

CHAPTER SEVEN

LIFE TRANSFORMATION

Introduction

The word “life” in Scripture is the Greek translation for “*psyche*” (Strong’s #G5590, also spelled “*psuche*”) meaning “soul, heart, mind.” The word “soul” in Scripture is also the same Greek translation for “*psyche*” (Strong’s #G5590). Therefore, *soul* and *life* mean the same thing — it encompasses our thought patterns, the fleshly desires of our heart, that which is animated by the blood, not by the spirit (**Leviticus 17:11**). The soul is the natural, the sensual and not the spiritual.

The word “transformation” is the Greek translation for *metamorphoo* (Strong’s #G3339) which means “to change, transfigure, transform.” When combined, these two words-*life transformation*- mean this: *to change our mind (our thoughts), to change our desires, or to change what’s in our heart.*

Why would we want to change our thought patterns? The thought patterns that we presently possess are those derived from our flesh, the world and therefore, the “god of this world.” These thoughts have become so familiar, so natural, that we don’t even recognize that they are thoughts that ignite bad works of the flesh, works that are contrary to what God requires. And therefore, as children of God, we are moving in the wrong direction, a direction that leads to destruction.

If we allow the enemy of our soul to control us, then we cannot please God with any of our works, resulting in our failure to overcome our soul-life and enter the kingdom. The lies of Satan have been molded into the world, and therefore into our own lives through years of wrong thinking and demonic conditioning. And often these strongholds are so well established that their pulling down requires an absolute trust in God and His Word. We will have to do a re-evaluation on everything that the world says and a complete separation from how the world thinks, because

what God commands us to do is totally opposite to what we have come to know. Thus, we will have to do a complete turn-around of ourselves.

God's will is that we transform our life, so that we will be presented glorious in the coming kingdom. God has given us everything we need to accomplish this transformation, and it is derived by choosing to be faithfully obedient to His commandments. He has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us through this transformation. As always, the choice is ours.

"It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh profits nothing."
(John 6:63)

"...the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things..." **(John 14:26)**

In **Romans 12:1, 2**, Paul reveals the process of transformation, the "metamorphosis" that must take place in every believer in order to be found worthy by Him:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living [soul] sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Paul is *begging* (to "beseech") us to present our bodies a *soul sacrifice* — in other words, to sacrifice or kill the soul (our thoughts and fleshly desires) and abide in the Spirit, so that we can be holy and set apart, which is acceptable to God. This is every believer's reasonable service to God, as servants of Christ, because we are part of His body and *as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy"* **(1 Peter 1:15, 16)**.

A companion Scripture can be seen in **Ephesians 4:20-24**:

But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows

corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

A Christian, being brought forth from above, is now in a position to put off the “old man,” meaning to put the flesh to death and put on the “new man in Christ,” meaning to conduct himself in the character and nature of God. After this fashion, he can transform into the very likeness of Christ. How hard is this for a believer to do? It is actually impossible for one to do this on his own. The only way that one could put away fleshly desires would be to allow the Holy Spirit to lead. This can only be done by choosing to think as the Spirit thinks — *be renewed in the spirit of your mind* — that which can be found in the Word of God.

The Holy Spirit, through the study of the Word of God, will impart wisdom and understanding, replacing the thought patterns and fleshly desires. This process will involve not conforming (meaning “to form or to mold”) to this world, but transforming ourselves by renewing our thoughts in line with the Spirit. The more that we renew our mind to that which the Holy Spirit teaches, the more we will be able to separate ourselves from the desires of the flesh and the world. It is this life-long process that will bring about a full transformation.

The Holy Spirit that dwells in our spirit will help us to control our thoughts, our speech, and our deeds; and if we allow, help us to walk in the spirit daily and put to death the flesh:

Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
(Galatians 5:16)

This world, ruled under Satan, is evil and goes against everything that is of God. If we remain in the desires of the world, it will entice us to share in its evil ways. This is the reason that we must separate ourselves from the world and all its lusts. This is the reason why God sent the Holy Spirit — to help us to be holy and set apart from the world. In **John 14:15-17**, Christ says,

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide

with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

There are three constant steps within the process of transformation that every believer must take. These three steps are vital to achieving victory. They are 1) Prayer, 2) Hearer of the Word, and 3) Doer of the Word.

