

# The Lord's Face

## Various Passages

### Introduction:

1. The hymn writer Fanny Crosby gave us more than 8,000 Gospel songs. Although blinded at the age of six weeks, she never held any bitterness in her heart because of it. Once a preacher sympathetically remarked, "I think it is a great pity that the Master did not give you sight when He showered so many other gifts upon you." She replied quickly, "Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would have been **THAT I SHOULD BE BORN BLIND?**" "Why?" asked the surprised clergyman. "Because when I get to Heaven, **THE FIRST FACE THAT SHALL EVER GLADDEN MY SIGHT WILL BE THAT OF MY SAVIOR!**"

One of her hymns based on a combination of the thoughts in Ecclesiastes 12:6 and Revelation 22:4, 5 was so personal that for years she never let others see it. Professor Kenneth Osbeck says its revelation to the public came about this way: "One day at a Bible conference in Northfield, Massachusetts, Miss Crosby was asked by Dwight L. Moody to give a personal testimony concerning her faith and Christian experience. At first she hesitated, then quietly rose and said, "There is one hymn I have written which has never been published. I call it **MY SOUL'S POEM**. Sometimes when I am troubled, I repeat it to myself, for it brings comfort to my heart." She then recited while many wept, "Someday the silver cord will break, and I no more as now shall sing; but O the joy when I shall wake within the palace of the King! And I shall see Him face to face, and tell the story - saved by grace!" At the age of 95 Fanny Crosby's wish that the face of Jesus would be the first she would ever see was realized. "We must know his **GRACE** here if we hope to see His **FACE** over There!"

2. Someday we will see the Lord face to face
3. But until then we can see the Lord's face in God's Word

## I. THE DAZZLING FACE - MATT 17:2

2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

1. Transfigured = metamorphosis
  - a) *When that which is on the inside, comes out*
  - b) *A caterpillar encloses itself in a cocoon and out comes a moth.*
  - c) *Jesus was transformed so that what He was in His inner essence worked its way to the outside*
2. The glory of the Savior was veiled or hidden while He was here on the earth
  - a) *But on the mount of transfiguration the curtain was pulled aside for a time allowing Peter, James and John to see that glory*
  - b) *Jesus' humanity covered and veiled the outward display of His glory which He had with the Father - Jesus didn't have a glow around his head as he walked around*
3. This is not the same thing that happened to Moses in Ex 34 when his face shone
  - a) *Moses was reflecting the glory of God - Jesus was radiating the glory of God*
  - b) *Moses was reflecting glory from the outside of him - Jesus was radiating the glory that was inside of him*
  - c) *Peter, James and John never forgot the sight of his glory*  
*Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*
4. Just as Jesus' face shined in the dark world, one day, when darkness reigned in my life, his face shined upon my heart. He opened my blinded eyes, I came to see my lost condition. Then I saw His love and grace.

## II. THE DUTIFUL FACE - MATT 26:39

39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

1. Jesus first knelt and began to pray and then in the fervency of His prayer and the depth of His sorrow His face fell to the ground
2. Oh the deep anguish and agony of the Master in the garden
  - a) *Soon the sins of the of all who would ever be saved would be laid on Him*
  - b) *Soon the heavenly Father would turn his back His Son*
  - c) *Jesus was not wrestling with God's will or resisting God's will, He was yielding to God's will*
3. This was a lonely prayer as Jesus went a little farther from the disciples
4. It was a humble prayer as Jesus fell on his face before the heavenly Father
5. It was a preserving prayer since Jesus prayed 3x
6. It was a prayer of submission and resignation

### III. THE DESPISED FACE - MATT 26:67

67 Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands,

1. To spit in someone's face was the height of contempt and insult  
Isa 50:6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.
2. Notice the word "then"
  - a) *They spit in Jesus' face after they heard Him say, "Hereafter ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."*
  - b) *It was in contempt of this claim of Jesus that they spit in his face*
  - c) *The One who stood there and was being judged by the Jews claimed that some day He would judge them*
3. They buffeted Jesus by punching Him with their fists
4. Others slapped Jesus

