2 Corinthians and The God of Freedom

John Bodily – 11 October 2026 (watch talk here)

In Paul's letter to the Corinthian church, he writes: **'Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom' (2 Corinthians, 3:17)**. But what does this mean? John explores this question by looking at the context of the letter in which this is written. In 2 Corinthians 3:7–18, Paul explains that the freedom found in the Spirit marks the shift from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. Under the Old Covenant, the law was mediated through Moses, whose radiant face had to be veiled, symbolising both the intensity of God's glory and the barrier between a distant God and a people unable to keep His laws. Through Jesus's life, death, and resurrection, this distance is removed. Believers now enjoy "freedom of access". We are **free to come**, approaching God directly by grace without fear of condemnation or the need to earn his presence.

This New Covenant freedom also removes the spiritual veil over human hearts, enabling believers to recognise Christ and clearly see God's glory. We are **free to see**. As we freely contemplate the Lord with unveiled faces, the Holy Spirit transforms us from the inside out—fulfilling the promise of a new heart and making us more like Jesus. We are **free to become**. True spiritual freedom is ultimately an invitation into unhindered intimacy with God, where beholding His presence actively transforms our character.

Reflect and discuss

Start by reading the key passage: **2 Corinthians 3:7–18**.

1. **Free to Come:** Paul contrasts the fear and distance of the Old Covenant at Mount Sinai with our open access to God today. Do you view God more often as distant and requiring performance, or as accessible and approachable? What holds you back from approaching God boldly?
2. **Free to See:** The passage describes a "veil" that hides spiritual reality until someone turns to Christ. Looking back at your own journey—or observing people around you—what "veils" prevent people from seeing Jesus clearly?
3. **Free to Become:** Paul infers that "we become what we behold" (v18) as we contemplate the Lord's glory. In practical, daily terms, what does it look like to "behold" Jesus, and how have you noticed your heart or character changing as a result?
4. **Living Out True Freedom:** How does Paul's definition of freedom challenge or reshape your understanding of liberty in daily life?

Pray

Give space for people to share any reflections on this session and anything they would value prayer for.