



Transformed into His Image

30 Day Bible Study

Written by

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Transformed into His Image

Day One

Created in His Image

“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” Genesis 1:26 NKJV

In the beginning of the creation of the earth, the plants, the animals, and human beings, the One True Triune God of the Universe had a plan. The Heavenly Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit co-created the world and everything therein. Their perfect plan was to create human beings in their image and their likeness. These created human beings were destined by God to become the sons of God and have dominion over all other created things. *“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”* (Genesis 1:26 NKJV)

In the book of Genesis chapter one verse twenty-six, the Hebrew word for “make” is “asa” which means to make, to bestow, to fashion, to appoint, to work, and to prepare. The Hebrew word for “man” is “adam” which means ruddy, red, a human being, a man, or mankind. The Hebrew word for “image” is “selem” which means resemblance and likeness. The Hebrew word for “likeness” is “damut” which means resemblance, model, fashion, manner, similitude, and likeness. Therefore, in this scripture God stated that the Holy Trinity would make, bestow, appoint, work, and fashion man, human beings, and mankind into Their image, resemblance, likeness, fashion, manner, and similitude.

According to Merriam Webster’s dictionary, the word “similitude” means counterpart, double, likeness, similarity, and resemblance. The word similitude implies that there is an agreement or correspondence in details, character, and nature between God and man. The word resemblance implies a similarity in appearance and external qualities between God and man. Just like our earthly parents pass down some of their physical characteristics, personality, and nature to us, our Heavenly Father bestows His likeness, personality, and nature to us. Human beings were created by God to be like Him. We were created to resemble Him, to be similar in nature to Him, and to reflect who He is in us and through us. Like Father, like son and daughter.

Human beings were created by God in His image to become His sons and daughters. We were created to be one with Him, walking with Him in intimacy. We were created to know Him, to love Him, and to be loved by Him. We were created to be part of His family. Through the amazing unfathomable love that He has for us, He created us to be like Him.

REFLECTION

Have you ever thought that you were created with a specific purpose in mind? Have you ever thought that you were created by God to be like Him? How does knowing this change the way you perceive God? How does knowing this change the way you perceive yourself?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for creating me in Your image. Thank You for making me to be like You in my physical appearance, my nature, and my attributes. Lord, I desire to give You my heart and my life. Transform me into Your image and likeness. Holy Spirit, help me to love the Lord with all my heart, to worship Jesus in spirit and in Truth, and to obey His commands. Help me to be like my Heavenly Father. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Genesis 1 NKJV

The History of Creation

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw the light, that *it was* good; and God divided the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So, the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." **7** Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so. **8** And God called the firmament Heaven. So, the evening and the morning were the second day.

9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear"; and it was so. **10** And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was* good.

11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. **12** And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. **13** So the evening and the morning were the third day.

14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; **15** and let them be for

lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. ¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. *He made the stars also.* ¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was good.* ¹⁹ So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." ²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good.* ²² And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind"; and it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good.*

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over ^[a]all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

²⁹ And God said, "See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰ Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is life, I have given every green herb for food*"; and it was so. ³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was very good.* So, the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Transformed into His Image

Day Two

Becoming Sons/Daughters of God

“But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.” John 1:12 KJV

In the Old Testament of the Bible in the book of Genesis, the Word states that the One True Triune God created human beings in Their image and likeness. God’s desire was to create a family of sons and daughters who would love Him, be loved by Him, and commune with Him in deep intimacy. Sadly, that intimate communion was broken through the act of the willful disobedience of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Their disobedience was considered **sin** in the eyes of God. Their sin separated them from God. Their sin caused them to lose the nature and likeness of God. Instead of a God-nature, now they had a sin-nature. Adam and Eve needed redemption from their sin to bring them into right relationship with God. The Lord in His compassion and great mercy covered their sin with the blood of a sacrificial animal. It was through the atoning blood of a lamb that they were brought back into the intimate communion with God in which they were created to live. It was the blood that restored their relationship.

In the New Testament of the Bible in the book of John, the disciple John reveals Jesus as the Eternal Word of God, the True Light, the Son of God, and the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. No longer was a sacrificial lamb needed to atone for the sins of the people of God for reconciliation. Jesus, the Lamb of God, who was slain from the foundation of the world, had come to earth to die in our place and pay the debt for our sins. He is the once and for all perfect sacrifice. It is by His atoning blood that we are now brought back into an intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father. The blood of Jesus restores our relationship with the Father. The blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, saves, heals, and delivers us. The blood of Jesus allows us to become the sons and daughters of God. Through His blood we can be transformed into His image and likeness.

In the book of John chapter one verse twelve, the Word of God states, *“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name:”* (John 1:12 KJV) In this scripture the Greek word for “received” is “lambano” which means accept, receive, take the hand of, claim, procure, seize, lay hold of, admit, to not refuse, and to choose. The Greek word for “power” is “exousia” which means privilege, capacity, potential, authority, power, right, strength, liberty, jurisdiction, power of choice, and a sign of regal authority. The Greek word for “sons” is “teknon” which means child, daughter, or son. The Greek word for “believe” is “pisteuo” which means to have faith, believe, trust, commit, to put trust in, to be persuaded, and to place confidence in. Therefore, this scripture states that as many as received, accepted, had taken the hand of, claimed, procured, seized, laid hold of, admitted, not refused, and chosen Jesus as the Savior and Lord, God gave them power, the

right, strength, liberty, jurisdiction, power of choice, and regal authority to become the sons, daughters, and children of God; even all those who believe in, have faith in, trust in, commit to, put their trust in, are persuaded by, and place their confidence in Jesus.

Jesus is the Son of the Living God! He is the Savior of the world! He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords! He is the One True God! It is by His sacrificial death on the cross as the Lamb of God that He takes away the sins of the world. It is by His blood that we have the power to become the sons and daughters of God. It is by His blood that we are redeemed and reconciled back to the Father. It is by His blood that we are transformed into His image and likeness. Jesus is our Savior and Lord!

REFLECTION

Before accepting Jesus as your Savior and Lord, how did you perceive your image and your nature? Did you perceive yourself as a son or daughter of God? Did you perceive yourself as one who was made in the image and likeness of God? Now that you have accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord, do you see yourself as God sees you, His son or daughter? Do you see yourself being transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I confess that I am a sinner. I ask You to forgive me of all my sins. Jesus, I believe You died on the cross for me to pay the debt for my sins. I accept and receive You as my Savior and Lord. I plead the blood of Jesus over my life right now. Wash me clean. Holy Spirit, come live in me and transform my life into the image and likeness of Jesus. In the name of Jesus, amen.

John 1 NKJV

The Eternal Word

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John's Witness: The True Light

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. **7** This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. **8** He was not that Light but *was sent* to

bear witness of that Light. ⁹ That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Word Becomes Flesh

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"

¹⁶ And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

A Voice in the Wilderness

¹⁹ Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

And he answered, "No."

²² Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?"

²³ He said: "I *am*

'The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

"Make straight the way of the LORD,"

as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. ²⁵ And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. ²⁷ It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."

²⁸ These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Lamb of God

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."

³² And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to

me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

The First Disciples

³⁵ Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶ And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?"

They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?"

³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

Philip and Nathanael

⁴³ The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

⁴⁶ And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip said to him, "Come and see."

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"

⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

⁴⁹ Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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Day Three

We Beheld His Glory

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14 NKJV

In the New Testament in the book of John chapter one, the apostle John proclaimed that Jesus is the eternal Word of God, He is the True Light of the world, He is the word made flesh, and He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In the book of John chapter one verse fourteen the Word states, *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”* (John 1:14 NKJV) Jesus is the Word of God who humbled Himself by leaving His heavenly throne and glorified body to take on a human body form on the earth. King Jesus, the king of all kings, came to this earthly realm and dwelt among the people communing with them, teaching them, healing them, delivering them, and preparing them for eternal life in heaven with God the Father.

In the book of John chapter one verse fourteen, the apostle John was describing Jesus as the only begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and mercy. John described Him as the Eternal Word of God who willingly left His heavenly throne and glorified body to put on a human being body in this earthly realm to dwell among His people. In this scripture, the Greek word for “Word” is “logos” which means the Word, Christ, sayings of God, the uttered word of God, doctrine, and the Old Testament. The Greek word for “flesh” is “sarx” which means a body, a human being, flesh, the body of a man, or a living creature. The Greek word for “dwelt” is “skenoō” which means encamp, to reside, to tabernacle, to abide, and to dwell. The Greek word for “glory” is “doxa” which means glory, praise, worship, and honor. The Greek word for “grace” is “charis” which means graciousness, the divine influence of the heart, favor, worthy, thanks, good will, and loving-kindness. The Greek word for “truth” is “aletheia” which means truth, verity, a fact, a personal excellence, and certainty. Therefore, John was stating that the uttered word of God, the Christ, the true doctrine, and Old Testament became flesh, a human being, the body of a man, and a living creature and dwelt, encamped, resided, abided, and tabernacled with us. We beheld His glory, honor, praise, and worship, the glory of the only begotten Son of God, full of grace, graciousness, divine influence, favor, good will, loving-kindness, and truth, verity, personal excellence, and certainty.

When we have an authentic encounter with Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, we behold Him for who He truly is, the Son of God arrayed in splendor, glory, and majesty. Jesus desires to tabernacle or dwell with us just as He did with the first disciples. He desires to reveal Himself to us as He did with them. He also desires to transform us into His image and likeness. He desires for us to be filled with His glory, goodwill, and loving-kindness. He desires for us to live in His truth, the Word of God, and in the knowledge of Him. When we encounter the person of Jesus

Christ, we will desire to know Him more intimately, to obey His Word, and to become like Him. Jesus is the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and God the Son. He is the King of Glory and the Savior of the world. Hallelujah!

REFLECTION

When you look in the mirror what or who do you see? Do you see your flaws and all the things you dislike about yourself? Or do you see a son or daughter of God made in the image of God? What do you think you need to do in order to see yourself as God sees you? How can you be transformed into the image of Jesus?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for any times I have been critical of my appearance or obsessed with my looks. Lord, I desire to be more like Jesus. I desire to be transformed into His image and likeness. Lord, I give You my heart and my life. I yield to You, have Your way in me. Change me from the inside out, so I might be filled with Your glory. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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Day Four

Oneness with Jesus

“I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” John 17:23 NKJV

In the book of John chapter seventeen in the New Testament, Jesus was praying His very last prayer to the Father before He went to the cross. In this scripture, Jesus was first praying for Himself to be glorified by the Father through the cross so that others would be saved and receive eternal life. He also was praying for His disciples to be sanctified by the Word of God and preserved from the evil one, Satan. Lastly, He prayed for all believers to become one with the Father as He is one with the Father.

Jesus lived a life of complete unity and oneness with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He spent time alone with the Father in worship and prayer in quiet remote places. He established his personal prayer closet on mountaintops and in olive gardens. Through deep intimacy with the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus preached the Kingdom of God to the people of God with signs, wonders, and miracles following. Before His final act of extravagant love for us expressed on the cross, Jesus interceded for His disciples, all His followers, and all future believers. He prayed that all would *“be made perfect in one”*, one with the Holy Trinity.

In the book of John chapter seventeen verse twenty-three, Jesus was praying to the Father, *“I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”* (John 17:23 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “perfect” is “teleioo” which means accomplish, consummate, consecrate, finish, fulfill, to make perfect, to perfect, and to complete. The Greek word for “one” is “heis” which means one, abundantly, after the same manner, and united in spirit. Therefore, the Lord was praying that the Father would change the hearts of all believers so that they would abide in the heart and will of God and that the Father would abide within them. Jesus prayed that all believers would be made perfect, completed, consecrated, consummated, fulfilled, and perfected in oneness, unity of spirit, and after the same manner as Jesus. We are to be one with God the Father in the same manner that Jesus is one with the Father. We in Him and He in us.

According to this scripture, Jesus stated in His prayer to the Father that as we become one with the Holy Trinity, the unity we possess and display will prove to the world that Jesus is the Son of God, and that God loves us that same way He loves Jesus. When we become truly one with God, we will be filled with the Holy Spirit and the glory of God. Through a life that is consecrated and yielded to the Holy Spirit, we will be transformed more and more into the

image and likeness of Jesus. We will glow with the light of His countenance, and we will exude His power and glory. When the world sees this transformation, they will **know** that Jesus truly is the Son of the Living God, and they will **know** that the Father loves us as He loves Jesus!