5. Those who spit in the face of Jesus will someday stand before him at the GWT judgment - Rev 20:11

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

#### IV. THE DETERMINED FACE - LU 9:51

51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

1. Here we see the determination and resolution of the Savior in going to Jerusalem in order to undertake our redemption and salvation
  - a) *His ministry in Galilee was over*
  - b) *He must begin His final trip to Jerusalem*
  - c) *See here that the sacrifice of the Lord was voluntary*
  - d) *The time had come (sumpleroo) - fulfilled or completed*
  - e) *He was acting on God's time table - previously Jesus said, "My time is not yet come."*
  - f) *It was time for Jesus to be "received up" - "lifted up"*
  - g) *Jesus did not shrink from the face of duty even though it would mean his death*
2. See the boldness and courage of the Savior here as He determines to go to Jerusalem even though He knew what it meant
  - a) *Though he knew what would happen to Him - He set His face to go to Jerusalem*
  - b) *He knew that He would be rejected - yet He set His face to go to Jerusalem*

- c) *Though He knew that the crowds would cry, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” still He set His face to go to Jerusalem*
- d) *Though He knew that His apostles would forsake Him, He determined to go to Jerusalem*
- e) *Though He knew that He would be beaten, mocked, ridiculed and spit upon, still He set His face toward Jerusalem*
- f) *Though He knew that He would be hanged on a cruel, rugged cross, He set His face toward Jerusalem*

## **V. THE DIVINE FACE - 2 COR 4:6**

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

### **A. Wrong Idea**

1. If we just present the gospel in a clear way and use a little psychology and selling techniques, that is all that is necessary for people to be saved.
2. Good salesmen will be able to persuade and convince others to be saved
3. If we just make the gospel message palatable and non-threatening then people will be saved

### **B. Right Idea**

1. Salvation is never accomplished solely through human persuasion
2. Salvation is the work of a sovereign God
3. God must turn on the light
4. Only God can open [unblind] the mind so a person will be saved
5. Only God can grant the repentance and faith that is necessary for salvation

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Ac 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Ac 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

6. Salvation does not depend on marketing and psychological games - God must turn on the light
7. It took a miracle for God to command the light to shine during creation and it is just as big a miracle when God shines the light and someone is saved

## **VI. THE DREADFUL FACE - 1 PET 3:12**

12 For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.

### **A. The Lord Cares for the Righteous**

1. The Lord's eyes are on everybody
  - a) *God sees everything and He knows everything*
  - b) *But in a special sense, His eyes are on the righteous*
  - c) *He watches over us like a faithful shepherd*
2. The righteous are the saved
  - a) *We have been made righteous by the Lord Jesus Christ*
  - b) *We depend on his righteousness, not our own*
3. God's eyes are on the righteous for protection, care

### **B. The Lord Listens to the Prayers of the Righteous**

- a) *God hears the prayers of the righteous*
2. We are at liberty to go to Him at all times

Ps 34:15 The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their cry.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

### **C. The Lord's Face is Against Those Who Do Evil**

1. The eyes of the Lord are over the wicked observing their evil doings
2. This is not God's kind, pleasant and loving countenance but his angry countenance
3. I would not want the Lord's face to be set against me
  - a) *The Lord's face was against mankind in Noah's day*
  - b) *The Lord's face was against those in Sodom and Gomorrah*

#### **Conclusion:**

1. We must all stand before the Lord someday - face to face
  - a. Believers at the judgment seat of Christ
  - b. Unbelievers at the great white throne judgment
2. A husband lost his wife. They had a young daughter. After the funeral some of the close relatives noticed the pain and sorrow of the man and asked him, "Do you want us to take care of your daughter for a few days while you grieve?"

The man replied, "No, we are going to face this together."

So that night as the father was putting his daughter to bed she cried out, "Daddy, it is dark in her, can I sleep in your room?"

He replied, "Yes, you can sleep in my room."

As they went into the father's room, he turned off the light his daughter cried out again, "Daddy it is dark in her too." Then the little girl said, "Daddy, it is darker than it ever has been before."

The father replied, "Yes, baby, it is darker than it ever has been to me too."

In the darkness the little girl asked, "Daddy is your face turned toward me?"

The dad said, "Yes, honey, my face is turned toward you."

She said, "I can go to sleep now." The little girl soon fell asleep. The father was in such despair at the loss of his wife that he crawled out of bed and got down on his knees and prayed, "God, is your face turned toward me?" He thought that he heard the Lord say, "Yes, my face is toward you."

The father said, "OK Lord, now I can go to sleep."

It may be darker than it ever has been in your life, but you can go on when the Lord's face is turned toward you.

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