

“Transformers” Part 2
Series: “*Beyond Compare*”

2/07/10

9 & 10:45 am

INTRODUCTION

The score was tied in the sixth inning and the stands were full of anxious parents when the boy playing shortstop missed a ground ball. The runner scored from third, and the stands erupted with both cheers and groans. One man started yelling at the shortstop and berated the boy for missing the ball.

Suddenly the man found himself lifted up off his feet and staring into the eyes of a very angry man. The man said he was a bouncer at a local bar *and* the father of the shortstop. The father then told the man, “You need to watch your mouth, and you need to be very thankful that I became a Christian last month, and God is helping me control my temper.”

I. Transformation: It’s a Process ... and that’s how it’s supposed to be

“**Be perfect ...**” and “**Be holy ...**” are both speaking of *becoming* like Jesus. They’re not commands to come to instant maturity immediately; but to set our goal to become like Jesus and then, day by day, grow into becoming like Him.

God designed becoming like Jesus to be a *process*.

II. Transformation: How Does it Happen?

We are transformed by ...

A. The renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2)

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Our minds are *conformed* or *transformed* by *whatever* we expose them to. Our responsibility is to expose our minds to that which is godly.

As we do that, God transforms our minds. We expose, He transforms.

Second, we are transformed by ...

B. The Holy Spirit

OPEN to 2 Corinthians 3:18 (**PAGE** 1797)

2 Corinthians 3:18 “**And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect [pres, mid, ptc] the Lord’s glory, are being transformed [pres, pass, ind] into His likeness with ever-increasing glory [lit., *from glory to glory*], which comes from the Lord, Who is the Spirit.”**

Let me give you a little background to this verse. Earlier in this chapter Paul shares an experience from Exodus 34 about Moses and the Israelites:

Exodus 34:29-35 “**When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD.**

30 **When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him.**

31 **But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them.**

32 **Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai.**

33 **When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face.**

34 **But whenever he entered the LORD’s presence to speak with Him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,**

35 **they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.”**

Moses met with the Lord on Mt. Sinai, and his face became physically radiant. After delivering God’s message, he covered his face with a veil, and, over time the glow faded. (2 Corinthians 3:13)

When he met with the Lord again, he removed the veil, and his face became radiant again. And over time, it faded again.

Now, Paul takes this experience of Moses’ and compares and applies it to us (“**we ... all**”).

When we surrendered our lives to the Jesus Christ by faith, the Holy Spirit came and took up residence in our lives.

We didn’t have a *physical* radiance/reflection of God’s glory like Moses, but the Holy Spirit began His work of **transformation** in our lives.

He is continually working within us, **transforming** us “**with ever increasing glory;**” [lit.] “**from glory to glory;**” from one degree of glory to the next, making us more and more like Jesus one degree at a time.

He is working in concert with God the Father's highest goal for our lives: to make us like Jesus.

The Father has set the standard, Jesus is the standard, and the Holy Spirit transforms us more and more into the image of Jesus:

in thoughts, actions, attitudes, words AND with our cooperation.

1. Ways the Holy Spirit helps us become like Jesus

Let's look at a few passages from the Gospel of John to see what Jesus taught His disciples about the Holy Spirit: (**PAGE 1676**)

John 14:16-17a **“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever;
17a the Spirit of truth.”**

“... another Counselor ...” one just like Me. i.e., “He will be to you what I have been to you.”

“Counselor” is *parakletos*, “one who is called to someone's aid;” a **helper**.

Sometimes a specific kind of help is mentioned, other times it is not. But, the sense of *helper* encompasses all the specifics. (**BAG**)

NIV, NLT: **Counselor**
KJV, ASV: **Comforter**
NAS, NCV, NKJV: **Helper**

But, again, ultimately, *the Holy Spirit has been given to **help** us become **transformed** – to become more and more like Jesus.*

Here's something that is absolutely amazing: Jesus told His disciples that when He left, and the Holy Spirit came, it would be a better arrangement!

John 16:7 **“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”**

Jesus was God in the flesh Who walked among us.

The Holy Spirit is God in Spirit, Who lives within us.

So, how does the Holy Spirit help us become more like Jesus?

