

Unveiling of God no 5
When the veil is taken away
March 18, 2018
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Wednesday evening we began to read from **2 Corinthians chapter 3** which is the second text that brother Branham used for his sermon, "**The Unveiling of God**" which we have already begun to examine in sermon 4 of this series.

He began by reading from **2 Corinthians 3:6** *where the apostle Paul said, "Who also has made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

But I would like to go back for a moment and read verses **1-5** to get a back ground for verse **6**.

2 Corinthians 3:1 *Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, letters of recommendation to you, or letters of recommendation from you?*

In other words, this is not a business, this is something that God is doing. And we don't work like the world. And then he adds, **2 For Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:**

In other words, the people read your life and by that they can see what work of God we are doing.

3 Forasmuch as you are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ (notice he tells them they are the epistle the written Word of Christ, and then he adds) **ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.**

Paul is telling them that God has appointed him to take His Spirit and write or engrave into the hearts of the people the very life of His Son Jesus Christ. Now, that is either quite a boast or quite an outstanding fact. And so through the ministry Paul says, you have become a written epistle, not written with ink, but written with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Life, and that administered by me he says. and as William Branham said, "*This is my ministry, to declare Christ that He is here*". Here we see the apostle Paul say, "*This is my ministry, to declare Christ in you, to write His Word into your heart to the place when men look upon your life and they don't see you, they see Christ.*"

Then we go to verse **4** *And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:* In other words, it is God working in us both to will and to do, so it is not me, but God working in me that is doing this work in you. because then he adds, **5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;**

And then last Wednesday night we went into the difference between having the written Word or Law which breeds legalism and a hard heartedness, verses a ministry of The Spirit which is a ministry of imparting life. And there is quite a difference in the two.

Then brother Branham continued reading from **2 Corinthians 3:7** where the apostle Paul said, "***But if the ministration of death, written and engraved in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfast behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away;***

Then we went back to **Exodus 34** to see where Moses was to go into the presence of God when he went up onto the Mountain. And remember, no man, woman, nor child, or even any animal was permitted to enter onto that mountain when Moses met with God face to face and receiving the revelation for that hour.

And now in verse **7**, we see the Apostle Paul called these tables of stone that the Lord wrote on "***the ministration of death***", because **the law cannot bring forth life**, it can only point out where you've erred. Therefore, when Moses came down from meeting with God, and his face glowed from being in God's presence for such a long, time, yet when he came before the people the people could not bear seeing Moses face reflecting so much light, so they demanded that he cover his face showing that the people wanted that Word veiled. They wanted an excuse for not knowing, and thus not doing.

Let's read from **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 knew not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. 30 And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, **the skin of his face shone**; and **they were afraid to come nigh him**.*

Notice that Moses had been so long in the presence of the Pillar of fire that His face actually began to **reflect** that Pillar of fire.

Webster's dictionary tells us "***a reflector is simply a person or thing that reflects***". But that definition doesn't really help us to understand **what a reflector is** all about, now does it? But it points us to the fact that as Brother Branham said, "***A reflector does not give off its own light, but reflects the light of another.***"

Brother also Branham said, "***the reflector doesn't reflect itself, the reflector isn't the reflection. There has to be something strike the reflector to make it reflect.***" So we see that Moses face reflected the Presence of the Pillar of Fire.

Then we must ask ourselves, **what is it about a reflector that causes it to reflect?**

We know by casual observance that not everything can reflect. In fact, that is what the stealth bomber is all about. It is made in such a way as to cause as little reflection as possible. And so it's designers had to be able to understand all about the reflective properties that causes a vessel to be able to reflect in order to be able to make one that will not reflect. In their case the things that reflect are **radio waves, electronic signals** and even **light rays**. And in order to make the stealth invisible, it had to be able to **redirect** as many of these waves and rays as possible.

And so **there are three basic areas that had to be designed** to do this. and the whole purpose of stealth is deception, and therefore deception does not reflect, or does not reflect properly. It distorts what light is there to reflect.

But Moses as a God called prophet was made to reflect the light of God to the people.

