

# How God Changes Us

## II Corinthians 3:18–4:18

– Chiasm –

*Long version*

The lower A,B,C, is summary of how the chp makes real the upper A,B,C. Thus, we must study chp detail.

- A** - But we all beholding -3:18  
**B** - The glory of the Lord  
**C** - Are changed into the same image
- D** - As we have received mercy, we faint not -vs. 1  
**E** - Gospel [personified] renounces evil--dishonesty, craftiness, deceit -vs.2  
**F** - By manifestation of truth commending ourselves [for your sakes] to every man's conscience in God's sight -vs.2  
**G** - that the excellency of the [resurrected] power, may be of God -vs.7  
**H** – Troubled, yet not distressed; perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken, cast down, but not destroyed-vs.7  
**I** - The dying of Jesus in us manifests His life in our body -vs.10  
**I** - We always die for Jesus sake that His life might be manifest in our flesh -vs.11  
**H** –Having the same spirit of faith; ...we also believe and therefore speak -vs.13  
**G** - As God raised the Lord Jesus, He shall also raise us up by His [resurrected] life -vs.14  
**F** - For all things are for your sakes in order that the -vs.15  
**E** – Gospel includes receiving with thanksgiving abundant grace to the glory of God -vs.15  
**D** - Because we've received [abundant grace], we faint not -vs.16
- C** - Inward man changed day by day -vs.16  
**B** - Trials worketh for us a greater eternal weight of glory -vs.17  
**A** - We behold the unseen, the eternal -vs.18

- D** -We faint not because of mercy and because of the gospel of grace with the focus of our lives in the death of Jesus, which [through the Spirit (3:18)] manifests His life in us.
- E** - The apostle is following the biblical admonition as he exemplifies the gospel in his life, thus it must be 'personified' in order for evil to be renounced and "put away" in the life, before we can with thanksgiving glorify God. This is what it means for believer to be transformed by grace.
- F** -Further, the gospel is other focused, i.e. 'for your sakes'. Paul reveals that because he and the apostles had "received mercy", the gospel (which is the "power of God unto salvation"- Rom1:16 i.e. Christ crucified) which unfolds in the following verses, is what enables them to renounce wicked works that come forth from a depraved nature, the lusts of the flesh (Eph.2:3), rooted in the old man (Col 3:9,6) which causes us to be children of disobedience. Jesus said it this way "out of the heart proceed evil thoughts...wickedness, deceit," etc "... all these defile a man." (Mark 7:20-23)
- G** -The "excellency of power" is that resurrected life.
- H** -Paul's expressions—"yet not distressed, not in despair," etc are expressions of the 'spirit of faith.'

The purpose of a chiasm is to direct the discerning Bible student to a sublime truth at a deeper level. The focal point here in this chiastic structure is verse 10 and 11 to teach us that the death and resurrection of Christ is central in the life of the believer for character development. God permits trials to strengthen the faith in order to bring about the desired results in the life of His child. We have reason to thank God for such instruction.