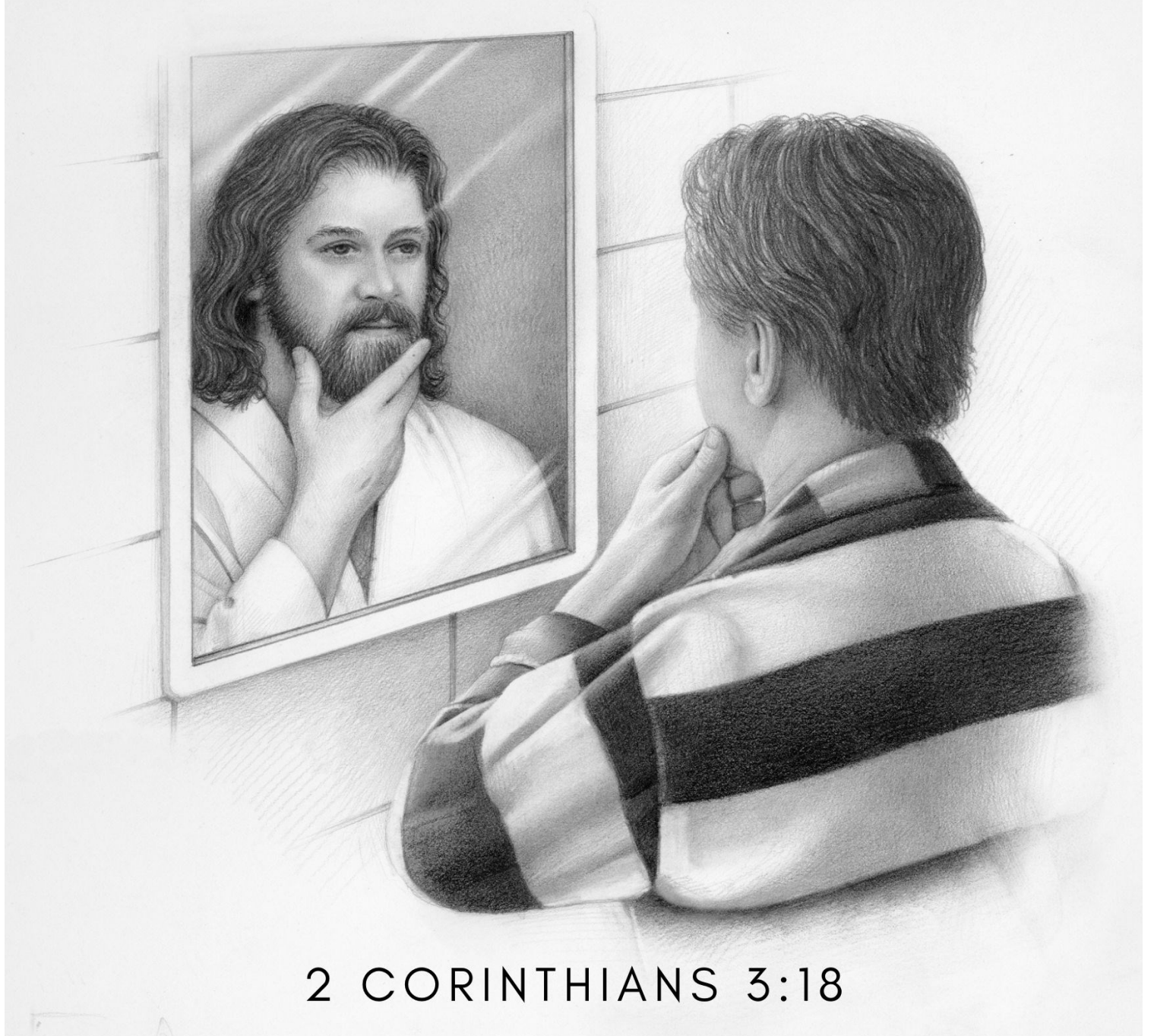


Be Transformed



2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

A 21 Day Prayer & Fasting Devotional

For Prayer Resources use this link:

[resources - Bethel Baptist Church \(bethelchapel.com\)](https://bethelchapel.com/resources)

TRANSFORMED 2022

Our theme for the new year and this season of 21 days of prayer and fasting is **TRANSFORMED**. Followers of Jesus Christ are being called by God to step up to the plate and live transformed lives. Only God can transform! This is not about entering into counseling or choosing a new diet or adding exercise to your schedule for the month of January. This is about assuming your identity in Christ.

