

KEY STATEMENTS FOR THE 2024 MEMORIAL DAY BLENDING CONFERENCE

**We need to realize that everything through which we pass has only one
purpose—**

**that God's life would be released through us and expressed in us; may
our outer man be broken to such an extent
that the inner man can be released and expressed;
this is precious, and this is the way of the servants of the Lord.**

**To abide in the Lord is to be one spirit with Him, and effective prayers
are the issue
of our abiding in the Lord and of His words abiding in us.**

**Our enjoyment of Christ as the flow of life is for us to be
sowers, planters, waterers, begetters, feeders, and builders with the
ministry of life for the marvelous organic building of God, the
magnificent house of God.**

**We all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the
glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory
to glory.**

HWMR: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (Week 6)

Scripture Reading: 2 Cor. 4:4, 6-7; 3:18; Matt. 17:2; Eph. 5:8-9; Rev. 22:4a, 5b; 21:23

The Triune God in Christ Being Life to Us by Shining in Our Hearts

2 Corinthians 4:4	In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.
2 Corinthians 4:6	Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 4:7	But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.
2 Corinthians 3:18	But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
Matthew 17:2	And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as the light.
Ephesians 5:8	For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light
Ephesians 5:9	(For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth).
Revelation 22:4	And they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.
Revelation 22:5	And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.
Revelation 21:23	And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Day 1

<i>2 Corinthians 4:4</i>	<i>- In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them.</i>
<i>Hebrews 1:3</i>	<i>- Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;</i>

I. “In whom the god of this age has **blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers that the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not shine on them”—2 Cor. 4:4:**

- A. Satan, the god of this age, has blinded the thoughts and the minds of the unbelievers so that the illumination of the gospel of Christ’s glory might not shine in their hearts:
 - 1. Those who are blinded or veiled think that they do not worship anything; actually, **their god is Satan**.
 - 2. Atheists worship Satan **without knowing what they are doing**.
 - 3. Nearly all people today have been **blinded by the god of this age**.
- B. **Christ** as the image of God is the effulgence of His glory; hence, the gospel of Christ is the **gospel of His glory** that illuminates, radiates, and shines in our hearts—Heb. 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:6.

- C. The gospel of the glory of Christ is the gospel of the glory of the blessed God—1 Tim. 1:11.
- D. By **dispensing** God's life and nature in Christ into God's chosen people, the gospel of the glory of Christ **shines** forth God's glory, in which God is blessed among His people—Heb. 1:3; Eph. 1:3, 6, 12, 14.

We may illustrate 2 Corinthians 4 with a camera. The purpose of a camera is to take in the scenery. Originally, a person or object is outside the camera, but after a picture is taken, that person or object is inside the camera. In order to do this, a camera needs three main things: a lens on the outside, film on the inside, and the shining of the light. Once while I was traveling, I took a good camera with me. However, when I returned home and sent the pictures to be developed, I found that the film was blank. I realized that while I was on the train hurrying to take the pictures, I forgot to take off the lens cover. The camera was "blinded" by the cover. In the same way, someone may **hear a wonderful message of the gospel**, and everyone may expect him to be saved. However, Satan, the enemy of God, may **blind his mind**, his understanding organ. Regardless of how good the message is and how much he has heard, his understanding is blinded and **covered**. If his understanding is blinded, he can **take in nothing**. (*Dealing with Our Inward Parts for the Growth in Life, Chapter 2*)

Day 2

- 2 Corinthians 4:6** - *Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*
- Philippians 2:15** - *That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,*

Suppose that we have an uncovered lens and the proper film, that is, the understanding of the mind and a pure heart. Then we still need the **divine light to shine**. This is what is mentioned in 2 Corinthians 4. The **mind is right**, the **heart is right**, and the **divine light shines God's glory into us**. Then within us is the image, the picture, of Christ. This very image of Christ is the treasure in the earthen vessel.

