

The Transformation

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:1-2)

The transformation: This might be a big term to understand but to illustrate it in a simple way, the egg of an animal whether a bird or a fish is transformed after a certain period of time and certain condition into a small animal like the chick of the hen or the small fish after hatching from the egg. Other insects like the butterfly are transformed from egg to larva, then to cocoon and finally into the full picture of the creature; it passes into different stages until it reaches the final form of transformation.

A man, more or less, should pass through certain transformation. From fertilized egg cell to becoming an embryo, the fetus and when he becomes complete and mature he is delivered by the mother as an infant. The baby gradually grows physically, mentally, and step by step passes from baby to childhood. Then the child becomes a young adult, then into a man, then elder man and finally departs to death. This is the physical transformation affecting the body build up of a man including his mind. As his age increases the physical transformation of his body changes as well as the way he thinks and how he reacts with the environment due to the mental changes affecting his feelings, emotions, and his interest.

But as a man created by God in His image and likeness, there must be another kind of transformation that he should encounter in life – since man had fallen away from God after Adam and Eve committed sin. And this is more important than his physical transformation. Man is born from his mother in the form of a body. And when he grows up his mind and thoughts start to form and have the feelings, emotions and decisions all in the form of his soul. But he is only a man with body and soul. His Spirit is dead and he cannot live forever unless he receives the Spirit of God that will make him alive and to live forever with God. Man receives God’s Spirit when he believes in Jesus; when he believes that Jesus has died on the cross for him and His blood was shed for the forgiveness of his sin. Man receives the Spirit of God when he receives Jesus as his personal Saviour and Lord. Jesus is God; He is the image of the invisible God, and whoever receives Jesus receives God and God’s Spirit lives in him. The Holy Spirit transforms man and makes him able to live with God forever. Believing in Jesus and receiving God’s Spirit brings man from death to life. Without God’s Spirit man is mortal and spiritually he is as good as dead.

Man’s life is meaningless if he just passes through the physical transformation- from egg cell to man then death. The real need of a man is the transformation from mortality to immortality. The moment when man is aware that he is away from God, he confesses his sins and opens his heart to Jesus to be his Master and Lord. Then the Spirit of God works in him and will go great changes bringing transformation in his spiritual life. The word of God in the Bibles will work on that new man to transform him gradually from his previous nature that is rooted in the wicked environment, culture and tradition. The word of God changes his heart and mind from life of sin and selfishness toward living for God as one of His children. Gradually he is transformed and step by step he is confronted to be similar to Jesus in thought, in word and in

action, doing things pleasing to God and knowing His will and purpose to mankind- His good and perfect will.

1- *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world:* The pattern nowadays for life in this world is competition with time and with one person to another. Anger, jealousy and envy become the root of many quarrel, strife and fights. Moreover the pattern is corrupting and politics in dealing with each other, favoring those who are rich and those in position and practicing injustice against those who are weak and those who are poor. Adultery, immorality, and extramarital relation lavish all over the world; worshipping idols, violence and crimes are too common. However, these patterns of life do not bring blessing to those who practice them; instead God’s wrath awaits those who do not fear Him. ***“My dear brothers take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore get rid of all the moral filth and evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, in which can save you.” (James 1:19-20)***

The pattern of this world is the richest, the highest, the fastest, the most expensive, the most beautiful person or thing. People of this world are interested in perishable things and they use all their resources and body talents, their time and their skills to serve perishable and unworthy objects. They become slave to sin and instrument to do wickedness. But to be transformed and to do God’s will is what the Bible teaches us: ***“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world.”***

2- *Be transformed by the renewing of your mind:* Everyone of us before we know Jesus and before the Spirit of God lives in us we carry in our minds our cultures, our previous traditions, and we have certain picture and certain set up for every matter. Our mind is fixed on certain method and certain way of doing things. We have certain understanding for every matter like marriage – how we choose our partners and friends. We have certain plans and we carry ambitions. We want to achieve things in our own way and desire. These figures that we carry from our previous life is not necessarily wrong; in doing them it does not mean we are sinning against God but these may not lead us to God’s perfect plan for our lives. Otherwise if we continue to do these things in our own we become stagnant, not progressing in life and in our walk with God. Consequently, if we refuse to renew our minds and we continue to cling to those old and vile ways of living we do not get chance to test and approve God’s will for us. Our transformation to be like Jesus is delayed and we will not be able to be used by God. As a result we neglect to enjoy His good, pleasing and perfect will for us.

My dear and beloved: The Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross and was raised on the third day is inviting us. This is now the time for you and me to live a life away from the pattern of this corrupt and sinful world. This is now the time for us to renew our minds – to remove the old traditions, the old beliefs and customs that is delaying our transformation and hindering us from enjoying the new life with Him.

My Prayer: *“Heavenly Father, I thank You for the new life that I receive when Jesus died for me on the cross. O Lord, forgive my sins and help me to live away from the corrupted standard of this world. Renew my mind and take away all what is unpleasant in me. I want to do your will. I want to walk according to your plan so that I can prove what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will for me. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”*