

# **THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE AND THE VEIL OF THE MIND**



*I Was Blind, Now I See*

*Chris Cook*

***Now faith is being sure of things hoped for, certain of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.***

***Hebrews 11:1-3***

Faith is being able to see what cannot be seen with the natural eye.

God cannot be seen with the natural eye ... God is spirit ... yet Jesus says,

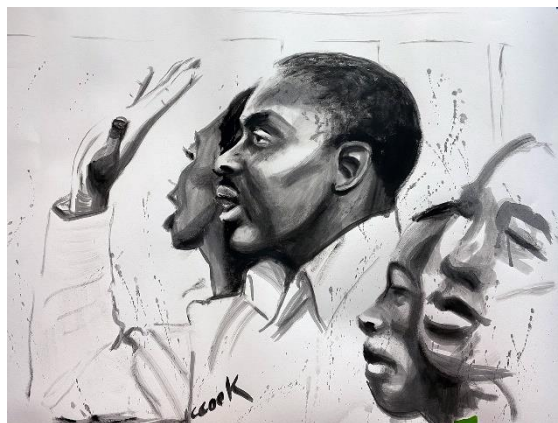
***"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."***

To have faith is to see the unseen God.....

***....my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; to see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.*** (Psalm 63)

-

***One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.*** (Psalm 27)



**So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see."**

**They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."**

**The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that any one opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."**

**They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.**

**Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.**

**Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind:"**

**John 9:24-39**

Jesus did more than remove the blindness from this man's eyes. He did that indeed.

The man could now see the sky, the trees, the grass, a human face.

But Jesus did more:



He tore away the veil that blinded this man to God.

Now this man has faith....

- he can see God,
- he can hear God speak,
- he can know God ... his life has been radically and eternally changed.

For this man faith is not just assenting to a set of doctrines, or conforming to a religious routine. *Faith is being sure of things hoped for, certain of things not seen.*

**Because when he looks into the face of Jesus, he sees God, he sees glory.**

**And that vision puts his feet on a new road.**

And the thing that brought this man to faith was that Jesus tore the veil off his mind and the light of God came pouring in.

**...*"You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you."***

Every person who has ever come to faith from that day to this, has had the veil lifted from their mind.

*But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.*

*Acts 9:1-2*

Why was Saul breathing threats and murder against the disciples? Because a veil was over his mind.

**He was a religious man but he did not know God ...**

**... he was blind to God.**

*Now as he journeyed he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed about him. And he fell to the ground and heard a Voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul arose from the ground; and when his eyes were opened, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.*

*Acts 9:3-9*



*Saul Blinded Chris Cook*

Now Saul's eyes are blind, but the veil is being lifted from his mind.

**His heart is humbled ... he is coming to repentance.**

***Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."***

***Acts 9:10***

Ananias has faith .... no veil covers his mind. He can see the unseen. He can hear God speak.

***And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying, and he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to thy saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon thy name."***

***But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."***

***So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized, and took food and was strengthened.***

***Acts 9:11-19***

Now Saul has the veil removed from his mind as well as the scales from his eyes. *He is sure of things hoped for ... certain of things not seen.*

**He has faith. He can see God, and he walks a new road.**

The biggest issue in each of our lives is the issue of faith.

Even if we have been following Jesus for years....

- we know that there are changes that need to be made in our lives, clutter that needs to be swept out of our hearts,

- we know there is a need for .... cleansing, fire, zeal, vision, power .....

**and all this hinges on faith.**

There is a veil that lies over our minds that clouds our certainty.

That veil needs to be removed....

so that we can see without any shadows....

that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world ....

that Jesus is risen from the dead, the First-born of the new creation ....

that Jesus is Lord, and that all people...

... all nations will not only have to bow the knee and confess his lordship, but will have to give an account of themselves to him.

How do we get rid of the veil over our minds so that we can see clearly?

*When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tables of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. And when Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.*

*Exodus 34:29-30*

**Moses had no veil over his mind ... he saw the unseen.**

So powerful was the glory into which Moses looked that it was still shining on his face when he came down from Sinai, and the people were afraid and turned away.

*But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. And after-ward all the people of Israel came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he took the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, the people of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone; and Moses would put the veil upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.*

*Exodus 34:31-35*

This veil that Moses wore over his face until the glory faded from it was a symbol of the veil that lies over our minds.

