

# Think Jesus

## The Transformative Work of the Holy Spirit

Rom 12:2 We are being transformed to be transformational.  
God intends us to be influencers in our world. Matt 5:13-16.

Rom 8:22-30 presents Holy Spirit role in transformation.

Vs 22-24 First fruits of the Spirit: echo of Israel in wilderness.  
We are being led by the Spirit on a journey of transformation.  
Israel led in wilderness: pillar of cloud day, pillar of fire night.  
God got Israel out of Egypt, 40yrs to get Egypt out of them.

Our journey is being transformed to be salt and light.  
Paul: Promised Land at end of our journey is the Resurrection.

Israel sent spies into Promised Land, brought fruit of the land.  
Fruit gave Israel a taste, glimpse of what God promised them.  
First fruit of H.S. "Blessed Assurance"

A thought on first fruits is the Baptism in Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. It gives us a taste of the fulfillment that we will experience when this mortal puts on immortality at the resurrection. That's why 1st Corinthians 13 states tongues will cease (at the resurrection) as there is no need for it then.

More prayer in Spirit, meditate Word: H.S. breaks into our day.

Vs 23 Like creation we long for final redemption. Isaiah 55  
Salvation 3 parts: instant spirit, progressive soul, future body.  
Salvation complete, deposited the check, cash at resurrection.

Vs 24 For this hope we were saved. God's crowning touch.  
Corruptible- incorruption (wear out) mortal-immortality (Die)  
Ponce De Leon search for the fountain of youth.

Vs 26-30 climax of central narrative of vs 18-30  
It shows H.S. purpose in transforming and how he does it.

Vs 26-27 Likewise, the Spirit: reference 1st fruits, in addition.

Paul has showcased this aspect of H.S work for its importance.

Work of Holy Spirit laid out in vs 26-27. (Intercede, perfect will)  
Purpose of the Holy Spirit is laid out in Vs 29 (conforming)

Vs 28 connects the work of the Spirit in vs 26-27 with the conforming to God's Son in vs 29. That is its purpose.

Vs 28 is found on plaques, coffee mugs, greeting cards.  
Vs 28 is critical to grasping Paul's masterpiece on work of H.S.

Romans 8:28 NIV "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, and who have been called according to his purpose.

Footnote: on Bible Gateway site (Zondervan publishing)  
"That in all things God works together with those who love him to bring about what is good."

Vs 28 God is at work shaping us in all "things".  
Important that God is shaping us, rather than things shaping us.  
H.S personally shape us, if things shape us, makes God distant.

Vs 28 alone can give the impression that the Holy Spirit is a silent chess master who guides us by circumstances, as we try to figure out what each move means.

When we were separated & lost, he came personally to find us.  
He set aside his powers as God and became one of us, even suffering and dying for us.  
If that is not enough, Jesus, knowing that he couldn't be everywhere and be with everyone at the same time, sent the Spirit to be with us, live in us, and never leave us.  
It doesn't get more personal than that.

What is the good that the Holy Spirit is working toward?  
I think there are two answers that must be viewed in order.

First "Good" is focused on a long-term process of being conformed to the image of God's Son. Main point of 18-30.

Secondly, God IS also interested in our trials.  
He is shaping us, but also at work shaping things for your good.  
If focus our trials, distracted from being conformed.

Vs 31: what shall we say to these things: If God is for us...  
Vs 37: In all these things we are more than conquerors. Vs 39

Jesus irresistible, Gospel irresistible, Image of Son irresistible.  
If we are not irresistible, what do we do?  
I am not sure the "Turn or Burn" sign makes us irresistible.

What is our role in working with the Holy Spirit?

"That in all things, God works together with those who love him to bring about what is good."

Even when I can't see it, he's working, even when I can't feel it, he's working, he never stops working.

Working together with H.S., we must bring a heart attitude that is open to change.  
A humble heart refines the lessons learned into character.

A call to repentance:

Repentance: I haven't always had a heart willing to change.

Repentance: being unaware & unavailable when H.S. calls.

Repentance: Not being the salt and light that God intended.