

In Greek, the word for *transfigured* is *metamorphosis*. You've heard that term referring to the process by which caterpillars become butterflies. It means to go from one state to another. Jesus went from His earthly form to His heavenly form.

The Greek word is found two more times in the New Testament: Romans 12:2 and 2 Corinthians 3:18. Both verses, however, are talking about us, not Jesus. They encourage us to be transformed spiritually, to become more like Jesus; in essence, to become who we really are.

If you have been born again through faith in Christ and His death on the cross, then the real you is not your old sin nature, it's your new nature. Therefore, to know the real you does not involve seeing your sin and hypocrisy but understanding who you are as a child of God.

So when someone asks, "What are you really like?" don't let that question drag you down. Let it lift your thoughts toward heaven and encourage you to see yourself as a transformed child of God. --JC

REFLECTION

- What adjective would my closest friends use to describe me? Why?
- When does the "real me," the child of God, show through most clearly?
- How can I help the "real me" to shine through?

When people see the real you, they should glimpse Jesus.



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The Real You

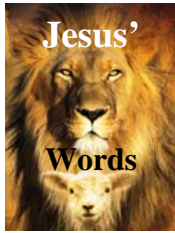
So what are you really like? That question scares most of us. The answer always seems to involve a lack of faith or holiness on our part, especially on what we do in private.

But that's not what we're really like, I would argue. We'll get back to that question after a quick trip up the mount of transfiguration.

Mark 9:2-13 describes what happened up there. In front of Peter, James, and John, Jesus Christ was transformed-His hair and clothes turning a dazzling white. The three disciples were probably paralyzed with fear, even before the appearance of Moses and Elijah, the cloud, and the voice of God.

First, the dazzling-white issue. The three disciples did not see a "new and improved" Jesus. What they saw was the heavenly glory that Jesus laid aside when He came to live as a man. They saw Him as He really is, His glory not obscured.





Glory Unveiled

(Isaiah 53:2) "... He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him."
(John 1:14) "... we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."
(2 Peter 1:16) "... we .. were eyewitnesses of His majesty."
(Matthew 16:28) "... till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."
(Luke 9:27-28) "...But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God." {28} Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray."



The event described in Mark 9:1-8 is stunning and leads us to ask at least two questions:

1. How do we see Jesus _____: how do we see what _____ saw? verses 2-3

(Luke 9:32) "... they saw His glory ..."
(1 Timothy 6:16) "... in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, ..."
(Philippians 2:5-7) "... Christ Jesus, {6} who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, {7} but made Himself of no reputation, ..."
(Luke 9:29) "As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening."
(2 Corinthians 3:18) "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."
(Psalms 145:5) "I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works."
(1 Timothy 1:11) "according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God ..."



2. How should we respond to such awesome _____? v 4-13

The responses of those involved were:

◆ _____ and _____, verse 4

(Luke 9:31-32) "who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. {32} But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him."
(Acts 1:1-4) "The former account I made, .. of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, {2} .. He .. had given commandments to the apostles ..., {3} to whom He also



presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days .. {4} ... He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ...;"

(Acts 1:8) "... you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

◆ The _____, verses 6-13

(Daniel 8:18) "Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; ..."

(Daniel 10:8) "... when I saw this great vision.. no strength remained in me; ..."

(Revelation 1:17) "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead..."

(Luke 9:33) "Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"; not knowing what he said."

(Matthew 17:6-7) "And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. {7} But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."

(Malachi 4:5) "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD."

(Matthew 17:12) "... and they did not know him ..."

(Luke 1:17) "He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ..."

(Matthew 17:12-13) "... .. but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." {13} Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist."

◆ The _____,

(Luke 9:34-35) "While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. {35} And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

(Exodus 13:21-22) "And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud .. and by night in a pillar of fire ... {22} He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night ..."

(Exodus 40:34-35) "Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. {35} And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle."

(2 Chronicles 7:1-3) "When Solomon had finished praying, .. the glory of the LORD filled the temple. {2} And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the Lord's house. {3} When all the children of Israel saw .. the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever."

(John 12:28-30) "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." {29} Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." {30} Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake."