Butterflies are some of the most amazing creatures of the creation. Not only do they have a beauty, but their grace in flight is mesmerizing. It seems like they float through the air with sudden directional changes.

When we think of the word TRANSFORMATION, we have to study the term metamorphosis. Metamorphosis is the process of a creature changing from an immature form to an adult form in two or more distinct stages. It includes a change in the nature and function of the insect.

The stages of the butterfly begin eggs on the leaf of a tree. They hatch into a caterpillar who then in turn eats the leaves its eggs were hatched on to. The caterpillar then enraptures itself into a Chrysalis for an additional period of growth. Everything about the butterfly develops inside the Chrysalis.

The transformation of the caterpillar to the butterfly happens in the escape process from the Chrysalis. Through struggle and endless labor, the butterfly works its way out. The struggle is the means by which the butterfly strengthens its wings for flight.

Transformation is a Biblical word found in **Romans 12:2** and **2 Corinthians 3:18**. It means to change radically the inner character, condition and nature of a person. Transformation is the God process of metamorphosis. It is being birthed into this world with a sin nature. That sin nature dominates and often times dictates what we do with our lives. Jesus Christ changes our nature and then the struggle for flight begins.

Then God intersects our lives with His 'Good News' for our souls. Now we have a choice. We do not have to become a person who abandons God's good intentions for us. He invites us to the Gospel. Belief and confession make the transaction. A new creature is born. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Now everything changes.

⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed** into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. **2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)**

Day 1—Pastor John Bouquet

Retreat To A Quiet Place

Exodus 34:29-35

YOU ARE INVITED TO A RETREAT WITH GOD, Find a quiet place each day.

The 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting is an invitation for you to have a personal retreat with God. This is similar in kind to Moses being with God on Mount Sinai when God was writing on the Tablets of Stone.

EXPECTATIONS?

What can you expect from God during this fast? How will God transform your face? Your heart? Your outlook on life? Will it be evident to everyone you were with God intimately and purposefully for 21 days?

CHANGE OF COUNTENANCE: (What part of your outer life will reflect change?)

A genuine time with God results in a change in your countenance, your outer person is always different when you spend time with God. Moses' face glowed with the glory of God. God's presence so impacted Moses, that he looked different, he reflected the presence of God.

GATHER WITH OTHERS AFTER THIS CHANGE: (vs.30-32)

Moses' face was so brilliant he had to cover his face with a veil. The veil was to contain the glory of God from others, but it was enough to attract others to it. Are people attracted to you for spiritual advice or counsel? Do people seek your opinion, perspectives, and Biblical insights?

GO AND TELL: (vs.34,35)

The experience Moses had with God on Mount Sinai and the Tablets of Stone were for the benefit of the nation of Israel. Moses was not supposed to keep the Tablets for himself. He was to share and tell others. He was under obligation to teach the people what God's Law was and how they needed Him to help them.

Application:

Where is the space or place you plan to meet God for the next 21 days _____

Day 2—Pastor Sam Speck

“So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.” Genesis 1:27

A few days ago, I received a drawing done of me by a child in our church, let's just say they took some creative liberties. With their age and their perception of the world this is the image that they had of me. Sometimes, we can become too concerned with the image that people have of us instead of what our image is. From the beginning of time, God has been the one who defines who we are.

Human beings are created in the image of God, that was a purposeful choice by our Creator. That means no matter what others think about you, or what you think about yourself, your image and identity are found in God. Just take that in for a second. You are created in the image of the all-powerful, all-knowing, holy, and wonderful God. This should transform the way we view ourselves and others.

Today's Challenge: Think about someone you have had trouble loving, pray for that person right now and remind yourself that they are created in the image of God. Then see how that changes your perspective.

Reflections:

Colossians 3:1-4 (ESV)

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is **hidden** with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Words Matter

The word *hidden* comes from the Greek word *kryptō* which means *to hide; to conceal*. Pretty straight forward right? The meaning of this word may be easily understood, but let's take a look at what it means in this context. If you have been transformed from death to life in Christ then you are totally and completely concealed by the image of Christ. This is too wonderful to fully understand, but it is a Truth that we must hold onto. Your sin and guilt are covered. All that can be seen is Christ.

