

START BEING TRANSFORMED

When we determine to present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice we must stop conforming to this age and start being transformed in order that we may do the will of God.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Accomplished by The Holy Spirit

- *Transformed* is in the passive voice in the Greek, meaning this is something that is done to us.
 - This transformation is accomplished by the Holy Spirit.
 - Our transformation allows our true inward nature that we now possess, because of the new birth, to shine completely through to the outside.
 - Our bodily actions will reflect our true inner self who is now in the image of the Son of God.
 - This reflection of our true nature is our transformation.

Jesus' Transfiguration Gives Us Insight

- A clearer understanding of transformation may be seen in what happened to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.
 - Matthew 17:2 KJV And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.
 - Mark 9:2 And after six days Jesus taketh *with him* Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.
- The same Greek word is translated transfigured to describe how the true inner nature of Jesus (His deity) was allowed to be seen in His outer being.

Our Transformation is On Going

- The only other place in the New Testament that this word is found is 2 Corinthians 3:18.
 - *2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*
 - It is translated *changes* and refers to believers gradually being changed into the image of the Lord, by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God.

The Renovation of Our Minds

- This transformation takes place *by the renewing of your mind*.
 - This renovation of our minds is accomplished by the Holy Spirit.
 - It begins with the new birth and continues through the process of sanctification.
 - *Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*
- This transformation is dependent upon the renovation.
- The outward expression only changes in relation to the renewing of the mind.

Decerning The Will of God

- Living this lifestyle gives us the opportunity to be knowing and doing the will of God.
 - *Prove* is from a word meaning to *test and approve*.
 - As we know God's will and we put it to the test by doing it, we will certainly approve of it.
 - We approve that God's will is *good, and acceptable, and perfect*.
 - *Perfect* means complete and needing nothing.
- You cannot know God's will apart from living a Romans 12:1-2 lifestyle.

Summary

- We are to stop allowing the world to pressure us to live by its influence.
 - On our intellect.
 - On our senses.
- We are to start yielding to the influence of the Holy Spirit.
 - In our inner self.
 - He works to completely renovate our minds.
 - That our new nature may be seen outwardly through the actions of our bodies.
 - *Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*
- In Galatians 5:16 we see a summation of these two verses of Romans 12.
 - *Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*
 - Notice the order here.

- We don't try not to walk in the flesh and then we are walking in the Spirit.
 - No! We continually make the effort to walk in the Spirit, and then not yielding to the lust of the flesh follows.
 - We consciously and purposely turn our attention from the outward to the inward.
 - To our spirits where the Holy Spirit of God resides.
 - And live our life from God's perspective.
 - We find no room for the lusts of the flesh to be carried out by our bodies.
- This means that as we actively stop being conformed to the age, we must actively start being transformed by the renewing of our minds.
- We must choose to have as little interaction with the age as possible.
 - Stop feeding your mind with the preaching and teaching of the age.
 - Start feeding your mind with the Word of God.
 - Allowing the Holy Spirit to apply the truth of God's Word to your mind.
 - Changing the way you think.
 - Changing the way you live.
- You must determine to spend as little time as possible with the lies of the age.
- And as much time as possible with the truth of God's Word.
- Allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you the Word of God.
 - And apply it to your life.
 - *1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*
- Constantly be studying the Bible and praying.
 - You will not have time to pay attention to TV, social media, worldly reading, etc.
 - When the temptation comes, say NO!
 - You have the power.
 - *Romans 6:13-14 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. (14) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*
 - And open the Bible.
- You will be surprised that once you determine to stay in the Bible and pray.
 - The desire for the lust of the flesh fades fast and very dim.
 - As the song writer said;
 - Turn your eyes upon Jesus,*
 - Look full in His wonderful face,*

*And the things of Earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.*

- *1 John 2:15-20 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (18) Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. (19) They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. (20) But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.*

Conclusion

- In light of all that God has done for us through Christ.
 - Setting us free from slavery to sin.
 - Placing His Holy Spirit in us.
 - Giving us the desire to serve God.
 - Giving us the ability to serve God.
- It is only reasonable that we voluntarily present our bodies.
 - To God instead of sin.
 - As a living sacrifice.
 - Set apart for His service only.
- We do this as we stop allowing ourselves to be pressured by the outside influences of this age that are trying to conform us to live according to its will; and give way to the Holy Spirit.
 - To transform us from the inside out.
 - As He renovates our mind.
 - Changing the way we think to conform with the will of God.
 - And thereby changing our actions to be in accordance with God's will.
- This service to God begins on the inside of us.
 - In our sanctified spirit.
 - And works its way out through the actions of our body that is presented to God as a living sacrifice.
- By living this way, we will know and do God's will.
 - Seeing that His will is good, just what we need and want, and complete in every way.