

<p><b>Bible Text</b> English Standard Version</p>	<p><b>Observations</b> What does the text say?</p>	<p><b>Interpretations &amp; Questions</b> What does it mean to all Christians?</p>	<p><b>Applications</b> What does it mean to me?</p>
<p><b>2 Corinthians 3:4-18</b></p> <p><b>4</b> Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. <b>5</b> Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, <b>6</b> who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.</p> <p><b>7</b> Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, <b>8</b> will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? <b>9</b> For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. <b>10</b> Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. <b>11</b> For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.</p> <p><b>12</b> Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <b>13</b> not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. <b>14</b> But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. <b>15</b> Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <b>16</b> But when one[c] turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <b>17</b> Now the Lord[d] is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <b>18</b> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,[e] are being transformed into the same</p>			

## First Love

Lesson 17

2 Corinthians 3:4-4:18

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image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.			
<b>Footnotes:</b> c: 2 Corinthians 3:16 Greek <i>he</i> d: 2 Corinthians 3:17 Or <i>this Lord</i> e: 2 Corinthians 3:18 Or <i>reflecting the glory of the Lord</i>			
<b>Summary:</b>			
<b>2 Corinthians 4:1-6</b>  <b>The Light of the Gospel</b>  1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, <b>[a]</b> we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice <b>[b]</b> cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants <b>[c]</b> for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.			

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Lesson 17

2 Corinthians 3:4-4:18

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<b>Footnotes:</b> <b>a:</b> 2 Corinthians 4:1 Greek <i>as we have received mercy</i> <b>b:</b> 2 Corinthians 4:2 Greek <i>to walk in</i> <b>c:</b> 2 Corinthians 4:5 Greek <i>bondservants</i>			
<b>Summary:</b>			
<p><b>2 Corinthians 4:7-18</b></p> <p><b>Treasure in Jars of Clay</b></p> <p><b>7</b> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <b>8</b> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <b>9</b> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <b>10</b> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. <b>11</b> For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <b>12</b> So death is at work in us, but life in you.</p> <p><b>13</b> Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, <b>14</b> knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <b>15</b> For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.</p>			

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<p><b>16</b> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self[d] is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <b>17</b> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <b>18</b> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.</p>			
<p><b>Footnotes:</b>                      d: 2 Corinthians 4:16 Greek <i>man</i></p>			
<p><b>Summary:</b></p>			

Even as Christians, difficulties come our way—sometimes, it seems, all at once. We know Christ reigns. We may feel like we are at the end of our rope, but we are never at the end of our hope. It's during these difficult times that we can be transformed into someone more Christ-like—like a caterpillar, to a cocoon, to a beautiful, free butterfly. Which of the scriptures below best offers hope to you?

**Psalm 42:11**

**11** Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

**Romans 8:18**

**18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

**Romans 8:37**

**37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Space for Grace

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Consider one of the following prompts to further reflect upon this lesson, or follow where the Spirit leads.

- Make a list of scriptures that helped you through your metamorphosis.
- Draw a map of your spiritual journey.



Prayer Requests

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