**Changed Into His Image**

***Lesson Seven: Becoming like Christ – 2 Pet. 1:4***

**Introduction**: Since this book is about biblical change, you may be asking right now, “How does a search for God and a study of His attributes, change me and make me more like Christ? What does this have to do with renewing the mind?” Those are good questions that are at the heart of what this book is all about. Exposure to God brings about profound change in a believer – the kind of change to Christlikeness we need.

By the end of this lesson you should be able to:

* Explain the importance and effects of the Bible doctrine of illumination in Christian growth.
* Understand the importance and effects of exposure to God and His attributes in the Word.
1. **More About the Attributes of God**
	1. A non-communicable attribute is one that no creature of God can “get.”
		1. Omnipotence
		2. Omniscience
		3. Omnipresence
		4. Immutability
	2. Being Christlike means acquiring His communicable attributes—the fruit of the Spirit.
		1. Love – genuine self-sacrifice for the good of others
		2. Joy – a feeling of great pleasure and delight in who God is and in what He has provided
		3. Peace – a sense of well-being; rest; tranquility; contentment
		4. Longsuffering – stability under pressure; self-control under provocation from people
		5. Gentleness – kindness toward others; reasonableness; flexibility
		6. Goodness – benevolent thoughts and action toward others; generosity
		7. Faith – faithfulness; reliability
		8. Meekness – willingness to be governed; submissive attitude toward authority and circumstances
		9. Temperance – self-control, especially of one’s person
	3. These come out of the “tea bag” when a Spirit-controlled believer is put into “hot water.”
	4. This is Christian character.
2. **Changed by His Glory – 2 Cor. 3:18**
	1. God’s glory is the manifestation of His many-splendored excellencies.
	2. We notice God’s character in the way He dealt with believers and unbelievers in the Bible.
	3. “No one who is exposed to the glories of God as they are revealed by God’s Spirit through the Scriptures will remain the same” (Berg 144).

1. **Illumination: When God Turns On the Light**
	1. God’s Spirit brings us to an understanding of spiritual truth. (Matt. 16:13-17; Luke 24:44-45; 1 John 2:27; 1 Cor. 2:1-16).
	2. Illumination is ultimately focused on helping man to better know God.

“For millions of Christians…God is no more real than He is to the non-Christian. They go through life trying to love an ideal and be loyal to a mere principle….A loving Personality dominates the Bible….Always a living Person is present, speaking, pleading, loving, working, and manifesting Himself whenever and wherever His people have the receptivity necessary to receive the manifestation….If we cooperate with Him in loving obedience, God will manifest Himself to us, and that manifestation will be the difference between a nominal Christian life and a life radiant with the light of His face” (AW Tozer).

* 1. Spiritual growth requires exposure to God.

Illus. Tanned by the sun (pg. 146-147). Without endorsing a modern obsession with sun tanning, it does illustrate the way Christians can become more Christlike. A suntan is a result of exposure to the sun. A tan obtained on a vacation is no less a tan just because it goes away after the person has returned to his normal routine out of the sun’s rays. If he wants to keep the tan, he must continue his exposure to the sun. The same is true spiritually. Spiritual growth that comes at camp is real growth. It must be followed by continued exposure to God through His Word.

* + 1. A light-skinned man who is not tanned as much as he would like can do only one thing – spend more time in the sun.
		2. In the same way, a believer who is not manifesting godliness in some area of life can do only one thing – spend more time in the Word asking God to illuminate his mind and heart.
1. **Evidences of Exposure to God**
	1. Illuminated truth moves us intellectually.
		1. Validity: This is right; I must believe it!
		2. Whenever we see some area of our own life in contrast to God’s nature, we will see our own great deficiency and rebellion in that area. We will be humbled and repentant.
	2. Illuminated truth moves us emotionally.
		1. Beauty: This is wonderful; I must praise it!
		2. There is great joy within him.
		3. There is in him a great peace.
		4. As a result, the believer is satisfied.
	3. Illuminated truth moves us volitionally.
		1. Urgency/Responsibility: This is compelling; I must do it!
		2. After encountering the glory of God, Isaiah desired to serve the Lord (Isa. 6:8).
		3. The apostle Paul upon beholding the glory of God, asked, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:6)
		4. When we understand the glorious nature of God and the salvation He has brought to our lives, it only makes sense that we would desire to serve Him (Rom. 12:1-2).
	4. This is Revival!
		1. When the Holy Spirit reveals the glory of God, the believer’s response is always, “This is right; I must believe it! This is wonderful; I must praise it! This is compelling; I must do it!”
		2. A man moved in this manner by what he is seeing of God is being revived, and others cannot help noticing the profound change.
2. **Application for Life Change**
	1. Respond by relying upon God to illuminate your mind when you read the Scriptures.
	2. Respond by looking for God and His attributes in the Word as you study it.
	3. Spend a day or afternoon with God. Pack a Bible, song book, and journal and find a quiet place of retreat.