

Transformation

Transformation is the process of becoming more and more who God wants you to be. This is not primarily a change in action, but a change in who you are which will then overflow into changed actions. These actions fall into the other four categories of Discipleship, so this category focuses on the internal change. Another word for transformation is sanctification, which means to be made sanctified, sacred, or holy. Transformation is ultimately caused by God, but we can contribute and enter into the process ourselves in many ways. Being renewed in your mind (Romans 12:1-2), disciplining yourself, studying the Bible (and learning how to study it) all can contribute to transformation.

Assessment statements with related verses and questions for further study

a. I increasingly love good and hate evil.....1 2 3 4 5

Romans 12:9 *Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.*

How do we know if love is sincere?

When you “cling” to something, what is true of you?

1 Thessalonians 5:21 *Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.*

Why test everything?

b. Prayer has changed how I view and interact with the world.....1 2 3 4 5

1 Timothy 2:1-3 *I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.*

Why do you think Paul says, “requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone”?

What are the two outcomes of this kind of praying?

Acts 4:13 *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

How does someone who “has been with Jesus” act?

Transformation is the process of becoming more and more who God wants you to be.

Will more time with Jesus make you more courageous?

How can you follow through on this?

c. I am slower to anger and can resist temptations more consistently than I could in the past.....1 2 3 4 5

Proverbs 14:29 *A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.*

What does patience demonstrate?

d. How I spend my time and money shows God-honoring priorities.....1 2 3 4 5

Matthew 6:19-21 *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

How do we store up treasures for ourselves here on earth?

How can you start or consistently store up for yourself treasures in heaven?

I Timothy 6:10 *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

How does being eager for money cause us to wonder from the faith?

What are some of those many griefs we pierce ourselves with?

e. I know how to study the Bible in order to grow in understanding of it, to answer my questions, make good decisions, and learn about God1 2 3 4 5

II Timothy 2:15 *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

What will it take to get to the point where the word of God is what directs your decisions and paths?

How can you begin to study the Bible more consistently?

f. I pursue habits to transform and renew my mind to model my life after Jesus.....1 2 3 4 5

Romans 12:2 *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.*



How can you renew your mind?

What is in the way of letting this process take place in your life?

Ephesians 4:22 *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

How does God want to make you new in the attitude of your mind?

g. I quickly confess anything in my character that does not reflect Christ.....1 2 3 4 5

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

What happens when we confess our sins?

Why do you think we are slow to confess?

James 5:16 *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

Where is the emphasis on confession in this verse?

What happens when we confess our sins to one another?

Is God prompting you to follow through with this verse?

Resources ♦

Love Your God With All Your Mind—JP Moreland (Highlights the place of thinking and the mind in the life of a Christian)

Imitation of Christ—Thomas a Kempis (Classic daily devotional, used by the church for 500 years, very powerful)

Grasping God's Word—Scott Duvall (Practical guide to biblical interpretation and study)

Mere Christianity—CS Lewis (Classic explanation of the various facets of the Christian life)

Words of Delight—Leland Ryken (Highlights the literary nature of scripture and helps to read it accurately)

Proverbs—Read One Chapter a Day (There are 31 chapters so this can be a good daily habit to go through the book once a month for a few months)

How To Read the Bible For All Its Worth— Gordon D. Fee

Growing True Disciples— George Barna



My Response...

What was the most meaningful statement of Scripture you read in the section on Transformation?

Reword the statement in a prayer of response to God.

What does God want you to do in response to the study on Transformation?

My Plan...

1.

2.

Concrete Steps

- Develop the habit of reading for spiritual and intellectual growth. Just 10 pages a day can get you through 15 good sized books a year and can have a tremendous impact on your life.
- Learn to understand God's word by reading some books on interpretation. A lot of times our inability to understand and read the Bible well robs us of the riches that it contains.
- Give something to the church or someone in need.
- Pray a one sentence prayer from time to time to consciously bring God into your circumstances.
- Develop the spiritual habit of praying. After waking up, take a moment to offer a prayer to God.
- Examine the areas of your life where you struggle with temptation. What are those areas of struggle and what should you start doing to avoid them?

General Practices

1. Book Study: Choose a book of the Bible and commit to studying it in depth. Read through the entire book a few times. While doing this, get a basic understanding of how the book is structured, what the author's message is, who he is speaking to, etc. Then start with a section of one chapter and read this through a few times asking the same questions as above. To help you in your study, you may want to pick up a commentary that helps explain things verse by verse. A book on biblical interpretation such as the ones suggested above could be read alongside as you study to aid in your study skills and insight.

2. Money Management: Take some time to look over how you manage your money. If you don't have a budget you may want to establish one. Spend some time praying over what God wants you to do with the money He has given you. This will then help you budget with God's priorities in mind. If you need help with this it may be a good idea to see a Christian financial counselor.