



April 19, 2026

The Spirit Transforms

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 and Galatians 5:16-25



1. Sermon Outline:

- a. The Holy Spirit Transforms Believers to Be More and More Like Jesus
 - i. All believers should experience ongoing transformation through the Holy Spirit
 - ii. That looks like our natural character being replaced by the character of Jesus.
- b. We Block the Transformation by Continuing Old Patterns of Sin
 - i. Two possible reasons a Christian isn't transformed...
 - ii. Indulging your "nature" blocks the supernatural in you.
- c. Walk By the Spirit and Be Transformed

2. **Sunday** – As soon as possible after the sermon, consider:

- a. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
- b. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
- c. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
- d. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
- e. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

3. **Monday:**

- a. Read and meditate on both main scriptures used in this week's sermon: 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 and Galatians 5:16-25.
 - i. What main truths do you see in each of these passages?
 - ii. What main application do you see in your life as a Christian?
- b. Now focus on 2 Corinthians 3:16, which begins with the word "but," contrasting what will follow with the previous verses in which Paul is describing differences between the old and new covenants. Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-15 (or if time permits, all of chapter 3) and then Exodus 34:29-35.
 - i. What was accomplished by Moses wearing a veil?
 - ii. How does Paul relate what the veil accomplished for Moses with the condition of the Jews who reject what the Old Testament teaches?
 - iii. According to Paul, where is the veil for people who reject the scripture?
 - iv. Skipping ahead to 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, what is the outcome if the Gospel is veiled to an individual? To what does Paul attribute the veiling?
 - v. What does 2 Corinthians 3:14b and 16 tell us is the only way the veil can be removed?

4. Tuesday:

- a. Read and meditate on 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.
- b. What does the first phrase of verse 17 tell us about the nature of the Holy Spirit (consider also Romans 8:9-11)? How should this affect the popular view that the Holy Spirit is just a force and not an actual person?
- c. What does verse 17 tell us is the result of the Spirit being present?
 - i. What are some of the things we are free from when we have the Spirit (see Romans 5:17-18, 8:1-4, Galatians 1:4, 3:21-24, and 4:5-7)?
 - ii. While any, perhaps all, of these freedoms may be what Paul had in mind, if you consider just verses 15-17, what does it suggest we have been freed from (see 2 Corinthians 4:4)? How does this relate to what Jesus said in John 14:26 and Luke 12:11-12 would be one of the Spirit's missions?
 - iii. How does Paul's conversion account in Acts 9 demonstrate this?
- d. What does verse 18 tell us the result is when we have the veil removed?
 - i. The Greek word translated "transformed" in verse 18 is where we get the English word metamorphosis. What does that suggest about the nature (or extent) of the change we should experience?
 - ii. Romans 12:2 uses the same word. What kind of a transformation is being described there? What do these verses tell you about the spiritual (moral) transformation: Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 36:25-27, Romans 6:1-4, 2 Corinthians 5:17, and Galatians 6:15? How should we appear to the world after the veil is removed?
 - iii. Not only are we transformed spiritually (morally), but what else can we look forward to according to Philippians 3:21 and 1 John 3:2?

5. Wednesday:

- a. Read and meditate on Galatians 5:16.
- b. How does this passage in Galatians amplify on the spiritual transformation that takes place when we are saved (the veil is removed)?
- c. Like the passage in 2 Corinthians, Galatians 5:16 starts with a word that forces us to look back to earlier verses. Read Galatians 5:1 and 13-15.
 - i. How do these verses tie the Galatians passage to what we started with in 2 Corinthians?
 1. Why do you think the subject of freedom keeps coming up?
 2. Why (how) do verses 13-15 have special meaning to us living in a society that so values and emphasizes our personal freedoms?
 3. How does verse 15 seem to apply to our country today?
 - ii. What does Paul perceive as a potential problem associated with freedom (consider also 1 Peter 2:16, Jude 4, 1 Corinthians 8:9, and 2 Peter 2:19)?

- iii. What did he present as a solution to the temptation to “use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh”?
- d. If by quoting Jesus’ summary of the law (Matthew 22:34-40) Paul provides us a goal for the Christian life, what does he offer to provide the motivation and power necessary to do it?