What The Author Is Saying

From Paul, this whole chapter is about action in light of what Christ has done. He goes straight to the ultimate goal of an eternal mindset. Believers have been transformed from a worldly mindset to a heavenly one. This world is temporary. Heaven is forever. As Christians, this is where our thoughts should always be resting on. Christ embodies the life that we live this side of glory and we look forward to the day that we will live in glory.

Meditate Into Action

Dwell on the words of these verses today. Are your thoughts going to be consumed by temporary and earthly concerns? Or will you meditate on God's Truth that is eternal? Let your actions reflect this meditation.

Reflections:

Day 4—Pastor Jimmi Delay

Colossians 3:5-11 (ESV)

(Please read in your bible for full text)

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry... Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being **renewed** in knowledge after the image of its creator...Christ is all, and in all.

Words Matter

The word *renewed* comes from the Greek word *anakainoō* which means to *cause to grow up, new, to make new*. This is a present tense word implying an ongoing process. Yesterday we learned that we are hidden by the image of Christ, but it is evident that there is a process for our transformation.

What The Author Is Saying

In light of an eternal mindset, there are specific things that Paul commands that Christians get rid of in their lives. It is necessary that believers act in step with their new self. The old self was slave to the sins that are listed in this passage, but as a new creation, we are not slaves to those sins anymore. Paul goes further to explain that our new self is not defined by a cultural label. There is no spiritual distinction when it comes to race, tradition, or background. As a part of the body of Christ, Christ is all and in all.

Meditate Into Action

As you are being renewed and transformed today, take time to look at the sins in the passage and confess any that you may be guilty of. Thank Jesus for giving you a new self.

Reflections:

Day 5—Pastor Jimmi Delay

Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV)

(Please read in your bible for full text)

Put on then...compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect **harmony**...And be thankful. 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...

Words Matter

In other translations the word *harmony* also reads as *bond*. This comes from the Greek word *syndesmos* which means *of ligaments by which the members of the human body are united together*. This gives us an idea of just how necessary love is in Christian walk.

What The Author Is Saying

After telling his readers what they need to “put off”, Paul then goes on to tell them what to “put on”. As followers of Christ, it is sometimes easy to focus on the “don’ts” and less about the “dos”. When Christ transforms us from the old self it is imperative that we put on the lifestyle of the new self. Love should be the top priority as we fellowship with other believers. It is the glue that keeps us together. It is like a song that is in perfect harmony with not one note out of tune. Each day of our lives, Jesus’ words should be abundantly present in our thoughts, and they should come out in song.

Meditate Into Action

Prayerfully consider the action words in the passage. Today, someone needs God’s compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness and love. You can be used as a vessel to show these actions to that person today.

Reflections:

Day 6—Pastor Eric Abel

1 John 3:1

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.”

The question of “WHO AM I?” is one of the biggest questions any person will ever face. People find their identity in different ways. One may find identity in their accomplishments, possessions, or their wealth. In reality the most common way a person finds identity is in relationships. These relationships start with the family.

God in His wisdom uses the family all throughout the Scripture to provide the framework, or to build the stage for the great narrative.....that is life itself! Every person has a mother and every person has a father. This is no great revelation. But not all families are alike. Some families provide hope, safety and security, and others are quite the opposite.

All throughout Scripture we read the family of Adam, and we see the effects of sin permeate every aspect of society. If we focus on humankind's self created challenges, then our minds will be focused on constant problems. But, if we look not to our heavenly father, but rather to our earthly father, then we recognize our identity not as a humanly imposed title, but rather as a God given, individually crafted, and purposefully placed PERSON! God sets the identity.

In conclusion, at Church, saints refer to each other as “brother” or “sister”. This is a true and powerful proclamation that the Church is the family of God! God gives us identity and hope!

