

WEEK 3

3. The Transformation He Seeks

**“Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.”
(John 15:3, ESV)**

This statement comes after the process of lifting and pruning. In verse 2, Jesus clearly stated that His words had already cleansed the disciples. Words are powerful since we can build and destroy people with words. However, I never find the word that can cleanse us, except the word of God. Katharos is the Greek word for clean. It also means purity, which means being cleansed. Mat. 5:8 says, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”. By abiding in His words, the word of God will transform our dirty hearts into a pure heart where we can see His goodness and greatness in our lives. The truth will set us free and even will draw us closer to Him.

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”
(Hebrew 10: 22)

The fundamental aim of Christianity is to know God, who does the transformative work in us through the Holy Spirit with Christlikeness as the end result. This aim should be the core of the church and all the believers. There are many priorities, such as evangelism, disciple-making, prayer, etc. But transformation into Christlikeness is the end purpose.

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Romans 8:29, ESV)

“So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—*makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.* (2 Corinthians 3:18, NLT)

“Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.
(1 John 3: 2, NLT)

The Main Hustle

We like Jesus, BUT WE DO NOT LIKE JESUS.

What a statement. Let me explain this so that misinterpretation is avoided.

- We like Jesus

We like what Jesus has done for us. He sacrificed Himself for us to receive salvation. We are no longer subject to the wrath of God since His blood has already redeemed us on the cross. We like this idea since it sounds fantastic. Even if we like who He is, continue praying for us, helping us in the moment of trouble and blessing us. However, we still have the fundamental issue. We like Him, but we do not want to be LIKE Him.

- But We do not be LIKE Jesus.

‘We do not be LIKE Jesus’ means we are missing the CHRISTLIKENESS. We do not become the image barriers of Christ in daily life. The radiant light of Christ is not yet to be found as we still follow the pattern of this world. And this is a massive issue since we are missing the core point of Christianity. Salvation is not just about going to heaven. This is true, but it is inconclusive. Salvation is about transformational Christlikeness - becoming like Him. Paul urged us to depart from this issue for good by transforming into Christlikeness ‘by the renewal of your mind that by testing you may discern what the will of God is, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12: 2). Therefore *being and walking with Him* becomes the main focus rather than busy doing for Him.

Transformation That God aims

The main purpose of God is not to make us become comfortable Christians but to transform us into the image of His son. Because He is more interested in changing our hearts and characters before dealing with the circumstances. God does not focus on the outward but searches for the inward. The Lord said to Samuel,

“Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. *For the Lord see not as man sees*: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart”.

(1 Samuel 16: 7, ESV)

The areas of transformation:

- Physically

The way we act.

“Do not neglect to do good, to contribute [to the needy of the church as an expression of fellowship], for such sacrifices are always pleasing to God (Hebrew 13: 16, AMP).”

“Keep praying for us, for we are convinced that we have a good conscience, seeking to conduct ourselves honourably [that is, with moral courage and personal integrity] in all things (Hebrew 13: 18, AMP).”

- Emotionally

The way we respond.

“Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

(Colossians 4:5-6, NLT)”

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5)

- Spiritually

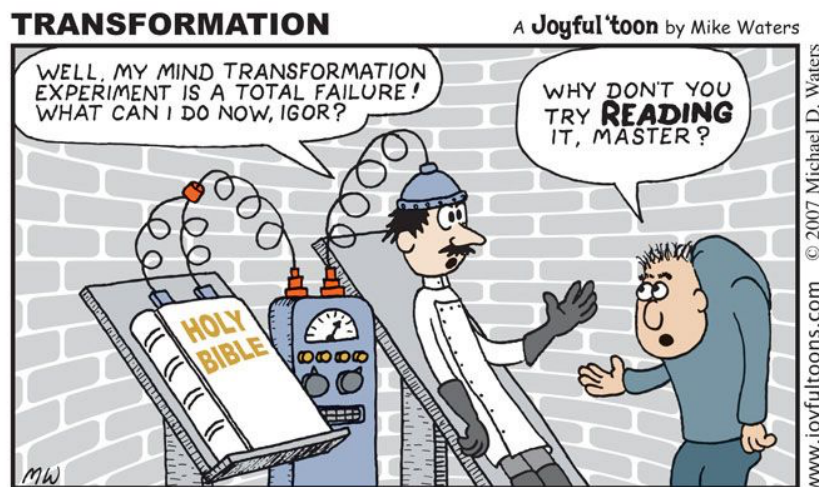
The way we worship Him and build intimate relationships with Him.

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit & truth (John 4:24, ESV)”

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3: 16-17).”

There are several facts of transformation.

- Transformation occurs only by His words and the help of the Holy Spirit - The truth will set us free
- Transformation takes time. - Focusing on the process & journey rather than results.
- Transformation is often painful and scary - He walks with us even through the darkness.
- Transformation requires humility - With humility & purity, we can approach God.



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.

— ROMANS 12:2 NIV

By Abiding His words this week, let us understand the authority of His God and encounter it personally by applying 3 C (Comment, Commands and Consistent)

Day 1

C1. Reading John 15: 3, Matthew 5: 8, & Hebrew 10: 22

What is the significant thing that you notice from this reading?

C2. Mediate the word by asking personal questions to yourself:

What do I notice personally in the words of God for the first time in this reading? What things am I reminded of that need to change or repent from these words?

What commands does God want me to do from this reading?

Write Down your reflection and be creative.

C3. Consistent

Obedying what God instructs you personally by applying it daily

Discuss with others in your Oikos what you experiences with God.

Day 2

In relation to personal transformation, there are keywords that we need to focus on from today's reading, such as living sacrifice, renewing mind, mirror / unveil and Holy Spirit. How can we connect all these keywords and put them into practice?

C1. Reading Romans 12: 1-2 & 2 Corinthians 3: 16 - 18

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 3

A quote says 'The Holy Spirit accompanies God's word to bring revelation of Christ, resulting in transformation.'" So today, let us listen to the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit

C1. Reading Romans 8: 12-30

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 4

“Religion can reform a person’s life; it can never transform him. Only the Holy Spirit can transform” (AW Tozer). Today, let the Holy Spirit search and transform our hearts.

C1. Reading Psalm 139: 23-24, Romans 8:1-11

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 5

C1. Reading Matthew 26: 6-13 & Luke 7: 36 - 50

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 6

C1. Reading Psalm 139:23, Psalm 51:10 & Jeremiah 17:9

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.

Day 7

C1. Reading Luke 6:43-45 & Ezekiel 36: 24-28

C2. Apply the same questions as explained.

C3. Apply the same steps as explained.