There is something in us that shrinks back and turns away from glory ... unless the veil is there to hide it from our sight.

**But to have faith, to see the unseen God, the veil must be torn away.**

Is it safe to tear that veil away? Can we dare to let it be removed?

*Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not see the end of the fading splendor. But their minds were hardened; for to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed.*

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

*II Corinthians 3:12-18*

... When a man or woman turns to the Lord the veil is removed ....

... When the heart turns, the eyes open.



It happens with-out fail, because God has already torn away the veil from his side.

*Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lamasabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And be-hold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.*

*Matthew 27:45-51a*

The guilt that caused the Israelites to cringe when they saw the glory on Moses' face ....

The guilt that causes us to shrink back when the light of God starts coming near to us ...

**That guilt has been paid for by the Lamb's death.**

In Jesus' death God takes our guilt and washes it away with his own blood ... dies in our place ... so now, as we repent, we can be bold and let the veil that covers our minds come off and look into the face of Jesus.

***Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their minds;  
but when a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed.***

When a man, a woman, *turns to the Lord* the veil is removed.

- *Who* removes it?
  - God removes it.
- *We turn*,
  - God gives faith.
- *We turn*,
  - God opens our eyes.

So what does it mean to turn to the Lord?

***When a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed***

To turn to the Lord means three things.

1. To confess.
2. To commit.
3. To continue.

**1. To turn to the Lord is to... confess the sin His light reveals.**



- When Moses saw the holy, he took off his shoes ... a confession of sin.
- When Isaiah saw the holy, he confessed that he was a man of unclean lips.
- When Peter saw the holy, he cried, "I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

Turning to the Lord begins with confessing what the light reveals. But many of us, when the light comes to us and searches our hearts, remain as stone ... we don't budge.

The search light of heaven has come in and uncovered the sin, and we keep pretending it isn't there.

God isn't trying to embarrass you, he's trying to heal you, help you, remove the veil.

When you say, "Yes, Lord,

*I am stubborn,  
I am self-righteous,  
I am full of vanity,  
I am unclean,  
I am addicted. O Lord, help me!"*

**Then the veil comes off and we begin to see God's glory.**

2. To turn to the Lord is to... commit our life to Him.

***When they had brought their boat to land,  
they forsook everything and followed him.***

They surrendered ...

they put themselves into his hands ...

they turned themselves over to him.

It's not just your face that needs to turn..

**It's your life ...**



The Gift of Grace Chris cook

Repentance means a break from the past --- abandonment to the Lord.

***"Here am I, send me!"*** says Isaiah.

***"Behold, the handmaid of the Lord,"*** says Mary. ***"Let it be to me according to your word."***

Can you honestly say you've committed your life to the Lord? Your body? Your mind? Your fears and dreams? .... Turn it all over.

**Lay it all at his feet, and the veil will come off, and you will see God's glory.**

3. To turn to the Lord is to ... continue in His ways.

***If you continue in my word you are truly my disciples  
and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.***

When you turn to the Lord, you don't just give him the present moment.....



- you give him your future,
- you continue with him,
- you take some oil in your vessel with your lamp, so it will keep burning,
- you set your mind and heart for the long haul.

*Prayer- Lord we turn to you, unless you remove the veil from our minds we will remain blind to your glory, we will live in darkness. We need to see you, we need to behold your beauty. Help us to turn to you, so you can remove the veil, so you can tear it off our timid and hard hearts. As we look into your face... Precious Lamb of God.... as we are bowed down by your sacrifice, as we are shamed by the price you paid for us, remove the guilt that causes us to shirk and hide from you. We confess our guilt before your penetrating light. We surrender our lives to you, all we have, because of your goodness, your holiness. Pour your light into us so we can continue in you, continue beholding you to the end of our days. Amen. Maranatha Mirror*

Original: REB...1986 ... found in the booklet- Inner Connection to the Unseen God

Art: Art by Chris Cook except for Blind Bartimaeus (unknown artist)... Chris Cook <http://chriscookartist.com/>

**Maranatha Mirror Messages**

[mmirror.net](http://mmirror.net)

[maranathamirror18@gmail.com](mailto:maranathamirror18@gmail.com)