By all of the above, we can realize that we must know how to deal with our mind and our heart. If we do not know how to handle the "lens" and the "film," we can never receive a proper picture. The genuine spiritual experiences are simply the taking of pictures. We are like a camera, so we must learn how to handle this camera correctly to take in God and Christ as the picture. Regrettably, many Christians do not know that they are "cameras"; they do not know how to handle their mind and their heart. The Christian life is not a religion to teach people to do this and that. The **Christian life is Christ**, the living One Himself, **wrought into us**. He is the very object, the figure, and we are the camera. This **figure has to be wrought into us** through the lens and onto the film by the **shining**, the **flashing, of the light**. Day by day and moment by moment we need the flashing of the light to take in more of the image of the Savior through the understanding of the mind and the receiving of the heart. Therefore, we all have to know how to handle our mind and how to adjust our heart. (*Dealing with Our Inward Parts for the Growth in Life, Chapter 2*)

II. "The God who said, Out of darkness **light shall shine**, is the One who **shined in our hearts to illuminate** the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"—**2 Cor. 4:6:**

- A. God's **shining** in our hearts results in the **illumination** of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, that is, in the **enlightenment** that causes us to know the glory of God in the gospel of Christ—vv. 4, 6.
- B. The illumination of the knowledge of the glory of God is in the **face of Jesus Christ**; this indicates that the gospel of the glory of Christ is a lovely person on whose face we can see the glory of God—vv. 4, 6; Matt. 17:2.

- C. The glory of God manifested in the face of Jesus Christ is the God of glory expressed through Jesus Christ, who is the effulgence of the glory of God; to **know Him** is to **know the God of glory**—Acts 7:2; Heb. 1:3.
- D. The more God **shines in our hearts**, the more we will **shine on others** so that they may have the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, that is, the knowledge of Christ, who expresses and declares God; the gospel of the glory of Christ first shines into us, and then it shines out from within us—John 1:18; Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15.

Day 3

2 Corinthians 4:7 - But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

Philippians 4:13 - I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

III. “We have this **treasure in earthen vessels** that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us”—2 Cor. 4:7:

- A. Through the illumination of the gospel of the glory of Christ, the Christ of glory as the excellent treasure is received by the believers; now the **shining reality of Christ**, the embodiment and expression of the Triune God, is the **treasure within us**—vv. 6-7:
 - 1. God’s **shining**, which is God’s **dispensing**, in our hearts brings into us a **treasure**, the **all-inclusive Christ**, who is the embodiment of the Triune God as the life-giving Spirit to be our life and everything—vv. 4, 6-7; Col. 2:9; 3:4, 11; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
 - 2. This priceless treasure, the indwelling Christ, is the **divine source** of the supply for the Christian life—Phil. 4:13; 2 Cor. 13:5; 4:7.
- B. This priceless treasure has made us, the earthen vessels, **ministers of the new covenant** with a priceless ministry; this is by the divine power in resurrection; the excellency of this power is surely of God and not out of us—3:6; 1:9; 4:7.
- C. Those who receive the gospel of glory through our shining will have Christ as the precious treasure dispensed into them; then, like us, they will be **earthen vessels containing this priceless treasure**—vv. 4, 6-7.

Second Corinthians 4:7 tells us that "we have this treasure in earthen vessels." **Christ** as the wonderful Spirit, the life-giving Spirit, the freeing Spirit, and the transforming Spirit is the **treasure in the earthen vessels**. We are the earthen vessels, vessels made of clay, the earth. Just as there is a small receiving part in a transistorized radio to receive sounds, so also within us we have a receiving organ to receive Christ. The stomach is the receiving organ for us to receive food. Within a human being there is also a **human spirit** which serves as the very **receiving organ** for us to receive Christ as the treasure into us. This treasure is in the earthen vessels, not outside, upon, or above them. This is very subjective. "We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us." This means that we have to express God, to manifest God, from within. (*The Centrality and Universality of Christ, Chapter 4*)

Day 4

2 Corinthians 3:18 - But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Romans 8:29 - Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

IV. “We all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit”—3:18:

- A. To **behold** the glory of the Lord is to **see the Lord ourselves**; to **reflect** the glory of the Lord is to **enable others to see Him through us**.
- B. The glory of the Lord is the glory of the resurrected and ascended Christ, who is the life-giving Spirit dwelling in us to make Himself and all that He has accomplished, attained, and obtained real to us so that we may be one with Him and be **transformed into the same image as the Lord from glory to glory**; in this way He is making us the same as He is—Luke 24:46; Heb. 2:9; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29.
- C. This is an **ongoing process** in life in resurrection—2 Cor. 3:18.

