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## 2 Corinthians 3:12–18

<sup>12</sup> Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup> not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. <sup>15</sup> Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup> But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

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## 2 Corinthians 3:12–18

<sup>18</sup> 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.

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## Main Point of 2 Corinthians 3:18

➤ *By the Holy Spirit, we see the glory of God in King Jesus and are transformed so that we reflect that glory.*

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

### 1. The Nature of God's Glory

- It's a majestic glory.

In the Bible, the glory of God is the fullness of his perfection. This is a limitless perfection – a limitless fullness. His glory lacks nothing.

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

### 1. The Nature of God's Glory

- It's a majestic glory.
- It is a veiled glory for sinful humanity.

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## Exodus 34:29–30, 34

Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him... Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded.

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

### 1. The Nature of God's Glory

- It's a majestic glory.
- It is a veiled glory for sinful humanity.
- It is seen most clearly in Jesus Christ – Lord of lords and King of kings

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

### 2. Paul's Encounter with the glory of the Lord

In the martyrdom of Stephen:

"But [Stephen], full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55)

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord...For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit"

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

### 2. Paul's Encounter with the glory of the Lord

On the road to Damascus

This encounter with the reigning Lord Jesus animates Paul's theology and life.

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

### 3. Seeing the Glory of God

Paul wants to press home the unbelievable fact that **we all** —normal everyday believers in Jesus — see the glory of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

### 3. Seeing the Glory of God

Double meaning: Seeing and Reflecting

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

### 3. Seeing the Glory of God

Double meaning: Seeing and Reflecting

We see the glory of the reigning Christ, the image of the invisible God.

But at the same time, we see this glory mirrored and reflecting in our own lives AND in the lives of fellow believers.

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

### 3. Seeing the Glory of God

- The Spirit reveals God's glory by ordinary, daily means of grace.
- *He unveils our face as we read the Bible and see Jesus.*
- *God meets us and shows us this glory through the faithful preaching of the word.*

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

### 3. Seeing the Glory of God

- *We see the glory of Christ in the Lord's Supper and Baptism.*
- *We see the glory of Christ everywhere we look.*

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

### 3. Seeing the Glory of God

- Distractions

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

Lilias Trotter: "How do we bring things to a focus in the world of optics? Turn full your soul's vision to Jesus, and look and look at Him, and a strange dimness will come over all that is apart from Him, and [God's work] by which his saints are made, even in this 20th century, will lay hold of you. For "He is worthy" to have all there is to be had in the heart that He has died to win."

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## Beholding the Glory of the Lord

### Conclusion: The Transforming Effect of Glory

- The main verb of this sentence is "being transformed". As the Spirit reveals Jesus, we are transformed into his image.
- "from one degree of glory to another."

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