Reflections:

Day 7—Pastor Manasseh Wakawa

2 Corinthians 5:20 “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us, we implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

All true disciples of Christ are left here on earth as Christ’s ambassadors. We are representing God and Christ down here. We are to live and speak on behalf of heaven. This is part of our new identity, which many followers of Christ do not know. You may be wondering how we became ambassadors. Let’s back up to verses 17-19 of 2 Corinthians 5 to see how we became Christ’s ambassadors. Vs.17 shows us our new identity in Christ. Vs.18 shows us our responsibility as Christ’s ambassadors. The work of reconciling people back to God. Vs. 19 then, speaks of the message (gospel) we are to use in reconciling people back to God. And now in verse 20 we are officially given the position and the title of an ambassador. I remember preaching this message some years ago and an old missionary gentleman listened to it and began to live as Christ’s ambassador. When asked to introduce himself at a hospital, he introduced himself as ambassador and put his name. The hospital workers were shocked and gave him a speeding ambassadorial service. The position of an ambassador is not always glamorous. There are times of challenges, trials, temptations and testing, but all the same we must stand strong and speak as ambassadors. Paul the Apostle was a great example of this, listen to what he said, “for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” He couldn’t be silenced.

Reflection questions:- now that you know that you are an ambassador for Christ,

- 1.what kind of an ambassador are you?
- 2.What kind of an ambassador would you like to be?

Please answer these questions HONESTLY and PRAY for yourself. Make a commitment from today to live and speak as an ambassador of Christ.

Reflections:

Day 8—Karen Hetrick

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

Ever look in a mirror and wonder who you look like? Mom, dad, or maybe a distant cousin? There are so many factors that lead to our looks. There are the physical attributes, like eyes and hair color, and then there are things like mannerisms. All these things can contribute to who we resemble and how we become who we are.

Who do you most wish you looked like when you look in the mirror? Many of us feel proud when we look like someone we highly respect. Ever consider looking to see if you resemble Jesus? We are created in the image of God; it would make sense that we should look like him. Scripture says in Genesis 1:27, “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Maybe not physically, but in spirit, which affects your behavior. We are His workmanship. Yes, life gives us challenges that can affect how we are but looking toward Jesus can bring your perspective back to resembling Jesus. And maybe God is using those challenges to shape you to look more like Him.

Look in the mirror today. Who do you see? Has your relationship with Jesus transformed you? Do you see Jesus or someone that could use some refining?

Reflections:

Day 9—Bri Given

Romans 12:2- “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.”

The world is full of sin and the situation is only worsening as we approach the second coming of our savior. I read once that the way to approach our situation, which appears hopeless at times, is to add more Jesus. Christians are called to be set apart from this world and what better way than to always work towards adding more Jesus to our lives and the sin-filled world around us. We must be transformed and continue to be transformed every day as we work to transform the world by filling it with Jesus. The Holy Spirit brings transformation, therefore we must train the eyes of our hearts to focus on Jesus. Transformation does not come easily, it is developed through trials and suffering. As Psalm 34:18 states, “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” Furthermore, do not lose hope in the midst of sorrow and difficulties. In these times draw nearer to God, let the Spirit transform you. Let us turn from the evils of the world, focusing our hearts on Jesus, allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us to be more like Jesus each day.

Application point

1. Focus on God and His holy Word above all else to invite the Holy Spirit to work in us.
2. Strive to add more Jesus to the world around you every day, even if it is small acts of kindness towards your neighbor.

Reflections:

Day 10—Sherry Bouquet

We may think living in fear is something new with the challenges of the past two years, yet the command “fear not” is mentioned 365 times in the Bible. Obviously, people across the generations have struggled with fear. What fears fill your heart and mind today?

The Scriptures of the Christmas story are also filled with this command. It is evident God wants to transform our relationship with fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)

“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

As this second letter from Paul to Timothy opens, immediately the admonition to be active in the gifts of the ministry is given to the younger believer. When fear grips our heart our mind races on, tangled in a multitude of unrealized consequences, paralyzing our ability to think and live like Jesus.

Physically, fear short circuits our brains, causing us to focus on survival actions...fight, flight, or freeze. When we are afraid the thinking part of our brain is literally “offline”. Like your device that can’t connect to the WI-FI, your brain does not have access to rational thinking or Truth from the Word of God.

In this Scripture, transformation happens when we reject the spirit of fear and accept the spirit of God which includes power, love and self-control or a sound mind. When we ask God to exercise his Power over our fear, to fill us with his perfect Love (which casts out fear, I John 4:18) he enables us to have self-control a sound mind.

Go back to the fears that lurk in your heart and mind. Claim the words of God which directly address those fear with his Power & Love. Meditate on those Scriptures today.