REFLECTION

Are you living a life consecrated to the Lord? Do you make time to worship and pray every day? Do you study the Word of God to know Jesus more intimately? Are you in pursuit of deeper intimacy with the Lord? Do you desire to become one with the Holy Trinity?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I desire to know You more intimately. Holy Spirit, please help me to consecrate my life to Jesus. Help me to yield to Your instruction and obey Your Word. Lord, transform me into the image and likeness of Jesus. Lord, transform my life with Your power and glory. Lord, help me to become one with You. In the name of Jesus, amen.

John 17 NKJV

Jesus Prays for Himself

17 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these

have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

Transformed into His Image

Day Five

Seeing the Glory

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.” John 17:24 NIV

In the New Testament of the Bible in the book of John chapter seventeen, the apostle John recorded the words of Jesus as He prayed His last prayer to the Father before He went to the cross. In this passage of scripture, Jesus is crying out for all believers to live out a life of deep intimacy with the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He cried out for the glory of God to be manifest in the hearts and lives of all believers as it was in Him.

In the book of John chapter seventeen verse twenty-four, Jesus’ desire was for all His disciples and followers to be with Him and to see His glory. *“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”* (John 17:24 NIV) It is interesting to note that verse twenty-four is similar to verses one through five in the beginning of this chapter. *“After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”*” (John 17:1-5 NIV)

In verse twenty-four and verses one through five, Jesus refers to the fact that He was sent to earth from heaven to reveal the glory of God the Father. He stated that He desired for all the believers to be with Him where He is (heaven), to see His glory, to have eternal life, and to know Him. Jesus came from heaven, a place of glory, to this earthly realm to reveal that same glory to all people. After He had finished His assignment on this earth, He returned to that place of glory (heaven). His desire for us is to know Him intimately, to become transformed by His glory, and to one day live with Him in the glory of heaven.

It is the glory of God the Father, the glory of Jesus, His Son, and the glory of the Holy Spirit that transforms our lives. Our heavenly Father does not have a fleshly human being body. His body is made of the substance of glory. His glory is illuminous, powerful, electric, overwhelming, and love filled. The atmosphere of heaven is also glory, which emanates from the very being of God the Father and Jesus. When we have an authentic encounter with the King of Glory, Jesus, we will be changed within our spirit man forever. The transformation of our spirit man is the beginning of the transformation of glory within our lives. The glory of God will transform our

spirit man, our soul (mind, will, and emotions), and our physical bodies. The glory of God will transform us more and more into the image and likeness of Jesus!

REFLECTION

Have you ever had an authentic encounter with the King of Glory, Jesus? If you have, can you describe what you felt, saw, or heard? Since that encounter, do you feel different than you did before? Has the glory of God transformed you in your spirit man?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I desire to know You in the realm of Your glory. I desire for You to transform me in my spirit, soul, and body. I desire to know You intimately and to one day dwell with You in glory. Holy Spirit, draw me closer and transform me by the power of Your glory. In the name of Jesus, amen.

John 17 NKJV

Jesus Prays to Be Glorified

17 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶ “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me, and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me, and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you

gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³ "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Transformed into His Image

Day Six

Transformed into Life

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” Romans 8:1-3 KJV

In the New Testament, the book of Romans was written by the apostle Paul to the church of Rome. It was written as a letter, or epistle, of instruction intended to provide direction, encouragement, and guidance to the believers in Rome. In the first seven chapters of the book of Romans, Paul had explained the doctrine of justification by grace, and he pressed the believers to sanctify themselves unto the Lord. In chapter eight, Paul was encouraging the Roman believers with the promise of life in the spirit.

In the book of Romans chapter eight, Paul encouraged the believers in Rome with the hope of a better way by following Jesus. He initially described life in the spirit as being far more beneficial than death in the flesh. Second, he explained that the present suffering of the believers would pale in comparison to the glory of God to come. Finally, Paul emphatically proclaimed that all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ are more than conquerors, and that nothing could separate believers from the love of God.

In the book of Romans chapter eight verses one through two, the apostle Paul states, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”* (Romans 8:1-2 NIV) In this verse, the Greek word for “condemnation” is “katakrima” which means a negative verdict, a damnatory sentence from a judge, and a condemnation. The Greek word for “walk” is ‘peripateo’ which means to walk all around, to live, to be occupied with, or to conduct oneself. The Greek word for “flesh” is ‘sarx’ which means body, human nature, carnal, carnally minded, and fleshly. The Greek word for “spirit” is “pneuma” which means the Holy Spirit, the spirit man, wind, and breath. The Greek word for “law” is “nomos” which means the Gospel, law, or command. The Greek word for “free” is “eleutheroo” which means exempt, deliver, make free, and set at liberty. Therefore, the apostle Paul was stating that **now** there is no condemnation, damnatory sentence, or negative verdict to those who belong to Christ Jesus, those who do **not** walk, live, become occupied with, or conduct oneself after the flesh, the human nature, or the carnal mind. There is no condemnation to those who walk after the spirit, or the Holy Spirit. For the law, command, or the Gospel of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made us free, exempt, and set at liberty from the law of sin and death.

The life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ paid the wages of our sin, which was death or eternal spiritual separation from God. Jesus' body and blood paid the price for us. Not only did He redeem us back to intimate relationship with the Father, but He transformed our lives from the curse of the law, which is sin and death, to the law of the Spirit, which is life. By His blood we are transformed from sin and death into **life**. By His blood we are able to be led by the Holy Spirit. By His blood we are transformed into life!!!

REFLECTION

As you go throughout your day, are you being led by your carnal, fleshly human nature? Or are you being led by the Holy Spirit of the living God? Since the Word states that Jesus made a way for you to be transformed from sin and death into life, what do you think you need to do in order to see that transformation manifest in your everyday life?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for walking after the flesh and the world. Wash me clean by the blood of Jesus. Holy Spirit, help me to live my life following You and being led by You. Lord, I give You my life and I yield to You. Help me to hear Your voice clearly and obey. Transform me from sin and death into LIFE! In the name of Jesus, amen.

Romans 8 KJV

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

¹⁰ And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

¹¹ But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

²³ And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

²⁴ For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

²⁵ But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

³³ Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Transformed into His Image

Day Seven

Transformed into Sonship

“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”
Romans 8:13-14 KJV

In the New Testament in the book of Romans, the apostle Paul was writing to the believers in the church of Rome. The church in Rome had been under persecution for following the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul was trying to encourage the believers, both Jew and Gentile to keep the faith, to follow the Lord, and to live in the spirit, not in the flesh. Paul’s word of encouragement to the church in Rome applies to us today as well.

In the book of Romans chapter eight verses thirteen through fourteen, Paul states, *“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”* (Romans 8:13-14 KJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “live” is “zao” which means alive, quick, to live, to breathe, morals and character, and to love. The Greek word for “flesh” is “sarx” which means the flesh, carnal, carnally minded, and human nature. The Greek word for “die” is “apothnesko” which means death, to be dead, die, dying, perish, and eternal death. The Greek word for “mortify” is “thanatoo” which means to become dead, to kill, to mortify, and to be put to death. The Greek word for “sons” is “yhios” which means Son of God (Jesus), pupil, son, Son of Man (Jesus), and those who revere God as their Father (worshippers of God). Therefore, Paul was stating that if we live, breath and have morals and values after the flesh, the carnal mind, and the human nature (not the God-nature), we shall die, perish, and have eternal death (eternal separation from God). But if we by the power of the Holy Spirit do mortify, kill, and put to death the deeds of the body (sin), then we shall live, breathe, and have the morals and character of God. For as many as are led by the Holy Spirit, they are the sons, children, pupils (disciples), and joint heirs with Jesus the Son of Man and Son of God. The choice is clear! We either choose to live a sinful life which leads to eternal death, or we choose to live a righteous life in Christ which leads to eternal life.

From the beginning the Holy Trinity designed us to be made in their image and likeness. We are to become sons of the Most High God, joint heirs with Jesus. We are to live on this earth the way Jesus lived, denying the lusts of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. We are to walk away from sin and live a life surrendered and yielded to the Holy Spirit, obeying the Word of God, and walking in unity and intimacy with the Lord. As we mature from being born again babes in Christ to the full stature of the image of Christ in us, we will be transformed into His image and likeness. Yielding to the Holy Spirit, reading and obeying the Word of God,

surrendering our hearts and lives to the Lord Jesus, worshipping the Lord, and praying to the Father are the actions we take in order to become one with Him. Having a lifestyle of seeking Him with all our hearts draws us closer to Him and draws Him closer to us. It is through knowing Him that we are able to hear Him and obey Him. As we follow Him closely, we will be transformed into the Sons of God.

REFLECTION

Are you following after the ways of this world or are you following after the Lord Jesus Christ? What areas of your life are still following after the flesh? What areas of your life are following after the Holy Spirit? How can you mortify or kill the sins of your flesh? What can you do to become more like Jesus?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for all the sin in my life. Wash me clean by the blood of Jesus. Holy Spirit, help me to mortify my flesh and to live for Jesus. Help me to follow You in all my ways. Transform me into the image and likeness of Jesus. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Romans 8 KJV

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

¹⁰ And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

¹¹ But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

²³ And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

²⁴ For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

²⁵ But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

³³ Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Transformed into His Image

Day Eight

The Image of the Son

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.” Romans 8:29-30 KJV

From the beginning of creation, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, three in one, desired to have a family of sons and daughters with whom they could dwell, have an intimate covenant relationship, and rule and reign together throughout eternity. The Holy Trinity desired for humanity to be created in their image and likeness. From the beginning the Lord had a plan that we would become His sons and daughters and be conformed to the image and perfection of His Son, Jesus.

In the book of Romans chapter eight verse twenty-nine Paul wrote, *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”* (Romans 8:29 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “foreknow” is “proginosko” which means know beforehand, foreordain, foresee, and predestinate. The Greek word for “predestinate” is “proorizo” which means predetermine, ordain, determine before, and decide beforehand. The Greek word for “conform” is “symmorphos” which means to fashion like, to conform, and having a similar form. The Greek word for “image” is “eikon” which means likeness, statue, profile, resemblance, image, figure, and image of the Son of God. Therefore, Paul was stating that for all those people whom the Lord did foreknow, know beforehand, foresee, and predestinate, He also did predestine, ordain, determine beforehand, and decide beforehand to be conformed, fashioned like, and having a similar form to the image, likeness, statue, profile, resemblance, and figure of the Son of God, Jesus. Since the Lord can see into the eternal future, He knows who will choose Him and who will not. For all who will become His, He chooses to conform them into the image of His Son.

In the book of Romans chapter eight verse thirty Paul writes, *“Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”* (Romans 8:30 KJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “called” is “kaleo” which means to call forth, to bid, to be named, to invite, and to be called by name. The Greek word for “justified” is “dikaioo” which means to render, to be just or innocent, to free, to justify, and to be made righteous. The Greek word for “glorified” is “doxazo” which means to render or esteem glorious, to honor, to magnify, to worship, splendor, and brightness. Therefore, Paul was stating that all those whom the Lord did

predestine or foreknew would be His, He also called, bid to come to Him, invited them to come to Him, and named them to be His. Then the ones whom the Lord called, He justified, rendered to be His, made them just or innocent, freed them, and made them righteous by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus. Those that the Lord justified, He also glorified, rendered or esteemed glorious, honored, and clothed with His splendor, glory, and brightness. It has always been the heart of the Father to transform us into the image and likeness of His Son, Jesus. Once we surrender our hearts and lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the transformation process begins. We are predestined, called, justified, and glorified by the blood of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

REFLECTION

Do you feel like you reflect the image and nature of Jesus in your everyday life? In what ways? What do you think you need to change in order to allow the Holy Spirit to transform you more and more into the image of Jesus?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I choose You! I choose to be chosen! I choose to be Yours! Lord, please forgive me for not loving You with my whole being. I surrender to Your Lordship. Holy Spirit, please conform and transform me into the image and likeness of Jesus. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Romans 8 KJV

8 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

¹⁰ And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

¹¹ But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

²³ And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

²⁴ For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

²⁵ But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

³³ Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Transformed into His Image

Day Nine

A Living Sacrifice

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1 KJV

In the New Testament in the book of Romans, the apostle Paul was writing to the believers in the church in Rome. In Romans chapter twelve verse one, Paul states, *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”* (Romans 12:1 KJV) Since the Lord desires for us to be transformed and conformed into the image and likeness of Jesus, we must understand that we have a responsibility to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. We must surrender our hearts and our lives to the lordship of Jesus Christ, yielding to the instruction of the Holy Spirit daily. This is our reasonable service unto the Lord.

