

TOTAL TRANSFORMATION SESSION 5 – The Transforming Word

Romans 12:1-2 – ¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And 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

Review:

- **When we are born again our Spirit is completely changed – new birth**
- **We are a 3-fold being; spirit, soul and body**
- **While our spirit is completely transformed/changed by God at the new birth, our soul and body are changed through a renewal process.**
- **Text – we are transformed by the renewing of our mind**
- **It's a Harvest – much of what we experience is a harvest of our thoughts, actions and words.**
- **Transformation occurs from the inside out**
- **Jesus came to heal the broken hearted.**
- **Changed by the spirit of God**
- **Changed from glory to glory – progressive change**
- **Changed by beholding the glory**

2 Corinthians 3:12-18 – ¹²Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: ¹³And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: ¹⁴But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. ¹⁵But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. ¹⁶Nevertheless when it shall turn to the LORD, the veil shall be taken away. ¹⁷Now the LORD is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is liberty. ¹⁸But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the LORD, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the LORD.

I. What is the glory?

A. It is not a cloud, mist or fire; God was not the cloud but was in the cloud; Ex 13:21, Ex 14:24, Ex 16:10, Ex 24:16

B. It is revealed in Exodus 33 and 34

Exodus 33:18-19 – ¹⁸And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. ¹⁹And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

Exodus 34:5-7 – ⁵And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, ⁷Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

- ***Moses said, show me your glory***
- ***God said, I will show you my goodness***
- ***To see the glory must have something to do with seeing His goodness***
- ***The glory is God's person and his true nature***
- ***God passes by and declares who he is***
 - I. *Compassionate and merciful*
 - II. *Slow to anger – longsuffering*
 - III. *Filled with unfailing love and faithfulness*
 - IV. *Forgiving all kinds of sin*
 - V. *Just and righteous in all judgment – extending mercy to third and fourth generations.*
- **Moses first encounter with God allowed him to experience the presence of God**

- **Moses second encounter with God allowed him to KNOW the person of God**

- ***You have not beheld the glory until you have***

REVELATION:

- *His character*
- *His goodness*
- *His mercy*
- *His patience*
- *His righteousness*
- *Real change occurs through the process of KNOWING him.*

II. Jesus, the glory

- A. **John 1:14 (NASB)** – And the word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth

Those who beheld Jesus, saw him full of grace and truth

- B. **Hebrews 1:3 (NASB)** – And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

- **One of the ways we behold the glory is to behold JESUS**
- **Jesus is the EXACT representation of all that God is**
- **How do we behold Jesus? *Through the word!***

III. The Word

- A. In a glass

2 Corinthians 3:18 (KJV) – But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the LORD, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the LORD.

James 1:22-24 – ²²But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ²³For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural

face in a glass: ²⁴For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

James 1:23 (KJV) – Glass = Mirror *Two N.T. writers speak of the word as a mirror.*

James 1:23-24 (NLT) – ²³For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like

THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN TRANSFORMATION AND BEHOLDING THE WORD

Why?

1. The Word reveals the glory in the face of Jesus
 - Jesus is revealed in the Word
 - Who he is
 - See him as grace, hope, mercy, forgiveness, deliverance, patience, goodness, freedom
 - What he has done
 - What he continues to do
 - Who I am in Him
 - What I can do in Him
2. Jesus is God's glory manifested
3. Beholding Him in scripture is beholding God's Glory

B. Continue to behold the Word

1. A stare vs a glance
2. Greek Behold = to continue looking, ongoing stare
3. Every believer **MUST** spend time in God's word if they are to be transformed
4. Our minds are renewed by the Word of God
5. Those who hit and miss will never be totally free
6. Hit and Miss defined =
 - a. Show up occasionally
 - b. Partially hear

c. Give no honor to the place of the Word

CHALLENGE: *Give one year to the Word by attending all Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services at Grace and I will guarantee transformation.*

C. The Word is the seed for your harvest of change

Mark 4:13-20 (KJV) – ¹³And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? ¹⁴The sower soweth the word. ¹⁵And these are they by the **way side**, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh **immediately**, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. ¹⁶And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, **immediately** receive it with gladness; ¹⁷And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, **immediately** they are offended. ¹⁸And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, ¹⁹And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. ²⁰And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.

1. Notice that something occurs immediately when the word is sown.

a. Satan cometh immediately

- *Satan's Strategy exposed*
- *Satan's #1 strategy against saved people is to keep them from beholding the glory in the Word that will make them totally free*

b. Many will receive the word immediately with gladness

- *It is easy to get happy when the word is preached*
- *Gladness is an emotional response to the word*

- *Emotion is not the key to transformation*
 - *Continued revelation is the key to real change*
 - c. Immediately some are offended because of persecution that comes because of the word
 - *Offended – stumble*
 - *They stumble because they have no root in themselves*
 - *Root = rooted*
 - *They are not rooted because the hit and miss*
 - *It takes time for roots to grow!*
 - **Matthew 13:19 (KJV)** – *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*
 - *To be rooted one must have understanding*
 - *Understanding only comes by continual beholding*
2. Notice the potential harvest of the word
- Mark 4:20 (KJV)** – *And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.*
- a. The seed remained the same
 - *We all have the same opportunity to behold the word*
 - b. The Soil makes the difference
 - *Good ground is needed*
 - *Good ground takes the seed*
 - *Good ground nourishes the seed*
 - *Good ground hears the word (Mind)*
 - *Good ground receives the word (Heart)*
 - *Good ground reflects the word (Mouth)*