

THREE STEPS TO A TRANSFORMED LIFE

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Life is what we make of it. Our daily decisions determine our experience in life. A man's attitudes, desires, daily routine, and decisions determine to large extent his experience in life. Life is a gift from God the creator and giver of life, and He alone can make life exciting, interesting and fulfilling. Life is a partnership between man and God the giver of life. Transformation is essential for man to become what he was originally created to be. Transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit when man submits to Him.

To transform is to change. To transform is to change the natural disposition and temper of man from a state of enmity to God and his law, into the image of God, or into a disposition and temper conformed to the will of God. To transform is to be metamorphosed from an ungodly and evil person to a righteous and holy person.

Transformation is the change of character, habits and lifestyle to comply with the word of God. It is the departure from the old to the new in practical terms. It is the putting on the life of Christ in daily living as one completely abandons the old lifestyle in true repentance and surrender to Christ.

Jesus taught that no man can light a lamp and put it under a bushel when its main purpose is to lighten the room and expose all that is in it. The purpose of God giving us His life is for us to live his life here on earth. We are expected as believers to allow the Spirit and the word of Christ to transform our lifestyle so we can manifest as true sons of God.

To live a transformed life, one needs to follow the following sure steps that guarantee transformation.

1. CONSECRATION

To consecrate is to set apart, dedicate or devote oneself to the service of God. It is to live a life of total surrender to the will and purpose of God for one's life.

Rom 12:1

12:1 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.

NIV

Consecration starts with a firm decision to live for God cost what it may. It starts with a decision and is sustained by a resolute decision to be faithful till the end. Consecration is the result of the understanding that God through Jesus Christ has shown great mercy and love to mankind, and must be appreciated with total dedication of our lives. Apostle Paul in the above passage reveals that the reasonable and spiritual thing to do in response to God's love and mercy through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is to make a full, total, and loving surrender of our lives as an act of appreciation to God.

2 Cor 5:14-15

15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

NIV

Jesus died, so that those who live in Him will no longer live for themselves – fulfilling their own desires and will – but for Jesus who died for them. The believer is not to live out his own will but God's will. It is important that we abandon our own visions, plans, will and ambitions, and surrender to live for God and fulfill His will and purpose for our lives. To continue to live as though your life is yours is wrong. You are saved in Christ to live for God. You are saved not to continue going your own way, but God's way. It is God's plan for the saved to surrender to His will in all things and at all times.

To live a transformed life, one needs to consciously make a full dedication of one's life to God as a living (active) sacrifice. As long as the believer lives, God expects him to serve Him sacrificially. We serve God when it is convenient and when it is not convenient. When you let go of your will and personal program for God's, you are living a sacrificial life to God. When you cut off from your old and ungodly friends to enable you serve God well, that is living a sacrificial life to God. When you distance yourself from immoral partners to help you stay clean and holy, you are living a sacrificial life to God. When it is painful and not convenient, and contrary to the life you are used to and would have loved to live, it is a sacrifice to God. Do not only serve, give to God or attend church when it is convenient, the blessing is more in the sacrifice you make to please and honour God in your life.

Love God enough to consecrate your life to Him. Consecration is the foundation to a transformed life. Without it, you can't give yourself to renewing your mind which leads to transformation. So, the starting point of a transformed life is consecration. Make that decision now and set the ball rolling for your glorious transformation to the fullness of Christ. Decide today, be determined and resolute about it, and be loyal to the end. As long as you live, be a sacrifice to Jesus Christ your Saviour and Lord.

2. DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD

Rom 12:2

2 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.

NIV

Apostle Paul in his teaching to the Roman Church reveals that the next step to a transformed life after consecration is to be separate from the world and refuse to conform to the lifestyle of this world. In the Old Testament we see God calling Israel to be separate and live holy unto Him because He is a holy God. In the New Testament, we are instructed to be separated from the world because we belong to the kingdom of God.