Dear God, do not allow fear to rob me of your Truth. Remind me of your Power, you Love and produce in me a sound mind, full of Faith to live like you.

Reflections:

Day 11—Pastor Sam Speck

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9

Whenever someone is looking to purchase a house the number one place, they do not want to find a problem is the foundation. If the foundation fails, the rest of the house is in trouble. In this passage Peter is talking about Jesus as our spiritual cornerstone. He is the foundation for our faith because of His saving work on the cross.

When we come to saving faith in Jesus Christ it changes who we are. We are chosen, we are holy, we are set apart for God. This change in our identity is not just for our benefit, but so that we can proclaim the message of Jesus to those who will listen. If you are a Christian, you are God’s people, and He has a purpose and a plan for you. Let’s live as people who have been called out of crushing darkness into a glorious light.

Today’s Challenge: Tell someone about the excellent things God has been doing in your life lately. Take less time to complain and more time praising God for all the good He has done and is continuing to do.

Reflections:

Day 12—Pastor Eric Abel

How do you conclude a conversation? Every person does it differently. Some people just say “good bye” or maybe a person you are more familiar with will state, “See ya' later!” Paul in the book of Romans concludes with the following:

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

In this text, we see that we have the opportunity to meditate through how we will allow our thinking to be transformed by God, and thus, how God will transform one's thoughts, one's behaviors, and ultimately one's destiny. God shapes one's identity through His truth.

The disciple Peter writes in 1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

God has given us a place in His family, and He invites His children to reap the benefits of the spiritual kinship. Our Father guides our path, and tells us who we are and demonstrates His love and purpose for each person's life. To live is Christ!

God calls those in His family to a life defined by FAITH. He is a good Father, and we can trust Him. From Adam, to Abraham, to Noah, to Nehemiah, from John, to you, God wants us to trust in Him, to receive His grace and to grow in our FAITH!

God created and crafted you in a unique and special way. Please recognize in every person the infinite value of God's own image that all humans possess!

Reflections:

Day 13—Pastor Manasseh Wakawa

Our Identity

Ecclesiastes 7:29 says God Made us plain and simple but we have made ourselves very completed! From our text here, we see that knowing our identity is very crucial to our human existence. But how do we go about discovering who we are as individuals and a people?

Original Identity: First, we must go back to the origin of our identity. God was the one that created our first parents. He made them good and they got their identity from Him. The Good News Bible translation says, “God made man [Adam] plain and simple.”

Loss of identity: They were enjoying their identity until the unfortunate happened. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. After this, everything went wrong with them and this affected all people, “for as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners” (Romans 5:19)

Henceforth, man struggled to define his identity without God.

Restored Identity: He sent His son, Jesus Christ to die for our rebellion and disobedience so that by trusting in Him we might become the righteousness of God (Romans 8:19). “One of the richest passages about identity in the Bible is found in Ephesians 1:3-14. In this passage, Paul addresses the church in Ephesus, explaining the new identity given to a person when they are in Christ. According to Ephesians 1, we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing... We have received the hope of spending eternity with God. When we are in Christ, these aspects of our identity can never be altered by what we do.” (Melissa Crutchfield, Social Justice Identity in Christ, Identity-Blog)

This new identity in Christ gives us the kingdom of God and family of God.

- Have you experienced this new identity in Christ?

- Are you sure you are in God’s new kingdom and new family?

Reflections:

Day 14—Karen Hetrick

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. Ephesians 5:8

As we grow there are days we all struggle with the identity of who we are. As we reach adulthood, our personality and the person we are has developed. It's been said that who we are to be is formed by our 5th birthday. But in scripture, God said He knew me before I formed you in your mother's womb. Jeremiah 1:5. God knew who each of us would become. He knows our identity.

I'm reminded of a conversation I had with Sophia the other night. She is going through that tough time in life known as puberty. We tend to question who we are or what others say about us. Sophia is haunted by voices telling her she is dumb. I know it isn't the truth and that is what I tell her. Satan will try anything to get you to look inward instead of upward toward your creator. Satan is a liar. I tell her not to listen to those lies and listen to what God says about her. Psalm 139:14, I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Our identity can't come from who others think or even who we think, it has to come from who we are in Christ Jesus. When we are caught up in those thoughts, we need to remember that Jesus is our source of beauty and confidence. Keeping our eyes on Him each day, our identity is very clear. Remember Isaiah 49:16 "Behold I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me."