And from his sermon, **God's only provided place of worship 65-1128M P:111** brother Branham said, "Look, Enoch was the living Word of God of his age; he was a prophet. **A prophet is God's reflector.** How many knows that? **The reflector doesn't reflect itself; the reflector isn't the reflection.** There has to be something strike the reflector to make it reflect. So **a prophet is a chosen vessel of God that cannot reflect nothing at all, but he's in direct line with that reflection, God, to reflect the image of Christ the Word** (See?); **nothing else can do it.** **You are a reflector;** that's the reason the prophet had to eat the book. That's the reason he had to eat the scroll. **He had to reflect that Word for that age.**

And from his sermon, **Things that are to be 65-1205 P:20** he said, "**A prophet is a reflector of God.** He is made so that he cannot speak his own word; **it has to be God's Words that he speaks.** **He's just like a reflector.** And **he is God's mouthpiece.** And so, therefore, He said, "A virgin shall conceive"; **he probably could not have understand it,** but **God had spoke it through him,** because He promised that He would **do nothing until He revealed it to His servants the prophets.**

And from his sermon **The Rapture 65-1204 P:77** he said, "Now, remember, the Word of the Lord comes to the prophet, **not the theologian,** the prophet. **He is a reflector of God's Word.** **He can't say nothing; he can't say his own thoughts; he can only speak what God reveals.** Even to the prophet Balaam when he was tried to be sold--sell his right; he said, "**How can any prophet say anything but what God puts in his mouth?**" It's a thing that God does that you can't say nothing else. And you're born that way.

And from his sermon **There is a Man that can turn on light 63-1229M P:92** "He's the Light. So was Noah the Light in his day. **He was the Light.** Noah was that Light. He was the Light to what? To make God's Word. "**I will destroy man upon the earth that I've created. Build an ark, and all desires to come into it will be saved.**" Noah walked out there and said, "**There's one way, and that's a ark.**" They said, "**The old, crazy fanatic...**" **He was the Word made manifest.** **Noah was the Light of the hour;** sure was. In his day, his age he sprung forth the Light. **Moses was the Light of his hour.** "**I'll surely visit you,**" God said to Abraham. "**I'll come down, and I'll take out of the people with a strong hand; and I'll show My power in Egypt.**" And when Moses up there met that burning bush up there and found out **the I AM was in that bush,** Moses went down there, and **he was the Light.** Amen. No wonder he could take some dust, and blow it up, and say, "**Let there come fleas upon the earth.**" **He had the Word of God.** What happened? The dust begin to blow, and fleas begin to come into existence. Hallelujah. Why? **He was a manifestation of the Light of God's Word,** "**I'll plague Egypt.**" **He was a prophet.** **What he said come to pass. He was a Light of that day. He was God's Light"**.

Now, back to **Exodus 34:31** *And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. 32 And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai.*

33 *And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. 34 But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. 35 And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.*

Now, listen, Moses first approached that Light when it was in the bush that he thought was on fire but was not being consumed. And now as he climbed up that same mountain where he had first seen the Pillar of Fire, he walked into the Presence of that light, and finally he went into that Light, and then that light went into Moses, or at least reflected from the face of Moses.

But notice that the apostle Paul speaks of this and says, "*But if the ministration of death, written and engraved in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfast behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away; 8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?* (How shall not the ministration of the spirit be more glorious?)

The **NIV** puts it this way, *⁷ Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹ If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! ¹⁰ For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. ¹¹ And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!"*

Let me put this into my own words to help you to understand this better. *⁷ If the system of law that led to death began with such glory that people could not bear to look upon Moses' face while He was giving them **God's law to obey.** Then if this simplistic form of receiving the Glory of God, His opinions, values, and judgments in the form of ten commandments which showed the same. In doing this Moses having come from God's presence with this simplistic form of opinions, and values, and judgments, he came shining from the Light of God's presence that he had been in for those 40 days and nights. And in so doing Moses face shone out with the very reflection of that minor glory of God, but that glorious reflection soon began to fade, as men began to embrace the law of God, and instead of seeing Life, they saw only law and death.*

