

BEHOLDING AND BECOMING

(1Jn 3:2) Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, **we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.**

We are now the children of God. Just looking at our outward lives there is much that gives question to this fact. God is pure, righteous, and holy in nature and appearance. We know in our true nature in our spirit we share the nature of God. However, in our outward appearance there is often much that does not resemble the appearance of God. We all have the knowing on the inside of us, infused by the Holy Spirit, that we are to take on the outward likeness of God. How is this to be done? We see in our verse today how God has ordained that this take place. John learned a spiritual law from God. This is a law God set in place and we actually live in and by this law everyday whether positively or negatively. **This law is that we become what we behold.** How do children become mature in what they do? It is by observing. **In observing comes the influence to become.** God created our inward beings to be much like a camera. The images we capture we will develop in our lives. If you spend hours watching sinful movies filled with lying, hate, murder, violence your life will start to manifest what you are beholding. The Apostle shares this principle with an amazing statement. He says that when Jesus appears we shall be like Him. Why and how shall we be like Him? **He says we shall be just like Him BECAUSE we shall see Him just as He is. We become what we behold.** This will be true one day. We shall see him exactly as He is in His outward appearance and we will become exactly like Him in our outward appearance. However, this law is not something for the future but it is in effect right now. To the degree that you accurately see and behold the Lord Jesus NOW is the degree you will become like Him. How does this work? The object of our beholding is the source from which faith comes. As we behold Jesus, who is the Word of God, faith effortlessly arises in our hearts and the Spirit of God molds us into that image.

The problem with most Christians is their focus and beholding is on the wrong things and in the wrong direction. Their focus is on themselves. They constantly look within themselves to find righteousness, holiness, and purity, the fruit of the Spirit and faith to be like Jesus. This inward focus is on self.

Rom 7:18 **For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.**

Paul experienced times of trying to live for God out of himself and his own resources. In Romans chapter 7 Paul revisits his time he spent trying to live for God out of his own resources. The words I, me, my, and mine are found **35** times in this section of scripture. This shows that Paul's focus was upon himself! He slowly came to the bright idea that there was nothing good to be found in his own flesh! He went on to say, "How to perform for God **I find not.**" **This means**

he had been spending time looking! He looked and looked and the more he looked the more he found nothing but failure. However, he came to the wonderful discovery one day that all he needed was a change of focus and a different object of beholding.

Rom 7:24 O wretched man that I am! **who shall deliver me** from the body of this death?

Rom 7:25 I thank God through **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

When Paul exchanged an inward focus upon himself to a focus upon Christ he discovered the secret to true victory in the Christian life- **he discovered Christ.** He discovered that all that he needed flowed from Christ as he looked at him. There he found what he had lacked- all the power and virtue to live a life pleasing to God. It was Christ's own life flowing through Paul's life to the glory of God! As long as Paul had his eyes turned into himself the law of "what we behold we become" was at work but in the negative. Can you see why looking within ourselves to find godliness will lead only to further darkness and emptiness? Apart from God we are nothing, have nothing, and cannot do anything. We are empty **in ourselves.** **When we behold ourselves we are left with nothing.** We can only become what we all ready are! 0 times 0 is a big fat 0! However, when we place our focus on Christ then all that He is and has is transferred to us by faith. For practical example: When I am tempted to sin due to anger, I need not look within myself for patience. The more I look I just find a temper and foul thoughts and feelings. What do I need to do? I just need to look to Christ and see Him as the all patient One and as I behold Him and behold His patience that patience will be transferred to me by my faith in Him.

(Heb 12:2 KJVR) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith...

Only by beholding will faith be authored in us. To the degree that it is perfected or finished is the degree we continue to behold Him. Often we look within ourselves to see if anything is manifesting. When we look away from Christ to ourselves, then our faith falters. The piece of revelation we need for our faith to become operative and effective is the fact we have been joined to the Lord Jesus. He is our head and we are His body. We are not separate. We are one. What is true of the head is true of the body. As we behold our head then what belongs to the head is communicated to the body. Everything begins with the head. If the head is holy then the body is holy. If the head is healed the body is healed. If the head is pure then the body is pure. We just need to receive from the head. We do this by beholding and knowing we are one with him. Again, He is patience. As we resist the temptation to behold ourselves and look for patience within we need but to look away to Jesus who is patience and we will find patience manifesting in us. This is true in every other area of our Christian walk. What are you beholding today? That is what you are participating in, sharing in, and producing. Look away from yourself and start beholding Christ!

1. What have you been beholding the most lately? Yourself, your circumstances, or Christ?
2. What are the benefits to looking to Christ in each circumstance you face? Why does looking at yourself produce nothing?
3. **Faith exercise:** The next time you are tempted to sin, immediately look at Jesus in your heart and look at what He is like. See Him in the situation you are in. Do not look within yourself to find what you need to overcome, just look at Jesus. Now confess this after you have beheld Jesus:
4. **Confession:** Jesus I see that you are completely pure and righteous. You are full of strength and victory. You are holy. I thank you that you have joined me to yourself when I got saved. You are my head. I share what you are and have because we are one and I am your body. I look to you and I know what you are and have is being shared with me right now. Thank you for your victory in this situation. Hallelujah!!