

If we love the Lord, we would like to be like Him. It's inescapable.

No matter what else we would like to do or be we would like to be like Him.

No matter how little it appears on the surface that we would like to be like Him, we really would like to be like Him.

As surely as we're born again of the Spirit and He lives in us, He places that desire in us.

To most of us, it seems that, to our chagrin, and sometimes pain, we're not very much like Him at all. To our embarrassment it seems we really don't want badly enough to be like Him. To our confusion it seems we just don't know how to become like Him.

But the secret of becoming more like Jesus isn't difficult to discover. In fact it's very simple. Here's that secret.

We all with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

-II Corinthians 3:18

How are we changed into the likeness of our glorious God?

There are two parts to it:

First, only the Holy Spirit can do it. No matter how hard we try, we can only fail. We must depend on God and His Spirit.

Second, we're changed into His likeness as we look increasingly away from the things of this world to our glorious God.

You see, it's where the focus of our attention is that determines who or what we become like.

Did you get that?

It's where the focus of our attention is that determines who or what we become like.

The question then becomes, where is the focus of our attention? Too much, perhaps, on ourselves and self interests. Too much on the things of this world, its passions, pleasures, people, popularity. Too much on the distractions, criticisms, condemnation, and temptation the devil throws at us.

Now, how does God go about getting our attention from these to Himself?

Perhaps many ways, but specially one!

We ask, why do the righteous suffer? Well, my friend, here's the answer. No the answer we would like, but God's answer.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

-II Corinthians 4:17

Suffering produces mighty, everlasting glory, blessing, and benefit.

How?

It's through suffering especially that God gets our attention. When we suffer, we need His help and we know it! Things that seemed so important don't seem so important any more.

He's got our attention off ourselves and the things of this world onto Him. And the result of our attention being on the Lord is that we're being changed into His likeness. And being more like Him brings mighty, everlasting blessing that makes even terrible suffering seem relatively unimportant.

Just think what wonderful blessings suffering brings.

We'd better wake up!

It seems like it's: no suffering, no glory, little suffering, little glory, much suffering, much glory.

Instead of carping, griping, and complaining, we'd best look to God, rejoicing in our sufferings that make it possible for Him to change us into His likeness and store up eternal blessings for us.

Let's hear it again:

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

-II Corinthians 4:8-10

There's a beautiful blessing that results right now from suffering that's gladly accepted for Jesus' sake: Jesus' glorious life is shown forth in our lives as He gets our attention. And that produces for us an eternal weight of glory.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

-II Corinthians 4:6

We know and experience God's glory here and now only as we look into Jesus' face, giving Him the attention He so rightly deserves.

... that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

-II Corinthians 4:15-16

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
-II Corinthians 4:18

What are the results? First, we find our interest in the things of time and space slowly receding, and our anticipation of being forever gloriously with our great Savior God growing.

For we know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. . . . For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality may be swallowed up of life. . . . Therefore, we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
-II Corinthians 5:1-8

Second, it becomes our life-goal to please the God Who plans everything for our everlasting benefit.

Wherefore, we labor that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him [Literally, We make it our aim that whether present or absent, we may please him.]
-II Corinthians 5:9

Now, ask yourself two questions:
First, are you willing to accept for Jesus' sake whatever suffering the Lord sends your way that will draw you to Him?

Second, are you prepared to give up your selfish self interests to turn your attention gloriously Godward that you may please Him and reap eternal benefit? To become more like Jesus, to become gloriously attached to God and all that is eternal, what selfish desires will you let go of to spend more time with Him and give Him greater attention? On the other hand, what will you hold onto of your self and this world to your eternal loss?

-♥♥♥-



Request for additional copies of this message for distribution. Write to us at ChristLife.

*“Proclaiming Christ Jesus All-Sufficient Always
In All Things to All Men Everywhere”
Transformed Living Messages by Pastor Marr
ChristLife*

PO Box 1033, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Ph: (716) 622-7320

E-mail: Christlife@Christ-like.net

Visit us at www.Christ-like.net

... To Be More Like Jesus ...

Glory now and evermore!

*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.*

-II Corinthians 3:18

By Pastor Ron Marr