In the book of Romans chapter twelve verse one, the Greek word for “mercies” is “oiktirmos” which means compassion, mercy, pity, and longings. The Greek word for “bodies” is “soma” which means body, slave, and bodily. The Greek word for “sacrifice” is “thysia” which means sacrifice, or victim (implying complete surrender). The Greek word for “holy” is “hagios” which means sacred, most holy thing, and saint. The Greek word for “acceptable” is “euarestos” which means acceptable, and well pleasing. The Greek word for “reasonable” is “logikos” which means reasonable, pertaining to reason or logic, and spiritual. The Greek word for “service” is “latreia” which means worship, service, divine service, and perform sacred services. Therefore, Paul was stating that He was beseeching all the believers in the church of Rome, empowered by the mercies, Godly pity, and longings of the Lord, that they should present their bodies as slaves and servants as a living sacrifice in complete surrender in holiness, sacredness, and as a saint of God, which is acceptable, well pleasing unto God. This is our reasonable and spiritual act of worship, divine service, and sacred acts to God.

In the Old Testament the priests in the temple of the Lord would sacrifice animals according to the instructions of the Lord to bring cleansing of sin to the people. This act of worship and service was a prophetic type of Jesus being sacrificed on the cross as the Lamb of God for our sins. Because Jesus willingly laid down His life unto **death** for us, He desires for us to be willing to lay down our lives as a **living** sacrifice for Him. It is not our will, but His will be done in and through us. He laid down His life for us, so in return we lay down our lives for Him. Through the power of the holy Lamb of God, Jesus, and His spotless perfect blood, our laid down lives are considered a holy sacrifice and act of worship unto Him. We lay down our lives out of gratitude and love for Him. Yielding to the Lordship of Jesus is a sacred act and is all together pleasing to the Lord.

As we lay down our lives daily surrendering to the instruction of the Holy Spirit, we are yielding to the process of being transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus. The more we surrender, the more we are transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. It is a laid down life of surrender and yielding to the Holy Spirit that is well pleasing to the Lord. This is a lifestyle, and it is the heart of the Lord for us.

REFLECTION

Are you grateful for the work of the cross? Have you ever experienced anyone else in your life who willingly chose to die in your place besides Jesus? What do you think would be an appropriate way to thank the Lord for what He has done for you? Do you agree with what He says is an act of worship and service to Him?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for living solely for myself. Cleanse me with the precious holy blood of Jesus. Holy Spirit, I surrender and yield to You. Teach me Your ways. Transform me into the image and likeness of Jesus. Lord, I give You my life as an act of worship and service to You. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. I love You. Make me more like You. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Romans 12 KJV

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

⁵ So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

⁷ Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁹ Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

- ¹⁰ Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;
- ¹¹ Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;
- ¹² Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;
- ¹³ Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.
- ¹⁴ Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.
- ¹⁵ Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
- ¹⁶ Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.
- ¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.
- ¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.
- ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
- ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.
- ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Transformed into His Image

Day Ten

Renewing of Your Mind

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:2 KJV

In the New Testament in the book of Romans chapter twelve, the apostle Paul was writing to the believers in the church in Rome. He was exhorting the church to live a yielded, surrendered life to the Holy Spirit. He was encouraging them to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. He admonished them to be humble, love-filled, honest, kind-hearted, and gentle. In the book of Romans chapter twelve verse two, Paul states, *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* (Romans 12:2 KJV)

In the first part of this scripture, the Greek word for “conformed” is “*syschematizo*” which means to conform in the same pattern, to fashion alike, and to conform one’s mind and character to another’s pattern. The Greek word for “world” is “*aion*” which means the world, this age, and the ways of this world. The Greek word for “transformed” is “*metamorphoo*” which means to transform, change, transfigure, and to change into another form. The Greek word for “renewing” is “*anakaninosis*” which means renewing, renovation, and complete change for the better. The Greek word for “mind” is “*nous*” which means the intellect, mind, thoughts, feelings, will, and understanding. Hence, Paul was stating that the believers in Jesus should not be conformed in their minds and character or follow after the same pattern as the world, this age, or the ways of this world. Instead, they should be transformed, changed, and transfigured into another form (Jesus) by the renewing, renovating, and completely changing for the better their minds, thoughts, feelings, will, and understanding.

In the second part of this scripture, the Greek word for “prove” is “*dokimazo*” which means to test, to approve, to discern, to allow, to examine, to scrutinize, and to deem worthy. The Greek word for “good” is “*agathos*” which means benefit, good, well, and a good thing. The Greek word for “acceptable” is “*euarestos*” which means agreeable, acceptable, and well pleasing. The Greek word for “perfect” is “*teleios*” which means complete, perfect, of full age, consummate human integrity and virtue, and to be mature. Therefore, Paul was stating that the believers in Jesus should be transformed by the renewing of their minds that they may prove, test, approve, discern, allow, examine, scrutinize, and deem worthy what is the good, beneficial, well pleasing, acceptable, agreeable, perfect, of full age, consummate in virtue and integrity, and mature will of God.

In other words, we cannot completely know or discern the perfect will of the Lord for our lives until we yield to the process of transformation. We must cooperate with the process of renewing our minds to the mind of Christ and transforming our beings to the image and likeness of Jesus which is completed in us through the power of the precious Holy Spirit. It is the perfect will of God for us to be transformed into His image and likeness, to become His Bride.

REFLECTION

When you read chapter twelve of the book of Romans, do you see yourself as the model Christian that Paul describes? Are you humble, honest, kind, gentle, forgiving, loving, and peace seeking? When others look at you, do they see Jesus? Has anyone ever told you that they see the love of God in your eyes? Is your thought life, your mind, in line with the Bible? What do you think you can do to become transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I desire to be transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus. Holy Spirit I yield to You. I surrender to Your instruction. I lay myself on the altar as a living sacrifice. Take me and use me for Your glory. Lord, allow Your perfect will to be done in my life. Allow the Word of God, the Bible, to transform my mind to the mind of Christ. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Romans 12 KJV

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

⁴ For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

⁵ So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

⁷ Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

- ⁸ Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
- ⁹ Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.
- ¹⁰ Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;
- ¹¹ Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;
- ¹² Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;
- ¹³ Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.
- ¹⁴ Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.
- ¹⁵ Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
- ¹⁶ Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.
- ¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.
- ¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.
- ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
- ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.
- ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Transformed into His Image

Day Eleven

The Image and Glory of God

“A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.” I Corinthians 11:7 NIV

In the New Testament, the book of First Corinthians was written by the apostle Paul to the believers in the church in the city of Corinth. In First Corinthians chapter eleven, Paul was addressing the issue of women prophesying in the church and he was addressing the practice of taking holy communion. He also addressed the importance of headship and covering. However, the most important statement in this chapter is the first one, *“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”* (I Corinthians 11:1 NIV) Paul was giving clear instructions for all the believers in the city of Corinth to follow his example only as he followed the Lord Jesus Christ. The implication is that they should not follow him if he was not following Christ. We too must not be led astray. We must only follow those leaders who are teaching, living, and following the living Word of God, Jesus Christ.

In First Corinthians chapter eleven verse seven the Word states, *“A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.”* (I Corinthians 11:7 NIV) It is important to understand that during that time women wore head coverings or veils to symbolize being under the authority and protection of a man, a father or husband. The veil was also used to conceal her beauty from others as it was reserved only for her husband’s eyes. Only the prostitutes exposed their heads and faces refusing to wear a veil, thus refusing to be under any authority. A woman being under the headship and leadership of a man did not mean that she was less than or inferior to a man in any way. This was God’s clear design for order in the church and in the family to establish safety, protection, and unity. There was a responsibility for the men to follow the Lord and lead their families and the church in a godly manner. The women were to follow the example of Christ who submitted to the Father even though He was God the Son.

God, the Father, out of His love for us, had established a divine order of headship in a family and in the fellowship of believers. Within the holy Trinity, God, the Father, is the head and Jesus, His Son, submits to that headship or leadership even though He, Jesus, is equal to God. In the church or in a family, God established the man as the head or leader and the woman as his equal submitting to his godly headship and leadership. One might say that the husband and wife who are following this Biblical model reflect and reveal the heavenly model of God, the Father, and Jesus, the Son. The man has a clear responsibility to follow the Lord Jesus and the Word of God as He leads His family and the church. The woman has a clear responsibility to follow the leading of the man as he follows the Lord. This does not mean blind obedience,

instead it means godly submission to the leadership order. We all need godly leadership and protection. We all need the wisdom of God in our lives. We all need the glory of God to be in our midst. Following this example of godly leadership opens the door for the safety, protection, peace, love, and joy of the Lord to fill our lives.

In First Corinthians chapter eleven verse seven, the Word states, *“A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.”* (1 Corinthians 11:7 NIV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “cover” is “katakalypto” which means to cover wholly, to conceal, to hide, to veil. The Greek word for “head” is “kephale” which means head, chief, prominence, supreme, master, and lord. The Greek word for “image” is “eikon” which means likeness, statue, profile, resemblance, image, and representation. The Greek word for “glory” is doxa” which means glory, honor, praise, and worship. Therefore, Paul was stating that a man ought **not** to cover, wholly conceal, hide, or veil his head, chief prominence, or place of leadership, since he is the image, likeness, resemblance, statute, profile, and representation of God as well as the glory, honor, and praise of God. But the woman is the glory, honor, and praise of man. When we understand our value and position in the Lord’s divine order, we can truly flow together in unity and oneness being transformed into His image and likeness.

REFLECTION

How do you see yourself? Do you see yourself as a beautiful creation made in the image and likeness of God? Do you see your value as His son or daughter? Do you understand that divine position and order does not mean less than or devalued? How does agreement with God’s divine order for family and church help you flow better in your role?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for not submitting to Your Lordship. Cleanse me with the precious holy blood of Jesus. Help me to understand Your divine plan for leadership in the family and in the church. Holy Spirit, help me to agree and follow the Father’s plan for my life. Help me to line up my life with the authority that You have designed. Help me to be in unity with You and Your Word so that Your glory will flow in my life. Transform me into the image and likeness of Jesus. In the name of Jesus, amen.

1 Corinthians 11 NIV

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

On Covering the Head in Worship

² I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you. ³ But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. ⁴ Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵ But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved. ⁶ For if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head.

⁷ A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. ⁸ For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; ⁹ neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. ¹⁰ It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels. ¹¹ Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. ¹² For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

¹³ Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴ Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, ¹⁵ but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. ¹⁶ If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God.

Correcting an Abuse of the Lord's Supper

¹⁷ In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸ In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹ No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. ²⁰ So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹ for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. ²² Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹ For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. ³² Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. ³⁴ Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment. And when I come I will give further directions.

Transformed into His Image

Day Twelve

The Image of the Heavenly Man

“And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.” I Corinthians 15:49 NKJV

During the days after Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, the church had become weary and fleshly due to the pagan society surrounding and influencing them. In the book of First Corinthians, the body of believers in the city of Corinth was being corrected by Paul for their errant behavior and beliefs. He also instructed them in the truths of the scriptures, and he encouraged them to cling to their faith in Jesus Christ. In the book of First Corinthians chapter fifteen, Paul was specifically addressing the resurrection of the dead and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Even though Paul had preached Jesus crucified and resurrected, many of the believers in the city of Corinth flatly denied the resurrection. Not only did they deny the resurrection of Jesus, but they denied the resurrection of the saints to come. Paul refreshed them with his teaching of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Son of God. Then he taught the Corinthians that Jesus was the first fruits of the resurrection of all believers. It is upon this foundational teaching that the Gospel of Christianity is established: the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the final victory for all believers, to overcome the sting of death through resurrection into heaven. Without believing the full Gospel, the Corinthians had no gospel at all.

