

A word for those who are Living Transformed

To those who are alive in Christ.

You have died with Christ. You also live with him.

Christ was raised from the dead and will never die again.

Death doesn't control him anymore. When he died, he died once and for all time. He did this to break the power of sin.

Now that Jesus lives, he lives in the power of God. So consider yourself to be dead as far as sin is concerned.

You believe in Jesus.

You are alive as far as God is concerned.

So, don't let sin rule your body, your body is going to die.

Don't obey its evil desires.

Don't give any part of yourself to serve sin. Don't let your mind, heart, or body be used to do evil. Instead, give all of yourself to God.

You have been brought from death to life. So, give every part of yourself to God and do what is right.

Sin no longer controls you like a master, because sin does not rule you. God's grace has set you free.

[Romans 6:8 to 14]

You are not condemned, because you are in Christ Jesus. Through Jesus, the Spirit gives life and has set you free from sin and death.

For what the Old Testament law was powerless to do..., God did by sending his Son in a body of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.

So God condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the law would be met in us, if you don't live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God and does not and cannot submit to God's law.

Those who are living in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

You are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.

If you do not have the Spirit of Christ, you don't belong to Christ.

But if Christ is in you, your body is subject to death because of sin, but the Spirit gives you life because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, God will also give life to your mortal body because of God's Spirit who lives in you.

Therefore, Saint, you have an obligation—do not live according to the flesh.

Because if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if you live by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body and you will live.

[God loves you and wants you to have life abundant and eternal.]

If you are led by the Spirit of God, you are a child of God.

The Spirit you received does not make you a slave, so that you live in fear; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.

And by the Spirit we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

If you are his child, then you are an heir—a heir of God and co-heir with Christ, if you share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

[Romans 8:1 to 17]

Your true and right worship is to offer your body a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve God's good, pleasing, and perfect will.

[Romans 12:1 to 2]

It has been written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" the things God has prepared for you who love him.

These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

Who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them?

In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

What you have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit from God, so that you may understand what God has freely given.

A person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, but considers them foolish,

A person without the Spirit cannot understand the things of God because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

A person with the Spirit discerns all things, but a person with the Spirit does not only discern human judgments, for a person with the Spirit has the mind of Christ.

[1 Corinthians 2:9 to 16]

You are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field and God's building.

Paul laid the foundation as a wise builder, and others build on it.

But you should build with care, because no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

If you build on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, your work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light.

It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.

If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss, but yet will be saved.

Don't you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

If you destroy God's temple, God will destroy you; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

[1 Corinthians 3:9 to 17]

Know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Do not be deceived: Neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who have sex with men, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Paul reminds us that we were those things.

But we are now washed, we are now sanctified, we are now justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by God's Spirit.

But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

Therefore, flee from immorality.

All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins immorally, sins against their own body.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

[1 Corinthians 6:9 to 11, and 17 to 20]

In a race, all run, but only one gets the prize!

So, run in such a way to get the prize.

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training.

They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

[1 Corinthians 9:24 to 25]

I remind you of the gospel, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

This is the gospel that saves you,...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me, Paul, also, as to one abnormally born.

[1 Corinthians 15:1 to 8]

"The first man Adam became a living being".

The last Adam, Jesus, became a life-giving spirit.

The spiritual did not come first, the natural came first, and after that the spiritual.

The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven.

As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven.

And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

I declare to you, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [Only the spirit inherits the kingdom of God.]

I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.

Changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

The trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

The perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

Thanks be to God!

He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, stand firm. Let nothing move you.

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

[1 Corinthians 15:45 to 55, and verses 57 and 58]

We have hope and are very bold.

We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Jews from seeing the end of what was passing away.

Israel's minds were made dull, to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read.

The veil has not been removed, because only in Christ is the veil taken away.

Even when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

All of us, with no veils covering our faces think about, consider, and contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

[2 Corinthians 3:12 to 18]

The knowledge of the glory of God in Christ is a treasure.

This treasure is held in our bodies, which are jars of clay, showing that this power is from God and not from us.

We are pressed on every side, but not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; we are persecuted, but not abandoned; we are struck down, but not destroyed.

We always carry around, in our body, the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

For we who are alive are given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

[2 Corinthians 4:7 to 12]

You are called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh, but you serve one another humbly in love.

If you bite and devour others, watch out or you will be destroyed by others.

For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.

Flesh and spirit are in conflict with each other, so you are not to do whatever you want.

[The flesh is regulated by law,] but if you are led by the Spirit, [your life will produce fruit that is regulated by law.]

Fleshly acts are obvious: immorality, impurity and debauchery, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

I warn you that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the result of living in the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. [These things are not regulated by the law.]

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have [set aside fleshly acts] with its passions and desires [and concentrate on the fruit of the Spirit.]

Since you live by the Spirit, then keep in step with the Spirit.

Do not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

[Galatians 5:13 and 15 and 17 to 26]

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.

You reap what you sow.

If you sow to please your flesh, from your flesh you will reap destruction, but if you sow to please the Spirit, from the Spirit you will reap eternal life.

Do not become weary living according to the Spirit, for at the proper time you will reap a harvest if you do not give up.

Therefore, do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

[Galatians 6:7 to 10]

You were dead in your transgressions and sins... when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, but now the spirit dealing with those who are disobedient.

All of us lived among the disobedient at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following fleshly desires and thoughts.

Like them, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

But because of God's great love for us... we are made alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions —it is by grace you have been saved.

God raised you up with Christ and seated you with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the future, he might show you the riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —it is the gift of God— not obtained by works, so that you can boast. For you are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do.

[Ephesians 2:1 to 10]

Jesus is our peace, [our shalom], who made Jew and gentile into one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.

His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace [i.e. shalom], and in one body to reconcile both Jew and gentile to God through the cross which put to death their hostility.

Jesus came and preached shalom to you who were far away and shalom to those who were near. For through him Jews and gentiles have access to the Father by the same Spirit.

[Ephesians 2:14 to 18]

There are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

In Christ, the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

[Ephesians 2:19 to 22]

When you heard about Jesus and were taught with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. [This is Living Transformed!]

[Ephesians 4:21 to 24]

[Godliness has no] hint of immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Nor is there to be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

Be sure of this: No immoral, impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of them God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

Therefore, do not be partners with immoral, impure, or greedy people, for you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Live as children of light. The fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth.

[Ephesians 5:3 to 10]

Be very careful how you live. Don't be as the unwise but as the wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is.

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.

Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[Ephesians 5:15 to-20]

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

For your struggle is not against flesh and blood, but your struggle is against rulers, and against the authorities, and against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Stand firm with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for all the Lord's people.

[Ephesians 6:10 to 18]

As Paul prayed for Ephesians, I ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through the wisdom and understanding the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord, and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the knowledge of God, and being strengthened with all power according to his power so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father.

The Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

For God has rescued you from the dominion of darkness and brought you into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, and the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn over all creation.

For in Jesus all things were created: everything in heaven and on earth, everything visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Jesus and for Jesus.

Jesus is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

And Jesus is the head of the body.

Jesus is the head of the church.

Jesus is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Jesus, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making shalom through his blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

But now God has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

[Colossians 1:7 to 22]

You have been raised with Christ, now set your hearts on things above, where Christ is. Christ is seated at the right hand of God [in heaven].

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

You have died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed...[these things are idolatry].

And because of these things, the wrath of God is coming.

You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived, but now rid yourselves of all such things such as anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language.

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

This is Living Transformed!

[Colossians 3:1 to 10]

You are part of God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, therefore, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

Be thankful.

Let the message of Christ live in you as you teach and admonish others with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

[Colossians 3:12 to 17]