

What Is Your Story?

2 Corinthians 3:15—4:6

(black Bibles page 965; Children's Bibles page 1437)

Introduction:

Jonah had an unusual story, but it caused him to say, "Salvation belongs to the Lord." Our story will be different, but we will make the same affirmation.

- I. Consider first another story from the Bible—the man born blind (John 9)
 - He could only testify, "once I was blind, but now I see"
 - When Jesus came back he began to understand more of what happened
- II. What happened in your story? (II Corinthians 3:16—4:6)
 - We were blinded to the truth of the Gospel (3:15; 4:3, 4)
 - God had to come and take away the blindness (remove the veil) (3:16, 17; 4:6)
 - Our turning to the Lord is a work of the Spirit
 - The God of the first creation is the God of the new creation
 - What was this awakening like for you? What is your story?
 - "Seeing the light" is just the beginning of God's work of transformation (3:18)
 - (the most important text on sanctification – in my opinion)
 - We are being transformed (metamorphosis) into the image of Christ
 - We are being transformed by beholding Jesus in the mirror of the gospel
 - This doesn't sound "practical"
 - Try it, starting with Advent
 - The story of "James"

"Jesus, I am resting, resting, I am finding out the greatness of thy loving heart"

Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting

*Jesus, I am resting, resting,
In the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart.*

Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee,
And Thy beauty fills my soul,
For by Thy transforming power,
Thou hast made me whole.

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
I behold Thee as Thou art,
And Thy love, so pure, so changeless,
Satisfies my heart;
Satisfies its deepest longings,
Meets, supplies its every need,
Compasseth me round with blessings:
Thine is love indeed!

Ever lift Thy face upon me
As I work and wait for Thee;
Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus,
Earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of my Father's glory,
Sunshine of my Father's face,
Keep me ever trusting, resting,
Fill me with Thy grace.

Refrain (2)

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