Toward the end of this chapter, Paul began to describe the resurrection of Jesus as “our great hope”. He also taught that believers will receive a glorified body and will be transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus. We will put off our corruptible fleshly bodies and put on our incorruptible glorified bodies. In the book of First Corinthians chapter fifteen verses forty-seven through forty-nine the Word states, *“The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.”* (I Corinthians 15:47-49 NKJV) In verse forty-nine, the Greek word for “borne” is “phoreo” which means to have a burden, to bear, and to wear as in clothing or armor. The Greek word for “image” is “eikon” which means likeness, statue, profile, representation, resemblance, and image. The Greek word for “dust” is “choikos” which means dusty, dirty, earthy, and made of earth. The Greek word for “heavenly” is “epouranios” which means celestial, heavenly, above the sky, heavenly temple or sanctuary. Therefore, Paul was teaching in verse forty-nine that as we (believers) have borne, carried a burden, and worn clothing or armor in the image, statue,

profile, likeness, representation, and resemblance of the man of dust, earth, and dirt (Adam); we will also bear the image, resemblance and likeness of the heavenly, celestial, and glorious man (Jesus). It is the Lord's desire for us to be transformed into His image and likeness. He desires to begin the work here on this earth and it will be completed when we are resurrected from the dead. Knowing that Jesus is the first born among many brethren and that His death and resurrection made a way for us to be resurrected from the grave, is part of the transformation process. Knowing this truth gives us great hope in the Holy Spirit to begin the process of transformation here on this earth and to complete it when we meet Jesus in heaven. Our destiny is to be completely His and to be transformed into His image and likeness in glory.

REFLECTION

Do you realize that one day you will be raised from the dead to be with Jesus in heaven? In view of God's eternal plan for you to be transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus, what do you think you can do to cooperate with that plan? Have you asked the Holy Spirit to transform you?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for not living with eternity in mind. Holy Spirit, please help me understand the truth that I am made for eternal life with You. Lord, please give me a revelation of the resurrection from death to life. Give me a revelation of being transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus. Holy Spirit, I give You permission to begin the process of transformation in me. In the name of Jesus, amen.

1 Corinthians 15 NKJV

The Risen Christ, Faith's Reality

15 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. ⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. ⁸ Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me. ¹¹ Therefore, whether *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

The Risen Christ, Our Hope

¹² Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁴ And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. ¹⁵ Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. ¹⁶ For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! ¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

The Last Enemy Destroyed

²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the first fruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. ²⁴ Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death. ²⁷ For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under *Him*," *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. ²⁸ Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Effects of Denying the Resurrection

²⁹ Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead? ³⁰ And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? ³¹ I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. ³² If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage *is it* to me? If *the* dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!" ³³ Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." ³⁴ Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.

A Glorious Body

³⁵ But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" ³⁶ Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other *grain*. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

³⁹ All flesh *is* not the same flesh, but *there is* one *kind of* flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, *and* another of birds.

⁴⁰ *There are* also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. ⁴¹ *There is* one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for *one* star differs from *another* star in glory.

⁴² So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.

⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸ As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man*, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. ⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*.

Our Final Victory

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O Death, where *is* your sting?
O Hades, where *is* your victory?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Transformed into His Image

Day Thirteen

Transformed from Glory to Glory

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

In the New Testament in the book of Second Corinthians chapter three, the apostle Paul was writing to the believers in the church in Corinth. First, Paul informed the church that they were living epistles or letters which had been penned by the Holy Spirit on the tablets of their hearts, and were being read by many other people. He then taught that their sufficiency as ministers of the New Covenant came from the Lord. Next, Paul explained that the veil that had separated the people of God from the glory in the Old Testament was now rent in two through the power of the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus, revealing the glory of God to the people. Jesus made a way for us all to be transformed into His image and likeness from glory to glory.

In the book of Second Corinthians chapter three verse eighteen, the Word of God states, *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”* (2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “unveiled” is “anakalypto” which means to unveil, to open, and to uncover by drawing back a veil. The Greek word for “face” is “prosopon” which means countenance, person, presence, and appearance. The Greek word for “mirror” is “katoptrizo” which means behold as in a glass, to make a reflection, and a mirror. The Greek word for “glory” is “doxa” which means dignity, praise, worship, honor, glory, magnificence, excellence, splendor, brightness, and majesty. The Greek word for “transformed” is “metamorphoo” which means change, transfigure, transform, and to change into another form. Therefore, Paul was stating that we all (believers), with unveiled, open, and uncovered faces, countenances, and appearances, are beholding or looking into a mirror, a glass, and a reflection, the glory, majesty, magnificence, excellence, and splendor of the Lord. We are being transformed, changed, and transfigured into the same image of Jesus from glory to glory, just as by the Holy Spirit of the Lord.

In this scripture passage, the apostle Paul was describing that when Moses spent time with the Lord on Mount Sinai, the glorious, radiant countenance of the Lord was seen by Moses and was imprinted onto Moses’ face. When the children of Israel saw that Moses’ face shone with the brilliance of the glory of God, they were amazed. Paul also stated that Moses was from the Old Covenant of the law, but even so he was able to experience the glory of God in a face-to-face encounter with the Lord. How much more are we as believers of the New Covenant able to encounter the glory of the Lord as we become more and more intimate with Jesus. Through

the crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord, we are given access to His glorious presence by His own blood. It is through encountering the Lord Jesus Christ from a deep place of intimacy that we are able to become transformed into His image and likeness. It is through His presence and the glory of His countenance that we are changed.

REFLECTION

Have you ever had an experience with the Lord that was so glory filled that your countenance was shiny afterward? If so, how did it make you feel? Do you desire to have an encounter with the Lord that will transform you more into His image and likeness?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your desire to know me more intimately. Thank You for drawing me closer to You. Holy Spirit, let the precious holy blood of Jesus transform me into the image and likeness of Jesus. I desire to be like You and to encounter your glory. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Corinthians 3 NKJV

Christ's Epistle

3 Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some *others*, epistles of commendation to you or *letters* of commendation from you? **2**You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; **3** clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart.

The Spirit, Not the Letter

4 And we have such trust through Christ toward God. **5** Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God, **6** who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Glory of the New Covenant

7 But if the ministry of death, written *and* engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away, **8** how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? **9** For if the ministry of condemnation *had* glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in

glory. ¹⁰ For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. ¹¹ For if what is passing away *was* glorious, what remains *is* much more glorious. ¹² Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— ¹³ unlike Moses, *who* put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is taken away in Christ. ¹⁵ But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶ Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Transformed into His Image

Day Fourteen

Light of the Gospel, Glory of Christ

“...whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” II Corinthians 4:4 NKJV

In the New Testament in the book of Second Corinthians, the apostle Paul was instructing the believers in the church of Corinth. In Second Corinthians chapter four, Paul shared the truth about the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, about being cast down by circumstances but not conquered or destroyed, and about seeing the invisible, eternal kingdom of heaven. Paul was encouraging all the believers in the church of Corinth to hold fast to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In II Corinthians chapter four verse four, Paul wrote, *“...whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”* (II Corinthians 4:4 NKJV) In this scripture the Greek word for “god” is “theos” which means a deity, magistrate, and god. The Greek word for “age” is “aion” which means age, world, and period of time. The Greek word for “blinded” is “typhloo” which means to make blind, to obscure, to darken the mind, and to blunt the mental discernment. Hence this scripture begins by revealing that the god or deity (Satan or the devil) of this world, age or period of time has blinded, obscured, darkened the minds of, and blunted the mental discernment of the minds of those who do not believe in Jesus.

In the second part of this scripture, the Greek word for “light” is “photismos” which means illumination, light, the act of enlightening, and brightness. The Greek word for “gospel” is “evangelion” which means a good message, the gospel of Christ, the gospel of the Kingdom, good tidings, glad tidings of salvation, and the proclamation of the grace of God. The Greek word for “image” is “eikon” which means statue, profile, representative, resemblance, likeness, and image. The Greek word for “shine” is “augazo” which means to beam forth, to shine, irradiate, and to be bright. Therefore, Paul was stating that the enemy has blinded the minds of the unbelievers lest the light, illumination, brightness, and act of enlightening of the gospel of Christ, the good tidings of salvation, the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and the proclamation of the grace of God which is of the glory of Jesus Christ, who is the image, likeness, and representation of the Father, should shine, beam forth, and radiate on them.

In the following passage of scripture in the book of Second Corinthians chapter four verses one through six, the apostle Paul is encouraging the believers in the church of Corinth. He is trying to inspire them to hold on to their faith in having hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. Since there was so much persecution of Christians by the Roman government and by many unbelievers, Paul was trying to give the believers in the church of Corinth the heavenly perspective. Through

reading this passage of scripture, we as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ can understand that the apostle Paul was clearly stating that it is only through the illuminous light of the Holy Spirit that we are able to hear, receive, and believe the Gospel or good news of the saving grace of Jesus. This transforming light of the Holy Spirit reveals the glory of Jesus and the glory of the Father to us. If we are persecuted by unbelievers for our faith, it is because their minds have not yet been illuminated by the Truth. As our minds are focused on Jesus and the Truth of the Word of God, we also are being transformed into His image and likeness. As Jesus is in the Father, we also are in Him and in the Father through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. The glorious light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ illuminates and transforms our spirit, soul, and body.

The Light of Christ's Gospel

4 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Knowing this gives all believers the encouragement we need to live for and follow the Lord with the hope of being transformed into His image and likeness.

REFLECTION

Have you ever been under persecution from unbelievers because of your faith? Did that persecution cause you to feel like giving up? How do you think you can build up your faith and hold on to hope in the Lord Jesus in spite of persecution?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for not trusting in You. Wash me clean with the precious blood of Jesus. Holy Spirit, shine the light of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ into my heart and life once again. Please allow the illumination of the Father and Jesus to transform me into the image and likeness of Jesus. In the name of Jesus, amen.

2 Corinthians 4 NKJV

The Light of Christ's Gospel

⁴ Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Cast Down but Unconquered

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. ⁸ *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So then death is working in us, but life in you. ¹³ And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present *us* with you. ¹⁵ For all things *are* for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Seeing the Invisible

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

Transformed into His Image

Day Fifteen

Becoming a New Creation in Christ

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

In the book of Second Corinthians chapter five in the New Testament, the apostle Paul was encouraging the believers in the city of Corinth. In this passage of scripture, Paul was giving the Corinthian church the blessed assurance of resurrection after death. He also was instructing them to be prepared for the great Judgment Seat of Christ. Finally, he was imploring all believers and unbelievers to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.

From the following passage of scripture, the apostle Paul was teaching the believers in Corinth to walk in the spirit and not after the flesh. Paul was encouraging them to operate no longer in the ways of the old man or the flesh; instead, through the eyes of the spirit. *“Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”* (II Corinthians 5:16-19 NKJV) We too should see and operate in the spirit and not after the flesh, from a heavenly perspective and not a worldly one. Having a heavenly, spirit led perspective is part of the transformation process.

In Second Corinthians chapter five verse seventeen, the Word of God states, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* (II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “in” (in Christ) is “en” which means a position in space, time or place, a relation of rest, and to give oneself wholly to. The Greek word for “new” is “kainos” which means new, fresh, of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, and unheard of. The Greek word for “creation” is “ktisis” which means creation, creature, building, and institution. Hence, the apostle Paul was stating that if anyone is in, in a position of space, time, or place, in a relation of rest, and having given oneself wholly to Jesus Christ; then, he/she is a new, fresh, of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, and unheard-of creation, creature, building and institution. We put off the old man (flesh) and we put on the Lord Jesus Christ (spirit).

In the second part of this scripture, the Greek word for “old things” is “archaios” which means old, ancient, and primal nature. The Greek word for “passed away” is “parerchomai” which means to go away, perish, pass away, over, in the past, and omit. The Greek word for “all

things” is “pas” which means all manner of things, whatsoever, whosoever, and the whole or entirety. The Greek word for “new” is “kainos” which means new, fresh, recent, of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, and unheard of. Therefore, Paul was stating that all those who believe in Jesus Christ are a new, fresh, of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, and unheard-of creation, creature, building, and institution. The old, ancient, and primal nature of humanity has passed away, has gone away, has perished, is now over, is in the past, and has been omitted. Behold, all things, whatsoever, whosoever, and the whole or entirety of life has become new, fresh, recent, of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, and unheard of. This transformation process begins within us when we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. Our spirit man is made alive in Christ! It is the desire of the Lord for us to become completely transformed in spirit, soul (mind, will, and emotions), and body. As we yield to the Holy Spirit our minds and bodies are transformed more and more into the image and likeness of Jesus. We are no longer the same! We are new creatures in Christ living by the Holy Spirit of the Living God!