2 Cor 6:14-18

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

KJV

First, you as a believer must understand that you don't belong to the kingdom of darkness or this world, but of God. This understanding will help you to maintain your stand and commitment to living for Christ. The principles of both kingdoms are not the same. What is approved by God is not approved by the world. What God says is unholy; the world approves to be all right. So, the believer has to settle in his mind that he is not of this world anymore, and therefore, must not conform to the standard of the world. You as a believer must not imitate or use the world's yardstick to measure what is right or wrong. You have to see with the eyes of God and not with the eyes of the world. When you start seeing with the eyes of God and not the eyes of the world, you have made up your mind to live for God and ready for transformation. Until a man comes to terms with this truth, he cannot live a sacrificial life unto God. Until you decide not to defile yourself with the world you cannot be victorious over the world and all that is in it.

The believer is in this world and not of this world. The king of the world is the devil, while the king of the kingdom of heaven is the Lord Jesus Christ. You can't be under two kingdoms and be subject to two kings at the same time and expect to be loyal to both and succeed. It is either you are for God or for the devil. Now that you have decided to be with Christ, you have to let go of the world and be loyal to Christ and his kingdom principles. The world is not the standard for the believer, but Christ is. Drop the ways and teachings of the world and open up yourself to the teachings and principles of the kingdom of heaven and your mind will be renewed leading to a transformed life. Stop seeing life, people and events with the eyes of the world. See with the eyes of God. Let the word of God be the eyes with which you see life. Accept the word of God as the final authority on every subject and you will be transformed.

3. RENEWAL OF THE MIND

Renewing of the mind is the third step to a transformed life. Renewing the mind is a process that requires diligent search and meditating on the scriptures, faith in the word, changing of mindset and belief, to align with the truth of God discovered and received, and disciplining of oneself to make the necessary changes required to actualize the truth received and believed.

Rom 12:2

2 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.

NIV

Every man is guided in life by the knowledge he has believed and submitted to. Wrong knowledge can be very destructive. Jesus taught that if the light in a man is darkness, that man is in real trouble. We must be sure that the knowledge we are walking with or living by is the truth. Only God can tell what is truth or lies. The word of God is the truth, and Jesus came to bear witness to the truth. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth, and the word of God is called the truth. God is truth and stands for truth. Moreover, all knowledge comes from Him. He created all things, so He stands in a better position to declare what is truth and what is false. The Bible contains the truth only. All the content can be trusted and believed to be truth. God does not lie. He cannot lie. It is not in his nature to lie. Why will He lie when there is nobody higher and superior to Him to judge and punish Him. He is the highest authority, so, you can trust Him with your life. His word is always true and He is committed to making them come to past.

Jer 1:12

12 The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."

NIV

Give yourself to reading, studying, meditating on, and believing in the word of God. This will bring you insight and understanding that will renew your mind and make you a changed person. The word of God will make you see what God sees and change the way you think and look at life. You will start looking at life the way God looks at it. You will see every situation, experience, people and events with the eyes of God (as God sees them.) Let your mind be renewed daily.

Renewing of the mind is not a onetime affair. It is a daily exercise. Daily, we see, hear and experience things that make us think, and the thoughts we think make us to respond, react and live the way we do. Thoughts influence and control a man's words, actions, emotions values and the way he lives his life. Decide today to give your mind to feeding on the word of God and you will be so clean in your thoughts that sin will be far from you. Throw away the old knowledge and beliefs, surrender to the truth of God's word. Let the word of God dwell in you richly.

CONCLUSION

It is obvious that transformation is essential for one to live the life of God successfully. We cannot but consecrate our lives to Jesus Christ with all our hearts to be a living sacrifice to God as long as we have breath. In addition, we must have the mindset that we are not of this world, and therefore, must not live by the world's standard. We must live by God's principles, pleasing Him in every way at all times. Finally, we must give ourselves to renewing our minds with the word of God that we may have the right knowledge in us, from where our thoughts, words, values, emotions, actions will be influenced and controlled.