

Connect Group Notes 23 May 2010

Transformation – Ps Phil Pringle

2 Cor 3:18 (NKJV). "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."

God can change things. God is a transformer of things.

The Holy Spirit is involved in actually transforming our worlds, our lives. Most of us think that God should change everyone else. But in **2 Cor 3:18**, Paul is saying that change starts with us. The first step is to ask the Lord to transform us, not others. We are all a work in progress.

Christianity is a process, and often that process isn't all that painless. We pray for a tree and God gives us a seed. God wants to move with us in creating our destiny, our future. He gives us the material to work with to create that end result that we want.

- **Rom 8:29.** The original intention of God was to make man and woman in the image of God. We bear the image of the father.
- **Phil 2:13.** The purpose of God is to conform us to the image of Jesus. That is the purpose and vision of the Church.
- **2 Cor 5:16-17.** Instead of looking at what you don't have, look at what God has done for you.
- **1 Cor 15:48-49.** We are on a journey to bear image of Christ; to be children of God.
- **Rom 8:19.** All of humanity is eagerly waiting for the sons of God to reveal themselves on earth.

4 Ways God Transforms

1. Instantaneous – miraculous healing, deliverance from addictions etc. Examples: **1 Sam 10:5-6**; Gideon in **Judges 6** became a mighty leader; Saul/Paul in **Acts 9** hated the church then met Jesus and became a Christian. This is change in a moment.
2. Gradual Change – **John 8:31-32.** As we continue in the Word of God, that will set us free. Freedom is not instantaneous, we work the chains off.
3. Growth – **1 Cor 13:11.** We mature from selfishness to generosity and giving; tantrums to yielding; foolishness to appropriate behaviour; dependency to self-sufficiency; irresponsible to responsible; complaining to uncomplaining; undisciplined to self control. You need to accept each phase of growth as part of transformation and therefore maturity. A seed only grows when it is planted. Your potential will only be realised when you are planted (**Ps 92:13-14**).
4. Renewal of Minds – **Rom 12:2.** A huge area of the mind is imagination. What we see our lives as is what comes to pass. In **Gen 30** Jacob put vision of his flock, under direction of Holy Spirit, of speckled/spotted sheep before the sheep at the watering place. The flock then became only speckled and spotted sheep.

Things CAN change; God transforms situations, hearts and lives. Ordinary people can become extraordinary people from the touch of God on their lives. When His touch comes on your life, we can discover the God of transformation.

TALK ABOUT

- **What are some of the areas of your life that God has transformed?**
- **What kind of transformation was this?**
- **What are some areas of your life that you know God is transforming currently? Pray for each other's transformation.**

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