

Title The Doctrine of Transformation
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What more can you say than has been said? [Quotes a verse of song]. I enjoy singing, and I think our Savior is worth of all praise we can give. Would you stand with me? [Leads "Man of Sorrows, What a Name," "But I Know Whom I Have Believeth," and "Jesus Thou Mighty Lord"]. What does transformation look like? And, who does this transforming? Who decides when and how I am transformed? I would like to try and address some of those questions, but I would like to remind you, we just got done singing, "I know not why, how, the Spirit moves, convincing men of sin, revealing Jesus through the Word. I know not how the saving faith to me did impart." Can you relate with that? I would like to, on the outset, read from 1 Timothy 3:16 [reads verse]. Part of the verse I'd like to emphasize: great is the mystery of godliness. In Thessalonians, Paul writes about a mystery of iniquity also at work, but here is "great is the mystery of godliness." I would like to review three verses in the New Testament: in Matthew 17, the transfiguration. This is the same Greek word we have in Romans 12:2, *transformation*. Also in 2 Corinthians 3: we all with open face, beholding... the glory of the Lord are changed into the same image. That word is the same in each passage, we all with open face. When Jesus was transfigured, it said his face shone, and light was radiating from his countenance, and the whole atmosphere changed. When you go on the mount, sometimes it gets cold. Traveling here, we encountered a small snow storm, but on this mount where the transfiguration took place, it was warm. Peter says he will build tents to stay, but God says, "Sh! this is my Son." The disposition is to listen: not to talk, not tell Him how He should run the kingdom, but to hear and obey. Transformation--amazing.

Genesis 1:1 [reads verse]. God divided the night from the day, light from dark. How did He do it? By His Word! Hebrews 4:12 [reads verse]. The Word of God is powerful. Psalm 29: "The voice of the Lord..." [reads verse]. Is there a transformation taking place here? In my mind, there is a tremendous transformation taking place when God divides the light from the dark, land from sea, calling land earth and water, sea. What is giving the importance, the drive? The voice of the Lord, in response to the voice of God, the waters move and the land takes their position. Isn't that amazing? The sun, the moon, the stars: He calls them all by name, Isaiah says in chapter 40. This amazing transformation, it's amazing! We look at the animals, herbs, vegetation, and I want to emphasize in Genesis--Here you read *he commanded* nine times things to reproduce after its own kind. The trees and the animals, after its own kind. "Except a kernel of wheat... [reads

verse].” We’re close to spring. And you plant that seed in your garden, cover it with earth, water falls, and maybe your children or dog runs over top of it. What happens? The sun warms it. Something’s going on down there, you can’t see it. One day you look out and there’s new life coming out of the ground. Why? Great is the mystery. There is a principle of life that God has implanted in the species he has created. Life. That is obedience to His command. In studying this, I came to the conclusion (and I want you to understand, and I’ll give further explanation), God delights in doing things in the dark. When I say in the dark, Scripture says that God is light and [in Him] there is no darkness at all. God likes to do things hidden from man, and man cannot get a hold of it. But it is working, and man cannot get a hold of it. God has done some tremendous work, hidden in the darkness of that ground. Out of that darkness, God has put life in that seed, no matter what steps on it: cow, cat, hog--life comes forth.

The principle of life, after its kind. When Adam and Eve sinned: the wages of sin is death, and we read in Romans 5 that there is a positive power, so that by one man comes life--the man Jesus Christ. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. That life was the light of men. Peter tells us the world was created by the Word of God. We are in the process of transformation. This world is reserved by the same word, held to the day of fire. There’s going to be an amazing transformation. When time shall be no longer and Jesus descends with a shout. There will be an amazing transformation. “Behold, I make all things new.” Hebrews 7:15-16 [reads verse]. And God, Who spoke this world into existence, John tells us in chapter one: “In the beginning...” [reads verse]. What does this Word in the flesh do? When Jesus came, “I delight to do thy will, O God.” Jesus says, “I came down from Heaven not to do...” [reads verse]. There was a life being driven. We have that term in Luke 4:3. He was baptized in the Jordan River. In chapter four, when the heavens were opened, and God gave the Word to His Son, do you think the Son had a sense of satisfaction? He delighted in the will of the Father--that compliment encouraged Him. There is this power of an endless Life operating. When this Life comes into contact with me, something changes. John 10:10 [reads verse]. Life, that’s what we need. Ephesians 2:10 [reads verse]. Romans 5: “When we were Christ’s enemies” [reads verse]. Each seed bears after its own kind. Adam’s sin corrupted all seed thereafter, so what is the need? When you have bad seed, you look for good seed. God has provided that seed in His Son. We read in 1 Cor. 15:57 [reads verse].

In Christ there is a new seed, a living seed, a powerful seed. The seed of the Almighty, the omnipotent God. Man shall not live by bread [reads verse]. Jesus is telling us, it’s not enough to have physical life, but we must receive a new seed. Jesus came from the seed of Abraham and David--see, that seed. The seed produces after its kind. When that seed is in us, how is it? In 1 Peter 1 [reads verse]. Incorruptible seed. By the Word of God that liveth and abideth forever... The Word is the seed. In Luke 8 (the parable of the sower), the seed is the Word of God. There is life in the Word--the Word is a living Word, a powerful Word, bringing light where there is no light. Jesus was made after the power of an endless life. Transformation, how does it work? I am not into speaking, this morning, or attempting to speak on the process. Rather, I have chosen to confine myself to the facts. It works. How many of you ate breakfast this morning or supper last night? How many of you when you went to bed worried about how your food is going to be digested, or wondered what the beans are going to do when they meet the potatoes, or when both encounter the applesauce? How many are worried about that? How that that form will be changed in a different form and flows through the body, ministering to different parts, and carrying away the waste? How many are worried about how that all operates? You’re not here

