

What is a Healthy Church Member? Study Guide – Mark 7- Seeks Discipline

Questions on 2 Corinthians 3:18

1. The strange language of possessing an “unveiled face” is made clear by examining the surrounding context. Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-17, which is Paul’s commentary on the events of Exodus 34:29-35.
 - a. Why did Moses have to cover his face with a veil?

 - b. Christians have had this veil removed. What does this mean? How is this possible?

2. The phrase that Paul uses to describe Christian growth in this passage is “being transformed . . . from one degree of glory to another.” What does this picture show us about the nature of Christian growth?

3. According to verse 18, how does this transformation take place?

4. The end of verse 18 reveals who is ultimately responsible for this transformation? How should we respond to this reality?

- b. *“Use the ordinary means of grace”* – Thabiti lists “the study of the Word of God, participation in the ordinances of baptism and communion along with the gathered church, and prayer” (p. 90). Recall specific moments when God used one or more of these simple means to grow you in Christlikeness.

- c. *“Participate in the local church”* – In what ways has your participation in the local church fostered your growth as a Christian? Or on the other hand, how might the lack of participation in the church hinder one’s growth as a Christian?

- d. *“Look to Jesus’ coming”* – Thabiti writes “Our yearning to be *with* Jesus and to *see* Jesus is intended to make us more *like* Jesus in holiness.” Why is this true?

Questions to Apply the Truths Learned

1. Take a personal retreat this week to focus on abiding in Christ. It could be an hour, or it could be a day, as your schedule permits. Spend time in God’s Word (perhaps focusing on John 15:1-7; Luke 18:9-14) and prayer. Ask for the Lord to show you how he desires you to grow?
2. Ask a trusted friend to share how they’ve observed you grow in Christlikeness. Welcome their suggestions on where you might be able to grow more.
3. Choose a hero of the faith to learn from. This might be a saint long since entered into glory whom you can only access by biography (Martin Luther, Jonathan Edwards, David Brainerd, Ann Judson, Charles Spurgeon), or it might be an older brother or sister in the church. What part of their godly character would you like to grow in?