

Devotional guide for the August 31st Sermon: The Glory of God

Day 1: The Transforming Power of God's Spirit: 2 Corinthians 3:1-6, Ezekiel 36:26-27

Devotional: Paul reminds the Corinthians that they themselves are living testimonies of God's transforming power. Just as God promised through Ezekiel, He has given us new hearts and put His Spirit within us. Today, reflect on how God has changed your life since you first believed. How has He softened your heart towards Him and others? In what ways do you sense the Holy Spirit guiding you? Remember, our competence comes from God, not ourselves. Pray for a renewed sensitivity to the Spirit's leading in your daily life.

Day 2: From Glory to Glory Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:7-11, Exodus 34:29-35

Devotional: The glory of the old covenant, symbolized by Moses' radiant face, pales in comparison to the surpassing glory of the new covenant in Christ. While the law brought condemnation, Christ brings righteousness. Consider how you might be relying on your own efforts to please God rather than resting in the righteousness of Christ. How can you more fully embrace the "ministry of the Spirit" in your life? Ask God to help you see His glory more clearly and to reflect it to others around you.

Day 3: Unveiled Faces Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

Devotional: Paul speaks of the veil being removed when we turn to the Lord, allowing us to behold God's glory with unveiled faces. Consider what "veils" might be hindering your spiritual vision - fear, doubt, pride, or worldly distractions. Spend time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to remove these veils and transform you more into the image of Christ. How can you live more boldly and transparently as a follower of Jesus today?

Day 4: The Battle of Two Natures Reading: Romans 7:14-25

Devotional: The sermon touched on the struggle between our flesh and spirit. Paul vividly describes this internal conflict in Romans. Reflect on your own experiences with this battle. Where do you find yourself most tempted to "feed the flesh" rather than the spirit? Acknowledge your dependence on God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome these struggles. Pray for discernment and strength to choose obedience to God's ways, even when it's difficult.

Day 5: Reflecting God's Glory Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:18

Devotional: As we behold Christ, we are gradually transformed into His image "with ever-increasing glory." This transformation isn't instantaneous, but a lifelong process. Consider how you've grown in Christlikeness over the past year. What areas still need transformation? Remember, this change comes from the Lord, not our own efforts. Today, spend time "beholding" Christ through Scripture, prayer, and worship. Ask God to continue His transforming work in you, making you a clearer reflection of His glory to the world around you.