

Transformed

by the Cross!



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Definitely deciding to serve God in truth means putting our hand to the plough and never looking back to the world. Doing this enables us to be “Fit for the kingdom of God” Luke 9:62. Serving God means *not* serving the false gods of the world, and saying Joshua 24:15 “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

To be transformed by the Cross means being changed by the Spirit of God; it is a continual learning process of spiritual lessons from God each day, and meeting every situation as His Word says. When we sincerely repent and accept the Spirit of God in our heart—we can follow Jesus regarding the attitudes we take and decisions we make. 1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”

Our being transformed includes our being accepted into God’s family of believers. Ephesians 1:5 “For He pre-destined us to be adopted by Himself as sons through Jesus Christ—such being His gracious will and pleasure—6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

The transforming process includes continual access to God through prayer—enabled by the Blood sacrifice on the Cross. Ephesians 2:18 “For through [Christ] we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.” Access to the Father means we can ask Him every day to change our attitudes and transform our desires to be what He wants them to be. New attitudes accepted and the old discarded.

This new way of depending totally on God for everything is possible through the redeeming Blood of Jesus. We move from spiritual darkness to spiritual light. It is atoning work of the Cross that Colossians 1:13 “Delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”

Each day begins with a prayer for spiritual guidance so that what we decide to get involved with that day has God’s favor and blessing. We are serving God and following Jesus—Colossians 2:6 “So walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

As we keep our faith and trust on the Blood of Christ; and as we ask the Spirit of God to empower us to obey the Scriptures, the devil cannot accuse us or confuse us—there is Romans 8:1 “Now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

To walk and talk and treat people “According to the Spirit” every day, concerning everything, is all part of being transformed by the Cross. No matter what we are going through, or what trial we are in, there is some spiritual benefit in it for us—if we continue to conduct our life “According to the Spirit”—because Romans 8:28 “All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

His purpose is that our *life*; our *activities*; and our *conversations* are “According to the Spirit.” We cannot please God, nor obey His Word with any activity; with any conversation; or with anything else, if we do it “According to the flesh.” Everything we say and do and decide must be “According to the Spirit,” and this can be a reality because God will help us—if we will ask for His help.

Being transformed by the Cross is an on-going process of God teaching us under His training. We must be sure that this changing and adjusting of our Christian character continues each day—Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

This changing of our attitude toward everything may seem gradual at times, but it is to continue and move toward the goal of Christ-likeness in everything and toward everyone—friend or foe or casual acquaintance.

Whatever God shows us needs to be changed; adjusted; or eliminated—whether an attitude or activity, we are to ask Him to help us follow that advice and to discard what should be discarded. The apostle gave up everything in exchange for knowing Jesus better and being closer to Him.

Philippians 3:8 “Indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”

Faith is the key to the righteousness of Christ—what we must be clothed with when we stand before His judgment seat. Any worldly attitude or unscriptural activity is to be considered rubbish, and with God’s help, disposed of, so that

the transformation process to Christ-likeness can move ahead.

Wanting to *believe* and *receive* the gift of the Holy Spirit is a *key* factor—unbelievers *cannot* receive the gift of the Spirit—that is why they walk “*According to the flesh*”—*not knowing* and *not able* to walk any other way. 2 Corinthians 4:4 “*The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*”

As the transforming process moves forward each *day*, we have access to God for His help every *hour*—or when a trial or temptation seems too much for us to deal with in our own strength. Hebrews 4:16 “*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*”

We have all made mistakes and committed some sin, but *access* to God’s “*Throne of grace*” is the remedy—bringing us back to being transformed by the Spirit. It is to *admit* that we have sinned and to confess those sins before God. If we have been *born again*, we do not want to *sin again*—deliberately. 1 John 5:18 “*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*”

As we allow God to *transform* us, and as we meet every circumstance in a scriptural way by the empowerment of His Spirit, our light can shine on the path of others. We can be *light* and *salt* and make a *difference* in the life of another by setting a right example for them. Matthew 5:14 “*Ye are the light of the world*”—if we allow God to *transform* our life. 16 “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*”

Our on-going transformation as a believer— as we allow God to work in our life—enables us

to be a witness for His Truth. When Jesus ascended into Heaven, He told His followers: Acts 1:8 “*Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*”

Being willing to follow the teaching of the New Testament concerning every difficult situation we encounter, is what enables this *transformation* to move forward on an everyday basis.

Ephesians 2:10 “*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*”

This *transforming* of our attitudes and activities, is a *work in progress* that begins each day, by *placing* that day in God’s hands for His control of everything that day. It is to maintain a *willingness* to repent of anything shown to be outside the will of God—that is how “*We are his workmanship,*” and *that* is how we are able to walk in harmony with the Lord Jesus.

The devil will say it is *impossible* to maintain that position in Christ, and he will suggest that we accept something *less* than what God wants us to have and maintain. We are *reminded* however Phil.4:13 “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*” The devil tries to talk us *out* of believing God’s promises, which are always “*Yes*” through our faith in Christ 2 Corinthians 1:20.

Even though the apostle admitted he was the “*Least of all saints*” Ephesians 3:8, God was willing to *forgive* him and then *give* him the ability to “*Preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ*”—Ephesians 3:11 “*According to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” 12 *In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.*”

All these verses remind us of our being *transformed* by the Cross as we are forgiven by His Blood. This *transformation* takes place in the *heart* of the believer. The power of God to *change* people’s lives is amazing!

Once we *know* our true identity in Christ and who we *are* in the eyes of God, the next questions would be—*How* does God want me to act; *What* attitude does He want me to have; and in *What* way should I treat those around me!

The Potter wants to *mold* our Christian character to be like His Son; He wants our *life* to be an example to others; and He wants His *Truth* to shine through our decisions and in the way we treat those around us—in the home, at work, during sports, and at all other times. Any Christ-like *things* we do or right *attitudes* we take—brings glory to God—that is our purpose in life.

We have been *chosen* and *appointed* to this life of *faith* and *trust* on God—we just need to *accept* that appointment and *walk* in the light of that Truth each day. It is a *transforming* process that is always a *work in progress*—as we *serve* God and remain *connected* to the True Vine.

Jesus said John 15:5 “*I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*”

Accepting God’s *appointment* means obeying New Testament *teaching*—thereby showing *fruits of repentance*. John 15:16 “*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*”

And we ask that He *give* us a *new heart*—a *transformed* one that *forgives* and *loves* like He did.



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