

☞ **Trek to Transformation**

I want to thank Rod Reynoldson for filling in last Sunday. I know that he touched on Transformation in his message last week. There are two key Scriptures that talk about transformation: **Romans 12:1-2 & 2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

We've been talking about renewal and change. We want renewal and God wants that for us as well. He wants us to grow and change and ultimately be completely transformed. In Romans 12 Paul says we can either be conformed or transformed. We can either be identical to the world around us, or we can change into something entirely different.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Transform = Metamorphosis = to change the essential form or nature of something; to remodel, to change into another form; to undergo a complete change which, under the power of God, will find expression in character and conduct...

☞ *(see video)*

I don't want to remain a caterpillar when God wants me to become a butterfly. So, how do we really transform?

☞ Romans 12:2 says to be transformed **by the renewing of your mind...** The word *renewing* is from the Greek word 'anakoinosis,' which when translated into English, means to renovate.

If you renovate a house, you have to demolish the parts you no longer want. You tear it out, often with some effort. This is similar to renovating your mind. We must tear out and demolish the old part of our minds and memories and then put in the new.

The NLT says it this way: "let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." So we have to begin thinking differently.

☞ **Our behavior will change when our thinking changes.**

If there is no change in your behavior, question your thinking. If someone says, “I believe in tithing” but doesn’t tithe – then he doesn’t really believe in it. You only really believe the parts of the Bible that you obey.

The way you think determines the way you feel, and the way you feel determines the way you act. If you want to change the way you act, you must determine the way you think. If you want it to last, you can’t start with the action, you’ve got to start with the thought.

☞ 1. All behavior is based on a belief

- If you cheat and lie, it’s because you believe that disobeying God this way will cause less pain than being honest. It’s a lie, but you believe it.
- Eating the forbidden fruit would not bring them blessings – it’s a lie, but Adam and Eve believed it.
- When somebody comes to you and says, “I’m leaving my spouse, and I’m going to marry this other person because I believe God wants me to be happy.” They just told you the belief behind their behavior. It’s wrong, but they believe it.

☞ 2. Behind every sin is a lie that you believe

- It starts with the mind. At the moment you sin, you’re doing what you think is the best thing for you. You’re doing what you want to do; what you think will be good. Sometimes, you think it really isn’t going to cause any problems, even though God says it will kill you.
- What are you doing? You’re believing a lie. Behind every sin is a lie. Start looking for the lies behind why people act the way they do, or why you act the way you do.
- When you live in sin, you’re living in deception and believing a lie. Confront these lies. When you start dealing with these lies, you’ll start seeing change.

☞ 3. Change always starts in the mind

- You’ve got to start with the belief – the lie behind the behavior.
- You have to replace the lie with the truth.

We do not just get hit by a certain feeling out of the blue. We have thought something first that causes our feelings to be activated. A teacher asked his students a question to try to illustrate this. He asked them how they would feel if a person pulled their car onto the path they were traveling, almost causing a collision. They answered that they would feel angry, frustrated, unhappy, etc. He then asked them to look into the car and see that the driver is a woman who is driving with one hand on the steering wheel and the other on the forehead of a child who is bleeding profusely. She is obviously on her way to the hospital to get help for her child. He asked them if their feelings changed any. Of course, they said they did. They now felt concerned, sympathetic, and wanted to do something to

help clear the way for her to get to the hospital. It is amazing how our feelings can change so rapidly! And the actions that follow. So, we have to change the way we think.

☞ We must embrace truth. **We renew our mind by focusing on truth.** That's where it begins...

☞ **Philippians 4:8**

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.

Occupy your mind with the truth, or the enemy will fill it with his lies. Don't leave it unoccupied! The Turks have a proverb, which says, "The devil tempts all men, but idle men tempt the devil."

☞ **John 17:17**

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Someone described it this way: Your belief patterns are in your mind. Every time you think about a belief, it creates an electrical impulse across your brain. Every time you have that thought again, it creates a deeper rut. Over time, a mindset is formed. When people have learned something over and over, being taught by the world's way of thinking, they're programmed to go that way. If you want to change that, and align it back to God's truth permanently, you have to do it God's way – you have to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, by the constant feeding on the truth of God's Word!

