

Face to Face

Exodus 33:11 and Deuteronomy 34:10 reveal that Moses knew God and spoke to Him face to face. Numbers 12:7-8 gives us further understanding of their intimate relationship, with God explaining that He spoke with Moses "mouth to mouth" and that Moses "beheld the form of the Lord" It fills my heart with wonder to imagine what it must have been like to have such a place of intimacy with God.

In Exodus 34:29 we see the effect of standing in the presence of God; "Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him." In Matthew 17:2 we read that the face of Jesus also shone when He stood on a high mountain, and spoke with Moses and Elijah.

Just as Moses' face shone when he brought the new tablets containing the 10 commandments out from the presence of God (Exodus 34) on the mountain, Jesus' face also shone as he stood upon a mountain, speaking with Moses, preparing to lay down His life to bring in the new law of the Spirit that will give liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17) and not death. Jesus is signaling the end of the 1st Covenant and the beginning of a new covenant that will give life as Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:6, "God, who made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

Therefore, we may now live in this new glory through Jesus. Whereas the law revealed our sin to us, Jesus has set us free in the life of the Spirit and we all, "with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."

As someone involved in worship, I find these truths amazing that we have this same glory of the Lord shining in us today, and when we come into His presence as a congregation, we all reflect the radiance of Jesus to each other. As we spend more personal time with the Lord, not only will our faces shine with His glory, but our whole beings will be full of Jesus so that we may minister the liberty of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17) to others so that they may walk in the fullness of His presence.