6. *Thursday:*

- a. Read and meditate on Galatians 5:17-18.
- b. Compare verse 17 with Paul’s testimony in Romans 7:14-24.
 - i. What assurance does Paul provide in both Romans and Galatians that we can overcome our flesh (sin) nature on our own?
 - ii. What does it say that in both passages, Paul is writing to Christians, not to unsaved sinners?
 - iii. What solution does Paul reveal to us in both Romans (7:25-8:5) and Galatians (5:18a)?
- c. What does it mean to be “led by the Spirit”? Who is led by the Spirit (see Romans 8:14, Luke 4:1, and Isaiah 63:11-15)?
- d. What does it mean to you that we “are not under the law” (Ephesians 2:8-9)?
 - i. Does this eliminate the relevance of God’s moral law (see Romans 5:20-6:2)?
 - ii. If we are no longer responsible for keeping the Law, what determines what we are to do and how we are to behave (see Hebrews 10:15-16 and John 14:15 & 23)?

7. *Friday:*

- a. Read Galatians 5:19-21.
- b. In what sense are the acts of the flesh obvious? Since some of the listed sins may be private (e.g., jealousy, envy, etc.), how might the “obvious” relate to the source of the sin rather than any outward manifestation?
- c. Compare the list of sins in Galatians with similar lists in Mark 7:20-23, Romans 1:29-32, 1 Timothy 1:9-10, and 2 Timothy 3:2-5. What insight do you get about sin from these lists? Are any of the lists exhaustive?
- d. The sins listed in Galatians are usually seen to fall into four categories: sexual, religious, relational, and indulgence. Which sins fit in each category? Which do you see as most prevalent (serious) today?
- e. Compare the end of verse 21 in several translations. Is Paul telling us that if we commit one of these sins, we are not saved (compare 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and Ephesians 5:5)? What is a better explanation?

8. *Saturday:*

- a. Read and meditate on Galatians 5:22-26?

- b. Again, the verse starts with a word meant to show the contrast between the previous list and this list of the fruit of the Spirit. How would you describe the differences?
- c. What does it signify to you that it is called “the fruit of the Spirit”? What does that suggest about the role we have in producing the fruit?
- d. What significance do you see in the fact that it is “fruit” and not “fruits”? Which of the nine should every Christian possess?
- e. As Paul brings this section to a close, he makes the interesting statement in verse 25. How is it possible to live by the Spirit yet not be “in step”? How would keeping in step with the Spirit relate to maintaining the unity Christ prayed the church would have?

9. **Application:**

- a. Although the veil has been removed at the time of our salvation, allowing us to see the glory of the Lord, effort is still required on our part. Having the veil removed, allowing us to understand Scripture, is only a benefit if we actually read those Scriptures. Likewise, we can only walk by the Spirit and keep in step with the Spirit if we allow Him to lead. These require a commitment on our part to obey Him in all that we do.
- b. The Fruit of the Spirit is something that every Christian should demonstrate in the way they live and relate to others. Since we are all still growing to be more like Christ, we will demonstrate each virtue differently, but we should be consciously evaluating our lives to see where (in which virtues) we need to grow most and praying for the Spirit’s help in these areas. Other Christians can be invaluable in this process because they often see us better than we do ourselves.

10. **Pray:** This week, let's pray for two unreached people groups from India. Even though there have been missionaries in India for hundreds of years (at least since the early 1500s), India continues to have the largest number of unreached people groups and over 40% of the world's unreached population. Here are two of the more than 2000 unreached groups:

- a. **Yadav:** The more than 57 million Yadav live throughout India and are almost entirely Hindu. The Yadav are a caste of dairymen, cattle producers, and laborers. Their traditional occupation is animal husbandry and the sale of its products. The Yadav consists of both landowning and landless people. Some Yadav are businessmen, teachers, doctors, engineers and political leaders. They live in joint families. Most are vegetarian, but many have started eating fish, mutton, chicken, and sometimes pork, but not beef. Child labor is common among them. Although the Bible is available in their main language (Hindi), it is estimated that fewer than 0.01% (1 in 10,000) may be Christian.
- b. **Gowari:** The half million Gowari are mainly engaged in cow-herding and in agrarian activity right in the center of India. They work mainly as landless laborers for higher caste landlords. Hindu society gives them low status, and hence they have been kept down in the caste hierarchy, even though, as an indigenous people, they are technically outside of the Hindu caste system. Their brand of Hinduism is influenced greatly by folk religion. The Gowari are mostly poor and lack formal education and modern medical care. The Bible is available in their native language (Marathi), as is the Jesus Film (and many other audio/video resources), yet fewer than 0.02% are known Christians.