

Prayer Focus – Transformation

August 2020

This month the focus will be **transformation.** For the last several months we have discussed the **thorns in the flesh and how Satan** (the messenger) **uses thorns “to prevent the growth of good principles”.**  My wife came across this definition for **transformation: *a process*** *of* ***profound change in character****,* ***condition****, or* ***composition****.* This word has *c*irculated *freely* in the church and society and has been applied many different ways. In our society right now, you are hearing the phrase***, “This is the new normal.”*** We agree with that in the sense that Jesus warned us about the unforeseen destruction (the breaking apart of the world and the world’s systems). But our focus is **what we ‘should look like’ during what the world is calling the new normal**. The word **repentance** is considered archaic (ancient) by the modern-day church but ironically enough, it is synonymous to the word **transformation** which is also defined in the 1828 Noah Websters dictionary as the act or operation of changing the form or external appearance. Obviously, this change of our character, condition or our composition (make-up) comes through, first salvation and then, **the renewing of our mind** to the **confirmed will of God**. This needs to be the church’s new normal.Unfortunately, the world has not seen a difference between themselves and the church and has often made the statement “If that’s how people who go to church act, I’m doing okay; I don’t need church!” The world is looking for light, something genuine. We are to live and move and have our being like Jesus! When we don’t, His light **grows dimmer.** We are to look, act and be DIFFERENT than the world! The churches’ light has lost its brilliance because of its resistance to repent (change or transform), or simply put, come back to their first Love. Christ told of the consequences of not repenting in Revelation 2:4-5 NKJV;

*...I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-unless you repent.*

The phrase **repent and do the first works** stood out. What are the first works? Jesus answers this in Matthew 22:37-40 NLT, *“’You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The entire law**and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”* Our lives must hinge upon these two commandments! The Body of Christ needs to make a decision to allow God’s love to saturate their everyday, ordinary life - sleeping, eating and drinking and walking around life, being inwardly and outwardly God-conscious, placing your life before Him as an offering. Embrace the gift of the Holy Spirit Who helps you make and take the changes that are beneficial to God’s kingdom and to others byliving this blessed life **OUT LOUD**! Pray that the body of Christ would have ***a******profound change in character, condition, or composition*** *so tha*t we would be what He has designed us to be: the salt of the earth and light of the world! Jesus taught us in Matthew 5:13-16 TPT; *Your lives are like salt among the people. But if you, like salt, become bland, how can your saltiness be restored? Flavorless salt is good for nothing and will be thrown out and trampled on by others. Your lives light up the world. Let others see your light from a distance, for how can you hide a city on a hilltop? And who would light a lamp and then hide it in an obscure place? Instead, it’s placed* ***where everyone******in the house******can******benefit from its light****. So, don’t hide your light!* ***Let it shine brightly before others,*** *so that the commendable things you do will shine upon them,* ***and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven****.*”

Reflecting the Transformed Lives,

*Scott and Jackie*

**SCRIPTURES as references and those TO PRAY:** Mark 4:14-20 TPT; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 TPT; Matthew 4:17 AMP; Romans 12:1-2 TPT, AMPC; Acts 2:37-40 TPT; Joshua 1:8 NLT; Revelation 2:4-5 NKJV; Matthew 22:37-40 NLT; Matthew 5:13-16 TPT, NLT; 1 John 2:15-17 TPT; Luke 4:1-14 AMPC; Matthew 4:11 TPT [*think about this*!]; 1 Corinthians 10:13 TPT (AMP); 2 Corinthians 4:7-10 TPT; Colossians 1:16-29 TPT; Ephesians 4:17-24 TPT; Ephesians 1:17-23 NLT

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