REFLECTION

Since you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, do you have a desire to change? In what areas of life do you desire change? What steps can you take to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to allow the transformation process to continue in your life?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I desire for You to live in me through the life and blood of Jesus Christ. I desire for You to transform me into the image and likeness of Jesus. Lord, make me a new creation from the inside out. Holy Spirit, help me to yield to the transformation process and live in the spirit. I no longer desire to live after the flesh. I desire to live after the spirit. In the name of Jesus, amen.

2 Corinthians 5 NKJV

Assurance of the Resurrection

5 For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, ³if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. ⁴For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶ So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

Be Reconciled to God

¹² For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have *an answer* for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, *it is* for God; or if we are of sound mind, *it is* for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

¹⁶ Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Transformed into His Image

Day Sixteen

Crucified with Christ

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20 NKJV

The apostle Paul wrote the book of Galatians to the believers in the city of Galatia. In this epistle, Paul was addressing the issues concerning the differences between the Jewish believers and the Gentiles believers of that day. The Jewish believers desired for the Gentiles believers to follow the Jewish laws and customs. In the book of Galatians, the Jewish believers wanted the Gentile believers to follow the custom of circumcision. Paul basically taught them that all mankind is saved by the grace of the Jesus Christ, not by works or following Jewish traditions.

In the book of Galatians chapter two, Paul was correcting Peter on the issue of whether or not to follow the customs of the Jews in circumcision and kosher eating. In verses fourteen through twenty-four, Paul states, *“But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? ¹⁵ We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, ¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. ¹⁷ “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. ¹⁹ For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”* In essence, Paul was clarifying to Peter, the Jews, and the Gentile believers that following the traditions of the Jews was not going to bring life and salvation. The only way to obtain salvation was through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, not by works.

In the book of Galatians chapter two verse twenty Paul states, *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* (Galatians 2:20 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “crucified” is “systauroo” which means to crucify along with. According to Webster’s dictionary, the word “crucify” means to put someone to death by nailing or binding them to a cross, as an ancient punishment. It can also mean to criticize someone severely and unrelentingly. The Greek word for “Christ” is “christos” which means

anointed, Messiah, and Son of God. The Greek word for “faith” is “pistis” which means persuasion, moral conviction, assurance, belief, and fidelity. Therefore, Paul instructed the believers in the church in Galatia that he had been crucified or put to death in his fleshly desires. He continued that it was no longer he, Paul, who lived but Christ, the anointed one, the Messiah, and the Son of God who lived in him. The life which Paul lived in the flesh or natural man he now lived by faith, persuasion, moral conviction, assurance, belief, and fidelity in the Son of God (Jesus), who loved him (Paul) and gave Himself on the cross for him. By dying to the old ways, traditions, and customs with which we were raised, we are dying to self. When we die to our selfish desires, worldly ambitions, and lusts of the flesh, we are allowing the Holy Spirit to invade our lives and transform us into the image and likeness of Jesus. Living by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the transforming power of God in our lives.

REFLECTION

Are you practicing religious customs? Do you practice them from a place of intimacy with Jesus? Have you died to your lusts and selfish ambitions? Are you living for yourself, or are you living for God?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for living after the flesh, the world, and selfish desires. Cleanse me by Your blood. Holy Spirit. Take every selfish, fleshly desire out of me and burn it up with holy fire. Lord, let me live for You! Jesus, consume me! Live in and through me. I give myself to You. Use me for Your glory. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Galatians 2 NKJV

Defending the Gospel

2 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with *me*. ²And I went up by revelation and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to those who were of reputation, lest by any means I might run, or had run, in vain. ³Yet not even Titus who *was* with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised. ⁴And *this occurred* because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), ⁵to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

⁶But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed *to be something* added

nothing to me. ⁷ But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as *the gospel* for the circumcised *was* to Peter ⁸ (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), ⁹ and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that *we should go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ *They desired* only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

No Return to the Law

¹¹ Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ¹² for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? ¹⁵ We *who are* Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, ¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

¹⁷ "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. ¹⁹ For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain."

Transformed into His Image

Day Seventeen

Walk by the Spirit

“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16 NIV

In the book of Galatians chapter five, the apostle Paul was writing to the believers in the church of Galatia. In this scripture passage, Paul was encouraging the followers of Jesus Christ to walk in the spirit not after the flesh. In Galatians chapter five verses thirteen through twenty-one, Paul describes what walking in the flesh actually looks like. Then he describes what walking in the spirit looks like. Paul states, *“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, **serve one another humbly in love.** ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: **“Love your neighbor as yourself.”** ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. ¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”* (Galatians 5:13-21 NIV) Walking after the flesh is responding, reacting, and living with sin in your heart and life. It is at the root, selfishness! Walking in the spirit is denying your fleshly desires and reactions, and yielding your heart and life to the Holy Spirit.

In the book of Galatians chapter five verse seventeen, the Word of God states, *“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”* (Galatians 5:16 NIV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “walk” is “peripateo” which means to walk all around, to live, to follow, and to conduct oneself. The Greek word for “gratify” is “teleo” which means to complete, execute, accomplish, and perform. The Greek word for “desires” is “epithymia” which means a longing especially for what is forbidden, a desire, a craving, and lust. The Greek word for “flesh” is “sarx” which means human nature, flesh, carnal, and carnally minded. Therefore, Paul stated that the believers should walk, live, follow, and conduct oneself after the Holy Spirit. By doing this they would not gratify, complete, execute, follow, accomplish, and perform the forbidden desires, cravings, and lusts of the flesh, carnal mind, and fallen human nature.

It is interesting to note that after Paul describes the characteristics of walking after the flesh, he then contrasts them with the description of the fruit of the Spirit which is the character of God. In the book of Galatians chapter five verses twenty-two through twenty-three the Word of God states, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness,*

faithfulness, ²³ *gentleness and self-control.* Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV) In order for us to be transformed into the image of Jesus, we must repent of **all** the sins of the flesh. Next, we must ask the Holy Spirit to develop the fruit of the Spirit within our hearts and lives. As we yield to the Holy Spirit in tempting or trying situations, instead of our fleshly carnal lusts, we will begin to develop the fruit of the Spirit which is the character and nature of God Himself. As the fruit develops, we are transformed more and more into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. Transformation begins with repentance and continues by yielding to and obeying the Holy Spirit.

REFLECTION

Do you participate in any of the works of the flesh?

-sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies

Have you developed any of the fruit of the Spirit?

-love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

What can you do to die to the flesh and submit to the Holy Spirit?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for all the ways I have walked in the flesh and not by the Spirit. Wash me clean with the precious holy blood of the Lamb. Holy Spirit, help me to die to my flesh and yield to You. Please transform my life into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. I give You full permission to have Your way in me. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Galatians 5 NIV

Freedom in Christ

5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

² Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴ You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

⁷You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? ⁸That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹“A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” ¹⁰I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. ¹¹Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. ¹²As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

Life by the Spirit

¹³You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking, and envying each other.

Transformed into His Image

Day Eighteen

Created for Good Works

“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 NKJV

In the New Testament in the book of Ephesians, the apostle Paul was writing to the church in Ephesus. Most likely, Paul wrote this epistle from his two-year prison term in Rome. He was imprisoned for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the book of Ephesians chapter two verse ten, Paul contrasted the life of all believers before they encountered Jesus to their lives after their conversion experience. Next, he addressed the fact that all the believers in Jesus Christ were brought near to the Father by the blood of the Lamb. Then, Paul stated that Jesus is our peace and makes us one new man, both Jews and Gentiles. Finally, Paul explained that Jesus Christ Himself is the chief cornerstone of the temple of the Lord, and we are being fitted together as the holy dwelling place of God by the Holy Spirit.

Part of being transformed into the image of Jesus, is allowing the Holy Spirit to fit us together with other believers both Jew and Gentile to create a dwelling place for God in us on the earth. It is in that dwelling place that we are filled with the Holy Spirit and prepared to do great works for His glory. In the book of Ephesians chapter two verse ten, Paul states, *“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 NKJV) In this scripture the Greek word for “workmanship” is “poiema” which means a product, thing that is made, fabric, a work of God, and workmanship. The Greek word for “good” is “agathos” which means pleasant, agreeable, upright, honorable, and good. The Greek word for “works” is “ergon” which means toil, deed, doing, labor, and work. The Greek word for “prepared beforehand” is “protoimazo” which means ordain before, prepare before, and to make ready before. Therefore, Paul was stating that we, as believers, are His workmanship, product, thing that is made, fabric, and work of God. We are created in Christ Jesus for good, agreeable, pleasant, upright, and honorable works, toil, deeds, doings, and labor. All of which God has prepared beforehand, ordained beforehand, and made ready beforehand that we should walk in them. We as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are called to become a member of the corporate Bride of Christ, the redeemed Jews and the glorified church. From that place of intimacy and unity with the Lord and His body, we are equipped and called to do great works for the glory of God. We have a calling, a purpose, and a destiny in the Lord!!

The more we yield to the Holy Spirit and seek the face and heart of God, the more we will draw closer and closer to Him. As we draw close to Him, we become more and more intimate with Him. As we become intimate with Him, we desire to know Him, love Him, please Him, and obey Him. Ministering to the Lord Jesus is our number one calling, purpose and destiny. From that

place of ministering to Him, we are transformed more and more into His image and likeness. From that place of intimacy, we are equipped to do the greater works. Everything flows from intimacy. Through dying to self, yielding to the Holy Spirit, and ministering to Him that we are transformed into His workmanship, a yielded vessel of honor, ready for the greater works.

REFLECTION

Are you spending time in the secret place with the Lord waiting on Him? Are you ministering to Him with worship and adoration? Are you dying to self and yielding to the Holy Spirit? What do you need to change in your life to make more time to become intimate with Jesus?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for not spending time with You. Holy Spirit, draw me closer into the secret dwelling place of the Lord. Stir up a hunger and thirst for Your presence. Help me to die to the desires of my flesh and of this fallen world. Lord, transform me into Your workmanship in the secret dwelling place. Transform me into Your image and likeness. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Ephesians 2 NKJV

By Grace Through Faith

2 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Brought Near by His Blood

¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Christ Our Peace

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Christ Our Cornerstone

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Transformed into His Image

Day Nineteen

Stature of the Fullness of Christ

“...till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...” Ephesians 4:13 NKJV

In Ephesians chapter four, the apostle Paul was writing to the believers in the church of Ephesus. Paul was encouraging the believers to walk together in unity with all lowliness and gentleness, bearing one another in love. Next, he taught the church of Ephesus that God had given the five-fold ministry to help equip the saints for the work of ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ, until they all would come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. Then, Paul exhorted them to put off, concerning their former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of their minds, becoming a new man in Jesus Christ. Finally, Paul warned the believers not to grieve the Holy Spirit. He told them to let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from them, with all malice. He encouraged them to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave them.

In the book of Ephesus chapter four verse thirteen, the Word of God states, “...till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...” (Ephesians 4:13 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “unity” is “henotes” which means unanimity, unity, and agreement. The Greek word for “faith” is “pistis” which means credence, moral conviction, truthfulness of God, assurance, and belief. The Greek word for “knowledge” is “epignosis” which means discernment and precise knowledge. The Greek word for “perfect” is “teleios” which means finished, perfect, human integrity and virtue, and to be mature. The Greek word for “stature” is “helikia” which means maturity, age, stature, length of life, and comeliness of stature. The Greek word for “fullness” is “pleroma” which means completeness, filled up, filled with presence, power, riches of God and of Christ, abundance, and fullness of time. Therefore, Paul was stating that the five-fold ministry was given to the church so that all could come to the unity and agreement of the faith moral conviction, truthfulness of God, assurance and belief in the knowledge, discernment, and precise knowledge of the Son of God, Jesus. We will become a perfect, finished, integrous, virtuous, and mature person to the measure of the stature, maturity, age, and length of life of the fullness, comeliness, abundance, fullness of time, and filled with the presence, power, riches of God and of Christ Jesus.

