

Be For Real
2 Corinthians 12:9-10

There are different meanings of the word transparent, depending on the context. Here are some possible definitions:

If a substance or object is transparent, you can see through it very clearly.

If something is transparent, it is clear and easy to understand or recognize.

If someone or something is transparent, they are open and honest, without secrets

How transparent are you with God and why?

[Genesis 3:8-13](#), [Psalms 139:1-3](#); [Hebrews 4:13](#)

What we often fail to realize is that even when we sin, the last thing we shouldn't do is try to conceal it from God's sight. [Proverbs 15:3](#) [Hebrews 4:13](#) [Jeremiah 23:24](#) [Jeremiah 16:17](#)

As followers of Christ, we are all called to be honest with our brothers and sisters. Transparency allows us to come alongside each other in encouragement and accountability. [Colossians 3:9-11](#). [Romans 12:10](#)

Without transparency, we would not know how to truly encourage one another towards spiritual growth or be challenged in our own. [Matthew 7:3-5](#)

Of all the things we could say about social media, one thing is certain: it should remind us that our lives are on display for all to see. [2 Corinthians](#)

What we do and say, how we have fun, where we go, how we respond to others these can affect the credibility of our Christian witness toward others [Matthew 5:16](#)

On the other hand, sometimes we sanitize our lives so much that we only want to share the highlights of our lives: the best pictures, the flattering news and happy family events making it seem like our lives are squeaky clean. [Matthew 23:27](#)

The problem with this approach is that it may appear that we set the bar too high and become somewhat discouraging to those who need to know Christ. [Romans 12:3-8](#)

Ultimately, people who are far from God are looking for the real deal – not worldly compromise nor phony religion. God has called us to be authentic in our faith and to be true representatives of Jesus Christ as we attempt to reach people with the gospel message.

How can we bridge the gap between what people see as they peer into our lives, and what Christ said they should see?

First and foremost, we must decide to live our lives in such a way that people can connect the voice of God and the message of the gospel with the way we live our lives.

One of the reasons so many people struggle with being transparent in their public [faith](#) is because they are not being real with God in private. As if God doesn't know.

In fact, one of the greatest areas we struggle with transparency is in our prayer life, which impacts our entire relationship with God. [Matthew 6:4-5](#):

God is a loving father, and He welcomes us to be real with Him. [Isaiah 1:18](#), [Mark 9:23-24](#) When

Jesus became one of us, He experienced the pains we go through. He understands us, and therefore, He can handle our authentic prayers. [Hebrews 4:15](#)

Be Real with Others

Many Christians have been confused about how to express their feelings, believing that they should never get angry, express grief, sadness or hurt. Some have even been taught that expressing such feelings demonstrate a lack of faith. [Matthew 21:12-13](#)) [John 11:35](#)

Most of us have mistakenly thought that we should hide our failures at all costs, that our moral missteps will drive people away from God, so we'd better not let anyone find out about them.

People today are repelled by Christians who act *holier than thou* and then have a secret sin publicly exposed.

But when we are transparent about our struggles, our failures and our faults, people are more attracted to us and to God.

People today are searching for the real deal – not a fake, not a phony and certainly, not a hypocrite. It's past time that we embrace the lessons of social media and remember that no matter what, our lives – our *whole* lives – are on display.

Therefore, in order to be a true representation of Jesus Christ, we must develop and demonstrate transparency in our lives and in our faith. It's how we let our lights shine before men, and they will see our good deeds, and glorify our Father in Heaven!