



[1 Corinthians 13:12](#)

(12) For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

King James Version

One translator describes what "we see in a mirror, dimly," as "a riddle and an enigma." Paul suggests that now we do not [see God](#) nearly as clearly as we would like, but the time is coming when we will see Him in startling and bold clarity. He is illustrating a time-consuming process of change that gradually transforms.

The important element for us is that now, because of His [merciful](#) revelation of Himself to us, we do see a portion of His eternal glory, even if imperfectly. Others are totally blind to even the part we see imperfectly. We are in the process of becoming just like Him, and we will share His very life in glory, as [1 John 3:2](#) assures us: "Beloved, now we are children of [God](#); and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

in [Jude 24](#) we find measureless encouragement if we will believe what it says: "Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding [joy](#). . . ." We will be without spot, blemish, or wrinkle; we are going to experience perfection.

This is what is promised to us to enjoy when we see Him as He is, when we have the fullness of His Spirit, when we are fully redeemed. Moreover, because of the gift of God's Spirit, we are also promised a small foretaste in this life. We can know something of the joy of [holiness](#) and the hatred of [sin](#) as Christ knew them. God wants us to experience the love, joy, and [peace](#) that passes all understanding. At the time of our full redemption, God will wipe away all tears, and our joy will be unmeasured and unmixed.

Do we love God and our brethren? As the apostle John teaches, they go together; they cannot be separated. We have our failings on both scores. Because we belong to Christ, we can experience that love. Its fruits are just budding, but in the [Kingdom of God](#), we will experience it in full flower.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[Our Uniqueness and Time](#)

Related Topics:

[Enigma](#)

[Hatred of Sin](#)

[Mirror, Seeing in a Mirror](#)

[Process of Transformation](#)

[Riddle](#)

[Seeing in a Mirror, Dimly](#)

[Transformed into Image of God](#)

[Transformed into the Image of Jesus Christ](#)