

The believer in Christ  
formed in His Image:  
and how this is brought  
about.

BY E. J. W.



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**The believer in Christ formed  
in His Image: and how this is  
brought about.**

A helpful word for those who have  
Repented toward God and Believed  
in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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*The following lines principally  
consist of remarks extracted  
and combined from a writing  
by a well-known servant of  
God, J. N. D.—now gone to*

*his Master on high—They are exceedingly valuable, and should be found very helpful to all; but especially to those who are young in the faith of Christ—of whatever age according to nature they may be. They are therefore commended to the earnest attention of the reader.*

. . . . .

**S**PEAKING as a believer in Christ, I ask, Where are my sins now? The sins of my life? Once, at the

Cross, they were all upon the head of that blessed One, Jesus Christ. But they are gone, never more to be found ; He who bore them all, and died for them, has been raised from the dead by God, and has been received up to the throne of God ; and we know that no sin can be there. See Hebrews 1. 3 ; 2. 9 ; 10. 12.

Now, I see Christ in the glory there, at the right hand of God, and as a practical

consequence of thus beholding Him, of being engaged with Him, I am changed into His likeness. We read in 2 Corinthians 3. 18, "*We all, with open face beholding the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*" It is the Holy Spirit taking of the things of Christ and revealing them to the soul that is the power of present practical conformity to Christ.

Then I delight in Christ, I feast on Christ, I love Christ. This revelation and ministry of Christ by the Holy Spirit is the very model and forming of my soul according to Christ. I not only get to love the glory, it is Christ Himself I love ; Christ that I desire and admire ; Christ that I care for ; Christ whose flesh I eat and whose blood I drink. See John 6. It is not surprising if I become like Christ.

The believer who is affected by Christ in this way becomes the epistle of Christ " (2 Cor. 3. 3). He owns Christ, speaks for Christ, acts for Christ. He does not desire to be rich; he has riches in Christ—unsearchable riches. He does not crave the pleasures of the world; for he has pleasures at God's right hand for evermore. See Psalm 16. 8; Ephesians 3. 8; 1 Corinthians . 2. 9-10.

Does the heart say, Oh, but I do not, and cannot see this transcript, this likeness, of Christ in myself? No, but you see Christ Himself: He engages you, and is not that better? It is not looking at myself, but looking at Christ that is God's appointed means for my growing in the likeness of Christ.

: If I would copy the work of some great artist, say a famous picture, is it by



fixing my eyes on my own copy of it, and being taken up with regrets about my faulty attempt that I shall be likely to succeed? No, but by looking at my model; by fixing my eyes there; by tracing the various points, and getting into the spirit of the thing. It was in this way that, in the power of the Holy Spirit, Stephen was changed into the same image: he became like Christ; as expressing Christ's love for

His enemies. Stephen died in the same spirit as the Lord Jesus: he prayed for his enemies in the same divine grace and way his Master did. The same great and glorious object on high—our Lord Jesus Christ, and the same divine power—the Holy Spirit, as dwelling in believers here, are available for us as for Stephen; and they still have the same blessed effect if they are given their proper place with us. May it be

so, for God's glory, our own joy, and the good and blessing of others. (*Extracted and combined mainly from J. N. D.*)

*“We all, looking on the glory of the Lord with unveiled face, are transformed according to the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Lord the Spirit.”—2 Corinthians 3, 18. (Literal translation.)*

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The compiler of the foregoing would add a few words :—

These words of Scripture and the preceding lines of this paper are based on the account, in Exodus 34., of Moses going up the Mount to God and then coming back to the people in the Camp with his face shining with the glory he had been in the presence of.

It is worth noting that it is recorded of Moses that

he was not aware that his face was shining with this glory.

The same thing is true, in principle, of believers now. If, in any degree, that which God is in Christ (the glory) is expressed in us as His saints—and this is what ought to be true of us all—we shall not be engaged with this at all.

If we did get to thinking of self, of our spirituality, intelligence, love, and so

forth, and accredit ourselves with this state of spirituality, it would be unreal, or disappear; it would be a Laodicean state of self satisfaction (Rev. 3.); for the producing cause of real spirituality is the heart being occupied with what is set before it in Christ Himself, and not with the effects in ourselves; however real and great and admirable.

As the hymn writer says,  
“This glory all belongs to

God." If one is spiritual, and so, a lover of God, one rejoices to have it so.

E. J. W.

*Also by the same Writer:—*

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