The prodigal son had a change of mind. Only then did he see a change in behavior. The renewed action was the fruit of a renewed mind, or way of thinking, which happened at the pigpen. He saw the truth of his condition and it changed his thinking, which changed his behavior, which changed the rest of his life.

In Austin Beveré's *Keys To Getting Unstuck* he says this:

☞ **Circumstances + beliefs = thoughts, which lead to emotions, which lead to actions, which will eventually lead back to circumstances.**

☞ **You can't always control your circumstances. But you can control your beliefs.**

Reset your beliefs, the way you think, which will lead to resetting the way you feel, and will ultimately change the actions you respond with. So ask yourself these questions...

- a. ☞ **What emotion am I feeling?**
- b. **What circumstance or belief caused this emotion?**

c. What does the Bible say?

👉 **Replace lies with truth.** Partner with the Holy Spirit in believing by faith what the Bible says. Here are a few examples to start with. Say these things to yourself repeatedly...

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

I am a new creation. I have been reconciled to God.

God accepts me as righteous because of Christ. Therefore, I am righteous.

Romans 8:1

God doesn't condemn me.

Isaiah 54:9

God is not angry with me.

Ephesians 3:17-19 & Romans 5:8

God loves me and his love is unconditional.

Deuteronomy 31:8 & Romans 8:35

God is near.

Now, I'm not just presenting a self-help program to you. What do I always say everything keeps coming back to? What's the key to a godly life? It always comes back to Jesus. You need more of Jesus in your life. That leads me to the other key verse about transformation...

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect (*as in a mirror*) the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Colossians 3:10 echoes this thought... have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

So, I'm not just Peter Pan promoting thinking happy thoughts. I'm promoting being set free 👉 by knowing the truth, and, **ultimately, truth is a person... Jesus Christ. We are transformed as we spend time with him, seeing and reflecting his glory.**

Many of us remember Silly Putty. I think it's one of the greatest toys ever invented. It bounces and smushes. But, its most famous characteristic was its ability to be flattened

against an image on paper and lift the image off onto itself. Humans are like Silly Putty. We take on whatever image we choose. Whatever image we put ourselves next to. Often, that image is of the world. Paul encourages us to take on the likeness of Christ... be Silly Putty and smush ourselves against Jesus to pick up His likeness.

We have the privilege of seeing the glory of the Lord, and it will change us.

-- The Bible Exposition Commentary... Under the Old Covenant, only Moses ascended the mountain and had fellowship with God; but under the New Covenant, all believers have the privilege of communion with Him. Through Jesus Christ, we may enter into the very holy of holies - and we don't have to climb a mountain! It is important, however, that we hide nothing from God. We must be open and honest with Him and not "wear a veil." The "mirror" is a symbol of 'the Word of God ([James 1:22-25](#)). As we look into God's Word and see God's Son, the Spirit transforms us into the very image of God. We become more like the Lord Jesus Christ as we grow "from glory to glory."

-- The Biblical Illustrator... The idea, then, is that they who are much in Christ's presence become mirrors to Him, reflecting more and more permanently His image until they themselves perfectly resemble Him. It's like looking at a noonday sun and then, wherever you look for a time you will still see the sun. The child who grows up with a parent he respects, unconsciously reflects a thousand of his attitudes, looks, and ways, which gradually become the child's own. We are all of us, to a great extent, made by the company we keep. And so everyone who associates with Christ finds that to some extent he reflects His glory.

Likely, this truth is the reason behind Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:17... "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better." Knowing him better changes us!

☞ *-- Warren Wiersbe... **When the people of God look into the Word of God and see the glory of God, the Spirit of God transforms them to be like the Son of God ([Romans 8:29](#)).** The Christian is not in bondage and fear; we can go into the very presence of God and enjoy His glory and grace. We do not have to wait for Christ to return to become like Him; we can daily grow "from glory to glory."*

☞ **Let's go on this Trek to Transformation. Let's get our minds renewed. Let's replace the lies of the enemy with the truth of God's Word. Let's spend time with the Person of Truth, Jesus Christ. Let's be transformed!**

Pour out your spirit