



**Spiritual Birth Begins
the Process of
Living Transformed**

Living Transformed

#2 (May 2020)

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ABOUT LIVING TRANSFORMED

Mission and Purpose

To empower people to live their God designed life.

Transformation is a Continual Process

Transformation is the process of becoming, changing, growing, maturing, developing, conforming, restoring, transitioning, and learning to be the person that God designed.

Transformation is about Identity

God created mankind and gives us life. Life is about discovering our God designed identity and living our calling. Identity, as defined by the online Merriam-Webster dictionary, is the “distinguishing character or personality of an individual.” Identity is who we, what we do, and how we function in the world according to God’s design.

“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. “ ~~Romans 12:2

Transforming the Mind

The Bible is crucial for transformation to take place. Paul tells the Roman church that transformation is accomplished by renewing the mind and knowledge of the Bible is critical for transforming the mind. Therefore, **Living Transformed** shall produce Biblical topics necessary to renew the mind and transforming lives.

“Living Transformed”

Jimmy Bayes, Ph.D.

LIVING TRANSFORMED IS A SPIRITUAL PROCESS

For several years Paul's words, "Be ye transformed" have been playing over and over in my head, heart, and spirit. As a result, the need for transformation has a sense of importance and urgency. Has the Holy Spirit ever focused your attention specifically to one area, topic, or action? He has numerous times in my life. For many years, God had me focusing upon His love and another time it was His power. Now it is "transformation" that God's Spirit is teaching me about.



In my devotional time, I ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to me the secrets of transformation. Yes, I know that sounds audacious. I know that the answers are in the Bible, but I want God to show me the truths about transformation in scripture—I want to know it is God's voice I am hearing and not just my own intellect or imaginations. I was meditating on scriptures about transformation like Romans 12:1,2 and 2 Corinthians 3:18 and heard God speaking to my heart, "It's not just about transformation, it's about living transformed." The first truth about transformation I received from God is that transformation is a process—a lifelong process.

When God is speaking so clearly about something, it is impossible to keep quiet about it. In a conversation about transformation, someone asked me, "Where does transformation begin?" I immediately thought of Jesus's words to Nicodemus, "You must be born again!"

Read this story carefully. Underline, markup, highlight, ponder, and muse upon it. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you as though you were Nicodemus.

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven--the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. [John 3:1-18 (NIV)]

This story reveals several things. First, we all have been born of flesh. When we are born into this world, we are born with all of the desires and wants that lead to a life of selfishness and sin. We are all born with a natural tendency to live sinful lives. As Jesus tells Nicodemus, "We must be born again."

Second, Jesus tells Nicodemus that God, His father, sent him so that those who believe in Him would not be condemned (to death), but be born again and live eternally. Believing in the death of Christ, His subsequent resurrection from the dead, and the ultimate ascension to the throne in heaven is spiritual birth.

There was a time in our lives that we were blinded to our sinful ways, we were disobedient to God, deceived and enslaved by our sinful nature. We lived in anger, not feeling loved, and not loving others. But at some point in our life, we become aware of the kindness and love of God and our savior Jesus Christ and are saved from God's future judgement. God saved us, not because we did good things, but God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by God's Spirit that was literally poured out upon us lavishly through Jesus Christ. Since we are now born again, we have also been cleared of all past judgements of sin. We are loved and not condemned and are now heirs of God and look forward to an eternity of living as a child of God.

(Read also Titus 3:3-7 and Ephesians 2:3-6 carefully, take notes, and meditate upon them.)

Everyone comes to believe Jesus that died on the cross for their sins different ways and at different times in their lives. Each spiritual birth is unique.

Describe below how you came to believing Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins.

How has your life changed since you have been forgiven and look forward to eternal life with God?

SPIRITUAL BIRTH BEGINS TRANSFORMATION

I knew a man that was sent to prison for stealing and drug possession. He had reached the bottom of the pit and was in deep despair. He did not believe that he could survive prison, but his life on the outside of prison walls was not much better. He had been reading a Bible that was given to him, but he did not understand much of it. One day he was contemplating suicide, but the thought of death scared him. He began to cry uncontrollably. He took his Bible in his hands, fell prostrate on the floor of his cell, and began to cry out to God. Sobbing, he asked the Lord to save him. He did not remember the exact words, but they were something like, “If you are real, let me know. If you are real, I will serve you the rest of my life.”

He told me that he felt a presence in the cell with him. He knew that it could not be a person because he would have heard the door open. He was scared to look up and afraid not to. Then he realized that the fear of prison was gone and peace had taken its place. In one moment, he knew God existed, he knew he was forgiven, and he knew that his life would never be the same again. He was born again by God’s Spirit.

I was raised in church. My earliest memories involves church. (More specifically, sleeping with my head on mom’s lap during church.) I did not see myself as a sinner in need of a savior, I was not a heathen, Jesus was in my prayers as soon as I could be taught how to pray. But one evening during a service at a church summer camp, I felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit. I did not know why and could not articulate what I was feeling. A friend of mine nudged me and motioned me to go to the front altars so I went with no hesitation. The guest preacher prayed for me for salvation, but all I knew and felt was that I wanted to serve God with all my heart from then on.

