



January 15, 2020

## **A Mind That Is God-formed**

*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 by the Spirit of the Lord. - (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

One of the promises Jesus gives, in the book of Revelation, to those who are faithful is that he will give them “hidden manna” (2:17). Jesus is talking about being transformed into a completely new reality, a world of complete sufficiency, a type of life in which all our needs are supplied by God. If you go to work tomorrow and declare, “I don’t need anything,” people will probably think you are weird . . . very weird. You are supposed to be in need. You are supposed to lack. That’s one of the things that people can use to manage you. But if you go there complaining, griping, groaning, even cursing God, making it known just how much you lack, they will say, “Yes!” They are likely to call you a really good person, the salt of the earth, because complaining is the way of this world. I am not saying that it is always wrong to complain; each of us needs to work this out in our own way.

I am saying that there is a life in which there is no lack. Jesus is the example that proves this claim to be true. The good news is that, by his grace, it is a life that each of us can move into by faith. If, by faith, you can now declare, “I have no lack,” you will increasingly experience the Shepherd’s sufficiency in your life. It will be as Paul described in the passage above.

The more we place our minds on God’s greatness and self-sufficiency (“beholding . . . the glory of the Lord”), the more we will be transformed from one degree of glory to another. And because our faces are “unveiled” (that is, they have had the lampshades removed) others will see a difference; we will radiate generosity, peace, and contentment. And the reverse is also true; as we associate with others whose faces are “unveiled” and who are growing in their experience of God’s sufficiency, their “glory” enlightens us, encouraging us in our own journeys of faith in the Shepherd. It becomes a matter of one person reminding another of the full sufficiency of God.

Notice the word reminding in the sentence above. It should really be written re-minding, because we have been talking about getting new minds. Minds that are “on God.” When Paul wrote that we are being “transformed” into the image of Christ. The word translated transformed is the Greek word from which we get the English word metamorphosis. It literally means a change (meta) of form (morph), as in changing from caterpillar to butterfly, except we are talking about the form of our minds. *They are meant to be God-formed rather than world-formed.*

**Practice:** *Paul instructed us to avoid being conformed to the ways of the world (or being “normal” rather than “weird”), but that we should rather “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2). This is the key to a life without lack, that we would have the mind of Christ—our Shepherd, who knew firsthand the complete and perfect sufficiency of our magnificent God.*

*(Q) How has your mind been formed to only think of what can be accomplished by the flesh, your natural human abilities, and the natural human abilities of those around you as they are organized into the social and cultural structures in which you live? How is God inviting you to live in terms of the Spirit, to think in terms of the Spirit, and to set your expectations on the basis of God’s action in your life?*