



Transformation

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

- Romans 12:1,2

He changes us from the inside-out.

LISTEN TO THE [SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION VIDEO HERE.](#)

What is spiritual transformation?

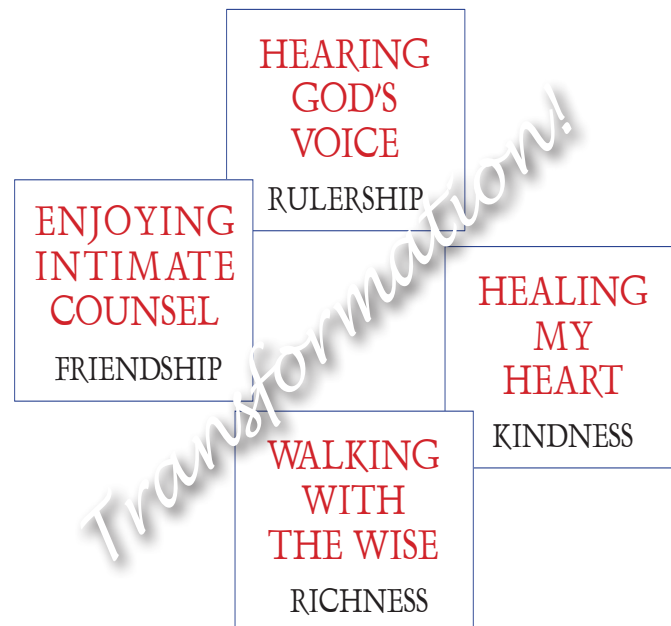
“Therefore I urge you brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And no longer be conformed to the image of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

- Romans 12:1,2

When Jesus began His public ministry in the synagogue in His hometown (Luke 4) He quoted Isaiah the prophet from chapter 61. “The Spirit of Lord is upon Me, because He has appointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor, He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” It is His full intention to introduce the Good News into the world, and to transform our hearts by transforming our perspectives, values, hopes, and dreams. To release us from the captivity of our sin, to make our blind souls able to see spiritual truth, to set us free and heal our brokenness, and to bring this Kingdom into our hearts are all a part of this incredible transforming ministry.

This transformation occurs in several remarkable ways. First we are given the opportunity to submit to His Kingship and are made “sheep who know His voice.” This tremendous benefit of **hearing God’s voice** as the Holy Spirit discloses it is something that makes our lives very extraordinary. We are set apart as a chosen people who bow before His rulership, and welcome His hand upon our lives.

As this “rulership” grows we began to be changed inside as we experience God’s kindness and discipline. Our hearts begin to be released as we understand how perfect God’s care is of us, and **just how free we are to allow our past brokenness to be overcome by perfect love.**



We also begin to walk with others who have similarly encountered God, and we open our lives to the Scriptures and prayer, both helping to define this new, transforming relationship. The impact of exposure to Kingdom wisdom begins to **transform our thought paradigms**, and brings a richness to our lives like we have never seen before. It is literally like having our eyes opened from blindness.

As this transforming relationship unfolds, we begin to understand the depth of friendship God now feels for us, and we begin to enjoy the intimate counsel of God as He directs our lives in our decisions, our relationships, and the **true substance of our lives.**