But then Paul says in verse **8** "*Shall we not expect a far greater glory in these days when the Holy Spirit is here to impart life? **9** If the plan that leads to doom was glorious, much more glorious is the plan that makes men right with God. **10** In fact, that first glory as it shone from Moses' face is worth nothing at all in comparison with the overwhelming glory of the Law of Life in Christ Jesus. **11** So if the old system that faded into nothing was full of heavenly glory, the glory of God's new plan for imparting Life is certainly a far greater, for it is eternal.*

Now, the KJV **9** *For if the ministration of condemnation be glorious, much more does the ministration of righteousness (right-wise-ness) exceed in glory. **10** For even that which was made glorious has no glory in this respect, by reasons of the glory that excelleth.*

So notice that Paul calls this tablet of ten laws the ministration of death, because it was set up that way and we know it was set up that Israel might not attain. Why? Because it was ordained that the gentile would attain to the glory and the imparting of Life that comes from receiving the glory which is the doxa, of God.

Notice in Jesus prayer to the Father before going to the Garden in **John 17**...

John 17:16 *They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. **18** As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. **20** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; **21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. **22** And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: **23** I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. **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.*

Now, let me sum this up so far. Paul was looking at the scene when God gave the people ten simple commandments, in which they could begin to have some sort of understanding of God's opinions, values, and judgments. Not the fullness of God's glory, but a measure of it. Enough to help them to understand some what the things God holds as value, and introduction to God's opinions concerning those values. And of course His judgments for those who do not hold the same values and opinions.

And Paul says, that was ten commandments that went forth as law from God. "***Thou shalt do this and though shalt not do that.***" But they still could not get a handle on God's full character by this simple form of expression concerning the glory of God, and yet it still was a show of God's glory and when Moses came down that glory shown upon his face.

And because it was the beginning of, or let's say the tapping into the glory of God, like tapping into a glacier for an ice cube, but these ten commandments gave the people a sampling of the very mind of God.

And when Moses came down from having spent 40 days and night in God's Presence, he came down with his face glowing and it frightened the people.

Now, Paul continues in **2 Corinthians 3:11** *For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glory. 12 Seeing then that we have such a hope, we use great plainness of speech. 13 And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that **the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which was abolished:***

14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. 15 But even unto this day, **when Moses is read, the veil is upon their hearts.**

So, although the ten commandments were an introduction into the glory of God, his opinions, values, and judgments, yet because there was no flesh and blood attached to them, the people could not see the affect it was supposed to have upon them. But Moses saw that affect, and he bore that affect not only on his face but in his heart as well. But remember, on his way up Moses said to God, "*I know this people are "stiffnecked and uncircumcised in their hearts"*".

And we can see in this hour the same thing has taken place when the doctrine was given to the people, the word had been broken, the prophet came down from the mountain, and the seals were opened, and the same results are evidenced in the people now as they were seen back then. and the Law to them became death, as the Revealed Word to many in this hour becomes just conduct , order or doctrine.

But if the people had just stood there in the presence of Moses as he had stood in the presence of the Pillar of Fire, then as He began to reflect the pillar of fire, they would have began to reflect the light from Moses face as well. And so is the case in this hour.

We have been commanded to lay in the presence of the son to ripen.

Man running from presence 65-0217 P:21 *I believe we have Truth. I'm satisfied with that. And I believe the wheat is absolutely, the shucks pulling away from it. You know? And to see... I may give a little prelude on that tomorrow night (See?), how the shuck's pulling away from the wheat. But the wheat has to lay in the presence of the sun to ripen. And that's what we're here for, friends. Stay in the Presence of the Son till our little group of people here, till it becomes so ripe to Christ, that it becomes bread on His table. That's what I want it to do.*

Things that are to be 65-1205 P:65 *Now, remember, in every reformation we've had on all those Lutherans and so forth, in three years they organized. That's right. Every revival brought a organization in three years. Think how long this has been going on: twenty something years and no organizations. Why? It's the seed coming, forming under the husk like this. Laying out now, it's got to lay in the presence of the sun to ripen into the glorious grain like the One that went into the first. The real church that went down first, **It's coming right back up** through the stalk to come out another church. When the combine comes to pick it up, the Life that went down in Luther, the Life that went down in the*

Methodist, the Life that went down in the Pentecostal will come into the grain; it'll all go right into the grain and go out, forming the perfect Body of Jesus Christ.

