

Beyond 20/20 Vision 6 - TRANSFORMING

→ *When you think of the word 'transformation,' what immediately springs to mind? What in you has the Lord transformed? What in you would you like the Lord to transform?*

→ *Which Biblical story of transformation and/or transformed character most inspires you and why?*

METAMORPHOSIS

God is in the BUSINESS of TRANSFORMATION (Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:18)

- * There's much that needs changing OUT THERE; equally, there's much that needs changing IN HERE.
- * Metamorphosis means a CHANGE of FORM: Taking something UGLY and making it BEAUTIFUL.
- * Metamorphosis is not a BAND-AID, but a BREAKTHROUGH.
→ *"Metamorphosis is not band-aid, not a 5% incremental improvement, nor or a dose of self-help, hearing a motivational speech or trying just a little bit harder. It is literally a change of state, giving something a completely new form. It's breakthrough, a turn-around or inversion." Discuss!*
→ *What does a Christian who's been through transformation / metamorphosis look like?*

JESUS' MANDATE FOR TRANSFORMATION (Isa 61:1-3 & Luke 4:18-19)

THE WHAT: ASHES to BEAUTY.

THE HOW: The SPIRIT of the Sovereign Lord is UPON ME, for the Lord has ANOINTED me to ...

If we want to see transformation, we need the ANOINTING.

→ *Is the 'what' possible without the 'how?' What does the 'how' imply about the importance of gathered church?*

3 MAIN PLACES THE ANOINTING RESIDES

1. The Anointing is on the WORD

- * God's Word is not just a NICE STORY, but ALIVE and ACTIVE, QUICK and POWERFUL (Heb 4:12).
- * The Word has the POWER to TRANSFORM you from the INSIDE OUT (2 Thess 2:13).
- * If you want to see real change in your EXTERNAL world, first you have to seek God for change in your INTERNAL world.
- * Only the WORD can reach the DEEPEST parts and demolish the most powerful, tenacious STRONGHOLDS.
→ *What does the Word have the power to change? How do you access that power? How does the Word 'renew our minds?' Why does internal change have to take place before we see real external change?*

2. The Anointing is in His PRESENCE (2 Cor 3:17-18)

- * Examples: i) MOSES and the burning bush, ii) ISAIAH and his vision of heaven, iii) SAUL on the road to Damascus.
→ *What changed for those three men as a result of their encounters? Why do you think God chose to do it like that in each case?*
 - * Those ENCOUNTERS transformed their HEARTS, radically changed what they SAW and how they THOUGHT and literally redirected their PURPOSE
 - * The more you SPEND TIME with Him, the more you become LIKE Him.
→ *"You become like the thing you behold." In what different scenarios does that principle apply?*
→ *How do you spend more time with the Lord? Where does worship fit in that?*
 - * Worship is a TREASURE TROVE and we've only begun to SCRATCH the SURFACE (Isaiah 35:5-7).
→ *What does it mean to say that worship is a 'treasure trove,' and what is that treasure?*

3. The Anointing is on the GIFT & the GIFTED

There are several lists of Holy Spirit Gifts in the New Testament:

- a) The GIFTS of the SPIRIT in 1 Cor 12 & 14.
- b) The MOTIVATIONAL Gifts in Rom 12:6-8.
- c) The Fivefold MINISTRY Gifts in Eph 4:11-16.

THE KEY: The Gifts are not to make us LOOK GOOD, SOUND GOOD or FEEL GOOD; they are given to TRANSFORM things.

Paul taught (1 Cor 14:3) prophetic gifts are for 'EDIFICATION, EXHORTATION & COMFORT'

- * EDIFICATION = Rebuilding DAMAGED things.
- * EXHORTATION = Uplifting DISCOURAGED things.
- * COMFORT = Binding back together BROKEN-HEARTED things.
→ *Are we ever tempted to covet the Gifts for what they make us look like or feel like? Do you think God would give us more if we truly understood what they were for?*
→ *How can the Gifts of the Holy Spirit assist in your transformation? Do you need Gifted people in your life and why?*

CHALLENGE: Are you a CONFORMER or a TRANSFORMER?

- * If we're going to fulfil our DREAM of being a transforming CHURCH, we need a MINDSET SHIFT.
- * It's time to stop trying to CONFORM because we're supposed to be TRANSFORMERS.
→ *Are you a conformer or a transformer? What does a conformer look like? What could a transformer look like?*
→ *What would or could or should our church look like / be like if it really was a transformation centre?*