



Part 4 – TRANSFORMING



“The church we see is TRANSFORMING: where broken lives, relationships and families are restored; where dead religion is replaced by dynamic relationship, unbelief by faith, hopelessness by joy, where sick people become healthy, the broken become whole, and new Christians become fully devoted followers of Jesus.”

→ *Do you like this statement of our dream? How are you doing at the moment? What would it look like if that was happening in greater measure?*

METAMORPHOSIS = Taking something UGLY + making it BEAUTIFUL, BROKEN + making it WHOLE, DIRECTIONLESS + giving it PURPOSE, LIMITED + EMPOWERING it.

1. TRANSFORMATION IS WIDELY NEEDED

- * There is much that needs changing OUT THERE.
- * There is much that needs changing IN HERE → Any POTHoles you keep falling headlong into ... HURTS that keep resurfacing ... CHARACTER FLAWS keeping you from moving forward?
- * The Example (Isaiah 60); the Mandate (Isaiah 61).

→ *Any other passages that exemplify God's desire to transform rescue / redeem / revive His people spring to mind? What biblical characters went through dramatic or significant metamorphosis?*

→ *What is it that needs changing 'out there?' (In world, society, your neighbourhood?)*

→ *What needs changing 'in here?' (In your own heart and mind)*

If caterpillar turns into butterfly + tadpole into frog, what do you need to metamorphose FROM and TO? → Fearful to faith-full ... Anxiety → Peace ... Insecurity → Identity ... Hurt + hardened heart → Soft + healthy heart ... From worldly → spiritual, flesh → spirit, natural → supernatural ... Carnal-minded to Word-minded ... Bound up + frustrated → Free indeed

→ *What could / would change in the church if we all underwent that transformation? Any that you need? Why not pray into that?*

2. GOD HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM ANYTHING

- * Just TRYING harder, STARTING over, latest FAD won't make you a BUTTERFLY ... Nor self-help, government, religion, humanism.
- * God has the POWER to transform ... Transformation is the EXPECTATION ... and God has GIVEN US what we NEED.

3 CLUES

- CHILD-LIKE FAITH (Matthew 18:3)
- RENEWING power of God's WORD (Romans 12:2)
- TRANSFORMING power of God's SPIRIT (2 Corinthians 3:18)

3. TRANSFORMING PEOPLE TRANSFORM PEOPLE

- * Far better than “HURTING people HURT people!”

“Don't be the Christian that's been in church for 30 years + is still hurting people, because they're hanging onto the hurt + offence in their own life.”

→ *Is that you? If so, time to let go and let God!*

- * What we need is AGENTS of TRANSFORMATION.
- * God can turn your TRAGEDY into TRIUMPH, your TEST into a TESTIMONY, your WEAKNESS into His STRENGTH and your BROKENNESS into someone else's HEALING (Luke 22:31-32, Genesis 50:20).
- * Transformation is CONTAGIOUS.

→ *How have your experiences enabled you to help others? Can you see how God might be able to use what you're going through right now to help others in the future?*

→ *How does hurt self-replicate? And how does transformation do the same?*

→ *What is an 'Agent of Transformation' and what do they do?*

FOR US, AS A CHURCH

If you can transform an INDIVIDUAL, you can transform a FAMILY → CHURCH → COMMUNITY → REGION → NATION → CONTINENT → THE WORLD.

→ *Is the sequence there significant? Why? How does it work?*

The Sunday morning JOURNEY

- PRAISE → Great big God songs, He's on throne, Almighty, Saviour, Healer, Restorer
- WORSHIP → Invitation for Him to come, move, speak, stir, challenge, energise, re-fill
- WORD → To minister to hearts + minds ... Dig into heart-attitudes, pluck out any weeds, tug at past hurts + offences, correct faulty thought-patterns ... James: To look into the mirror of Word ... To let the Spirit search your heart, shine His light + impart His transforming power
- RESPONSE is the target: This is what God has said / shown / uncovered → This is what His WORD says to do ... HOLY SPIRIT, help me make it so
→ *How often do you respond? In what way? What stops you from responding more often?*

- * If we're honest, we need an ENCOUNTER, that A-HA moment ... REPENTING, RENEWING, REFILLING, REVIVING.

- * That's certainly what our TARGET AUDIENCE need.

- * Church should be TRANSFORMATION CENTRAL.

→ *Who are our 'target audience' and why do they need transforming? What might 'Transformation Central' look like?*

RESPONSE

- Your MISSION should you choose to accept it ... is to be 'agent of transformation' → of grace + truth.
- But first you have to seek transformation yourself → What transformation do you personally need to seek God for?
- What if we were to become army of transformers? Of 100 transformed people? 200? 500?