In the sections to follow, we will discuss these three steps in detail to better equip ourselves in the process of transformation. Please be aware that this transformation is the will of God and therefore is not a suggestion, but a commandment. It is serious business — a choice of life or death. Once we have been granted the light or the understanding of our purpose in Christ (the Word of the kingdom), then we are to move forward in the hope of achieving the goal of the inheritance into the heavenly kingdom. In the course of our lives, God challenges us with a golden opportunity, a seemingly impossible hurdle, or a tragedy...and how we react or fail to react determines the course of our future. We have been brought together as children of God for a special reason. Let's run the race and win.

*All Christians have the same exact calling, a heavenly calling, a calling to present ourselves worthy in this present age so that we can rule and reign with Christ from heaven in that coming Day. And the realization of our calling is based on our choice to be faithfully obedient in whatever circumstance we find ourselves in. We must walk worthy of our calling with every breath that we take, just as Paul stated in **Ephesians 4:1-6**:*

I , therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech [beg] you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Christ's body is *one* body made up of all believers — the faithful and the unfaithful. There is not a different body for Baptists and a different body for Methodists and so on. And the Word says there is only *one* hope of

our calling — the hope of Christ’s return, of receiving our inheritance within the heavenly realm of the kingdom, and the salvation of our soul. We shall all stand as one body at the Judgment seat of Christ and give an account. What will matter on that Day is whether we were faithfully obedient in respect of our calling. Will you choose right now to begin your life transformation and be faithfully obedient to your calling as part of the body of Christ? Will you choose right now to live for Christ, no matter the circumstance?

I have a friend who lost his job, his savings, his wife and his home. But he held on to his faith — the only thing he had left. There were moments when it seemed easier to give up and his thoughts filled with the notion that he would be worth more dead than alive. One day he stopped to watch some workers doing stonework on a big church building. One of them was chiseling a triangular piece of stone with great precision. “What are you going to do with that?” asked my friend. The worker said, “See that little opening way up there near the spire? Well, I’m shaping this down here so it will fit in up there.” Tears filled my friend’s eyes as he walked away, for it seemed that God had spoken through the worker to explain the ordeal through which he was passing, “I’m shaping you down here so you’ll fit in up there.”

This story brings to mind the following two Scriptures:

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. (1 Peter 5:10)

...that He might sanctify and cleanse her [bride of Christ] with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she might be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:26, 27)

Trials and tribulations will come our way as a testing of our faith. God is preparing us to be kings and priests in His kingdom one day. Trials will come in all forms, including suffering for Christ. This world, ruled under Satan, persecutes those for “righteousness sake” and for “His name’s

sake.” Yet, if we should be called to suffer all our lives, it would not be long compared to 1000 years. Paul left us with this in mind when he said: *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”* **(Romans 8:18)**

Christians are in the position of heirs to the grandest estate ever to exist if they gladly endure a “few days” of suffering with the hope that they shall soon come into their most amazing inheritance. We will reap later what we sow now and such a glorious hope hangs a halo over the drab existence of the here and now.

We cannot lose our zest for this hope even during our present discomfort, knowing that we are destined to be co-heirs to a heavenly throne and a bride to God’s Son. When we carefully seek our inheritance and understand its value, complaining becomes foolish; behaving in the manner of the world is unworthy; and love, gentleness, and meekness become the hallmarks of God’s nobility. “All things” are taken in stride; burdens become blessings in disguise; every wound and every trial is for our good and prepares us to be that *“good and faithful servant”* that enables us to be found worthy to rule in Christ’s kingdom to come. Our roles and responsibilities as servants of Christ will be realized and we will make every opportunity to be faithfully obedient in whatever Christ called us to do for the building of His kingdom.

Beyond the limits of the realm of human imagination is this calling, that, as a result, we are challenged to walk worthy of it. Given the seriousness with which God views it, this is a challenge to be taken with great earnestness. This is no small matter. Let us right now begin our journey of life transformation and let’s take it one step at a time, never giving up, *forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead*, let us *press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus* **(Philippians 3:13a, 14)**.