

ROM 237 - Be Transformed - Part 2 - Rom 12:1-2

We started last week's msg (Pt 1) - by being reminded of a little survey we did not long ago

It was a One Question Survey

"What would help you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ right now"

& a full 2/3 (67%) of you said that something in your "SELF" (your Life) needed to CHANGE - *needed to be* TRANSFORMED

& really - the other 1/3 who didn't write down the need for PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION *could have written it also*

Because God's Word says - every one of us MUST BE TRANSFORMED

SALVATION - & - TRANSFORMATION are exclusively TIED together in God's Word

In fact - the point can easily be made from Scripture

IF there is NO Transformation in your life *from you making Jesus Christ your LORD*

Then - Honestly, you probably need to be concerned

Because Jesus Christ came to TRANSFORM your life both NOW - & for ETERNITY

& so today - we're going to finish looking at just what it means - to BE TRANSFORMED

Let's Pray

Let's start today by Reading ALL Rom 12:1-2

Rom 12:1-2 - ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Today - we're going to break down these powerful Vs'
into **3 major AREAS** of **BEING TRANSFORMED**

#1 - Giving yourself completely to God - as a Living Sacrifice

#2 - Renewing Your Mind

#3 - Conforming Your Will - to His

& the result - - You will **BE TRANSFORMED**

(area)

#1 Giving yourself completely to God - as a Living Sacrifice

Rom 12:1 - ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

We looked last week at **Presenting our Entire lives to be consumed by God** - for His *Purpose* - & for His *Glory*

This means making every part of our lives - **WORSHIP** to God

It's saying to God;

Lord, I **offer myself** wholly & completely to you
I lay down my **own control & plan** for my life
I **offer** all of my life to you Lord - as **WORSHIP**

And - as the **end of Vs. 1** says

as we do this - we are living in the highest form
of **Spiritual Worship** possible

1Cor 3:16 - & - **2Cor 6:16** both say
WE are the Temple of God

& How we **live our Lives** every day (*especially when no-one's looking*)
is actually our **TRUE WORSHIP** to **GOD**

One Commentator said we could Paraphrase **Rom 12:1;**

***I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God,
to present your;***

TONGUES (how we speak),

your **EYES** (what we look at),

& your **ACCELERATOR FOOT** (how we drive)

as a living sacrifice to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Let's see if we can make this **come alive** with a few Cross ref's

Turn to - Eph 5:1-2 - ESV → →

Turn to - Eph 5:1-2 - ESV

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Be Imitators of God - & Walk in Love

Now **THAT** is definitely being a Living Sacrifice

When the **Philippian church** sent Paul **money**

He described it as (*in essence*) a "**LIVING SACRIFICE**"

Turn over to - Phil 4:15-18 - ESV

15 . . . no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.

16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.

18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

The money they gave - for the work of the Gospel was:

- 1) **The Fruit** that increases to your credit
- 2) A Fragrant offering - a **Sacrifice acceptable & pleasing** to God

Which is **the same way** Paul describes our "Living Sacrifice" in **Rom 12:1**

But maybe the **best example** is found in **Heb Ch 13** (turn there)

Heb 13:15-16 - ESV

15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Here the "SACRIFICE OF PRAISE" is described as;

- 1) **Acknowledging** the Name of Jesus on your lips
- 2) Doing **Good**
- 3) **Sharing** what you have

& **vs.16** says - ***these sacrifices are pleasing to God***

Because they are ***giving yourself completely to God, as a Living Sacrifice***

So - that is our **First AREA** of **BEING TRANSFORMED**

#1 Giving yourself completely to God - as a Living Sacrifice

The **Second AREA** is

#2 - Renewing Your Mind

Rom 12:2(A) - ESV → →

Rom 12:2(A) - ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,

Because of the **GREEK word** used for "**Conformed**"

DONALD BARNHOUSE says we could translate this phrase
"Do not go along with this world's schemes"