What voices are you hearing today: Truth or lies????

Reflections:

Day 15—Bri Given

Colossians 3:9-10- “Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”

In Colossians 3:9-10 Paul illustrates the transformation we go through in the process of becoming sanctified. Believers “have put off the old self and have put on the new self.” Through this, Paul is telling believers to rid themselves of their old, sinful ways and live a life where they are completely clothed in Christ, like changing from dirty clothes to brand new, fresh clothes. Our “old self” is our sinful nature that we are born with as humans, but we are redeemed by Jesus’ blood and sanctified by the Spirit. Jesus died for our sins and once we have accepted Jesus as Christ we are fully clothed in his atonement and there is no part of us that is not in Christ. As Christians, we are simultaneously sinful yet forgiven as sanctification is a life-long process. Christians are called to “Put do death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry... But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other.” (Colossians 3:5-9) Christians are to leave behind this evidence of our sinful nature and work daily to become more like Jesus in all our thoughts and actions. “Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.” (Colossians 3:12-13) Make a conscious effort daily to cast-off sin and become more Christ-like.

Application:

1. Read God’s Word and study it as doing so will help further understanding of God and aid in casting off your old ways to become more Christ-like.
2. Pick a sin you struggle with and consciously fight against it to substitute it for the virtues.

Reflections:

Day 16—Sherry Bouquet

The start of a new year arrives with an emphasis on the New You...gym memberships, eating plans, new hobbies, new travels, even new jobs. What new things are you working on? _____-

Many of these “transformations” require the same change...a change of mind. Mind over matter, gray matter that is!

What about your mind? Have you given a thought to God’s desire to transform your mind?

This transformation is the bedrock of the change God seeks to do in each of us.

Romans 12:2 (ESV) “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.”

Daily, almost imperceptibly, we are being molded into the thinking of this world. Media, community, entertainment, education are all working to shape our thinking. The original language here suggests “conform” is a passive notion, changing our minds almost subconsciously. Conversely, the word “transformed” is an active word speaking to a complete or major change, something quite noticeable.

A transformation in our thinking requires the intervention of God and intentional direction on our part. Forcefully reclaiming our mind from the thinking patterns of this world and renewing it with the Truth, a person, Jesus.

Intentionally applying Philippians 4:8 (ESV) to filter our thinking, our minds transformed by the Truth of the Word of God. *“Finally, brothers, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **just**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **commendable**, if there is any **excellence**, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”*

Internally, our brains even show the power of this transformation. Neurotransmitters exhibit physical change when we are thinking the thoughts of Phil. 4:8. They flourish and look like trees filled with lush leaves. But when our thoughts are overcome by anxiety, confusion, anger, bitterness and fear, those same neurotransmitters look like dry, wizened trees, devoid of leaves and life.

Reflections:

Day 17—Pastor Sam Speck

“I do not call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn’t know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father” John 15:15

There is a special privilege that comes with being someone’s friend. They tell you things that they wouldn’t tell anyone else, they trust you. Jesus is taking a big leap in this passage, telling his disciples that he considers them friends and not servants. They are friends because Jesus has told them what God has been telling Him. In that same way we are called friends of Jesus because He has revealed those same things to us through His word.

“Friend,” is so much more than a title it is a responsibility as well. If your identity is as a friend of Jesus, then it is your responsibility to act like a friend, to love like a friend. Jesus demonstrated the ultimate act of love on the cross. He leaves us as His friends with one responsibility, “Love one another!”

Today’s Challenge: Ask the Lord to give you an opportunity to show sacrificial love to someone today. Then go out and be ready to act in love whenever the opportunity, whether big or small, shows itself

Reflections:

Day 18—Pastor Eric Abel

Ephesians 1:4

“Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love.”

How do you judge another person? Everybody does. “Is this person kind? Smart? Influential? In the book of Ephesians 5,, we see Paul “identifying” different people and the roles society has established for them. He writes to husbands, wives, and children. He also writes to slaves and to masters. He recognizes that there are numerous “roles” that people play in society. In defining a person, then he or she has a “role” in the society, and then with that role comes certain expectations, opportunities, and predetermined “human value.” This is man's view; it is not God's view.