2 Corinthians 3:18 says that we behold and reflect not “in” a mirror but “like” a mirror, since we ourselves are the mirrors. Like mirrors, we **behold** and **reflect** with an **open, unveiled face**. If there is a veil covering our face, we do not have an open face, but now the **veil is taken away**. We have an unveiled face like a mirror without any covering that can behold its subject and reflect it. When a mirror beholds a person, that person is in the mirror, and the mirror reflects that person. There is no need to see this person directly because we can see him in the mirror; the mirror reflects him by beholding him. Formerly, the people of Israel had a veil. With us, however, the veil is now gone, so nothing covers us. We are a mirror with an unveiled, uncovered face looking at Christ and beholding Him. The more we **behold** Him, the more we **reflect** Him.

Verse 18 continues to say that we are being **transformed** into the image of Christ. The King James Version renders this word as changed, which is too poor. This is the same word translated as transformed in Romans 12:2. By our beholding to reflect Christ we are transformed into the same image, that is, Christ’s image, from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit. To begin with, there may be no image in a mirror. However, the more a mirror beholds a certain person, the more that person’s image is in the mirror. In this way the mirror is transformed into that image. As the mirrors, we originally beheld something other than Christ, but that has been **done away** with by **Christ’s redemption**. Now as mirrors we are free and **unveiled** to **behold** Christ, and the more we behold Christ, the more His image is **impressed** into us. In this way, we are **transformed** into the image of Christ. (*General Sketch of the New Testament in the Light of Christ and the Church, A - Part 2: Romans through Philemon, Chapter 6*)

Day 5

Ephesians 5:8-9 - *For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light (For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth).*

1 John 1:5 - *And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

V. “You were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light”—Eph. 5:8:

- A. As **God is light**, so we, the children of God, are **children of light**—1 John 1:5; Eph. 5:8; John 12:36.
- B. We are not only children of light—**we are light itself**; we are light because we are **one with God in the Lord**—Matt. 5:14; 1 John 1:5.
- C. When we are in the light, we are **outside the realm of right and wrong**—v. 7.
- D. If we walk as children of light, we will **bear the fruit** described in Ephesians 5:9:

1. The fruit of the light must be **good in nature, righteous in procedure, and real in expression**, that God may be expressed as the reality of our daily walk.
2. The **fruit of the light** in goodness, righteousness, and truth is related to the **Triune God**:
 - a. God the Father as goodness is the nature of the fruit of the light; therefore, **goodness** in verse 9 refers to **God the Father**—Matt. 19:17.
 - b. **Righteousness** refers to **God the Son**, for Christ came to accomplish God's purpose according to God's righteous procedure—Rom. 5:17-18, 21.
 - c. **Truth**, the expression of the fruit of the light, refers to **God the Spirit**, for He is the Spirit of reality—John 14:17; 16:13.

Although it is rather easy to understand the difference between love and grace, it is more difficult to understand the distinction between light and truth. Perhaps it will help if I illustrate from my own experience in married life. My wife and I have been married for a good many years. During this time, I cannot recall ever dealing with her according to what I thought was right. On the contrary, by the Lord's enabling, I have behaved toward her always in light. **When we are in the light, we are outside the realm of right and wrong.** There is no need to discern what is right and what is wrong, what we should do and what we should not do. If we are in the light, we simply act and behave spontaneously in a certain way. However, **when we are in darkness, we need to discern, to guess, and to grope for a way to do things.** But when we are in the light, there is no need for groping, guessing, or discerning. (*Life-Study of Ephesians, chapter 61*)

Day 6

Revelation 21:23 - *And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.*

Revelation 22:4-5 - *And they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.*

VI. “They will see **His face**...**The Lord God will shine upon them**”—Rev. 22:4a, 5b:

- A. To **see the face** of God and of the Lamb will be a **blessing** of the Triune God **enjoyed by God's redeemed in eternity**—v. 4a.
- B. God Himself in the Lamb will **shine on us**, and we will live forever under His glorious illumination—v. 5b; 21:23.