Invisible union of the bride 65-1125 P:79 *It's the grain. It can't go no farther. We're at the end-time. What does it have to do now? Lay in the presence of the sun to be ripened. That's exactly. The Word to be ripened into your heart to bring forth and live what we're talking about. Yes, sir. Then you'll have no more doubts, if you let the Holy Spirit reveal it to you....*

God's only provided place of worship 65-1128M P:20 *I believe the church is begin to hear the message, and beginning to understand. (Look, He preached this sermon less than 4 weeks from when God took him off the scene, and by this time brother Branham had been preaching the message for 33 years and they were *now beginning to take it to the Word?* They were *now just beginning to understand* it? But listen to what he tells the people next.)*

"But, friends, listen, we've got to lay in the Presence of the Son: we've got to be ripened. Our faith isn't ripe.

And what is faith? It's a revelation. People did not have a nature faith, a mature revelation. Oh, they could quote **Malachi 4** by this time, and **Revelation 10**, and **Luke 17:30**, but that is about how far they had come then, and the sad thing is that for the next 53 years, many have only come this far as well.

That is worse than Israel did. They wandered for 40 years when it was only a ten days journey to the land. But when they got there the people saw the giants and had no faith to enter and take the land that was promised to them. And we have wandered now for 63 years since the prophet told us we must lay in the presence to Ripen.

They had a prophet on the scene and we had a prophet on the scene, they had the pillar of fire showing God's presence on the scene and we have had that same pillar of Fire leading us to the promise of this hour. But just as they seemed to come up short in that hour and because they didn't trust the report of Joshua and Caleb and ended up wandering for 40 years so has the people in this hour wandered until almost no one that walked with that prophet is still alive to go over and take the promise.

And just as all those over twenty years old at the time of Kadesh-Barnea perished in the next 40 years and were not permitted to enter in, so has the generation that walked with the prophet died off until there may not be more than one or two left.

Numbers 14:29 *Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,*

Numbers 32:11 *Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me:*

Notice, why were they not permitted to enter into the promise of that hour? The Promised land? Because they have not wholly followed me. And what is the promise for this hour? The *Adoption and the change of the body*. And how do we obtain it? We've got to come to full maturity. and that only comes by "*wholly following*" and hearkening to *the Voice of the Lord* in this hour.

Now brother Branham continues, "*Intellectually* we're hearing the message that God has give us, and *seeing the signs* that He showed us, and *proving it by the Bible* as that; but, oh, *how the church needs to lay in His Presence till it tenders up*, you know, and *gets sweet in the Spirit* so that it can bathe down. *Sometimes in speaking the message, you get harsh, have to break it in like that*, because *you've got to clinch a nail to make it hold*. *But* when the church once gets it, the Elected is called out and separated *then in the Presence of God*, I know it'll be something like the people was there when it takes its rapture.

So there has got to come that Holy influence from laying in His presence. He says the church back then had just an intellectual grasp of the Message, like Israel had the Intellectual grasping law, but if Israel had not been so afraid to just lay in the Presence of that Pillar of Fire that was reflecting off of Moses, they would also have been tendered up in their hearts and not been so stiff necked and hardened in their hearts.

Now, let's pick up again at verse **14** *But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.* **15** *But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their hearts.*

Notice they had an intellectual understanding, but it also says their minds were blinded. Blinded by what? By their intellectual understanding, where they had their creeds and dogmas which replaced the Word of God in their minds and hearts.

