"But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. "
- II Cor. 3:16

 I was able to capture this brown pelican as it turned while searching the ocean below for small fish near the surface of the water. For such a large bird, these pelicans are remarkably agile in flight. They often fly in a long column just inches from the water beneath them. But once fish are sighted the real action begins. The long column is broken and each individual pelican turns around sharply, climbs higher in the sky, and then plunges into the water hoping to capture a fish in its large bill. The ability to execute a fast turn allows these birds to see their prey more clearly and to begin their dive sooner. It can mean the difference between eating or going without. Something similar happens when someone turns to the Lord. What could not be seen clearly before comes into sharp focus now. Because of the innate sinful nature of all of us before we embraced Christ, seeing and understanding spiritual things was almost impossible. As Augustine said, "We don't understand in order to believe, we believe in order to understand." Trusting in Christ comes before we gain spiritual enlightenment. Before any of us came to faith, we were blind to the things of God. Scripture seemed confusing, and a personal relationship with God seemed an impossibility. But after we were born from above the veil that the world had placed over our eyes was removed, our heart of stone was replaced with a heart of flesh, and our sight was restored. We became, in fact, a new creature. Conversion involves a turn, a turn from self to God, a turn from worldly pleasures to heavenly pursuits, and a turn from trust in our own works to a total trust in the perfect work of Jesus on our behalf. It is easy to follow the crowd, to glide through life above the waves, but it is life-changing to turn, to dive beneath the waters, to seek the food that the rest of the world bypasses. It works for pelicans, and it will work for you. - John