

SHINING WITH THE GLORY OF GOD

Exodus 34:35 *And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.*

“The skin of Moses’ face shone.” What an amazing scripture! What a contrast and rebuke to the spirit of the current world fashion where shining or glowing skin is attributed to the world of beauty products or a particular skin cream. Here is Moses, a man whose skin has been wrinkled and damaged beyond repair shining so brightly that the children of Israel could not look at him. Glory to God! What is the secret of spiritual glowing skin? The answer is found in another scripture. “And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle” (Exodus 33:11). ***All Moses had to do was to stay in the presence of the lord and commune with him.*** Be a friend of God and it will impact your mental and physical health. God leaves a permanent mark on those who are his friends and spend time talking to him. The people you spend time with have the power to affect the way you look. King Nebuchadnezzar spent much time talking with the Devil. How did he look after some time?

Daniel 4:33 *The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.*

The word of God never returns empty to God, it does marvelous things – it renewed the skin of Moses. “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11). For forty days and forty nights Moses communed with God alone: no family or children, no Aaron or Joshua, not even food to distract him from his conversation with God. I am convinced that one reason Christians are struggling in our days is because of the many digital and technologically induced addictions. What would we do if the Lord called us up to the mountain like Moses for forty days and nights with no distractions? Let us determine to fight back! Let us reclaim time for Jesus! We can still shine with the glory of the Lord if we are willing to shut out the world and concentrate only on Jesus. “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” (Psalm 16:11).

This is the meaning of the “beauty of holiness”: God’s beauty became the beauty of Moses.

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (I Chronicles 16:29). Saints of God, this is the only make-up we will need in our lives. I will not dare to speak about the countless inventions of the cosmetics industry. Just walk into any modern shopping mall or just walk through the isles of duty-free airport shopping and you won’t fail to register how the flesh and the enemy of our souls has created his own “Mount Sinais”. Even men are not spared: I had a female salesperson once ask me what I lotion I used on my skin. I should have told her “Jesus”. Now I am not saying that we cannot use skin creams, but you understand that the industry is out of control. Let us resolve to seek the beauty of the glory of Jesus! Even the most beautiful woman in Israel was completely forgotten when Moses came down from the mountain shining. “Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised” (Proverbs 31:30).

We must understand that intercession made Moses shine with the glory of God.

How could Moses speak for so long with God on Mount Sinai? Some of us are finished talking with God within 5 minutes. Moses had 2 million people to intercede for. Remember that Moses was not a man who cared much about his own safety and glory. He killed an Egyptian and forfeited his prestigious position. Later, he was unable to enter the Land of Canaan. Yet Moses was mostly concerned for the welfare of the people of God – that Israel would enter the Promised Land. He begged God to be patient with his rebellious people, he prayed for protection against the many enemies in the desert. He prayed for the Law of God and for understanding to interpret it and keep it, he prayed for the priesthood which already was in trouble down below preparing the golden calf, he prayed for humility and numerous other things every day. The longer the list God gives you to intercede for, the longer you will be in his presence, and the more the glory of God will shine upon you. This is why God called this man. Hallelujah!

Exodus 34:35 And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses’ face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Moses was the humblest man on the earth. He knew that everyone was now talking about him and not the Lord. ***Moses wanted Israel to focus on the Lord, so he covered his face with a veil.*** God is no capricious like us humans. Georgy Zhukov was the Soviet General who first

entered and conquered Berlin during WW2. Later, he rode on a white horse in the Red Square and was hailed as one of the greatest heroes of Russia. However, his popularity fueled the jealousy of Joseph Stalin who stripped him of his positions. Not so with the God of the Bible. He loves to honor mere mortals, but Moses is no mere mortal. Moses never liked attention to his person. “And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue” (Exodus 4:10). God knows whom he calls and anoints. When you refuse to honor yourself and wish to return the glory to God, the Lord will chase after you and use you.

Finally, the reason Moses put on a veil is because the glory of God cannot shine through the Law. This is because the Law of God is hindered by our fallen nature. Yes, there is incredible glory in the Law of God, which is pure and holy, but the veil represents our sins which do not allow the glory of God to shine. “Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good” (Romans 7:12), “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin” (Romans 7:14). This is where the word was made flesh enters the picture. The flesh of God is the only veil through which the glory of God can shine, not human flesh. “By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh” (Hebrews 10:20). Moses came down from the mountain and shone with the glory of God, but we come up out of the grave of baptism in Jesus name and shine with the true glory of God – the glory of Jesus Christ.

2Cor 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

2Cor 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

2Cor 3:16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

2Co 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2Cor 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Come let us put on the veil of glory – the body of Jesus Christ through baptism in his name!