

Toward Transformation

Romans 12:2

New King James Version (NKJV)

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.

New Living Translation (NLT)

² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Amplified Bible (AMP)

²Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

God has a perfect will for each and every one of us. For and you and you and yes, you too! His will is always for our best interest and requires our transformation from how the world has shaped us into an entirely different person. We may have the same name but our pertinent address has changed! There will come a day in the life of every true believer in Jesus Christ when all mail will be forwarded to our heavenly home with Jesus! Till then, what are we to do and how are we supposed to handle this new reality that should impact and refocus our earthly existence?

What will we have to show for our lives when we go to see God?

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Here is an obituary from yesterday's news:

Andy Rooney, the curmudgeonly commentator who spent more than 30 years wryly talking about the oddities of life for "60 Minutes," died Friday night, CBS said. He was 92.

When you pass from this life into eternity what will people say about you?

We don't know what this man's relationship with God was when he was on earth; most people don't talk about that aspect of his life. Many of us may have been amused by the dry, grumpy humor from this well-known curmudgeon, at one time or another; and we can say that he worked hard till the end.

When I leave this life I want people to say that one thing they knew for sure about me was that I loved God and His children and that I did my best to do His will. Then I can quietly rest in the confidence that He will say, **“Well done good and faithful servant...”** when He sees me face to face. Between now and then His word says I am to be transformed from the old man to the new man.

How are we to be transformed? Do we have to become robots that turn into fighting machines as the Transformers in the movies? Robots, no! Fighting machines? Absolutely!

In order to do what the word of God tells us to do and thereby be obedient to Christ we must enter into the battle and fight the good fight on a daily basis.

Romans 12:1 (AMP)

¹I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a **decisive dedication** of your bodies [**presenting all your members and faculties**] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.

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Giving ourselves completely as a **decisive dedication** to live sacrificially 100% for God is spiritual worship! This is lifestyle worshiping. Not worshiping a lifestyle as most people do in our current culture.

I'm not saying, "Oh, things are so bad in the culture these days!" It's always been bad, it's called the world! Sure, it seems to be getting worse, but we aren't called to critique the culture. We are called to be transformed out of the culture and then help others do the same; loving them with Christ's love all the way every day!

Jesus, demonstrating His agape love, told the woman at the well that the day would come when true believers would worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

John 4:23-24

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. **24** God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

We are living in the time Jesus was referring to then. That "time" started then and is still the same time today, just as Jesus is the same today as He was then; same power, same person, same promise, same savior. It is Him we obey when we worship the Father with our whole body, soul and spirit, as Paul directed in Romans 12:1.

It is in that process of living-life-in-the-state-of-worship that we are transformed. It doesn't happen in an instant. It happens in a lifetime! But it doesn't happen automatically; it requires our active participation. That's what we're here for!

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We just had our first members meeting at our home yesterday and 13 of our 17 members were there. This highly productive meeting brought out the importance of loving people. Words like: caring, (James 1:27) connecting, (John 17:21) fellowship, healing broken hearts (Luke 4:18) , mentoring, (discipling Matthew 28:18-20), ministering to the emotions and feeding the people of God (John 21:15-19) on the word of God helping to build people up and thereby build up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:16) on His firm foundation so that He would shine through us(Matthew 5:16) into the local community and beyond. WHO will do this you may ask? We will do it together. Partnering, praying, giving and working side by side in supportive open honest relationships that honor God and one another.

No man made structure imposed on a group of people will bring lasting fruit. We are spiritual farmers planting the word of God, watering it with prayer and waiting until the Lord brings the harvest. I'm not talking about the final harvest when Jesus returns but the slow, gradual kind of harvest that has grown us to this point will grow us to the next level as we patiently love one another, pray for one another,

All this would be funded by God's provision to us individually as we are faithful to bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, the sanctuary, our sanctuary, that there would be food for His people.

Next week we will have a special service to honor the persecuted church with joint presentations from Voice of the Martyrs NNE Dir. Mickey Merrill and about Foursquare Missions International from our own Gordon Frohloff.