Being transformed into the image of Jesus Christ is the process of submitting to the Holy Spirit and to the five-fold ministry of the church for instruction, teaching and reproof. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and the leaders of the church, we are being transformed from our sinful, worldly, corrupted mindset into having the mind of Christ, His nature, His ways, and

His character. As we yield more and more to the transformation process, the old man and old way of doing things dies; then Jesus will begin to live fully in us. As a result, we can truthfully say, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”* (Galatians 2:20 KJV)

REFLECTION

When you reflect on the things that you think, say, and do, are those thoughts, words, and actions pure, holy, and righteous according to Biblical standards? Are you grieved by your behavior at times? What can you do to change those things that are not pleasing to you and to the Lord?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for all the things I think, say, and do that are displeasing to You. Cleanse me with the precious holy blood of Jesus. Holy Spirit, please help me to think, speak and act in agreement with the Word of God. Help me to change! Convict me when I am wrong and help me change my heart, words, thoughts, and actions to align with Your character, nature and ways. Help me to be raised to the fulness of the stature of Jesus Christ. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Ephesians 4 NKJV

Walk in Unity

4 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, **2** with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, **3** endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** *There is one* body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

Spiritual Gifts

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. **8** Therefore He says:

“When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

The New Man

¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Do Not Grieve the Spirit

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*” for we are members of one another. ²⁶ “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Transformed into His Image

Day Twenty

True Righteousness and Holiness

"...and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Ephesians 4:24 NIV

The apostle Paul was ministering to the believers in the city of Ephesus through a letter he had written to them. In this letter, he encouraged the body of Christ to be united in maturity. Then, he gave them instructions for Christian living. Paul told them to put off their old selves (flesh), which was being corrupted by its deceitful desires, to be made new in the attitude of their minds, and to put on their new selves (spirit-led), created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. He told them to put off falsehood (lying) and speak truthfully to their neighbors. He told them not to steal, not to let anger cause them to sin, and not to grieve the Holy Spirit. He told them to get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, along, and every form of malice. Finally, he told them to be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God had forgiven them.

In the book of Ephesians chapter four verse twenty-four the Word states, *"...and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."* (Ephesians 4:24 NIV) In this scripture, the Greek word for "put on" is "endyo" which means array, clothe, to be endued with, and to sink into clothing. The Greek word for "self" is "anthropos" which means human being, countenance, man, and body and soul. The Greek word for "created" is "ktizo" which means to make habitable, to create, to form, to shape, to change, and to transform. The Greek word for "God" is "theos" which means the Supreme deity, the Father, Jesus the Son, the Holy Ghost, and the One True God. The Greek word for "righteousness" is "dikaiosyne" which means justification, righteousness, integrity, virtue, purity of life, and the correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting. The Greek word for "holiness" is "hosiotes" which means piety, holiness, and fidelity. Therefore, Paul was stating that the believers in Ephesus were to put on, clothe, array, and become endued with a new self, countenance, man, body, and soul. He told them that they were created, formed, shaped, changed, and transformed to be like God, the Supreme God, the One True God, the Father, Son (Jesus) and the Holy Ghost in righteousness, integrity, virtue, purity of life, and the correctness of thinking, feeling, and acting. They were created in holiness, piety, and fidelity. Paul was instructing the believers in Ephesus to disrobe from the old sinful, worldly nature of man and to clothe themselves with the righteousness of Christ that transforms us into a new man of the spirit.

The Lord's desire was and is for us all to be transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus, His Son. The transformation process is an internal one more than an external one. It is yielding to the Holy Spirit as He teaches us how to disengage from our old fallen sin nature and embrace

walking in the spirit and developing the Fruit of the Spirit within our hearts and lives. This transformation process is to change us into the character, nature, and ways of the Lord. We are a garden. We are either growing good healthy fruit or we are growing rotten smelly fruit. The gardener of our lives is the Father. Jesus is the vine planted in the garden of our hearts. We are the branches grafted into the vine, Jesus. The Father tends the garden and prunes the branches (us) to bear good healthy fruit. As we seek and abide in Jesus through an intimate holy relationship, yield to the leading and teaching of the Holy Spirit, and obey the Word of God, we will be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

Do you find yourself operating in bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, and other rotten fruit? If so, what can you do to allow the Father to prune the rotten fruit from your life? What can you do to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in cultivating the garden of your heart in developing healthy godly fruit?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I desire to be transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus. Lord, please tend the garden of my heart and prune away all the rotten fruit from my life. I desire to bear healthy godly fruit. I desire to be like Jesus. Lord, develop the character, nature, and ways of God in me. Develop true righteousness and holiness in me. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Ephesians 4 NIV

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. **2** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. **8** This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people."

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows, and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Instructions for Christian Living

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Transformed into His Image

Day Twenty-One

Completing the Good Work in You

“...for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”
Philippians 1:5-6 NKJV

The Apostle Paul was preaching to the believers in the church of the city of Phiippi. During this time in history, the Christian believers were suffering imprisonment and great persecution from the Romans and from the Jewish religious leaders. In the book of Philippians chapter one, Paul first greeted the church in his letter to them. Next, Paul gave thanks and prayers for all the believers in Pilippi. Then, he prayed that Jesus Christ would be preached among them in spite of persecution. Afterward, he stated from his place of imprisonment that *“...for him (Paul), to live is Christ, and to die is gain”*. Finally, Paul taught them to strive for faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to be willing to suffer for the sake of Christ.

In the book of Philippians chapter one verses five through six, the Word of God states, *“for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”* (Philippians 1:5-6 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “fellowship” is “koinonia” which means intercourse, communion, communication, joint participation, and intimacy. The Greek word for “gospel” is “evangelion” which means the message of Jesus Christ, a good message, good tidings, and glad tidings of salvation through Jesus Christ. Therefore, Paul was stating that for the fellowship, communion, participation in, and intimacy with the gospel, the message, and the glad tidings of salvation through Jesus Christ from the first day until present time, being confident in this very thing, that He (God) who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. The Greek word for “work” is “ergon” is “act, deed, labor, enterprise, and undertaking. The Greek word for “day” is “hemera” which means day, the last day of this present age, and the day Christ will return from heaven.

Hence, Paul was stating that the process of being transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ is a process that begins at salvation and will continue until we leave this earth or until the day of Christ’s return to this earth. The Word states that transformation is a direct result of intimacy and communion with the Holy Spirit through the gospel of salvation. It is through intimacy with the Lord that we are being more and more transformed into His image and likeness. Paul also stated that the Lord is faithful to complete the work of transformation in us. He is faithful!

From his imprisonment for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul expressed the depth of his personal transformation into the image of Jesus by stating, *“...according to my*

earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. ²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you." (Philippians 1:20-24 NKJV) In this scripture, Paul declares that his desire for Jesus Christ to be glorified through his life or if need be, his death. Paul had so completely died to his flesh, his will, and the world that he had given himself over unashamedly and without reservation to the Lord to be used for God's glory. His life was no longer his own. He had surrendered completely. Being transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus is being willing to live fully for God, or even die for the sake of the Gospel. It is a complete surrender. We can only become transformed through intimacy, surrender, and obedience to the Holy Spirit.

REFLECTION

Have you truly laid down your life for the sake of the Gospel? Are you willing to suffer persecution or even death for Jesus? If you have not fully surrendered your life to the Lord but would like to, what do you think you need to do to fully surrender?

PRAAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for living a life focused on pleasing myself. Lord, I desire to surrender my life and my will fully to You. Holy Spirit, help me to draw closer to You in deep intimacy. Help me to surrender to You and obey You. Help me to be willing to suffer persecution for the Gospel if need be. Lord, I give You my heart and my life. Take me and use me for Your glory. Transform me into the image and likeness of Jesus, the Lamb of God. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Philippians 1 NKJV

Greeting

1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thankfulness and Prayer

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ; ⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸ For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Christ Is Preached

¹² But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: ¹⁶ The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; ¹⁷ but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁸ What then? Only *that* in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

To Live Is Christ

¹⁹ For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ²² But if *I* live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better. ²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you. ²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

Striving and Suffering for Christ

²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

Transformed into His Image

Day Twenty-Two

Conformed to His Glorious Body

"...who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." (Philippians 3:21 NKJV)

The apostle Paul continued to address the believers in the church of Philippi in chapter three of the book of Philippians. In this passage of scripture, Paul first states, *"...indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."* (Philippians 3:9-11 NKJV) Paul had surrendered **all** for the sake of Jesus Christ. Next, Paul stated that, *"one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 3:13-14 NKJV) Paul considered Jesus to be the prize of his pursuit. Finally, he states, *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." (Philippians 3:20-21 NKJV)* Paul desired to be completely transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus.

In the book of Philippians chapter three verses twenty through twenty-one Paul states, *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." (Philippians 3:20-21 NKJV)* In this scripture, the Greek word for "citizenship" is "politeuma" which means conversation, citizenship, constitution, and commonwealth. The Greek word for "heaven" is "ouranos" which means sky, heaven, vaulted expanse of the sky, and the place where God dwells. Therefore, Paul was describing that our citizenship, conversation, constitution, and commonwealth is in heaven, the place where God Himself dwells, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In verse twenty-one the Greek word for "transform" is "metaschematizo" which means to transfigure, transfer a figure, transform, change, and to change the figure of. The Greek word for "conform" is "symmorphos" which means jointly form, conform to, fashion like unto, and having the same form as another. The Greek word for "glorious" is "doxa" which means dignity, glory, honor, praise, worship, splendor, brightness, magnificence, excellence, and kingly majesty. The Greek word for "subdue" is "hypotasso" which means subordinate, to obey,

subjection, to submit to, and yield. Hence, Paul was teaching the Philippians that Jesus Christ will transform and transfigure our lowly bodies so that they may be conformed, fashioned like unto, and have the same form as the glorious, splendid, brightness, magnificence, excellence, and kingly majesty of His body. We will be like Him! He will do this according to the working by which He is able even to subdue, subordinate, cause to obey, cause to be subject, cause to submit, and cause to yield all things to Himself. The power of the Risen Lamb of God, Jesus the Messiah, will transform our mortal bodies into glorified bodies. He has all power and all authority to transform us! He is the Creator of all things, and all things are subject to His authority and power! When we see Him, we will be like Him!

REFLECTION

How do you see Jesus? Is He magnificent, glorious, brilliant, and kingly? Do you see Him in all His splendor, glory and majesty? Do you believe He will transform you into His image and likeness? What do you think you can do to prepare yourself to yield to Him?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I surrender and yield to the transformation process. I desire to be changed into the image and likeness of Jesus. Lord, I give my life and body to You. I trust You to work the work of transformation in me. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Philippians 3 NKJV

All for Christ

3 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.

² Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, ⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of

His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing Toward the Goal

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. ¹⁶ Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

Our Citizenship in Heaven

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Transformed into His Image

Day Twenty-Three

The Image of the Invisible God

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.” Colossians 1:15 NIV

In the New Testament, the book of Colossians was most likely written by the apostle Paul or by Timothy. The book of Colossians was a letter written to the believers in the church of the city of Colosse. This epistle was written to provide substantial evidence of the divinity of Jesus Christ to the believers in Colosse. In chapter one, Paul begins this letter with a greeting and a salute of thanksgiving and prayer for the Colossians. Then, he revealed the supremacy of the Son of God. Lastly, he expounded upon his labor for the growth of the church in Colosse.

In the New Testament in the book of Colossians chapter one verses fifteen through twenty-three the Word states, *“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.”* (Colossians 1:15-23 NIV)

In this scripture, the Bible declares that Jesus is the Son of the Living God, made in the image of the Father. He is the first born of all creation and He alone has the supreme power over all things. Jesus has the fullness of the Father dwelling in Him! Through His life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus made a way for us to be reconciled back to the Father in a deep intimate relationship. It is by the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ that we become His and are able to be transformed into His image and likeness, who is the expressed image of the Father. This is the Gospel or the Good News! We do not have to remain in our fallen condemned state of being. We can be restored into holiness and righteousness in Him! Hallelujah!

In the book of Colossians chapter one verse fifteen the Word states, *“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”* (Colossians 1:15 NIV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “image” is “eikon” which means likeness, stature, profile, resemblance, image, and divine nature and moral excellence. The Greek word for “invisible” is “aoratos” which means unseen, invisible, that which cannot be seen with the human eye, and the invisible, perfections of the nature of God. The Greek word for “firstborn” is “prototokos” which means first begotten and Christ (the firstborn of all creation). The Greek word for “creation” is “ktisis” which means creation, creature, ordinance, act of founding, establishing, conversion from idolatry to faith in God, and institution. Therefore, in this scripture Paul was teaching that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the expressed image, likeness, resemblance, with the divine nature and moral excellence of the invisible, unseen with human eyes, and the perfection of the nature of God the Father, the One True God. Jesus is the firstborn of all creation and the first begotten of all those who flee from idolatry and come back to faith in the One True God. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! No one comes to the Father except through Him! He is life! He is love! He is salvation!

