

Being Transformed

Transformed to be Like Him

2 Cor. 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, *are being transformed* into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

1 John 3:2 We know that if He is manifested, *we will be like Him* because we will see Him even as He is.

Rom. 8:19 For the anxious watching of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.

There are 3 major stages of God's salvation in life – regeneration in our spirit, transformation in our soul and glorification in our body. Regeneration and glorification occur in an instant. Transformation however, is a long process. We are being transformed. Our beholding the glory of the Lord transforms us into the same image. Through transformation, we will be fully manifested as sons of God and bear God's likeness.

By the Divine Life

John 10:10 I have come that they *may have life* [zoe] and have it abundantly

1 Cor. 15:45 ...the last Adam [Christ] became a life-giving [zoe-giving] Spirit.

2 Cor. 5:4-5 ...that what is mortal may be *swallowed up by life*. Now He who has wrought us for this very thing is God who has given to us the Spirit as a pledge.

There are 3 kinds of life – physical life (*bios*) to know the material world, soul life (*psuche*) to know our thoughts, feelings and intentions and the divine life (*zoe*) to know God. Our full salvation is accomplished by God's dispensing of the divine life into our being. First this life regenerates our spirit making us alive to Him. Then this life spreads to our soul, transforming it. Ultimately man's body is conformed to the body of His glory. This process of God's dispensing makes man the same as He is in His life. The Father is the source of life, the Son is the embodiment of life, the Spirit is the Giver of life. We are the receivers of life!

By Partaking of Christ

Partaking Christ as our spiritual food and drink issues in transformation. The Lord speaks in **John 6** about our eating Him – “He who *eats me* shall live because of Me” and goes on to say “It is the Spirit who gives life...the words I have spoken to you are spirit and are life”. To eat the Lord is to receive Him as the life-giving Spirit into our inner being by receiving His words. Daily we need to receive the word as food to us by means of all prayer. (Eph. 6:17-18). By this practice we are transformed by the renewing of the mind. Reading accompanied with prayer infuses God's thought into our mind and gets rid of all our old concepts concerning the things of human life. We absorb the riches of Christ by a spiritual “metabolism” and assimilate Him into our being. This spontaneously produces the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), the expression of Christ living in us.

Christ is also our spiritual drink. In **John 4** the Lord said “you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water” and in **John 7** “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” This He spoke of the Spirit, which has now been given to us. Paul says in **1 Corinthians** that we “were all given to drink one Spirit”.

Alluding to the journey of the Israelites, Paul says “And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed *them*, and the rock was Christ.” To receive this living water, we need to come to Him, speak to Him and ask Him. This inner flow is the practical presence of God. In it we have an inner sense of rest, joy, peace, brightness, watering and encouragement.

By Beholding His Face

A veil lies on our heart until it turns to the Lord. When we turn our heart, the veil is taken away and we can behold Him. We are being transformed by beholding and reflecting (2 Cor. 3:18). The face of Christ is the

priceless treasure in our spirit. “We have *this treasure* in earthen vessels” (2 Cor. 4:7). The phrase “this treasure” refers to “the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” in the previous verse. In the whole universe there is nothing so precious as to behold His face which is His person.

By the Work of the Holy Spirit

Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Jer. 48:11 Moab has been at ease from his youth; / And he is settled on his lees / And has not been emptied from vessel to vessel/Nor has he gone into exile/Therefore his taste remains in him/And his scent is not changed.

2 Cor. 4:16 ...though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner *man* is being renewed day by day.

The “good” in Rom. 8:28 relates to “His purpose” which is that we be conformed to the image of His Son (see next verse). In the transforming process, the Spirit arranges our outward environment for the breaking down of the old nature along with the re-constituting with the new nature. Being put in an environment that is impossible for us to deal with forces us to depend on the Lord and gain Him for our transformation.

Moab was at ease (Jer. 48:11). The flesh likes to be at ease. If a believer is always at ease, he will not be transformed. As we contact Him in the midst of our God-arranged environment, we are metabolically purified and our natural taste and scent are changed to have His taste and scent.

The Lord also uses our failures to transform us. For example, Peter had a natural disposition full of boldness and self-confidence in His love for the Lord (“Even if I must die with You, I will by no means deny You” – Matt. 26:35). Through his failure Peter was broken in his natural life. The Lord shepherded Peter so he could then be a shepherd of God’s flock according to God’s nature. The Spirit can work through our environment, the inadequacy of the natural man and the light of the Lord’s presence to produce transformation. All things do work together for good for those who are called. Loving Him is the indispensable requirement.

By Denying the Self and Living by Another Life

Eph. 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be *strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man*

Matt. 16:24 If anyone wants to come after Me, *let him deny himself* and take up his cross and follow Me

Rom 12:1-2 ...present your bodies a living sacrifice...be *transformed by the renewing of the mind*

Once the life of God comes into our spirit through regeneration, we must learn to exercise our spirit continually to contact God and deny our fallen soul, which is the self. Paul charges us to “exercise ourselves unto godliness” for “godliness is profitable for all things”. God desires us to be strengthened into the inner man so we can take Christ as our person. As we deny our natural person and take the Lord in our spirit as our person, the faculties of our soul are uplifted and transformed with the Lord as our life.

By Practicing the Body Life

Romans 12 speaks about our presenting our bodies. When we present our bodies to God for the practice of the church life, our mind will be renewed and our spirit will be set on fire for His purpose. We do not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think (Rom. 12:3). In order to serve the Lord’s children, the Lord’s mind must become our mind. This is the mind of the One who “emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave” (v. 7). By the transformation process, we are prepared to be His bride, the holy city New Jerusalem (Rev. 21) which has the appearance of God, the glory of God and the expression of God.