

# Out of the Cave

## Part 3

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# Intro

It is time to be done with this cave mentality! We are to have a relationship due to the impact of the Light. After such an encounter, anything else would be living far below this standard that He has paid for.

In this cave experience, we encounter false realities based on manufactured truths where we are taught to think according to how generations thought, yet the Bible says we have the mind of Christ. In this cave experience, we are taught that what happened with Jesus and the apostles was for that period of time. But now those things have passed. Yet Jesus said that if we would believe, we could do what He did and more.

# John 12:42-50

- Jesus has come as a Light so that believers could live free from darkness.
- NASB: v.49 " For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. 50 "I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."
- THE MESSAGE: v.49 I'm not making any of this up on my own. The Father who sent me gave me orders, told me what to say and how to say it. 50 And I know exactly what his command produces: real and eternal life. That's all I have to say. What the Father told me, I tell you."

# Commentary

- I want to start here to lay a foundation for a revelation:
  - Jesus was obviously knowledgeable in the Old Testament law (Luke 2:38). He said He did not come to abolish the law but fulfill it (Matthew 5:17).
  - Yet here in these verses, He says that He speaks what the Father tells Him to say.
  - Does anybody think that all Jesus ever spoke was Old Testament scripture?
  - Or, did He have to hear from the Father first hand every day in order to do what the Father sent Him to do.
  - Hold on to that for now.

## 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

- It says He always leads us into triumph.
- Through our obedience, we exude or give off a fragrance and that fragrance is the fragrance of His Son.
- Think about that. Each one of us has a certain "smell" to us. Our spouses know it. Not a bad thing, just a unique "smell". It could be from the soap we use, shampoo we use or the perfume/cologne. Our spouses or friends know this smell and when they smell it, it reminds them of us or when they smell a certain smell, it reminds them of somebody.
- God says that as we go about proclaiming the gospel, and obey what He says, we release an aroma that smells like Christ.

## 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 (Cont.)

- v. 17 - We do not "peddle" the word of God. We do not peddle what He says to us. We speak from God and do it as we stand in His presence.
  - MSG - *"This is a terrific responsibility. Is anyone competent to take it on? No — but at least we don't take God's Word, water it down, and then take it to the streets to sell it cheap. We stand in Christ's presence when we speak; God looks us in the face. We get what we say straight from God and say it as honestly as we can."*
  - Does that sound familiar? Paul says, he will not water down the message to sell it cheap. He stands in the presence of God and he speaks what He tells him to.

# 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

- Paul says that he does not need man made credentials. He does not need to rely on man's recommendations.
- His credentials are written on the hearts of the ones he ministers to and they are his recommendation.
- And then he says something powerful that we must deal with once again today:
  - *5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, 6 who also made us adequate as servants (**ministers**) of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*
  - Paul is speaking the difference between the old covenant and the new covenant. But there are some today who have made a "third" covenant that says that what people were able to do in the new covenant has passed and we are simply waiting in the sweet by and by until He returns. Powerless. Unable to utter the word "I heard God tell me, ..." or "This is what He is saying to do..." and be totally confident we speak from Him

## 2 Corinthians 3:1-6 (Cont.)

- Yet nobody under the new covenant ministered under these constraints. They all write what they here from God. They all speak what they hear from God. They all fully believe that each one of them has the power and authority to speak the things of God, to release the new wine. They expect to see what Jesus said happen. Anybody who told them otherwise was not just against them, but against God.
- Today, we fear that responsibility. We find ways to not put ourselves out there like that. Doing that puts a veil over our faces as we approach God to interact and as we go to preach the gospel.
- Paul addresses this in the next set of verses

## 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

- To understand what Paul is saying we first have to go to Exodus 34:29-35
- Moses has this face to face encounter with God. His face is brilliantly shining to such a degree that people are afraid to approach him. So he puts a veil over his face to mask the glory and allow the people to come near him.
- Paul says, he won't do that. He says that we behold the Lord in a mirror to see His true glory and have it reflect on us. When we put a veil over it, we minimize or water down that glory and end up living limited rather than limitless. Jesus broke off the constraints. He gave us liberty to not only behold His glory, but reflect it to others.
- We can reflect as much as we can receive. Behold longer, receive more, reflect more.

## 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (MSG)

*16 Whenever, though, they turn to face God as Moses did, God removes the veil and there they are — face to face! 17 They suddenly recognize that God is a living, personal presence, not a piece of chiseled stone. And when God is personally present, a living Spirit, that old, constricting legislation is recognized as obsolete. We're free of it! 18 All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.*

- We recognize that God is personally present, a living Spirit, not a piece of chiseled stone. And because of that, that old veiled covered constricting legislation is rendered obsolete and we are free of it!
- There is nothing between us and God.
- Our face shines with the brightness of His face.
- We are transfigured like the Messiah. Our lives becoming brighter and more beautiful as He enters and is released in our lives more and more.
- WE BECOME LIKE HIM! WE LIFT A FRAGRANCE LIKE HIM! THESE ARE MY BELOVED CHILDREN, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED!
- Now, LET'S ACT LIKE IT!

# Conclusion

2 Corinthians 4:1-2 (MSG) - 4 Since God has so generously let us in on what he is doing, we're not about to throw up our hands and walk off the job just because we run into occasional hard times. 2 We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don't twist God's Word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open, the whole truth on display, so that those who want to can see and judge for themselves in the presence of God.

- We have nothing to be afraid of, ashamed of, hesitant about.
- We did not put ourselves here, He put us in this place.
- We didn't earn it, it is a gift.
- Receive it and start living with this revelation in mind.
- You can hear from God as He speaks to you by the Holy Spirit. Have some boldness to proclaim what He says to you at the time He says it without hesitation or a veiled face.