concerned about what you drank, but it's working in you, even though you're not thinking about it. I don't know how the processes all works, but I know it works. It's the same thing with the seed in our life. You want to be transformed. One of the things you must do is believe. If we want to be transformed, we can only do as what 2 Cor. 3 says, "We all with open face" [reads verse]. How do we behold the glory of God and the Lord? Turn to 2 Corinthians 4:5 [reads verse]. You want to know and see the glory of God, look in the face of Jesus, and see the attributes of God, living, exemplified, and the compassion of Christ, and the love of Christ. I want to point us to that hill on Calvary, when the Word became flesh so that we could have life. God gave us the Word (the revelation of Himself) under the tutoring of the Holy Spirit, transforming us to the image of His dear Son. Romans 8:29 [reads verse]. O to be like Thee, conformed to His image! Fathers sometimes go places with their son or daughter and people see "products of his kind." People tell my wife, you can't deny who your mother is. You look just like her. Others tell me they can see where my son comes from. Produces after their kind. God wants many sons--to bring them to glory. As we look at lives marred and ruined by sin, not knowing what to do with sin, God has given us all that we need. 2 Peter 2:1 "...his divine nature." [reads verse]. Being a partaker in the divine nature, God wants to transform us into the image of His Son. As we walk among sinners, like we ourselves, we can point to the Answer. The fountain is living. John 19:30 [reads verse]. Out came blood and water--a fountain open, for cleansing from sin.

You and I can be transformed. The Spirit leads us to the Fountain for cleansing, not once or twice, but time and time again. Do you remember the bath when you were born? Probably not. Who gave it to you? You probably don't know that either. How many baths have you had since? Probably don't know. How many did you have this week? Today? A fountain is for cleansing, and the blood, 1 John 1:7 [reads verse]. How many have gotten dirty since your first bath, and how many times? You don't know. How many have sinned since you first became a believer? I am so thankful for a fountain open for uncleanness and sin. If we confess our sins, He's faithful to transform. This transformation: how many of you take a bite of a carrot and swallow it? a steak? or hotdog? Chomp it off, swallow it. Probably no one. What do you do? You chew it and chew it, munch, munch, crunch, crunch, and you savor the flavor. How are we transformed? By the renewing of our mind? What is the renewing? The word as I understand it is to renovate, remodel, taking old things out, the new in. I think it is as we read the Living Word: not just bite off a chunk and swallow. But as we savor the flavor, we are doing what David says in Psalm 1 [reads verse]. In His law does he meditate day and night. Jeremiah ate His words [reads verse]. Wherewithal shall a young man [reads verse]. It is possible to be transformed. Yes, and to continue to be transformed. How many of you want to stay just as you are for the rest of your life? I don't. I want to see more of Jesus! Hungering and thirsting after righteousness, poverty of spirit, broken and marred, and Jesus does not get frightened or wonder what He should do.

I would like to put a subtitle: the omnipotent transformer. This transformer can wash away all sin except one, blasphemy of the Holy Ghost. We are driven again and again to the Fountain; when I fall and fail and go to the Fountain and experience again the forgiveness, it makes me want to bow at His feet and say, "Thank you, Jesus." Transformation leads us in various stages and ways, ultimately to pure service. Worship God in Spirit and truth. How does it work? Remember Jacob, Genesis 32: he was a schemer, conniver, cheater, a gimme person. He got what he wanted, regardless of the cost. Sometimes God speaks to us through the avenue of need to make us aware of our need for Him, whether financial, emotional, or spiritual needs. Jacob knew what buttons to

push to get what he wanted, but there came a time there was something greater than him. God brings those situations into our life. God told Jacob to go back to the land he came from. There is a tremendous crisis; his brother was coming against him with armed men. That's how God works, He brings problems bigger than we can handle. God meets us in this crisis, and there we wrestle with God. How did I get here? Why am I here? I don't understand!-- and God wrestles with us. Wrestling is what Jacob did—I enjoy wrestling with others, I would take anyone. Here Jacob wrestled with God, seeking a blessing. That's perseverance, hunger, being driven. I need something I don't have, and I'm not going to let you go until you get it. Seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be given. God gave him a blessing, and then he broke him. He wants to bring us to a new area of brokenness. God wants to bless us more than we want that blessing. God wanted to make a change in Jacob. The process: he wrestles with God--the will--until Jacob says, I won't let you go. Now God is asking Jacob, who are you? As Jacob struggles under that conviction, pressure, tension, he finally yields: I am Jacob, he says. He admitted who, what, and where he was. "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted." It is the power of an Endless Life. Grace came pouring into his heart. God gave him a new name. He was broken, and humbled. Having won the battle with God, Jacob limped--a transformation, a holy limp. Having become broken before God, he becomes broken before his brother. When he meets him down the path, he sent out presents. You can have it. Have it. It's a present. It's yours. See the transformation? Lastly, he comes and bows seven times before Esau. Esau looked at Jacob and saw brokenness. When we see brokenness, what effect does that have on us? Doesn't it melt us? The ability of God on Calvary's cross--so you and I can be transformed. Metamorphosis: a monarch butterfly—beautiful. But before he arrives, he's a caterpillar, crawling over rocks and stones. He goes up a tree and fastens--and what happens? Great is the mystery of godliness! He takes on a change, followed through, and comes out into liberty, a new creature, and there he looks down on the heights. The place that once gave him so much trouble. Alive, flashing in the sunshine. That's what God wants to do for us, the sin that gave us so many problems. That's what he wants to do with us.