

Total Life Transformation

Acts 9:10-19

Introduction

Two irrefutable truths that we take comfort in:

1. God is sovereign

“he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” v15-16

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.” John 15:16

Paul reflected on God’s sovereign choice of him from before he was even born: Galatians 1:15-16

Paul’s writes his own description of the new creature he had become: *“the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”* 1 Timothy 1:14

2. God is immutable.

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

From all eternity past, to the present, to eternity future, forever and always, God remains the same.

Man, on the other hand, is always changing – every moment of every day all his life.

Our problem is *internal*, not external.

The change that must occur is an internal work in the heart of man that only Jesus can perform.

John 3:3

Acts 4:11-12

4 Definite Signs of a Truly Transformed Life

1. Daily, ongoing communion with God

“for behold, he is praying” v11.

Prayer was the only assurance Jesus gave Ananias to confirm that Saul was indeed a genuine reborn Christian.

Having little to no desire to pray is a clear indication that the person does not know the Lord.

“Prayer is the autograph of the Holy Ghost upon the renewed heart.” Spurgeon

2. An unquestioning and unfading desire to serve

Ananias “*Here I am, Lord*” (v10)

Ananias demonstrated two important Christian virtues: *Faithfulness* and *Fearlessness*.

“*What shall I do, Lord?*” Acts 22:10

The role of *servant* would define the life and ministry of the apostle Paul:

“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ” Romans 1:1

“Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ” Titus 1:1

1 Corinthians 4:1, 5

“I have made myself a servant to all” 1 Corinthians 9:19

1 Corinthians 3:5

Paul’s motive: Galatians 1:10

Jesus Christ “made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant.” Philippians 2:7

Romans 15:8-9

3. Indwelled by and filled with the Holy Spirit

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.” Romans 8:9

The Holy Spirit is a power that compels Spirit-filled Christians to *act*.

“He that hath love in his breast hath spurs in his side.” George Herbert

Christians who are doing little to nothing on behalf of the Spirit are not being kept filled with the Spirit.

They are in fact, *quenching the Spirit* (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

“saints” (v13). From the Gk word ***hagiois***, which means ‘set-apart ones.’

“I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” John 15:19

1 John 2:15-17 (see also 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1)

Truly transformed Christians think differently, look differently, talk differently, and act differently than the rest of the world.

Total Transformation: a study in contrasts

- 1) Joyful vs worrisome
- 2) Thankful vs ungrateful
- 3) Peaceful vs panicky
- 4) Loving vs uncharitable
- 5) Giving vs selfish

- 6) Content vs greedy
- 7) Patient vs irritable
- 8) Kind vs harsh
- 9) Gentle vs pushy
- 10) Faithful vs unreliable
- 11) Self-controlled vs unrestrained
- 12) Forgiving vs obstinate
- 13) Humble vs prideful

Some things do not change:

- 1) Context (ethnicity, gender, age, family of origin, culture)
- 2) Abilities (physical, mental, intellectual)
- 3) Talents (mathematics, mechanical, musical)
- 4) Experiences (hard work, trials, travels)
- 5) Personality type (independent, self-starter, decisive)
- 6) Resources (possessions, finances, connections)

4. Love for fellow Christians

- 1) love and appreciation for your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- 2) readiness to help fellow Christians
- 3) desire to be with other believers.
- 4) joy and satisfaction in serving alongside fellow believers.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

"And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother." 1 John 4:21