& **last week** - I asked every person here
to make a **confession** to God

Whether we are ***Being Conformed to this World***

Or whether we are ***Being Transformed by God***

But today we want to talk about **THE PROCESS**
of ***being transformed - BY THE RENEWAL of our minds***

& we **need** to make **one thing clear** - before we start

The phrase "***BE Transformed***" is **PASSIVE**
which means this Transformation is done **TO US**

We **can't earn** it or **create it** - We only **Receive** it or **Reject** it

& if we **WILL** Receive it
then it is completely **GOD** Who Transforms **US**

This **GREEK Word** for "**Renewal**"
is actually only used **TWICE** in the **N.T.**

The other time is in **Titus 3:5 - ESV** (after 1st & 2nd TIM)

5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration (salvation) and renewal of the Holy Spirit (transformation),

There's **Salvation** - & - **Transformation**
Exclusively Linked Together

But notice - Our **Transformation** is called
the ***Renewal of the Holy Spirit***

We said last week - the **Best Verse** to show
this **PROCESS** of **RENEWAL** - is **2Cor 3:18**

2Cor 3:18 - ESV

18 And we all, with unveiled face (salvation), beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Our Salvation "**UNVEILS**" our face (eyes)

Then - we "**BEHOLD**" - meaning to **GAZE INTENTLY**
at ***the Glory of the Lord***

& that **Gazing Intently** at the Glory of the Lord

Causes us to be Transformed **INTO** the **SAME** Image
from **one degree** of Glory to another

& this **Miracle** occurs - ***BY the Lord who is the Spirit*** (Holy Spirit)

The Process seems pretty simple - doesn't it ?

- 1) Unveil your face - *Get Saved*
- 2) Gaze Intently at the Glory of the Lord
- 3) Be Transformed into his image - BY the Holy Spirit

It might seem **SIMPLE . . . But it's NOT so EASY** - *is it?*

Let's focus a minute on the

"Gazing Intently at the Glory of the Lord" step

Which is what the word "Behold" means

What percentage of Christians would you say
REALLY spend time Gazing Intently at the Glory of the Lord ??

I promise you, it's a pretty shockingly LOW percentage

& what percentage of Christians do you see
that've been REALLY, *Radically*, *Miraculously* TRANSFORMED ?

In my observation - it's about the same percentage
as those Christians who REALLY spend time
Gazing Intently at the Glory of the Lord

IN FACT - I think it's not only the same percentage
I think it's THE SAME EXACT PEOPLE !!

Which is exactly how God's Word says it will be

So - HOW do we **become** - a Christian who really
"BEHOLDS" the **Glory of the Lord** ??

Well - the ***FIRST Requirement***
for **"Beholding"** (**Gazing Intently**) at the Glory of the Lord . . .

is - **TIME** !!

You **can't** really **Gaze** Intently
in a **Fast-Food, Microwave, High-Speed**, World

Which is **One Reason WHY** - **Rom 12:2** tells us
NOT to get caught up in the ***schemes of this world***

Because one of the World's **Primary Schemes**
is to **KEEP YOU** from **Gazing Intently** at the Glory of the Lord

So - **The First** (**OVERRIDING**) requirement is - **TIME**
& **THEN** (recognizing the Over-riding requirement of TIME) . . .

There are **THREE Major AREAS**
that we can Behold (Gaze Intently) at the Glory of the Lord

I believe - **Gazing Intently** at the Glory of the Lord
involves **Three DAILY DISCIPLINES**

I believe these **THREE DAILY DISCIPLINES**
are what the Holy Spirit uses - to TRANSFORM us,
by the **Renewing of our Minds**

So - what are the **THREE AREAS**
we can **Behold the Glory of the Lord** in - DAILY ??

#1) DAILY WORSHIP

Psa 150:1-2, 6

1 Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!

2 Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!

. . .

6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! . . .

