

*Salvation is
Evidenced
By*



Transformation

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Salvation is evidenced by *transformation*

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

When sacrificing an animal according to God's law, a priest would kill the animal, cut it in pieces, and place it on the altar.

Sacrifice was important, but even in the Old Testament God made it clear that obedience from the heart was much more important (see 1 Samuel 15:22; Psalm 40:6; Amos 5:21 -24).

Obedience is better than sacrifice.

1 Samuel 15:22

And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

God wants us to offer ourselves, not animals.

God wants us to offer ourselves, not animals, as *living* sacrifices—daily laying aside our own desires to follow him, putting all our energy and resources at his disposal and trusting him to guide us. We do this out of gratitude that our sins have been forgiven.

God has a plan for his children.

God has good, pleasing, and perfect plans for his children. He wants us to be transformed people with renewed minds, living to honor and obey him. Because he wants only what is best for us, and because he gave his Son to make our new life possible, we should joyfully give ourselves as living sacrifices for his service.

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world"

Paul warned Christians: "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world" that are usually selfish and often corrupting. Wise Christians decide that much worldly behavior is off-limits for them. Our refusal to conform to this world's values, however, must go even deeper than just behavior and customs; it must be firmly planted in our mind: "Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."

It is possible to avoid most worldly customs and still be proud, covetous, selfish, stubborn, and arrogant. Only when the Holy Spirit renews, reeducates, and redirects our mind are we truly transformed

All things become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Christians are brand-new people on the *inside*. The Holy Spirit gives them new life, and they are not the same anymore. We are not reformed, rehabilitated, or reeducated—we are re-created (new creations), living in vital union with Christ (Colossians 2:6, 7). At conversion we do not merely turn over a new leaf; we begin a new life under a new Master.

Believers are changed from within.

While this newness is true individually, Paul is saying much more. Not only are believers changed from within, but a whole new order of creative energy began with Christ. There is a new covenant, a new perspective, a new body, a new church.

This is not a superficial change

All of creation is being renewed. So take notice. This is not a superficial change that will be quickly superseded by another novelty. This is an entirely new order of all creation under Christ's authority. It requires a new way of looking at all people and all of creation.

The Spirit changes us from glory to glory into the Lord's image.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Paul recalled the stone tablets on which God had written the old covenant—calling it "the old way."

He identified the law, although leading to death, as nonetheless glorious because it was God's provision and proof of his intervention in the life of his people.

But that which was summarized on stone is nowhere near as glorious as what came with "the new way"—life in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was present at the creation of the world as one of the agents in the origin of life itself (Genesis 1:2).

He is the power behind the rebirth of every Christian and the one who helps us live the Christian life. By his power, we will be transformed into Christ's perfect likeness when he returns. Thank God for the fact that the best is yet to be.

When Moses came down Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments, his face glowed from being in God's presence (Exodus 34:29-35).

Moses had to put on a veil to keep the people from being terrified by the brightness of his face and from seeing the radiance fade away. This veil illustrates the fading of the old system and the veiling of the people's minds because of their pride, hardness of heart, and refusal to repent.

The veil kept them from understanding references to Christ in the Scriptures.

When anyone becomes a Christian, the veil is taken away (3:16), giving eternal life and freedom from bondage. That person can then be like a mirror reflecting God's glory.

I live by faith in the son of God who loves me.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

God looks at us as if we had died with Christ. Because our sins died with him, we are no longer condemned (Colossians 2:13-15). *Relationally*, we have become one with Christ, and his experiences are ours. Our Christian life began when, in unity with him, we died to our old life.

Confession brings cleansing.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

True confession also involves a commitment not to continue in sin. We wouldn't be genuinely confessing our sins to God if we planned to commit them again and just wanted temporary forgiveness. We should also pray for strength to defeat temptation the next time we face it.

Restore unto me the joy of my salvation

Psalms 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. [11] Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. [12] Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Because we are born sinners (51:5), our natural inclination is to please ourselves rather than God.

David followed that inclination when he took another man's wife. Like David, we must ask God to cleanse us from within (51:7), filling our hearts and spirits with new thoughts and desires.

Right conduct can come only from a clean heart and spirit. Ask God to create a pure heart and spirit in you.

The hope of Christ's coming purifies believers.

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. [3] And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

The Christian life is a process of becoming more and more like Christ (see Romans 8:29).

This process will not be complete until we see Christ face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12; Philippians 3:21), but knowing that it is our ultimate destiny should motivate us to purify ourselves.

To keep pure means to keep morally straight, free from the corruption of sin. God also purifies us, but there is action we must take to remain morally fit

Let what you speak minister grace to the hearers.

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

We can bring sorrow to the Holy Spirit by the way we live. Paul warns us against

Unwholesome language, bitterness, improper use of anger, harsh words, slander, and bad attitudes toward others.

Instead of acting that way, we should be forgiving, just as God has forgiven us.

The work God has begun in you will continue until the judgement.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform [it] until the day of Jesus Christ:

The God who began a good work within us continues it throughout our lifetime and will finish it when we meet him face to face. God's work *for* us began when Christ died on the cross in our place. His work *within* us began when we first believed.

Now the Holy Spirit lives in us, enabling us to be more like Christ every day. Paul is describing the process of Christian growth and maturity that began when we accepted Jesus and continues until Christ returns.

Illustration:

When **Paul was in prison**, he did not know but that this day might be his last day. Then again, he just might be set free. But either way it was alright with Paul.

He said, because if I live it is Christ. If I die it is gain. 1 heads I win. Tails I win. If I live that means that God still has a work for me to do, he has a task to complete, a work to finish, a soul to win, a sermon to preach and, if I die, well, if I die I just go to be with Jesus.

Now remember the book of Philippians is a book about joy. It is the joy of Jesus. Now Paul was full of Jesus and since he was full of Jesus he was also full of joy? That's why even in an ark, dusty, dingy, dirty prison Paul could say, if I live I am happy but if I die I am thrilled.

Old Saint

Paul was kind of like that dear old saint who had lived to be about 95 years of age and she loved Jesus with all of her heart. She was getting ready to go home to heaven and some of her loved ones were around her bedside trying to, console her. She said, "Don't console me. I'm tickled to death to die."

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Reading through the Bible from the very beginning, you will see that there is one consistent theme, and that is God's great love and compassion towards us. He is unchangeable, and in this we can have great confidence. It seems there is no greater motivation for faith than knowing this, God is absolutely for us.

He wants us to succeed. It makes it easier to have confidence in fulfilling our purpose and destiny here on the Earth when we know that He has called us and ordained for us to succeed.

An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart, please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print