

TRANSFORMATION AND SANCTIFICATION: How to Overcome and Grow

Week 1: P Earl - Meeting Jesus - The Foundation of Relationship

Week 2: P Mark - The Price of Yes - What it Means to Follow

Week 3: P Glenn - Hearing God - Learning to Recognize His Voice

This morning in week 4 will be addressing another key component to consider before saying “Yes to Jesus” - That is the concepts of transformation and sanctification.

As we have already discussed, before anyone decides to get married at the altar and declares “I do,” they must truly understand what they are committing to. Marriage is not all about romance and fun. We learned in week 2 that marriage is a covenant that will require sacrifice, change, and growth.

In the same way, when we say “yes” to Jesus, we must understand we enter into a covenant with him as well. And although we enter into this relationship freely by grace, it is that same grace that causes us to be changed, sacrifice and grow in godliness.

We must come to understand the cost of being a true follower of Jesus as well as the beauty of making such a decision. Saying Yes to Jesus is NOT just a ticket into heaven, or a get a of jail pass - it is total surrender to transformation. The Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:17,

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV).

And the most familiar scripture to many of us that speaks of this transformation or change is in Romans 12:2,

“Do not conform to the patter of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2 NIV).

Today we will better understand that saying “Yes to Jesus” is saying yes to being made new. It is saying yes to leaving behind the old life in order to fully embrace the new life. A life’s journey of continual transformation by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Before we continue, let’s take the time to define some our key words for today’s message.

Transformation: “The term “transform” and its derivatives are used to describe both spiritual and moral changes that align believers with the will and character of God” (<https://biblehub.com/topical/t/transform.htm>).

Sanctification: “The generic meaning of sanctification is ‘the state of proper functioning.’ To sanctify someone or something is to set that person or thing apart for the use intended by its designer. A pen is ‘sanctified’ when used to write.’...In the theological sense, things are sanctified, therefore, when he or she lives according to God’s design and purpose” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/sanctification/>).

Therefore, transformation is the changing of a person in the way they think and behave so that they display Godly Character. According to Romans 12:2 we do this by the renewing or changing our mind, how we think. Whereas, sanctification speaks to how we live out our lives to fulfill God’s purpose and will for us. We are to be Holy, or set apart. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 says,

“God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin” (1 Thessalonians 4:3 NLT).

As we can see, it is clear that we are called to change. Turn to your neighbor and tell them, “We have to change.” Turn to your other neighbor and say, “Actually, we GET TO change.”

So have you ever wondered why so many people don’t change? Raise your hand if you know someone who has been the same for the last 20 years and refuses to change.

Unfortunately, as we will learn this morning, many people stop short of their total transformation because of pride, a lack of personal awareness, trying too hard to change themselves, or just don’t feel like they deserve to have a better life. This last category is truly sad, because these people feel like grace is for everyone else but them. They believe they are too far gone so why even try. Today we will dig in and ask the Lord for fresh revelation and understanding of how our personal transformation and sanctification takes place and why it’s so significant.

1. We are transformed more and more.

“So all of us who have had the 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).

Essentially we must realize we are continually being transformed. And as such sanctification should happen positionally but also progressive. We are set apart in Christ positioned immediately as a son or daughter of God when we say YES to Jesus. However, we are progressively being made holy. Hebrews 10:14 says,

“For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are **being made holy**” (Hebrews 10:14 NIV).

Being Made Holy:

The phrase "those who are being made holy" suggests that this is an ongoing process, a journey of becoming more like Christ. Essentially, Hebrews 10:14 telling us that believers are both declared holy and set apart for God through Christ's sacrifice, and yet, they are also on a path of continuous growth in holiness throughout their lives.

2. Transformation is not just self improvement but a total change.

“Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, 22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 **Put on your new nature**, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy” (Ephesians 4:21-24 NLT)

When we say YES to Jesus, we are called to put on our new nature, a new way of living. Our old self is totally corrupted by our sin nature. We have wrong thoughts, want to do wrong things, and at times have evil desires. Saying yes to Jesus requires us to say yes to a total change! The first step is to say yes I want to change. Then that WANT must, at some point, turn to a NEED!

3. Humility welcomes change while Hunger fuels Change

Humility is not belittling oneself, but rather acknowledging one's dependence on God and a willingness to submit to His will. It is a proper perspective of oneself in light of God's perspective.

Hunger, on the other hand, is evidence by our pursuit. When you are physically hungry what do you do? You eat. And hopefully, you eat something healthy. The same is true for spiritual hunger. We must cultivate an appetite for God. Some of you are not hungry enough so you don't feed yourselves. When you have a hunger for God you pursue HIM! How? We begin to worship, study the word, and sit in His presence. Matthew 5:6 promises,

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6 NIV).

