

2 Corinthians 3:4-18
From Glory to Glory

Consider this introductory video for 2 Corinthians background:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoOcpskLofY>

According to Scott Hafemann, this is a particularly difficult passage to interpret. He says that readers must do a “substantial amount of exegetical labor” just to arrive at the main point, highlighting how complex and easily misunderstood it is. See: Scott J. Hafemann, *2 Corinthians*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000).

Questions Focused on the Text:

1. Paul calls Moses’ ministry both “glorious” and a “ministry of death” (vv. 7–9). Why both?
Clue: Think of Exodus 32–34: the golden calf, Israel’s hardened hearts, and the danger of God’s glory among unchanged people.
2. What is the main difference between the old covenant and the new covenant?
Clue: The difference is not the kind of glory, but the result: condemnation and death versus righteousness and life through the Spirit.
3. What does the “veil” represent, and why did Moses wear it?
Clue: It protected Israel from judgment and revealed their hardened hearts. How does Paul use this image today?
4. According to verse 18, what does life under the “ministry of the Spirit” look like?
Clue: Consider “unveiled face,” “beholding,” and “being transformed.” Where do you see Spirit-led growth in Christlikeness?

Questions of Application:

1. Where are you tempted to seek glory or validation apart from the Spirit?
What would it look like to turn or return to the Spirit there?
2. What weakness, struggle, or suffering might God be using to make you more like Christ?β