

TRANSFORMATION

Webster's Dictionary

- to change in **composition** or **structure** (e.g. a caterpillar becoming a butterfly)

Strong's Greek Dictionary

- to *transform* (literally or figuratively “**metamorphose**”) — change, transfigure

Biblical Reference

Romans 12:2

²*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.*

- The **world** and **Satan** would have us **conform** to the **ways of the flesh**
 - But, we must “**walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the **lust of the flesh**” (Galatians 5:16)
- Most Christians presume that the **Spirit** they should walk in is **outside themselves**, just as in the **Old Testament** when the Spirit **fell** on the prophets (e.g. Ezekiel 11:5)
 - But the “**Kingdom of God is within you**” (Luke 17:21)
- **True transformation** occurs in the **mind** which must be **renewed** – i.e. **restored** to its **original, uncontaminated, uncorrupted state**
 - This is the **only way** that **lasting change** will occur
- This is why **so-called revivals** don't bring **true spiritual awakening and change** in the **entire community**
 - **Renewal and Transformation** must occur first in the **Church** but must then **spill out into the streets** in order to have **true revival**

How are we transformed?

2 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁸*But we all, with **unveiled face**, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the **same image** from glory to glory, just as **by the Spirit of the Lord**.*

- **Spiritual highs** will only be **short-lived experiences** unless we allow the **Holy Spirit** to change us from the **inside out**
 - Then the **external image** will begin to **transform** into the image of our **Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

Ecclesiastes 8:1

*Who is like a **wise man**? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's **wisdom** makes his **face shine**, And the sternness of his **face is changed**.*

- It is the **Lord's wisdom** that brings about the **renewed mind** which leads to **lasting transformation**

*“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the **spirit of wisdom and revelation** in the **knowledge of Him**,¹⁸ the **eyes of your understanding being enlightened**; that you may know what is the **hope of His calling**, what are the **riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints**,¹⁹ and what is the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the **working of His mighty power**²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ **far above all principality and power and might and dominion**, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.”* (Ephesians 1:17-21)

Sacrificing Ourselves to Transformation

While **Romans 12:2** tells us to “*be transformed by the renewing of your mind*” the preceding verse provides the **context** within which this **transformation** must take place

- It can only occur if we offer ourselves as a **sacrifice** to God:
 - **Romans 12:1** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your **reasonable service**.*
- What exactly about our **bodies** are we being **asked to sacrifice**?
 - **Webster’s Dictionary** says **sacrifice** is: 1) the act of **offering the life** of a person or animal or some object in propitiation of or homage to a deity; 2) the act of **giving up, destroying**, permitting injury to, or forgoing something valued **for the sake of something having a more pressing claim**
 - **Adam Clarke’s Commentary** says: A **living sacrifice** - in opposition to those **dead sacrifices** which they were in the habit of offering while in their Jewish state; and that they should have the **lusts of the flesh mortified**, that they might live to God.
- We cannot be transformed **until** we offer our **entire selves** as “*living sacrifices*” which enables Jesus to take off our “old self” and put on the “new self”
 - **Ephesians 4:22-24** “*put off, concerning your former conduct, the **old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,²³ and be **renewed in the spirit of your mind**,²⁴ and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*”
 - How are we **renewed** in the **spirit** of our **minds**?
 - **1Corinthians 2:12-14** “*Now we have received, **not the spirit of the world**, but the **Spirit who is from God**, that we might **know** the things that have been freely given to us by God.¹³ These things we also speak, **not in words** which man’s wisdom teaches but which the **Holy Spirit teaches**, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned**.*”
 - **2Corinthians 10:5** “*casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every **thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**.*”
 - This is how we receive the “**Mind of Christ**” who **is Truth**
 - **1Corinthians 2:16** “*we have the **mind of Christ**.*”
 - **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, “*I am the way, the **truth**, and the life.*”
 - **Isaiah 55:8-9** “*For **My thoughts are not your thoughts**, nor are your ways **My ways**,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **My ways higher than your ways**, and **My thoughts than your thoughts**.*”
- It is this **spiritual Truth** that sets us free from Satan, the **world** and our **sinful nature**
 - **John 8:32** “*And you shall **know the truth**, and the truth shall **make you free**.*”
 - This is why we desire **truth** in our **inward parts** – i.e. our **subconscious mind** and “**heart**”
 - **Psalms 51:6** “*Behold, You desire **truth in the inward parts**, and in the **hidden part** You will make me to **know wisdom**.*”
- When we have this truth written on the “**tablet of the heart**” (**Proverbs 3:3 & 7:3**) we are then able to “**walk in truth**” as we are exhorted to do in **3John 4**
 - **Proverbs 3:5-8** “*Trust in the LORD with **all your heart**, and lean not on your **own understanding**; in all your ways **acknowledge Him**, and He shall **direct your paths**. Do not be **wise in your own eyes**; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be **health to your flesh**, and **strength to your bones**.*”