I’ve hear it said like this: Humility says, “I need God’s help”; hunger says, “I want God’s way.”

Humility and Hunger are key, because it will cause us to pursue God. Discipline ourselves to read the word of God, and this will in turn renew our minds, change the way we think which will ultimately change the way we live. If humility and hunger leads us to transformation, we must...

4. Beware of what Hinders our transformation

- a) **Pride:** blinds us to our need for change. James 4:6 – “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

AI Generated Definition: In the Bible, pride is not just arrogance or self-esteem; it's primarily a form of hubris (self-confidence), a dangerous preference for one's own will over God's will. It's a sin that stems from a belief in one's own superiority and a disregard for God's authority. This can manifest as self-centeredness, a craving for recognition, or an inflated sense of one's own importance

Pride would say, I don’t need to change, or why do I have to change. In essence statements like that are saying you know better. However, IF how your living, acting, speaking and thinking, is contrary to what the word of God teaches us, if it’s different from what Jesus himself demonstrated to us, THEN you are also saying you know better than God by holding onto your own way of living.

Turn to your neighbor and say, THANK GOD FOR CHANGE!

Another hinderance to change could simply be...

b) Lack of Awareness

I’ve come to realize that awareness is not always automatic. We’ve been taught many times before that we all have blind spots. However, are we allowing ourselves the opportunity to have someone help us see our blind spots? If so, then

you can overcome any weakness or character flaw. The first step is always awareness.

In Revelations we read the church of Laodicea were just like this. In chapter 3 verses 17, it says “You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked (NLT).

James 1:23-25, tells us we should allow the word of God to be like a mirror for us to see ourselves.

“For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it” (James 1:23-25 NLT).

Some of us, this morning, need to go look in the mirror. Amen!? If we don’t the Lord will at times use pressure to reveal things to us. I remember P. Mike teaching me the iceberg illustration:



c) Not Depending on Grace

One of my most encouraging scriptures I remind myself of daily is Zechariah 4:6, "...It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies." Whenever I feel like the situation is a loss cause or even I'm a loss cause, I tell myself this can change, I can change by the Spirit of God. It's not my power, its not my strength or even sheer will power. It is the Spirit of God at work in me that will transform me. Galatians 3:3 says it like this,

"How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort" (Galatians 3:3 NLT)?

Turn to your neighbor and say, "It's not about what you can do! It's about what God can do!"

Philippians 1:6 in the NLT translation promises us, "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

Turn to your other neighbor and say, "God will finish what he started."

God's Grace is not only to Pardon us but also the Power to Transform us!

5. We are TRANSFORMED to TESTIFY!

Revelation 12:11 says, "And they have defeated him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony."

Transformation is never just about us. As we are changed, our testimony becomes a weapon against the enemy and a light to the world. Every step of transformation is not just personal—it is missional. We are changed so that others can see and believe that the same God who transformed us can transform them too.

Special Element - "Anything" by Jeremy Rosado

Declaration

I will humble myself before the Lord.

I will awaken my awareness to His Spirit.

I will depend on His grace every day.

I will stay hungry for His presence and His holiness.

I will not settle, but I will press forward into Christ.

The old has gone, the new has come,

and I will live as a testimony of His transforming power!

OG QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think it means to be “made new” when we say “Yes to Jesus”? How is that different from just trying to be a better person?
2. Why do you think humility (admitting we need God) and hunger (wanting more of God) are so important if we want to change? What are some ways you feel you have been hinder in your transformation?
3. Can you think of a time when God helped you change something in your life that you couldn't do on your own? What did you learn from it?

Anything Lyrics

By Jeremy Rosado

[Verse 1]

Got one too many wounds
Made one too many mistakes
"Grace don't go to people like you"
That voice in my head used to say
I spent one too many days
Believin' one too many lies
Thought I was the one He couldn't save
But now I'm here to testify

[Chorus]

He can do anything
He can do anything
When nobody else could
See anything good
My God sees a prisoner set free
He can break any chain
Wash away any shame
He can do it for you
Here's how I know it's true
If He saved a wretch like me
He can do anything

[Verse 2]

So bring your one too many hurts
Bring your habits, your hang-ups and scars
You don't have to clean up first
You just come just as you are

[Bridge]

There's nothing He can't do
There's nowhere He can't go
There's no one He can't save
Just ask me how I know
'Cause He found me where I was
And He carried me back home
Now I'm standin' here because (Just believe)
I want the world to know (Yeah)