A) We've need to start each day **WITH** WORSHIP **of** God

B) We've got to live each day **AS** WORSHIP **to** God

THAT is what being a **Living Sacrifice** is

But pls let me **strongly encourage** you in this

We need to **Specifically Worship God** with our **MOUTH**
(at least in your **mind**) **every day** (preferably at the beginning)

There are **many resources** to help you do this

But **my** All-Time **Favorite** is:

Face To Face - Praying the Scriptures for Intimate Worship

Kenneth Boa - www.christianbook.com

Start **each morning** **Worshipping** God

& then - **dedicate** your **entire day** - as **Worship** to God

Now Remember - we're talking about **THREE Daily Disciplines**
For **RENEWING OUR MIND**

#1 - is DAILY WORSHIP

#2) THE DAILY WORD

Heb 4:12 says - ESV

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

We have got to give the **Word of God** its rightful place in our lives
(*which is Absolute Top Priority*)

To **Renew our Minds** we **MUST**
begin Each Day with **WORSHIP** - & **GOD'S WORD**

We've Got to **ALIGN & REALIGN** our minds
with God - **EVERY DAY**

& this takes . . . **TIME In God's Word**

So we've got to **MAKE the time** (*cause we can't FIND any*)
to **REALIGN** our Minds with the Lord - **EVERY** day

Again - there are a ton of helpful resources out there
But **MY FAVORITE** is;

DAILY LIGHT - originally by **Samuel Bagster** (redone by others)
find it at - **www.christianbook.com**

Guys - I Promise you - We **Renew** - & - **Realign** our Minds with;

1) **DAILY WORSHIP**

2) **THE DAILY WORD . . .**

AND - **the Last Requirement**

for Beholding the Glory of the Lord - - is

#3) DAILY PRAYER

Eph 6:18 - ESV

18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. . . .

Not **JUST** the **I NEED** prayers

but Prayers that **come from** the **FIRST TWO** Requirements

Prayer that come out of your **DAILY WORSHIP**

Prayer the come out of your **DAILY WORD**

As you **WORSHIP** God - &

As you **CONSUME** His **WORD**

your **RESPONSE** is **DIVINE COMMUNION** in **Prayer**

And **IN** that Supernatural "**BEHOLDING**" of

Worship - **Word** - & **Prayer**

I promise you - the **Holy Spirit** Will ***Renew Your Mind***

& YOU WILL BE - TRANSFORMED !

The Holy Spirit will RENEW your Mind - as you;

DAILY **Worship** Him

DAILY **Consume** His Word

DAILY **Respond** to Him in Prayer

He will **RENEW your MIND** - & you **WILL be TRANSFORMED**

SOooo - - *If it's really **THAT** simple*

Why don't more Christians do it ??

Because we are so easily **CONFORMED** to this World

& we must **Fight** the **Good Fight** of Faith
to **be TRANSFORMED** by the *Renewing of our mind*

But **NOW** you know the **PROCESS**
for the Holy Spirit to **RENEW** your Mind

so that you will **BE TRANSFORMED**

Worship Him - **DAILY** - as a *Living Sacrifice*

Consume His Word - **DAILY** - to *Renew your Mind*

Commune with Him in Prayer - **DAILY** - to *Be Transformed*

BUT WAIT - There's MORE !

We've only covered **TWO** of the **THREE** areas
of God **TRANSFORMING** your Life

We've looked at:

- #1) Giving Yourself Completely to the Lord - Living Sacrifice**
- #2) Renewing Your Mind**

But in these 2 msg's

we still haven't got to the BIG THIRD AREA

#3) Conform Your Will - to His

For the Holy Spirit to Truly TRANSFORM us - we've got to;

- 1) Give ourselves completely to the Lord - (Living Sacrifice)**
- 2) Renew Your Mind - (Daily Worship, Word, Prayer)**
- 3) Conform our Will to His**

Rom 12:1-2 - ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

We've got to first look at the word - THAT

Give yourselves to the Lord (as a Living Sacrifice)

Do not be Conformed to this world

Be Transformed by the Renewal of your mind . . .

