

**2 CORINTHIANS 3:18**  
**“FROM GLORY TO GLORY”**

**3 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? 2 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. 3 You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.**

**4 Such confidence we have through Christ before God. 5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. 6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.**

**The Greater Glory of the New Covenant**

**7 Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?**

**9 If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! 10 For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. 11 And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!**

**12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. 13 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away.**

**14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. 16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.**

Paul presents the **difference between ministry/life in the flesh and ministry in the Spirit.**

**The Jews represent that sector of God's people** who refuse to grow and pay the price of growth.

They chose to **remain comfortable**, instead of opening themselves to **the fresh revelation that Jesus Christ** and the Gospel brought with them.

Describe this stagnant state further.

As Christians, we have to **remain open**. We have to **remain humble**. We have to **remain watchful for God's next installment** of revelation and provision in our lives.

Those who **hunger and thirst** for righteousness shall be filled. "**As the deer pants for the water**, so my soul longs for you. My soul thirsts for God."

As a **contrast**, he presents the ministry of the Spirit, the Gospel.

It is a **ministry of constant growth** and self transformation

## 2 Peter 1:5:11

For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith goodness**; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities **in increasing measure**, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Of increasing Christ-likeness**

**Of increasing power and glory** and authority.

We **cannot be content** with things remaining the same. We have to **continue growing**.

Image of **the plane in the air**. If it **stops in mid-flight**, it sinks to the ground. It has to **keep moving and advancing** until it arrives.

**Revived churches and ministries come at a cost**. They require **constant searching, waiting upon the Lord, sacrificing comfort** and being open to **the cloud and the pillar of fire** moving us to our next destination.

**If you want a simple, stable life**, with everything predictable, do not seek revival. Revival may require **the dismantling of routines** and cherished habits and beliefs. It will come with discomfort and new territories to be explored.

It may require **sanctification**, the abandonment of mental habits and beliefs that grieve the Holy Spirit or that prevent God from acting with power in your life or the life of your congregation.

**It may cause disruptions and even breakups with people that you love**, but who will be threatened or upset by your new lifestyle. They may attack you, or they may choose to abandon you.

**You must be willing to sacrifice** these things and to follow the Lord into the new, unexplored territory where he may be leading you.

Explore the case of **the Israelites going into a Promised Land full of giants** and unknown challenges. Which way will you go, the way of **the ten or the twelve?**

Sometimes **revival requires the death of the old**, which can be painful and terrifying. **God sometimes**

**crucifies us** in order to prepare us and take us into new territory.

**Sometimes the journey can be terrifying.** Generally, a **crucifixion is necessary before a promotion** takes place.

**Before we came to Boston in 1997, we went through a church split** where we were in Cambridge. This happened because we had **decided to go to a new level of the Spirit** as a church, and I in my own life and ministry.

But **what glory emerged from that suffering!** We had to go through a lot of struggle and suffering, **but the Lord used it to strengthen us** in order to prepare us for the demands of a larger, more influential ministry.

This is so important as we consider revival. **Given its possible cost and risks, why is seeking revival in our lives and ministries important?**

Because **there is no alternative!** The alternative is death and stagnation.

Because **the wear and tear of life and ministry make our blades blunt**, make us lose vitality and enthusiasm. We lose our sense of communion with God.

The **discomforts and disappointments of ministry** wear us down and diminish our strength and enthusiasm. We need a fresh portion every day.

The nature of life is toward deterioration and weakening. **The Law of Entropy.**

We **cannot be content with yesterday's anointing**. See the **manna** imagery. Everyday required new manna, fresh revelation from God for the challenges of the moment.

**Revival should be a continuous process.** Like life itself, it involves continual shedding of old, dead elements and replacing them with new, living ones. This is what the human body does naturally. It is **always shedding dead things** and adding new ones.

It requires **continual monitoring of ourselves**, our life and ministries and their spiritual temperature in

the light of prevailing circumstances and new challenges.

It requires **honest assessment and a willingness to do what the Spirit dictates**, as we discover that change and recalibrating have become necessary.

It requires **closeness with the Holy Spirit** in order to discern His voice and new instructions. “Examine me, oh Lord and know my thoughts” (Psalms 51).

**23 Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.**

**24**

**See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

**Churches grow stale because they stop seeking fresh anointing.** They become content with **program and protocol.** They stop looking for fresh revelation from God.

**Pastors stop taking time to read the Word and to pray and fast.** They become content with services being the same every Sunday. **Routine takes over.** When that happens, death is not too far away.

**Paul makes it clear that this greater power comes directly from Christ himself**, who is the Holy Spirit himself.

It is **through growing intimacy with Jesus** that we become revived and spiritually promoted to a new level.

This idea of **contemplating the Lord's glory is taken from the Old Testament. As Moses kept his eyes fixed on the Lord**, the glory and power, the majesty of God, was transferred to him.

**Revival comes from intimacy.** From times of travailing, retiring to a quiet place, contending for the next visitation of God.

**If we remain gazing at the glory of Christ**, we will be able to live in revival.

Even as we contend for national, regional or world revival, let us not forget that revival begins with us, with our churches and with our ministries.

**Read verses 3:16-18**