Everyone’s salvation experience is different. It can be suddenly like my friend, or a process as I experienced. But the result is the same. It is the beginning of transformation or of a life of “living transformed.” The beginning of abundant living (John 10:10).

Paul writes a letter to the Christians living in Colossi. He tells them they must rid themselves of all anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language, or lying to each other. Paul goes on to say that because they had taken off the old self and its practices and because they have put on the new self, their new self is being renewed in knowledge in the image of their Creator.

Paul was describing what takes place when we are born again. Our old nature, self, or person dies and our new nature, self, and person is born. Just as a new born baby is not expected to be perfect and know everything, a newly born again person is not expected to be perfect or know everything pertaining to life and godliness.

EXERCISES

Living Transformed is a lifetime process of living, growing, and maturing. Read Ephesians 4:11-16 from the Passion version. Read this scripture carefully. Underline, markup, highlight, ponder, and muse upon it, then answer the questions that follow.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And [Jesus] has appointed some with grace to be apostles, and some with grace to be prophets, and some with grace to be evangelists, and some with grace to be pastors, and some with grace to be teachers. 12 And their calling is to nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry, and as they do this they will enlarge and build up the body of Christ. 13 These grace ministries will function until we all attain oneness in the faith, until we all experience the fullness of what it means to know the Son of God, and finally we become one perfect man with the full dimensions of spiritual maturity and fully developed in the abundance of Christ.

14 And then our immaturity will end! And we will not be easily shaken by trouble, nor led astray by novel teachings or by the false doctrines of deceivers who teach clever lies. 15 But instead we will remain strong and always sincere in our love as we express the truth. All our direction and ministries will flow from Christ and lead us deeper into him, the anointed head of his body, the church.

16 For his “body” [the church] has been formed in his image and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all; and as these gifts operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love.

In what ways does this scripture describe Living Transformed as a process?

What are the results and goals of Living Transformed according to this scripture?

How is Living Transformed a community effort according to this scripture?

APPLICATION

The best way to make knowledge sink into your inner being is to share that knowledge with someone else. Make a list of people with whom you can share this information about Spiritual Birth and Living Transformed. Follow through with an email, text, phone call, or better—a meeting over coffee, breakfast, or lunch. Be sure to record these experiences in a journal or at the end of this study.

What do the following scriptures say about Living Transformed?

John 10:10 NKJV

1 John 2:6 NIV

1 John 2:29 NIV

1 John 3:9 NIV

1 John 3:24 NIV

Romans 6:1-5 (Message Version)

Colossians 3:8-10 NIV

1 Peter 1:18-23 (NIV)

Titus 3:3-7 NIV

Ephesians 2:3-6 (NIV)

Romans 10:9-10 ESV

Acts 2:38 ESV

Romans 6:6 ESV

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

John 1:12 ESV

Romans 6:23 ESV

2 Peter 3:9 ESV

Mark 16:16 NIV

1 John 3:9 ESV

1 Peter 1:3 ESV

Find other scriptures that speak about spiritual birth and write them here.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

John 10:10 NKJV

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

1 John 2:6 NIV

Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

1 John 2:29 NIV

If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

1 John 3:9 NIV

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

1 John 3:24 NIV

The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Romans 6:1-5 (Message Version)

So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!

That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.

Colossians 3:8-10 NIV

8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And [Jesus] has appointed some with grace to be apostles, and some with grace to be prophets, and some with grace to be evangelists, and some with grace to be pastors, and some with grace to be teachers. 12 And their calling is to nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry, and as they do this they will enlarge and build up the body of Christ. 13 These grace ministries will function until we all attain oneness in the faith, until we all experience the fullness of what it means to know the Son of God, and finally we become one perfect man with the full dimensions of spiritual maturity and fully developed in the abundance of Christ.

14 And then our immaturity will end! And we will not be easily shaken by trouble, nor led astray by novel teachings or by the false doctrines of deceivers who teach clever lies. 15 But instead we will remain strong and always sincere in our love as we express the truth. All our direction and ministries will flow from Christ and lead us deeper into him, the anointed head of his body, the church.

16 For his “body” [the church] has been formed in his image and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all; and as these gifts operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love.

1 Peter 1:18-23 (NIV)

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. 22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Titus 3:3-7

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,

5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Ephesians 2:3-6 (NIV)

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

Romans 10:9-10 ESV

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Acts 2:38 ESV

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:6 ESV

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

John 1:12 ESV

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Romans 6:23 ESV

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 3:9 ESV

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Mark 16:16

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

1 John 3:9 ESV

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.

1 Peter 1:3 ESV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find more Living Transformed resources at GodDesignedLife.com

Find teaching videos at Living Transformed at YouTube.