And then in verse **16** we hear Paul say, "*Nevertheless*" (which means "*in spite of all that*") "*when it*" (when the heart) "*shall be turned to the Lord, the veil*" (the intellectualism that blinds the mind) "*shall be taken away.*"

I've never seen it fail yet, when God can get a hold of a man's heart, his mind becomes open to the things of God, and he loses his intellectualism real quick. From my own experience of 44 years in this message, I can say that when a man gets intellectual, he also gets real hard in his heart towards not only the things of God but toward his brethren.

From his sermon **Perseverant 63-0802 P:31** *Many people take the Bible and understand It intellectually perfect, but that's not it. That's not what we're talking about. No matter how well you can explain It, you've got to meet the Author of It personally. Then is what brings faith, for the Author lives in you after you're born of Him.*

And Paul was talking about the law, the intellect is not what brings the glory, although when Paul brought the law he had tapped into the glory, because his face shown with the glory, but Paul says, that is not even considered glory compared to when the Spirit will begin to impart life. The you will see the real glory that excelleth.

Now, verse **17** *Now, the Lord is that Spirit:* (what spirit? The Spirit of Glory that he was talking about earlier in this same chapter.) *and where the Spirit of the Lord... there is liberty.*

Now, this next verse is where we want to get to this morning, **18** *"But we all, with open face (with no veils, and no traditions between us and the Word) beholding as in a glass (looking as in the mirror of God's Word) we behold the glory of the Lord, (we behold the doxa of the Lord, we behold the opinions of the Lord and we behold the values of the Lord and we behold the judgments of the Lord and then he says, and "we have changed into the same image we are beholding.*

Now, remember when you look into a mirror, what you are seeing is actually light. I can prove that to you. Go into a room and shut the door and stand before a mirror. Now, shut off all light that might come into that room. And you stand right in front of the mirror but you can't see anything. Now, turn on a light in the hallway, but keep the door closed but open it just a little crack. Let a sliver of light come into the room, and you can now see only those things that are visible by that little sliver of light. Open the door more and let more light in and the more light that shines into that room the clearer the image becomes standing in that mirror.

And this is the same principal that governs the working of the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 4:5 *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

Ephesians 5:13 *But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.*

2 Timothy 1:10 *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*

2 Corinthians 4:4 *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.*

John 3:21 *But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

Notice when we come to the Word with no veil over our heart, no traditions or creeds, we actually become what we see in The Word of God. *"Now, are we sons but it does not yet appear what we shall be, but when He shall appear", when he comes into view, "we shall see him as he is and seeing him as he is we come become like Him,"*

We look into the mirror of his Word and we see him as He is. And we come in the very "*same image as what we see in His Word*" and he tells us how...) *from glory unto glory*, (from our *doxa* to His *doxa*, from our *opinion* to His *opinion*, from our *values* to his *values*, from our *judgments* to His *judgment*) And then Paul adds, "*even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*" And this word "*as*" means *to the same degree, amount, or extent; similarly; equally*:

Similarly, equally or to the same degree as Who? he says, "*As by The Spirit of the Lord.*"

Our *doxa* becomes the same as His *doxa*, our *opinions* are changed to be the same as His *opinions*, our *values* are changed to be the same as His *values*.

When God has come into plain view we shall see him as He truly is, and we have before us in this hour, the Mighty God unveiled before us through the veil of a vindicated prophet who declared him.

And that is not just makeup friends, that is what God's word tells us in **Acts 13:41** *Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.*

Now brother Branham continues to read from **2 Corinthians 4:1** "*Therefore seeing we have this ministry*, (Notice what Paul is saying here.) *Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as* (in the same way) *we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things and the dishonest, not walking in craftiness and handling the word of God deceitfully*; (in other words, we have nothing to hide. What you see is what we are. He have no great plans, we have no hidden agenda, we have no deceitful objective) *but by manifestation of the truth we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

Then brother Branham ends his reading at verse **2 Corinthians 4:3** *But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them which are lost*: And I think we will end here today because we are going into a different subject at this point, we will be showing the effect of cutting off the light has on a person and Wednesday night we will take that thought as a separate study altogether.

Let us pray...