

MESSAGE SUMMARY

You are not meant to drift through life shaped by the world around you. God has something better. Because of His mercy, He invites you into a life of real change from the inside out. Romans 12:2 shows you that transformation starts in your mind as God renews how you think, desire, and choose. 2 Corinthians 3:17–18 reminds you that this change is not something you force on yourself. The Holy Spirit does the work as you behold (focus on) Jesus and walk in freedom.

As God transforms you, your life begins to reflect Christ more clearly. And transformed people do not keep that change to themselves; they impact others. When God changes you, He uses you to change the world.

MAIN POINTS

1. God Transforms You from the Inside Out (Romans 12:2) - You are not called to fit in; you are called to be transformed by God. You are constantly being shaped by something. The world tries to press you into its mold. “Conformed” speaks of outward pressure and patterns that do not honor God. “Transformed” means a deep, real change that only God can do. God renews your mind so you can recognize and obey His will.

2. Transformation Happens as You Behold Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:17–18) - What you behold (focus on), you become and what you become, you reflect. The Holy Spirit brings freedom, not fear or shame. Every believer has access to God; there is no veil. What you focus on shapes who you become. As you behold Jesus, you are slowly and surely changed to think, speak & act more and more like Him.

3. Transformation Leads to Obedience and Impact (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18) - When God changes you, He uses you to influence others for His glory. God’s mercy leads you toward maturity. Right belief should lead to right living. Transformation is not instant, but it is real and ongoing. Changed lives point others to Jesus.

Big Idea: Transformed people change the world

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does God call you to be transformed instead of conformed? *Possible Answer:* God wants you to live according to His truth, not the broken patterns of the world. Transformation allows you to reflect His character and live out His will (Romans 12:2).

2. What role does the Holy Spirit play in your transformation? *Possible Answer:* The Holy Spirit brings freedom and does the work of changing you on the inside as you focus on Jesus. You respond, but God provides the power (2 Corinthians 3:17–18).

3. What voices or patterns are currently shaping how you think and live? *Possible Answer:* Culture, social media, fear, or habits can shape you if you are not rooted in God’s Word (Romans 12:2).

4. What does it look like for you to intentionally behold (focus on) Jesus this week? *Possible Answer:* Spending time in Scripture, prayer, worship, and Christ-centered community helps you focus on Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18).

5. Where might God be calling you to obedience as part of your transformation? *Possible Answer:* Obedience could involve forgiving someone, changing a habit, or stepping out in faith to serve others (James 1:22; Romans 12:2).

GOSPEL CONNECTION

You are not transformed by trying harder; you are transformed by trusting Jesus. The gospel reminds you that Jesus lived the life you could not live, died for your sin, and rose again to give you new life.

If you are a believer, transformation calls you to ongoing repentance and faith. You turn again from old patterns and fix your eyes on Jesus, trusting the Spirit to keep changing you from the inside out.

If you are not a believer yet, the invitation is the same: repent and believe. Turn from sin and self-rule, and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord. In Him, you become a new creation, and real transformation begins (2 Corinthians 5:17; Mark 1:15).

God is not finished with you. As you behold Jesus, trust the Spirit, and walk in obedience, He will transform your life and through you, He will change the world...and that's super exciting!

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Monday – What You Focus on Shapes You

Key Verse: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...” (Romans 12:2)

Reflection: Every day, something is trying to shape how you think, speak and act. The world pressures you to fit its patterns, but God invites you to be changed from the inside out. Transformation begins when you choose what you will focus on.

Application Question: What has been shaping your thoughts more than God’s truth lately? Possible Answer: Social media, friends, or fear may have had more influence than Scripture, and I need to refocus my mind on God’s Word (Romans 12:2).

Prayer Response: God, help me notice what is shaping me. Renew my mind and teach me to focus on what is true and pleasing to You, in Jesus’ Name, Amen (Romans 12:2).

Tuesday – Focus on Jesus, Not the Noise

Key Verse: “And we all... beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed...” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Reflection: You live in a loud world full of distractions. God does not ask you to fix yourself; He asks you to focus on Jesus. As you look to Him, the Holy Spirit begins changing you step by step...trust in Him alone to do this work!

Application Question: What distractions make it hardest for you to focus on Jesus? Possible Answer: Busyness or constant screen time can pull my attention away from Jesus, but choosing time with Him helps me refocus (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Prayer Response: Jesus, quiet the noise around me. Help me focus on You and trust You to change my heart, in Jesus’ Name, Amen (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Wednesday – Freedom Fuels Transformation

Key Verse: “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (2 Corinthians 3:17)

Reflection: God’s Spirit does not trap you in guilt or shame. He brings freedom, freedom to grow, change, and walk with Him. Real transformation happens when you live from freedom, not fear.

Application Question: Where do you need to remember that God’s Spirit brings freedom? Possible Answer: I need freedom from shame over past mistakes, trusting that the Spirit leads me forward, not backward (2 Corinthians 3:17).

Prayer Response: Holy Spirit, thank You for Your freedom. Help me live boldly and honestly as You continue Your work in me, in Jesus’ Name, Amen (2 Corinthians 3:17).

Thursday – Changed People Live Differently

Key Verse: “That by testing you may discern what is the will of God...” (Romans 12:2)

Reflection: As God renews your mind, your choices begin to change. Transformation leads to obedience not because you have to, but because you want to honor God. A changed heart leads to a changed life.

Application Question: What is one area where God may be calling you to obey Him more fully? Possible Answer: God may be calling me to forgive someone or change a habit so my life reflects Him more clearly (Romans 12:2).

Prayer Response: Lord, give me courage to obey You. Shape my choices so my life honors You more each day, in Jesus’ Name, Amen (Romans 12:2; James 1:22).

Friday – Transformed People Change the World

Key Verse: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Reflection: God does not transform you just for you. As He changes you, others begin to see Jesus through your life. Transformed people make a real difference in their schools, families, and friendships.

Application Question: How might God use your transformed life to impact others? Possible Answer: By showing love, integrity, and faith, I can point others to Jesus through how I live (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Prayer Response: God, thank You for making me new in Christ. Use my life to reflect You and draw others closer to You, in Jesus’ Name, Amen (2 Corinthians 5:17; Matthew 5:16).