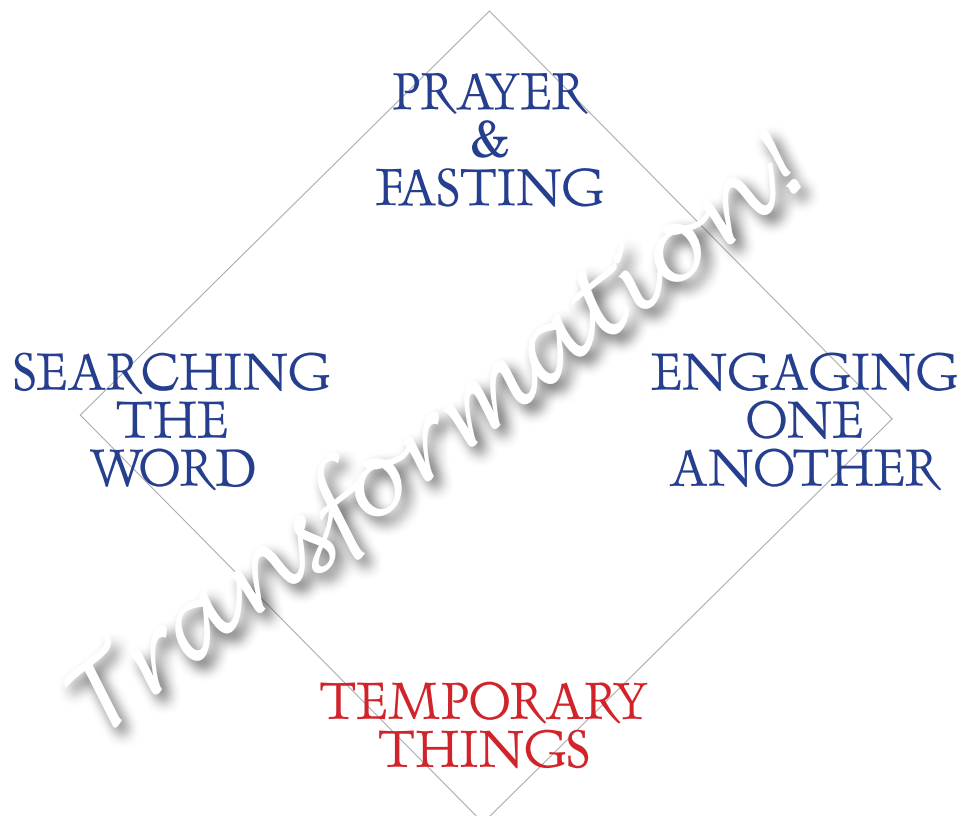
How does transformation occur?

You have certainly heard of the saying “he or she has it all.” Jesus was very clear on this. He made it plain that we cannot serve God and “stuff.” He also asked the question “what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul.” In these sweeping statements He makes it painfully clear that we will have to choose. We can either “have it all” in this world or in the world to come - it is up to us to decide.

This choice for living involves an exchange of priorities, because “where our treasure is, our heart is there also.” Someone has said that there are only two eternal things on the earth, God and people. Jesus lived completely for both. He overcame His humanity and every temptation you or I will ever experience - and chose life. This is what so uniquely qualifies Him to be our leader - and our Savior.

His example (which we are to follow) is very clear. If we want to be transformed, we too, will make such an exchange. We will exchange temporary things for those that result in eternal treasure. *Praying and fasting, searching the Scriptures, and choosing to engage people at their true point of need is how Jesus prioritized His life.*

He invites us to engage in such a life of transformation as well, knowing very well that it will cost us dearly. It will cost us in this world to store up treasure where “moth and rust do not corrupt.” This is the fertile soil of transformation!



*Family - Income production
Personal recognition - Accumulation
Attainment - Leisure and pleasure*

What does a transformed life look like?

There is a limiting benefit in setting standards for richness or poorness, religious attainment, recognition by our peers, or our resume' of clubs and accomplishments without embracing the idea that God is at work in our lives to transform us.

We should look to how God feels about us in Christ, and avail our character our heart to see His hand upon our life of transformation. We need look to where our time is being allocated and where our preoccupation with living is directed.

Those who love being transformed by God usually have several characteristics in common. We love the idea of having a **pure heart** of devotion. God is so big in our lives that He has come to have first place, pure and simple. This doesn't mean that we won't become distracted - even on a daily basis - but it does mean that we constantly come back to home base. We love God so much because He first loved us, and we offer our hearts for devotion to His purposes.



"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength - and you shall love your neighbor as you love yourself."

- Jesus

We are also taken with the idea of **knowing God**. We long to be with Him, we want to hear from Him, and we delight to see His hand move. We desire to be "His man or woman" and we hope for His approval. And we have learned deeply that what He approves is wrapped up in showing **true kindness** to our "neighbors" as we reject isolationism and self-centered living and use all of our resources for the welfare of others. We are deeply excited about **growing life**, and hopeful that God will use us to be a part of His plan for reconciling the souls of our neighbors.

We have found a home in the two great commandments of the Law, and like Jesus, are seeking to "love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength - and to love our neighbors the way we love ourselves!" This is what transformed living looks like!

Transformation Observations

Take a few minutes to summarize your thoughts on the subject of transformation which we have discussed over the last several pages.

What would be your definition of transformation?

In what ways do you feel you are becoming attuned to God's voice?

Who would be the wise people with whom you walk?

In what ways do you see your friendship with God developing?

In what ways do you sense that your heart is being healed?

HEARING
GOD'S
VOICE
RULERSHIP

HEALING
MY
HEART
KINDNESS

ENJOYING
INTIMATE
COUNSEL
FRIENDSHIP

WALKING
WITH
THE WISE
RICHNESS