REFLECTION

How do you see Jesus? Is He the image of the fullness of the majesty and glory of God the Father in your eyes? Do you see Him as the one who saves, heals, and delivers you? Have you encountered the fullness of His love? What do you think you can do to see Him the way He truly is?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, open my eyes to see Jesus for who He truly is. Help me to see You for who You truly are in all Your splendor, glory, and majesty. Help me to receive the fullness of who You are into my heart and life. Help me to become transformed into the fullness of who You are. Change my heart and life, overtake and overwhelm me, and transform me into Your image and likeness. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Colossians 1 NIV

²To God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Supremacy of the Son of God

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Paul's Labor for the Church

²⁴Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. ²⁷To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Transformed into His Image

Day Twenty-Four

Set Your Mind on Things Above

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.” Colossians 3:2-4 NKJV

In the book of Colossians chapter three, the apostle Paul was encouraging the believers in the church of Colosseae to follow Jesus Christ wholeheartedly. First of all, he exhorted them not to be carnally minded but to set their minds on heavenly things. Next, he told them to have godly character, and above all to walk in love. Lastly, Paul taught the Colossians how a godly household and family should function. In this chapter of scripture, Paul was training all the believers how to conduct their lives with the character and nature of God.

In the book of Colossians chapter three verses two through four, the Word states, *“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”* (Colossians 3:2-4 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “set your mind” is “phroneo” which means to exercise the mind, think, entertain, to interest oneself in, set your affection on, regard, savor, be of the same mind, be wise, have understanding, cherish the same views, to direct one’s mind to, and to seek. The Greek word for “above” is “ano” which means high up, brim, above, on high, northward, and heaven. In verses two, Paul was telling the people of Colosseae to set their minds, to set their affections, to direct their minds, to cherish the same views, and to seek the things above, the things on high, and the things of heaven. In doing so, their minds would be transformed into the mind of Christ.

In chapter two verse three, the Greek word for “for you died” is “apothnesko” which means to be dead, perish, and slain. The Greek word for “hidden” is “krypto” which means to conceal by covering, hide, keep secret, escape notice, and to become not known. Hence, Paul was stating that as believers in Jesus Christ, we die, perish, or become dead to ourselves. Then our lives become hidden, concealed, and become unknown as we are with Christ in God the Father. We become hidden **IN** Jesus. *“It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me...”* (Galatians 2:20 NKJV) Our old man, old sinful nature, and old carnal mind is crucified with Christ. Now we are a new creature with the mind of Christ. It is Christ in me, the hope of glory.

Being transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus begins with the new birth experience of being born again, accepting Jesus Christ of Nazareth as our personal Savior and Lord. From that moment, the Holy Spirit comes to take up residence inside of us and our spirit man is alive **in** Christ. The innermost part of our being, our spirit, is transformed. The next part of the transformation process is the transformation of our souls (mind, will, and emotions). This step

in the process is on-going. The more we say no to our old human, fleshly ways and seek the ways of God, the more our minds are conformed into the mind of Jesus Christ. By reading and studying the Word of God, worshiping the Lord, praying, and yielding to the Holy Spirit, we become more and more transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus. We die to ourselves and live *in* Jesus!

REFLECTION

What do you think about during the day? Do you find your mind focused on selfish desires and the things of this world? Or do you set your mind on things above? The Bible teaches us that as a man or woman thinks...so is he or she. We are a direct reflection of that on which we are focused. How can you train your mind to think about things above?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for focusing my attention on the things of this world, on fleshly desires, and on things that are temporal. Holy Spirit, help me to renew my mind to the things above. Help me to have the mind of Christ. Lord, help me to die to my fleshly carnal nature and live for You. Transform me into the image and likeness of Jesus. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Colossians 3 NKJV

Not Carnality but Christ

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. **3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, **7** in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, **10** and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, **11** where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

Character of the New Man

¹²Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put-on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

The Christian Home

¹⁸Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

²⁰Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

²²Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Transformed into His Image

Day Twenty-Five

Put to Death Your Sin Nature

“Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.” Colossians 3:5 NKJV

In the book of Colossians chapter three, the apostle Paul was encouraging the believers in the church of Colosseae to follow Jesus Christ wholeheartedly. First of all, he exhorted them not to be carnally minded but to set their minds on heavenly things. Next, he told them to have godly character, and above all to walk in love. Lastly, Paul taught the Colossians how a godly household and family should function. In this chapter of scripture, Paul was training all the believers how to conduct their lives with the character and nature of God.

In the book of Colossians chapter three verse five, the apostle Paul was teaching the believers in the church of Colosseae how to live and get along with each other with godly character. He was teaching them to die to the old sinful nature and to live in the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Paul taught them to, *“Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”* (Colossians 3:5 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “death” is “nekroo” which means mortify, deaden, to be dead, slay, deprive of power, and destroy the strength of. The Greek word for “members” is “melos” which means a limb or a part of the body, of bodies given up to criminal intercourse, and members of a body belonging to a harlot. The Greek word for “earth” is “ground, land, or world, territory, and region. Therefore, Paul was stating that the believers were to put to death, slay, deprive of power, and destroy the strength of their members, parts of their bodies given to criminal behavior, and parts of their bodies belonging to a harlot (committing spiritual adultery against their bridegroom Jesus) that are on the earth, land, territory, or region. Paul was encouraging all believers to live a life of consecration to the Lord, forsaking all sin, unrighteousness, and any demonic activity practiced in a territory or region on the earth.

In the second half of Colossians chapter three verse five, Paul listed the sinful ways that needed to be put to death in the lives of the believers: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. In this scripture, the Greek word for “fornication” is “porneia” which means harlotry (including adultery and incest), idolatry, illicit sexual intercourse, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, and sexual intercourse with another person other than your spouse. The Greek word for “uncleanness” is “akatharsia” which means impurity, impure motives, lustful, and uncleanness. The Greek word for “passion” is “pathos” which means concupiscence passion, lust, inordinate affection, evil affection, calamity, mishap, depraved passion, and vile passions. The Greek word for “evil” is “kakos” which means depraved, bad, evil, wicked, wrong, troublesome, and destructive. The Greek word for “covetousness” is “pleonexia” which means fraudulency, extortion, greediness, and

covetousness. The Greek word for “idolatry” is “eidololatria” which means image worship and false idol worship. Paul was teaching that all believers needed to put to death all the sins of idolatry, which is worshiping self, sin, and false gods or idols. Participating in any or all of these sins, whether in thought or deed, is the sin of idolatry (or spiritual idolatry). It is worshipping and exalting anything or anyone above the name of the One True God, Yahweh and His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Paul warned the believers in Colosseae to put these sins to death, so that they might live in Christ. Dying to sin and the flesh is a key part of the transformation process. When we put sin to death in our lives, we are being transformed more and more into the image and likeness of Jesus!

REFLECTION

Are you participating in any idolatry in your life? Do you engage in the following sins with your mind, heart, or body: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry? How can you be free from these sins and live a holy, pure life *in* Jesus?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for participating in all sin including fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Forgive me for sinning in my heart, mind, and body. Holy Spirit, please help me to put all sin to death in my life. Help me to live a pure, holy life *in* Jesus. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Colossians 3 NKJV

Not Carnality but Christ

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. **3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, **7** in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, **10** and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the

image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all.

Character of the New Man

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put-on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

The Christian Home

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Transformed into His Image

Day Twenty-Six

Put Off the Old Man

"...and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him." Colossians 3:10 NKJV

In the New Testament in the book of Colossians, the apostle Paul was writing to the church in Colosse. Paul was admonishing the Colossians that in order to become transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus, they must put-off certain characteristics of the old sin nature. In Colossians chapter three verses eight through eleven the Word states, *"But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all."* (Colossians 3:8-11 NKJV)

In the book of Colossians chapter three verses eight through nine the Greek word for "put-off" is "apotithemi" which means cast off, lay aside, put away, and to put off. The Greek word for "anger" is "orge" is violent passion, anger, indignation, vengeance, and wrath. The Greek word for "wrath" is "thymos" which means passion, fierceness, indignation, wrath, heat, breathe violently, and rage. The Greek word for "malice" is "kakia" is badness, malice, malignity, depravity, naughtiness, and wickedness. The Greek word for "blasphemy" is "blasphemia" which means vilification against God, evil speaking, railing, and impious and reproachful speech against God. The Greek word for "filthy language" is "aischrologia" which means vile conversation, filthy communication, and foul speaking and speech. Therefore, Paul was instructing the Colossians to put-off, lay aside, put away, and put-off all anger, violent passion, fierceness, indignation, wrath, heat, and rage. They were to put off all malice, badness, malignity, depravity, naughtiness, and wickedness. They were to put off all blasphemy, vilification against God, evil speaking, railing, and impious and reproachful speech against God. They were to put off all malice, badness, malignity, depravity, naughtiness, and wickedness. They were to put off all filthy language, vile conversation, filthy communication, and foul speaking and speech. The old sin nature with its unholy attributes must be put off along with all lies, falsehood and deception. We do this by first asking Jesus to be the Savior and Lord of our lives. Next, we repent of all sins of thought, word, and deed that do not agree with the Truth of the Word of God. Then, we apply the precious holy blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, to our spirit, soul (mind, will, and emotions), and body. Finally, we ask the Holy Spirit to fill us and transform us into the image and likeness of Jesus.

In the book of Colossians chapter three verses nine through eleven, the Word states, *"...and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him*

who created him,¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.” (Colossians 3:10-11 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “put on” is “endyo” which means sinking into a garment, invest with clothing, endue as with power, array, and clothe oneself. The Greek word for “new man” is “neos” which means new, youthful, fresh, regenerate, and recently born. The Greek word for “renewed” is “anakainoo” which means to renovate, renew, cause to grow up, new strength and vigor, and to be changed into a new state of life opposite from the old corrupt state. The Greek word for “knowledge” is “epignosis” which means recognition, full discernment, acknowledgement, precise and correct knowledge of things ethical and divine. Therefore, Paul was stating that the believers in Colosse had to put on, sink into a garment, invest with clothing, endue as with power, array, and clothe oneself with the new man, youthfulness, freshness, regeneration, and recently born (born again). Paul taught them that the new man is being renewed, renovated, caused to grow up, having new strength and vigor, and is being changed into a new state of life opposite from the old corrupt state in the knowledge, recognition, full discernment, acknowledgement, precise and correct knowledge of things ethical and divine (things of God). Hence, as we are born again, we are to clothe ourselves with a new man through Jesus Christ being made new in the knowledge of the things of God according to the image of Jesus Christ who created us.

The nature of the new man is described in the following scripture, *“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put-on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering;¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”* (Colossians 3:12-17 NKJV) Hence being transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ is from the inside out. It is a transformation of the heart, having the character and nature of Jesus.

REFLECTION

When you look at your own heart, do you see the character of God? When you listen to the words that you speak, do you hear words of love and kindness? What can you do to allow yourself to be transformed from the inside out?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for living in my old sin nature. Please forgive me for saying and doing things that do not reflect Your heart, nature, and character. Wash me clean with the precious holy blood of Jesus. Holy Spirit, please transform my character and nature into the image and likeness of Jesus. Cultivate the fruit of the spirit in me. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Colossians 3 NKJV

Not Carnality but Christ

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

⁵Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

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Character of the New Man

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The Christian Home

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¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

²⁰Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Transformed into His Image

Day Twenty-Seven

Made Perfect Through Suffering

“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” Hebrews 2:10 NKJV

In the New Testament in the book of Hebrews the apostle Paul most likely wrote this epistle. He wrote it to encourage the Jewish believers in Jesus Christ who lived in Rome. The Jewish believers were under great persecution from the Roman government and from the Jewish religious leaders of the temple who believed they had abandoned their Jewish faith to embrace Christianity. The book of Hebrews was written to encourage the Jewish believers to maintain their faith in Jesus Christ and not to return to their former ways. They were encouraged to have great faith in Jesus as the fathers of faith in the Old Testament had believed in spite of great suffering and persecution.

