

R.E.A.L. Transformation

“Transformation” is what God is really after!

Romans 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.

Firstly, Transformed people bring transformation to other people because they appreciate what Jesus did for them!

Secondly, Transformed people bring transformation to other people because they aren't ruled by pride!

Thirdly, Transformed people bring transformation to other people because they know that all that they are and all that they have belongs to God!

Acts 7:57-60 (ESV)

57 But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 8:1-3 (ESV)

1 And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

2 Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.

3 But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Acts 9:1-2 (ESV)

1 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest
 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

1. R - Revelation from the Holy Spirit

Revelation= a revealing of previously unknown truth.

The first obstacle to real transformation for some people is that they don't even know that they NEED it!

The day you choose to stop God's transformation process in your life is the day you stop growing!

Acts 9:3-5 (ESV)

3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.

4 And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I AM JESUS, whom you are persecuting.

There are times when the Lord has to take drastic steps to get our attention so He can reveal Himself to us!

Acts 26:13-14 (ESV)

13 At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me.

14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

Saul thought that he was doing God a service, when all along, he was persecuting Him trying to destroy Him!

REVELATION from the Holy Spirit is the starting point for real transformation!

2. E - Earnest repentance

Earnest = resulting from or showing sincere and intense conviction.

Repentance = a reversal of decisions resulting from a change of thinking which comes from a change of heart to line up with God's thinking.

When we sin, we have only one life giving choice... REPENTANCE!

We are commanded to confess... Not just our sin... But also, who HE is in repentance!

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, and he will make straight your paths.

Acts 9:5-7 (ESV)

5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be TOLD WHAT YOU ARE TO DO."

7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

Earnest Repentance MUST be present to bring real transformation!

The message of John the Baptist, who was the first prophetic voice in 400 years when he arrived on the scene, was "REPENT"!

Matthew 3:2 (ESV) - "REPENT, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 3:8 (ESV) - Bear fruit in keeping with REPENTANCE.

Jesus' first message after the Holy descended upon Him was "REPENT"!

Matthew 4:17 (ESV) - From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "REPENT, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Peter's first message after the Holy descended upon Him and the other Disciples was "REPENT"!

Acts 2:38 (ESV) - And Peter said to them, "REPENT and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:19-21 (ESV)

19 REPENT therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,
 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,
 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

And Paul declares also that He continued this message...

Acts 26:19-20 (ESV)

19 "Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
 20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should REPENT and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their REPENTANCE.

Real transformation cannot happen without Earnest Repentance!

3. A - Absolute unconditional surrender to God

True Christianity involves using our God given power of choice to make the final choice to let God make all the rest of our choices!

Joshua 24:15 (ESV) - And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Acts 9:8-20 (ESV)

8 Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.
 9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.
 10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,

12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.

14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

17 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;

19 and taking food, he was strengthened.

20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Through demanding an Absolute Unconditioned Surrender of your unregenerated sinful fleshly thoughts and desires...

There will be a turning around of, not only your current situation...

But also, the outcome in your final destination!

4. L - Looooong lasting perseverance

You MUST stay aware of and obedient to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you!

Acts 9:21-22 (ESV)

21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?"

22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

Romans 5:3-4 (ESV) - Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces PERSEVERANCE; PERSEVERANCE, character; and character, hope.

Hebrews 12:1 (ESV) - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with PERSEVERANCE the race marked out for us.

Godly perseverance is the fuel of real transformation!

Acts 9: 4 (ESV) - And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you PERSECUTING me?"

The Greek verb for "persecute" (diókó) primarily means to pursue or chase after something with intensity.

Philippians 3:7-14

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I PRESS ON (persecute) to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

14 I PRESS ON (persecute) toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.