- ◆ Today we are more blessed than Moses, because Moses had only forty days and forty nights face-to-face with God. Also, the glory of Moses was outward, and was gradually decreasing. But today in the New Testament, through Jesus, the veil of the Most Holy Place has been torn, so that we can **return inside at any time** and see His glory, and **that glory inside is great and everlasting**.

II. Waiting on God means waiting for the Savior to come and transform our lowly bodies to resemble His glorious body

(Philippians 3:20-21)

1. Waiting for the Savior to come down from heaven

- ◆ One thing that the people of heaven do is to wait every day for the Savior to come down from heaven. They are not waiting for that day and hour when He suddenly comes down from heaven, but today they are **waiting for Him to constantly come down on us**. Unless we have Him constantly come down on us now, we will be afraid to see His face when He comes down from heaven that day.
- ◆ It is written in the book of Revelation that in that day all the powerful people of the earth will say to the mountains and the rocks, "*Fall on us!*" Why? Because they are afraid to see the glory of the Almighty. Unless we are willing to be in the light of His love today, and to be constantly illuminated by Him, it will be a terrible thing for us if

He suddenly comes down from heaven on that day, because a filthy and sinful man will be afraid to see the light.

2. Transforming our lowly bodies to resemble His glorious body

- ◆ How can God change this lowly body of ours to resemble His glorious body? It is by His power to bring all things under Himself. God changes the earthly characters, of fallen sinners, into His image by the power that works in us. But we need to give God the opportunity to work in us.
- ◆ Ephesians 2:10 says that we are the work of His hands, created in Christ Jesus. How does God do it? When we come to Him, quiet down and stand before Him, He can start to work on us.
- ◆ What we will look like in eternity is determined by how much we have been changed by the Lord at the moment we breathe our last breath. Therefore, let us cherish the time we have and give God the opportunity to work in us while we are on Earth, to transform us into the image of the Lord from glory to glory.

III. To wait on God is to let the Spirit of the Lord be in us abundantly, so that we may be free (2 Corinthians 3:17)

1. What are we not free to do?

- ◆ Think about it, what are you not free to do? Some people don't have the freedom not to watch TV; some people don't have the freedom not to lose their temper, not to worry, not to crave food; some people are not free to be emotionally attached to a person forever.

Some people do not have the freedom to "wait on the Lord!"

God has given us freedom, but we have been eating and enjoying the things of the world, so we do not have the freedom to draw near to the Lord. The more you touch the earthly things, the more you lose your freedom to not touch it.

2. Why are we not free?

- ◆ **"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."** In fact, the Spirit of the Lord is in us, but why are we not free? Because the Spirit of God is not in us richly enough. We do not let the Spirit of the Lord fill our hearts, minds, feelings and bodies enough.

It is futile to restrain the work of the flesh.

- ◆ We do not give man laws or control them, but we let him come more often to the God who sets him free.

When a man is opened up by God in His presence, how much brighter his eyes are, how much freer he is, and how much less he will grasp the dung.

I can do everything, but whatever I do, I am free from its control.

3. How can we be free?

- ◆ All our weights and bondages, all our passions and desires, are not freed by self-restraint, but by drawing near to Him. **The Son of God came to set us free. If we continually draw near to the Son of God, unite with Him, and let the Spirit**

of God richly possess our emotions, mind and body, the Spirit of the Lord can make us so free.

- ◆ When we begin to live a life of waiting on the Lord, we can practice taking time to wait on God every morning, noon, and night. We will find that the nature and appetite of our lives will change.
- ◆ Because to be close to God is to eat and drink from the Lord all the time, the heavenly appetite will become stronger and stronger, and the earthly things will become tasteless. We **need to change our lives and appetites through the presence of God**, so that we can be free from earthly bondage and become a free people.

IV. Waiting on God to turn our hearts to the Lord, and the veil is removed (2 Corinthians 3:16)

1. What is our veil?

- ◆ When we sin and refuse to confess our sins, they become our veils. And our old-self can also become our veil. Sometimes we talk to people all the time, and we talk too much, and it becomes our veil.

Everyone has different points, some like to show themselves, some like to hide away. But you need to get rid of your old-self, so that you will not think about yourself.

- ◆ Why is it so difficult for many people to approach God today? Because the eyes of our souls have veils, so we are not willing to come to God.

2. How to remove the veil?

- ◆ A good way to get rid of the veil is to **turn our hearts to the Lord**. We need to ask the Lord to shine His light on us so that our hearts are not directed towards ministry or gifts. And also not to our work or our money.
- ◆ If we constantly talk with the Lord, we will find that the veil is removed and we are getting closer and closer to the Lord. And we can be face-to-face with the Lord with an open face.

3. How to practice turning our heart to the Lord?

- ◆ We need to have a set time each day—morning, noon, and evening to spend with God, talk to Him, seek His face, and then the rest of the time we continue to keep turning our hearts to Him.
- ◆ In the midst of a busy life, practice should not be rushed: the hands may be busy, but the heart is not busy. Turning our hearts to Him all the time to have rest. In the midst of our busyness, our hearts can still adore Him and be transformed by Him more and more—into His glorious image.

V. Concluding Remarks

If we always wait on the Lord, God can change us into His image according to His power to bring all things to Himself. The glory of God shines back on our faces, not only on the outside, but more importantly, it changes our character, so that we have more and more

peace, joy, steadfastness, stability, patience, faith, gentleness, and love from God, which cannot be taken away from us.

Brothers and sisters, **waiting on the Lord is something you must practice. If you do not practice, even if you hear many testimonies, God will never be that real for you.** You will find that when you wait on the Lord day after day, one day, when suddenly something big happens, you will find that the Lord has done such wonderful work in you that you will have freedom and peace. This is the real life of the Son of God.

WOG (II) Assignment

1. Memorize the Bible: 2 Corinthians 3:16-18, Hebrews 3:19, 4:9-11.