John 14:26 “**But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**”

The Holy Spirit helps us by *teaching* us and *reminding* us of what Jesus said.

Before I meet with the Lord in His Word each evening, I ask the Holy Spirit to *teach me, enlighten me, lead me*, to help me *see and understand what will make me more like Jesus*.

John 16:13 “**But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth ... and He will tell you what is yet to come.**”

He helps us by *guiding us into all truth* and by *telling about the future* ... like the passages in later parts of the NT that tell us about the end times.

Acts 1:8 “**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth.**”

The Holy Spirit helps us by *empowering* us to be *witnesses* to what Jesus has done in our lives.

Along with this, in **Mark 13:11**, “**Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.**”

The Holy Spirit helps us by *speaking through us in stressful situations* so that we can share *The Message* about Jesus.

Romans 8:13 “**For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.**”

The Holy Spirit helps us by empowering us to *overcome temptation and sin*.

** We *must* learn to control sinful impulses by the power of the Spirit, and not just by willpower. One day willpower *will fail*.

Romans 8:26-27 “**In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.**

27 **And He Who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.**”

The Holy Spirit helps us by *praying for us* when we don’t know how or what to pray.

1 Corinthians 12:7 “**Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.**”

The Holy Spirit helps us by giving us *spiritual gifts* to serve one another so Jesus’ church is healthy.

Galatians 5:22-23 “**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.**”

The Holy Spirit helps us by changing our character to be more like Jesus’ character.

The Holy Spirit is constantly working to help us by **transforming** us into Jesus’ **likeness** step by step – from one degree of glory to the next.

2. How we cooperate with the Holy Spirit

“At least eight times in the NT we are told to ‘**make every effort**’ in our growth toward becoming like Jesus. We don’t just sit around and wait for it to happen.”

** - *Choose to be filled with the Spirit: **TURN*** to Ephesians 5:18

“**Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.**”

This verse tells us that we can choose what we allow to influence and control our thoughts and actions.

God uses the illustration of being *filled or controlled w/ alcohol* which leads to **debauchery**: “*extreme indulgence in sensuality; orgies; seduction from virtue or duty.*” (Webster’s)

There are other things that we can fill our minds or bodies with that then control us:

We can fill our minds with an *obsession for things*, and end up becoming characterized by greed, overindulgence and debt.

We can fill our minds and hearts with *anger and bitterness* towards someone and end up being characterized and controlled by anger and bitterness.

But, God’s command is to be ***filled with the Holy Spirit***. And the results are listed after the command:

The Spirit makes us more like Jesus in these ways; Ephesians 5:19ff:

- the words we speak to one another,
- the songs our hearts sing,
- wives supporting and cooperating with their husbands,
- husbands loving their wives sacrificially,
- children obeying their parents,
- parents nurturing their children in the training and instruction of the Lord,
- employees working for and speaking of their bosses as if Jesus Himself were the boss,
- employers treating their employees as they would want to be treated, not threatening.

Galatians 5:22-23: The Fruit of the Spirit. The character of Jesus.

** - Choose to work with the Holy Spirit’s ministry and promptings:

1 Thes. 5:19 “**Do not put out the Spirit’s fire.**”

BAG: *extinguish, quench, stifle, suppress*

Ephesians 4:30 **“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.”**

How are we **filled** with the Holy Spirit?

We start where Jesus did. It’s described in Philippians 2:5-8 **“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:**

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

7 but made Himself nothing [literally, “*emptied Himself*”] **taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!”

Like Jesus, we empty ourselves of self-will: we confess our sins, we relinquish self-control and submit our will to the Father’s.

Then we ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with Himself, we yield control to Him and His will, His control. He will then empower us and transform us more and more into the image of Jesus.

Then, take steps in the direction of becoming like Jesus. The Holy Spirit will help you, empower you – one degree at a time.

Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? If not, surrender your will to His and ask Him to fill your life and make you more like Jesus. He will! He will transform you from one degree of being like Jesus to another!

“Father in Heaven, I open my heart to the control of the Holy Spirit. Please forgive me for being self-centered instead of God-centered. Please fill me with the Holy Spirit and transform me into the image of Jesus, one step at a time. In His name I pray, Amen.”