THAT - - THAT by testing you may discern what is the will of God

The highest level of Transformation

is when our WILL conforms to the WILL of God

& **the REASON** it comes last in these Vs's
is because it is **the RESULT** of the other 2 steps

Here's what I mean

The phrase "***BY TESTING YOU MAY DISCERN***"
(NKJ translates **PROVE**)

Actually means

***To know the truth of something by experience - or -
To recognize as genuine by examination***

& again - the highest level of being TRANSFORMED
is to KNOW (& live) God's **genuine** will for our lives

That is the **ULTIMATE TRANSFORMATION** of our lives

To live out God's Genuine Will for us personally

But guys - Knowing God's Will - is not a magic NEON SIGN
that gets lowered down from heaven to you

Knowing God's Will is the RESULT of

- 1) **Giving Ourselves** Completely to God
- 2) Allowing Him to **Renew our Minds**

It's the **Natural Outcome**

of what these Vs's have said so far

Now - there is so much that can be said
about "KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

& HOW to Know God's Will

In fact - 7 years ago when I taught this text
I Titled it How To Know God's Will

SO you can ask W-B-M for that message on this same text

But today - I want to give you a PICTURE
of what it looks like when a Person is BEING TRANSFORMED

The HOW to do it is;

- #1 - Give yourself completely to God
- #2 - Renew Your Mind
- #3 - Conform Your Will . . .

BUT - what does it LOOK LIKE - when someone
is BEING TRANSFORMED

Is there a Picture of this TRANSFORMED PERSON in the Bible ?
as a matter of fact - there is

There are 2 wonderful O.T. texts - that really "Paint a Picture"
of what this TRANSFORMATION Looks Like

& in both these scriptures

we see how this TRANSFORMED PERSON
can "KNOW" (discern) God's Will - by experiencing it

I'm about to use 2 scriptures
to paint a picture of a TRANSFORMED PERSON

Let turn over to **PSA 37** - (*I'm going to read from NLT*)

BTW - in both these texts - we see;

A Command - followed by **A Promise** - *then repeated*

Psa 37:3-5 & 7- NLT

3 Trust in the Lord and do good.

Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.

4 Take delight in the Lord,

and he will give you your heart's desires.

5 Commit everything you do to the Lord.

Trust him, and he will help you.

...

7 Be still in the presence of the Lord,

and wait patiently for him to act . . .

BEING TRANSFORMED - Looks Like:

We're Trusting the Lord & Doing what's right

We're Delighting in the Lord

Committing everything we do to Him

We're Waiting patiently for Him

& then - God's Promises to us are;

He will protect us & prosper us

He will give us our heart's desires (*that He puts there*)

He will Help us

He WILL ACT on our behalf

THAT sounds pretty Transformed - doesn't it ?

Let's look at one more great scripture
turn over to **PROV 3:5-10**

Same style - **A COMMAND** - followed by - **A PROMISE**

Now - as we read **Pro 3:5-10**
there are **SIX signs** - of a **TRANSFORMED LIFE**

I don't have time to review them
so I'm going to **point them out** as we go

Pro 3:5-10 - NLT

- 5** (1) *Trust in the Lord with all your heart;*
(2) *do not depend on your own understanding.*
- 6** (3) *Seek his will in all you do,*
and he will show you which path to take.
- 7** (4) *Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.*
Instead, (5) fear the Lord and turn away from evil.
- 8** *Then you will have healing for your body*
and strength for your bones.
- 9** (6) *Honor the Lord with your wealth*
and with the best part of everything you produce.
- 10** *Then he will fill your barns with grain,*
and your vats will overflow with good wine.

SIX signs of a **TRANSFORMED LIFE**
& **THREE** Great **Promises** in response to that life

Guys - If we will;

#1 - Present ourselves as a living sacrifice to God
by giving ourselves completely to Him

#2 - Renew our Minds
thru Worship, the Word, Prayer

Then we will be able to;

#3 - Conform our Will to God's Good & Perfect Will

& we will be - **Radically, Miraculously, TRANSFORMED**

WE WILL BE TRANSFORMED !

Let's Pray