



Growth Group Questions
October 5, 2025
“We’re All Being Formed By Something”

CONTEXT

Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians reflects a strained relationship with a church that questioned his authority because of his suffering, lack of wealth, and unimpressive speaking compared to those they considered “super-apostles.” Paul’s message that God works in our weakness did not always resonate with the church at Corinth. In this letter Paul teaches that real leadership is rooted in love and service.

Paul begins by talking about letters of commendation, which in the ancient world were used to establish trust between people who may not have known each other. He insists he does not need such letters with the Corinthians because they themselves were his letter, written not with ink, but instead on human hearts by the Spirit of God. Their transformed lives were his credentials, and a living testimony of his ministry.

Paul says the new covenant differs from the old covenant written on stone tablets. Using Ezekiel’s promise of new hearts and a new spirit, Paul argues that the Spirit writes on our hearts and brings about real change. The old covenant revealed God’s law and guidelines, but the law could not truly transform peoples’ lives. Only a life that is focused on Jesus can be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul then contrasts the fading glory of Moses’ ministry with the surpassing glory of the new covenant. Moses veiled his face to shield Israel from God’s glory, because they would have been destroyed otherwise. In Christ the veil is removed, and we can now glimpse God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul declares that all believers now behold the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into his likeness. This transformation is an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit and involves the renewal

of our hearts and minds. We can now live as witnesses of God's glory which continues to grow in us as we live out our lives.

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 3:1-6

¹Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ²You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. ³You 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. ⁴Such confidence we have through Christ before God. ⁵Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶He 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.

Ezekiel 11:19-20

¹⁹I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. ²⁰Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

¹²Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³We 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. ¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate^[a] the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. ³²Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. ³⁴But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

Ephesians 4:22-24

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Philippians 1:4-6

⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. The title of this week's sermon is "We're All Being Formed by Something." What are some of the things we allow to form who we are as individuals?
2. How can you recognize what you are allowing to form or to shape your life?
3. In 2 Corinthians 3:3, the Apostle Paul tells the Corinthians that they are a "letter from Christ." What does it mean to be a "letter from Christ" composed by the Spirit rather than by ink?
4. Ezekiel 11:19-20 refers to people with a "heart of stone." What does it mean to have a heart of stone?
5. In Ezekiel 11:19-20 we also see that God will replace the "heart of stone" with a new heart, a "heart of flesh." What does it mean that we will receive a new heart and how does this new heart of flesh contrast with the heart of stone?
6. In Exodus 34:29-35, we read of the veil Moses wore over his face after being with the Lord. Why did Moses have to wear a veil?
7. In Corinthians 3:18, the Apostle Paul speaks of those with "unveiled faces." What is the significance of having an unveiled face?
8. How would you explain the meaning of Philippians 1:6 to someone?
9. Once we have become Christians through the grace of God, how does He continue his "good work" within us?
10. Pastor Paul challenged us to ask ourselves if we are making room for the transforming power of Jesus to happen in our hearts. How do we make room for Jesus to do His work in us?

PASTOR PAUL'S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. If someone read the letter of your life from this past week, what would they learn about you?
2. What is shaping or forming your life right now? Where does Jesus fit into that?