

## **Time Audit Chronicles: The New Covenant and the Glory of the Spirit** (2 Corinthians 3:1-18)

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### **Prologue: A Covenant of Transformation**

A cool breeze floated into the Presswood family's living room as they read **2 Corinthians 3:1-18**, a passage that contrasts the **old covenant** of the Law with the **new covenant** of the Spirit. Ariel was captivated by the idea of being transformed into God's image, and Alice, as usual, had turned Mr. Fluffernutter into a character in the story—a messenger bringing news of the new covenant.

"Daddy," Ariel asked, "What does Paul mean by the 'old covenant' and the 'new covenant'? And how does the **Spirit** transform us into God's image?"

Ryan leaned forward, his Bible open. "That's a great question, Ariel. The **old covenant** refers to the **Law of Moses**, written on tablets of stone, which told people how to live but couldn't change their hearts. The **new covenant**, which came through Jesus, is all about the **Holy Spirit**, who writes God's law on our hearts and transforms us from the inside out. It's not about following rules to earn salvation—it's about living by the Spirit and becoming more like Jesus."

Ariel's eyes lit up. "So, the Spirit helps us become more like God, not by forcing us to obey rules, but by **changing our hearts**?"

"Exactly," Ryan said. "Let's use the **Time Audit Machine** to step into Paul's world and understand what it means to live under the **new covenant** and be transformed into God's image."

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### **The Journey Begins: The Old Covenant of the Law (2 Corinthians 3:7-11)**

The **Time Audit Machine** whirred to life, and the family found themselves in the shadow of **Mount Sinai**, where Moses was receiving the **Ten Commandments**. The scene was awe-inspiring yet terrifying—lightning flashed, the ground trembled, and smoke billowed from the mountain. Moses descended, carrying the tablets of stone, his face shining with a divine radiance.

Ryan pointed to Moses. "This is the **old covenant**, given by God to the people of Israel. The **Law** was holy, but it also brought condemnation because no one could perfectly follow it. It showed people their sin but couldn't provide a way to fully overcome it."

Ariel watched as the Israelites cowered in fear at the sight of Moses' radiant face. "Moses' face is glowing because he's been in God's presence?"

"Yes," Ryan said. "His shining face reflected the **glory of God**, but notice how he covered it with a **veil**. That's because the glory of the old covenant was **temporary**. It was glorious in its time, but it pointed to something greater—the **new covenant**, which brings lasting transformation."

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## **The New Covenant of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:3-6, 12-18)**

The scene shifted to **Paul**, speaking passionately to the Corinthians about the difference between the two covenants. “**Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men. Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ... written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.**” (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

Ryan smiled as he explained. “Paul is saying that under the **new covenant**, the Spirit doesn’t write God’s law on stone tablets—He writes it on our hearts. The Spirit transforms us from within, making us living letters of God’s work for the world to see.”

Ariel nodded, understanding. “So, the new covenant isn’t about rules written on stone—it’s about the **Holy Spirit** changing who we are on the inside?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “That’s why Paul says, ‘**The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life**’ (2 Corinthians 3:6). The **old covenant** revealed sin and brought death because no one could keep the Law perfectly. But the **new covenant** brings **life** because the Spirit empowers us to live in a way that pleases God.”

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## **The Glory That Transforms (2 Corinthians 3:16-18)**

Paul continued, describing the freedom and transformation that come through the Spirit. “**Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.**” (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

Ariel’s face lit up as she listened. “Paul is saying that when we look at God’s glory, we’re **transformed** into His image. How does that happen?”

Ryan explained, “It’s like looking into a mirror. When we behold Jesus—His love, His holiness, His grace—we are **changed** to become more like Him. This transformation doesn’t happen through our own effort. It’s the work of the **Holy Spirit**, who helps us grow step by step, or as Paul says, ‘**from glory to glory.**’”

Alice, intrigued, piped up. “So, we’re like clay, and the Spirit is the artist making us into something beautiful?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said, smiling. “The Spirit molds us to reflect Jesus more and more, so when people see us, they see a glimpse of God’s **glory.**”

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## **A Message of Freedom and Hope**

As the family observed Paul’s teaching, Ryan explained the profound implications of living under the **new covenant**. “The **old covenant** brought **bondage**, but the **new covenant** brings **freedom**. Paul says, ‘**Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.**’ This doesn’t mean we can live however we want—

it means we're free from the burden of trying to earn God's favor through rules. Instead, we're empowered by the Spirit to live in a way that reflects God's love and holiness."

Ariel reflected on this. "So, the Spirit gives us the **freedom** to live for God, not out of fear, but out of love?"

"Yes," Ryan said. "That's the beauty of the new covenant. It's not about striving to be perfect—it's about letting the Spirit transform us into the image of Jesus."

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### **Takeaway: Life, Freedom, and Transformation**

Back in the garage, the **Time Audit Machine** powered down, and the family discussed what they had seen. Ariel was struck by how the new covenant brought **life** and **freedom** through the Spirit. "I love that the Spirit helps us become more like Jesus, not by making us follow rules, but by changing our hearts."

Ryan nodded. "That's the key, Ariel. The **new covenant** isn't about rules—it's about a relationship. When we behold Jesus, the Spirit works in us to reflect His **glory**. It's not instant—it's a process, but it's the Spirit's work, and it's transforming us every day."

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### **Final Thought: Transformed into His Image**

In **2 Corinthians 3:1-18**, Paul contrasts the **old covenant**, written on tablets of stone, with the **new covenant**, written on the hearts of believers by the **Holy Spirit**. The old covenant brought **condemnation** because no one could keep the Law perfectly, but the new covenant brings **life**, **freedom**, and **transformation**. Through the Spirit, believers are being **changed into the image of Jesus**, step by step, reflecting His **glory** in their lives.

This passage teaches us that living under the new covenant means being free from the bondage of the Law and embracing the **transformative work of the Spirit**. As we behold Jesus, we are being transformed "from **glory to glory**" into His image, revealing the power of the Spirit to bring true and lasting change in our lives.