Jesus gives us the perfect example of identity, and how to relate with our fellow man. Jesus looked eye to eye with both Kings and poorest of the poor. He interacted with the religious elite of the day and with prostitutes. From His birth, literally, Jesus was worshiped by both Kings and Shepherds. He interacted with the entire spectrum of society, His creation. John 3:16, states “For God SO LOVED the world....”

Jesus loves people.

As we pray through the idea of “identity” it is vitally important that we recognize every person is infinitely valuable. 1 John 4:20-21 states “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

Reflections:

Day 19—Pastor Manasseh Wakawa

2 Timothy 2:3-4 “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”

Many followers of Christ are not aware of this aspect of our identity. And those who are aware, usually do not take it seriously because they view it as too radical, thinking that it is a call for a physical fight. No, this battle is far more serious than a physical fight. Our fight is against Satan and his armies. Both Paul and Peter give us the picture of the kinds of battle we are engaged in.

In Ephesians 6:11 Paul says, our fight is against, “principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Peter summed it up this way, “...your adversary (enemy) the Devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” How then can we fight such a vicious battle? Peter urges us to, “Resist the Devil, steadfast in the faith,...” We have to be strong and very firm in our faith.

Paul in Ephesians 6:10,11,13-18 gave us whole list of what we need to do in order fight this battle to the end.

Reflection questions:-

1. Are you sure, you a soldier of Christ?
2. Are you preparing yourself daily in order fight this battle to the end?

Prayer:- LORD, I realize that this battle is more than I can handle. I totally depend on you to prepare me so I can fight this battle to the end: Amen.

Reflections:

Day 20—Pastor John Bouquet

Not Conformed, Be Transformed **Romans 12:1,2**

It has been a wrestling match between the flesh of hunger and the spiritual longing for transformation. We come to this second to last day of our fasting and prayer days to consider how challenged we are to easily conform to the world.

You will note, the transformation process of the believer is to renew or remake their mind. Science and medicine tell us the brain has the capacity to renew or remake itself. This means as we discern what God's will is in His Word, then it effects how we think and act.

Over the past few weeks how has your mindset changed? What new thinking patterns have developed? In what ways have you grown in your understanding of how the world thinks in comparison to the manner in which a follower of Christ should think?

God's will for you in "good" (agathos') new nature thinking; thinking from a joy vantage point, excellent, distinguishable and honorable. (Philippines 4:8). Transformation means a new thought pattern. Giving you the tools to come to new conclusions about the world we live in and how we live in the world.

Simply stated, you are what you think! When you consider a thought pattern or mindset, what is God's perspective before I arrive at my own position. If I do not agree with God on an issue, I must change the way I think.

The final point of thinking is to think "perfectly" or in such a way to arrive at maturity. To think with a spiritual maturity. It means to have integrity when you think in agreement with God's Word. It is comparing the way a child thinks and an adult.

Application: What new mindset have you considered since the fast began? _____

Day 21—Pastor John Bouquet

Day 21

2 Cor 3:16-18 Transformed into His image

We are invited back to the experience of Moses on Mount Sinai when his face was glowing from the glory of God. You have walked with the Spirit, the Word and times of fasting for 21 days. How did His presence impact your countenance? Your body?

When we are walking in the Word of God with the Spirit of God, we are “unveiled.” The meaning is, transactional faith removes the veil of sin, it removes the barrier, and we are now vulnerable and open.

We sense and know a new freedom. A freedom to be all God intended for you to be. Your identity takes on new meaning. The façade or the fake part of you, needs to be removed.

The Spirit of God is now the chairman of the Board, He is the Captain, He is the General, He is in Command. (**Romans 8:9; John 15:26**) Under His controlling arm is a new kind of freedom to do and be all that God intended.

We become IMAGE BEARERS. Those who follow Christ are now His Agents of glory to the world of people who are watching. Our greatest witness then is when we live out our faith without using words. Your actions reflect the glory within.

The process of Transformation is at the same time instantaneous and ongoing. We are instantly born into the family of God. A believer is in an ongoing, always building, always growing into the person of Christ whom God will liken you to Jesus. Where is it you have grown the most in the past 21 days? Mentally, Physically, Spiritually or Emotionally?

Application:

What is the **ONE** transformational truth you have learned and plan to implement into your life during the 21 days?



Bethel

TAKING THE CHURCH TO THE COMMUNITY

