

# I. The Mirror and the Master

**2 Corinthians 3:18** is often called the “Golden Verse” of sanctification because it describes the mechanics of how a human being actually changes.

Most of us spend our lives looking into the “wrong mirrors.”

The World’s Mirror: Reflects our performance, our appearance, and our bank accounts. It tells us we are never “enough.”

The Mirror of Shame: Reflects our past mistakes and failures. It tells us we are defined by our worst moments.

God’s Mirror (Christ): When we look at Jesus, we see the Glory of God. But because we are “in Christ,” that mirror reflects back to us our true identity: forgiven, beloved, and purposeful.

Key Thought: You cannot be conformed to an image you don’t believe you possess. Surrender begins when we stop arguing with God about who He says we are.

## II. Seeing Ourselves Through His Eyes

To be conformed into His image, we must first accept His gaze. How does He see us?

With Compassion: Not with a magnifying glass looking for flaws, but with the heart of a Father looking for His child.

With Potential: He sees the “saint” in the “sinner.” He saw the “Rock” (Peter) in the “unstable fisherman” (Simon).

With Finished Work: He sees us through the lens of the Cross. He doesn’t see our “un-transformed” parts; He sees the “completed” masterpiece He is creating.

### **III. Conformed: The Sculptor’s Hand**

The word “conformed” (symmorphizo) implies being shaped to fit a mold. If “beholding” is the mental shift, “conforming” is the practical result.

Pressure with Purpose: Just as a mold requires pressure to shape the clay, our trials are often the “pressure” God uses to squeeze out the old image and press in the new one.

The Goal is Likeness, Not Sameness: Being conformed to His image doesn’t mean we lose our personality. It means our personality is finally “healed.” We become the most authentic version of ourselves when we look the most like Him.

### **IV. The Practical “Exchange”**

Present this as a Daily Exchange:

I give Him my shame; He gives me His righteousness.

I give Him my anxiety; He gives me His peace.

I give Him my striving; He gives me His rest.

**Sermon Illustration Idea:** > Imagine a stained-glass window in a dark room. Without light, it looks dull and gray. But when the sun shines through it, the colors come alive, and the artist's intent is revealed. We are the window; Christ is the sun. We don't "create" the colors; we simply "surrender" to the light passing through us.

## **King James Version Isaiah 61**

61 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

4 And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

5 And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.

6 But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

7 For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

8 For I the Lord love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

## **Closing Application / Call to Action**

**Remove the Mask:** What are you hiding from God today? Surrender that “veil.”

**Change Your Gaze:** What have you been staring at lately? Your bank account? Your failures? Commit to “beholding” Christ through Scripture and prayer this week.

**Trust the Spirit:** Stop trying to “fix” yourself by your own strength. Ask the Spirit to do the work only He can do.

## **A Closing Prayer for the Congregation:**

“Lord, help us to look away from the broken mirrors of this world. Grant us the courage to look into Your face and see ourselves the way You see us. As we behold Your glory, do the work that Only You can do—conform us, shape us, and change us from one degree of glory to the next. Amen.”