In the book of Hebrews chapter two verses ten through eleven, the Word of God states, *“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren...”* (Hebrews 2:10-11 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “fitting” is “prepo” which means comely, become, to stand out, to be conspicuous, and to fit. The Greek word for “sons” is “huios” which means kinship, child, and a descendant. The Greek word for “glory” is “doxa” which means glory, honor, worship, splendor, majesty, magnificence, excellence, and most exalted state. Therefore, Paul was stating that it was fitting and comely for Jesus Christ, for whom and by whom all things were made, to bring many sons, children, and descendants of the faith to His glory, worship, splendor, magnificence, and excellence. In verse eleven the Greek word for “captain” is ‘archegos” which means the chief leader, the captain, the author, and the prince. Interestingly, the Bible tells us that Jesus is the *author* and finisher of our faith. The Bible also tells us that Jesus is the *Prince* of Peace. The Greek word for “perfect” is “teleioo” which means complete, consummate, consecrate, finish, and to fulfill scriptures. The Greek word for “sufferings” is “pathema” which means hardship or pain, affliction, calamity, and evil. Therefore, Jesus is the captain, chief leader, author, and prince of our salvation. He was made perfect, complete, consummate, consecrated, finished, and fulfilled the scriptures through His suffering, hardship, pain, affliction, and calamity on the Cross of Calvary. Through His suffering, He made a way for us to become the children of God.

Through the birth, life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, all who believe on Him will be saved and will see His glory. He will sanctify us unto Himself by the washing of His precious holy blood. He will prepare us to become true sons and daughters of

the Most High God filled with His glory, splendor, and majesty. As Paul said, “*That I may know Him in the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings...*” (Philippians 3:19 KJV21) Deep intimacy comes from beholding the man of suffering, Jesus. We are made perfect in Him.

REFLECTION

When you look at Jesus on the cross, do you see an innocent man suffering in pain and agony? Or do you see the Lamb of God who perfectly completed and fulfilled the assignment for His life by dying on the cross for our salvation? How can perfection be achieved through suffering?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please give me the revelation of my salvation being perfected by the sufferings of Jesus. Lord, open my eyes, ears, and heart to see, hear, and perceive the depths of the love that Jesus has for me. Help me to fully embrace all that Jesus did for me, so that I will be sanctified by His blood and made ready for His glory. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Hebrews 2 NKJV

Do Not Neglect Salvation

2 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

The Son Made Lower than Angels

⁵ For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. ⁶ But one testified in a certain place, saying:

“What is man that You are mindful of him,
Or the son of man that You take care of him?

⁷ You have made him a little lower than the angels;
You have crowned him with glory and honor,
And set him over the works of Your hands.

⁸ You have put all things in subjection under his feet.”

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is* not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. ⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Bringing Many Sons to Glory

¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying:

“I will declare Your name to My brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”

¹³ And again:

“I will put My trust in Him.”

And again:

“Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.”

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ¹⁶ For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Transformed into His Image

Day Twenty-Eight

Pursue Peace and Holiness

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14 NKJV

In the New Testament in the book of Hebrews chapter twelve, the apostle Paul was encouraging the Jewish believers in Jesus to remain strong in their faith. In order to encourage them, he first instructed them to run the race of faith that was set before them. Next, he taught them the importance of being disciplined by the loving hand of God. Then, he exhorted them to pursue peace with all people and holiness. Next, Paul spoke of the glorious company of angels around the throne of heaven. Finally, he spoke of the believers receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, by which they might serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

In the book of Hebrews chapter twelve verse fourteen, the apostle Paul impressed upon the Jewish believers to *“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”* (Hebrews 12:14 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “pursue” is “dioko” which means to pursue, to ensue, to follow after, to be given to, to press forward, to run swiftly after, to suffer persecution for a cause, to seek after eagerly, and to earnestly endeavor to acquire. The Greek word for “peace” is “eirene” which means peace, quietness, rest, oneness, tranquility, exemption from rage, security, safety, prosperity, felicity, harmony, and the blessed state of devout and upright people. The Greek word for “holiness” is “hagiasmos” which means properly, purification, purity, holiness, sanctification of heart and life, and consecration. Therefore, in this scripture, the apostle Paul was stating that the Jewish believers (and all believers) were to pursue, to ensue, to follow after, to be given to, to press forward, to run swiftly after, to suffer persecution for a cause, to seek after eagerly, and to earnestly endeavor to acquire peace, quietness, rest, oneness, tranquility, exemption from rage, security, safety, prosperity, felicity, harmony, and the blessed state of devout and upright people. Also, they were to pursue purification, purity, holiness, sanctification of heart and life, and consecration without which no one will see the Lord. It is this passionate relentless pursuit of the peace of God and holiness that will enable us to see the Lord in all His splendor, glory, and majesty.

In the book of Hebrews chapter twelve verse eleven, the apostle Paul refers to righteousness as “the **peaceable** fruit”. *“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the **peaceable** fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”* (Hebrews 12:11 NKJV) Pursuing peace is pursuing one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”* (Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV) When we passionately and relentlessly pursue peace, we are literally pursuing the Prince

of Peace, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of **Peace**.”* (Isaiah 9:6 NIV) Peace is a person! When we passionately and relentlessly pursue Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, and His holiness, we will see Him in all His glory. When we see Him in all His splendor, glory and majesty, we will be transformed into His image and likeness.

REFLECTION

What are you passionately pursuing? Are you pursuing Jesus? Are you pursuing the peace of the Holy Spirit? Are you pursuing peace with others? How do you think pursuing Jesus, the Prince of Peace will help you to live a life of peace with others? How do you think living a peace-filled life will help you in every area of life?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please forgive me for allowing discord in my life. Please help me to walk in peace in every area of my life. Help me to pursue peace with others. Jesus, I desire you to rule and reign in my heart and life as the Prince of Peace. Holy Spirit, please cultivate the fruit of peace and holiness within me. I desire to see Jesus in all His glory! Transform me into His image and likeness. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Hebrews 12 NKJV

The Race of Faith

12 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Discipline of God

³For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. ⁴You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. ⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

“My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

⁶For whom the LORD loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives.”

⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. ¹¹ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Renew Your Spiritual Vitality

¹² Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

¹⁴ Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; ¹⁶ lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

The Glorious Company

¹⁸ For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard *it* begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. ²⁰ (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." ²¹ And so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel.

Hear the Heavenly Voice

²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven, ²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." ²⁷ Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God *is* a consuming fire.

Transformed into His Image

Day Twenty-Nine

We Shall Be Like Him

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” 1 John 3:2
NKJV

The book of First John in the New Testament was written by the apostle John, the one whom Jesus loved. The book of First John was written to the church of Jewish believers who were facing the rise of false prophets in the church. First John was written as an overview of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in hopes of dispelling false doctrines and false teachings. This book of the Bible challenged believers to examine their hearts and lives, especially their love-walk. Were they walking in love toward God and toward other believers? Their behavior in everyday life was a true reflection of their hearts.

In First John chapter three, the apostle John reminded the believers of the command to love. True believers must practice loving God and loving other believers. Next, he emphasized that whoever commits continual sin also commits lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. Paul also taught that a true believer of Jesus Christ cannot have a practice of continual sin in their lives. John also taught that we know that we have passed from a life of sin and death to a life in Christ Jesus when we love the brethren and walk away from hatred and gossip. Finally, John explained that the one who keeps His (Jesus) commandments abides in Him (Jesus), and He (Jesus) abides in him/her; and by this we know that He (Jesus) abides in us, by the Holy Spirit whom He has given us.

In the book of First John chapter three verses one through three, the Word of God states, *“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ²Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”* (1 John 3:1-3 NKJV) In First John chapter three verse two, the Greek word for “children” is “teknon” which means child, son, daughter, offspring, and disciple of God. The Greek word for “revealed” is “phaneroo” which means make manifest, appear, show forth, make actual and visible, realized, be made known, and expose to view. Therefore, in this scripture, the apostle John was expressing to the beloved of God that we are the children, sons, daughters, offspring, and disciples of God; and it has not yet been revealed, manifest, appeared, shown forth, made actual, made visible, and exposed for others to view what we shall be. But we know that when Jesus is revealed in all His splendor, glory, and majesty, then we shall be like Him. For we shall see Jesus, the King of glory as He is in His radiance, power, and magnificence!

Because we are the children of God, we have a blessed assurance and an unshakable promise that we will see Him, and the very sight of His glorious being will transform us into His image and likeness.

REFLECTION

Have you ever had a vision or an encounter where you have seen the Lord Jesus in all His splendor, glory, and majesty? If you did, what was your response? Did that encounter change you in any way? If not, close your eyes and picture the Lord in His radiant, powerful, magnificent beauty. How does picturing Him in your mind help you to see Him as He truly is? How does seeing Him change you?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I desire to see you in all Your splendor, glory, and majesty. Lord, show me through scripture and through a vision or encounter who You really are. I want to see You. Please transform me into Your image and likeness. I desire to be like You in the way I live my life. I desire to love You and love others. In the name of Jesus, amen.

1 John 3 NKJV

The Command to Love

3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2** Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **3** And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Sin and the Child of God

4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. **5** And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. **6** Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. **8** He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. **9** Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

The Imperative of Love

¹⁰ In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother. ¹¹ For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, ¹² not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

¹³ Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love *his* brother abides in death. ¹⁵ Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

The Outworking of Love

¹⁶ By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹ And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. ²⁰ For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²² And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³ And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error

²⁴ Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

Transformed into His Image

Day Thirty

Love Equals Obedience

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.” 1 John 5:3 NKJV

In the New Testament in the book of First John, the apostle John was writing to the believers in Jesus Christ to encourage them to walk in love. In the book of First John chapter five, John defines the true love of believers for God as those who obey the Lord’s commandments. Then, he taught that there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one; and there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood (Jesus); and these three agree as one. Finally, John taught that we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

In the book of John chapter five verse three the Word states, *“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome.”* (1 John 5:3 NKJV) In this scripture, the Greek word for “love” is “agape” which means affection, benevolence, charity, good will, and brotherly love. The Greek word for “God” is “theos” which means god, the Holy Trinity, God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for “keep” is “tereo” which means preserve, keep, watch, hold fast, guard, observe, and attend carefully to. The Greek word for “commandments” is “entrole” which means authoritative prescription, commandment, precept, and prescribed rules of ethics. The Greek word for “burdensome” is “barys” which means weighty, burdensome, grievous, heavy, severe, and cruel. Therefore, John was stating that this is the love, affection, benevolence, charity, good will, and brotherly love of God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit; that we keep, preserve, keep, watch, hold fast, guard, observe, and attend carefully to the commandments, authoritative prescription, precept, and prescribed rules of ethics. And His (God’s) commandments are not weighty, burdensome, grievous, heavy, severe, or cruel.

When we discover and experience the authentic glorious powerful love of God, we will be overwhelmed by His goodness, grace, and mercy. As we cultivate a deep intimacy with the Lord, we will desire to love Him in return and cultivate a deeper love relationship as we grow in the things of God. The highest level of expressing our love back to the Lord, according to the Word of God, is to obey His commandments. The Word of God states that the two greatest commandments are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. The second greatest commandment is to love others as you love yourself. When you fulfill both of these commandments, you automatically fulfill all the others. Godly love is the key. The

more we fall in love with Jesus and give our hearts and lives to Him, the more we will be transformed into His image and likeness. We are transformed by His love!

REFLECTION

Do you follow the two greatest commandments? Do you love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? Do you love your neighbor as yourself? How can we walk out this Godkind of love in our personal lives?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I desire to love You, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. Lord, I desire to love others as I love myself. I desire to express my love for You by my obedience to Your Word. Holy Spirit, help me to live this and walk out this truth in my life. Transform me into the image and likeness of Jesus. In the name of Jesus, amen.

1 John 5 NKJV

Obedience by Faith

⁵ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

The Certainty of God's Witness

⁶ This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. ⁷ For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. ⁸ And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.

⁹ If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. ¹⁰ He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the

Son of God does not have life. ¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue* to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Confidence and Compassion in Prayer

¹⁴ Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *which does not lead* to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is sin *leading* to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not *leading* to death.

Knowing the True-Rejecting the False

¹⁸ We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one.

²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Thoughts from my heart,

My desire is for all people to discover the One True God in all His splendor, glory, and majesty. I desire for each person who engages with this Bible study to grow deeper in their relationship with the Lord and to be transformed into His image and likeness.

In His love,

Mary Greene

Sources:

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblegateway.com

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