



# Faith in Action

God's Sanctifying Presence

## Christ, the Spirit, and the New Covenant

- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Corinthians 12:12** For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
  - *Baptized by the Spirit into Christ, sanctifying presence.*
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 3:1** Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ... <sup>11</sup> "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
  - *Baptized by Christ in the Spirit, empowering presence.*

## God's Sanctifying Presence

- <sup>NAS</sup> **John 20:21** Jesus therefore said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." <sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Peter 1:1** Peter, ... to those who ... are chosen <sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure. <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Titus 3:5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

## The Mechanics of Sanctification

- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 3:3** ... you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts. <sup>4</sup> And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. <sup>5</sup> Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, <sup>6</sup> who also 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 ... <sup>18</sup> But 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.

## Life and Death

- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 3:6** who also 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. <sup>7</sup> But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, <sup>8</sup> how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?
  - Comparison is not *word vs Spirit*
  - But *word without Spirit vs word with Spirit*

## Word with Spirit

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Jeremiah 31:33** "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **Ezekiel 36:26** "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.
- The New Covenant promise is that God will implant both his word and his Spirit within us so that his Spirit will empower us to walk according to his word

## Word without Spirit

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Isaiah 29:13** Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote,
- <sup>NIV</sup> **Mark 7:13** Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 23:23** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. <sup>24</sup> "You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

## Fading Glory

- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 3:7** But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, <sup>8</sup> how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? <sup>9</sup> For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. <sup>10</sup> For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory on account of the glory that surpasses it. <sup>11</sup> For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory.

- To fade: to cause to cease, put an end to, do away with, annul, abolish (e.g., KJV, ESV).
- The reference is to the replacement of the Old Covenant with the more far more glorious New Covenant.

## A Better Covenant

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 8:6** But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. <sup>7</sup> For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. <sup>8</sup> For finding fault with them, He says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, When I will effect a new covenant With the house of Israel and with the house of Judah ...
- <sup>ESV</sup> **Hebrews 7:22** This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 13:20** Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, <sup>21</sup> equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## End of the Law

- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 3:13** and are not as Moses, who used to put a veil over his face that the sons of Israel might not look intently at the end of what was fading away. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.
  - *The end (telos)* means goal or purpose.
  - The purpose of the Old Covenant was to lead us to Christ.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 10:4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **Galatians 3:24** So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.

- <sup>ESV</sup> **Colossians 2:16** Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **2 Timothy 3:14** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Luke 24:27** And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

## The Source of Moses' Glory

- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 3:7** ... the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face
  - <sup>NIV</sup> **Exodus 33:18** Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."  
<sup>19</sup> And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you ... <sup>20</sup> But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **Exodus 34:29** And it came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony were in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.
- Moses shone with the glory of the Lord, not because of seeing the Lord, but because of hearing him speak the words of the Law.

## The Source of Our Glory

- <sup>NAS</sup> **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- <sup>ESV</sup> **John 17:22** The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 3:18** But 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.

# Conclusion

## Glimpses of Glorification

- <sup>NAS</sup> **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Mark 9:2** And six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; <sup>3</sup> and His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **Acts 6:15** All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 John 3:2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.

## Pursuing Sanctification

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 12:14** Pursue ... the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 3:15** But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; <sup>16</sup> but whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. <sup>18</sup> But 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.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 12:2** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.