
Unveiled

The Bride of Christ

The Bible on numerous occasions refers to God being like a Bridegroom and His people being like the Bride. (Isaiah 62:5; Jeremiah 3:14,20; Ephesians 5; Revelation 21:2)

God's people are cared for, protected by and sacrificially loved by a faithful God. He desires that we would present ourselves as a radiant bride, pure, faithful and holy in all our God given, unveiled beauty.

The world needs an unveiled, glorious church that radiates the glory of God.

God Proposes

Some Bible scholars say that when Moses goes up to Mt Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, God was proposing to the Israelites with the betrothal arrangements. (Exodus 34:1-27)

After spending this extended amount of time with God, Moses comes down the mountain, and his face is shining with the glory of God (Exodus 34:29).

Moses veils his face to cover a temporary glory (Exodus 34:31-35).

Time in God's presence is supposed to transform us to the point that others would know that we have been with the Father!

New Vs Old

- + The Old Covenant was written on tablets of stone; the New Covenant is written on the heart (2 Corinthians 3:3).
- + The Old Covenant is the letter of the Law, while the New Covenant is of the Spirit. The letter kills but the Spirit gives life (2 Corinthians 3:6).

- + The Old Covenant brings condemnation; the New Covenant brings righteousness (2 Corinthians 3:9).
- + The Old Covenant had a glory that faded; the New Covenant has a glory that remains and in fact so far surpasses it that the Old Covenant appears to have no glory by comparison (2 Corinthians 3:10–11).

Unfading, Unveiled Glory

New Covenant ministers proclaim the unfading glory in a bold manner (2 Corinthians 3:12–13).

The veil is taken away when we turn to Christ (2 Corinthians 3:16–18).

The Spirit of God not only gives us the life of God but is God's very presence that enables us to see His glory so that we are being transformed into His likeness.

His Glory on Display

What the Spirit has done in bringing the work of Christ in our lives, gives us the freedom to enter God's presence and stop and take in His glory which changes us (2 Corinthians 3:16–18).

Unveiled Faces

The Lord is calling us again to Embrace the Father's presence with unveiled faces.

We behold His presence and uncover our hearts when:

- + We are vulnerable, we hold nothing back, totally surrendered
- + When we are fully engaged
- + When we make His presence our priority
- + When we come hungry and ready to receive

- + We leave carrying with us the unmistakable glow of being in the glorious presence of the Father.

Two main priorities this year that will transform us and our city

1. Presence

For us to reach all the potential as a church we must commit to seeking God's presence. Prayer and worship are going to have to be our priority.

It's the freedom of being unveiled by the Spirit that allows us to be in His presence and be transformed into His likeness.

2. Committed

- + Committed to coming hungry and being present
- + Committed to coming weekly
- + Committed to generously giving our finances
- + Committed to serving and being completely surrendered

Riverlife Unveiled

When we together with unveiled faces are transformed, I believe God is going to do amazing things through us.

- + Build a city-wide prayer movement
- + Have influence amongst the decision makers of our city
- + Increasing partnerships overseas where total community transformation is taking place through effective church plants and leadership development
- + A home for Compassion Ministries centralised in a community of need, serving as a base to reach our local communities through practical help of food banks, clothing centres and a base for our Street Teams ministry

- + Hundreds more people making first time decisions to follow Jesus
- + A School of Riverlife Revivalists launched in 2020
- + No financial lack to accomplish the things God is calling us to

If we as a Riverlife family are to prioritise God's presence in prayer and worship and are committed to the cause of Christ through His local church with unveiled hearts, there is no limit to what God will do.

For Discussion

1. What does prioritising God's presence and beholding His glory practically look like for you?
2. Share testimony of how God has been transforming you from glory to glory.
3. What are the next steps you can take to make Sundays together a time where we come hungry, are fully engaged and committed to serving?
4. Take some time to ask the Lord what it would look like if we all as a Riverlife family were unveiled to our city. Share your response together.
5. Spend time in worship and prayer as a group beholding (contemplating) the Lord's glory.