

Transformation Of the Soul

By Dave Roberson

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture notations are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

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ISBN 1-929339-04-6

ISBN 978-1-929339-04-4

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Chapter 1 ***The Basis of Our*** ***Transformation***

Once when I was teaching, I made this comment: “When some of us were filled with the Holy Spirit, the first thing He did was visit our soul, look around, dive back into our spirit and exclaim, ‘It’s a good thing I am God! Except for Me, no one could help this person!’”

Even though I was joking when I said that, I was closer to the truth than we might realize. No matter who we are or what we are, the measure of our success in life is dependent on the transformation of our souls.

For example, there are many Christians whom have been subjected to horrible things by people they trusted or loved before they were saved. As a result, strongholds of hurt and bitterness were formed in their souls. But when those same people were born again, God took out their stony hearts and gave them new, recreated spirits as it says in Ezekiel 11:19,20:

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

In this passage of Scripture, God is saying the reason we can now walk in His Word and keep His commandments is because He has put a new spirit in us. He has become our God, and we have become His people. Our new spirit gives us the nature we need to keep His Word and gives the Holy Spirit what He needs to work transformation in us.

It is your new nature that makes the transformation of your soul possible. Without it, your soul—your mind, will, intellect, and emotions—doesn’t have the capacity to be transformed by God’s Word. God wants to free you from strongholds, and He will go on to free you in every area of your life if you let Him. As Third John 1:2 says, **Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.**

You see, God wants to give you health and long life. In addition to meeting your needs, He wants to prosper you financially. He wants to fill your days with the things you love because He delights in furthering the prosperity of your soul!

Chapter 2

What Is Transformation?

Let's take a look at the transformation of our souls. *Transformation* means "a total shift from one thing to another." In our case, the word *transformation* refers to a complete change of character—from bad to good, from weak to strong, from chaotic to peaceful.

Do you want to know the best way to begin this transformation, to be set free from all the devil's works? Let's take poverty as an example. The next time poverty comes looking for you, meditate on this truth: You are no longer the same person; you have been transformed. You are a brand-new person in Christ, no longer susceptible to demonic strongholds, including the curse of poverty.

The truth is, there is no stronghold the Word of God cannot pull down and replace with a change of character. Therefore, the difference between an overcoming believer and a defeated one is that the overcomer has learned to meditate on God's Word.

Meditation brings godly character into our lives as we begin to be transformed according to the Word. Meditating on God's Word also develops our faith.

What I am about to teach you about meditation took me years to understand. As we discuss this subject, remember—God is no respecter of persons. He doesn't bless one person and leave another to struggle in confusion and defeat. But He does give all of us scriptural

principles that He expects us to follow as a prerequisite to being blessed. One of these vital principles is the importance of meditating on His Word, just as Psalm 1:1-3 says:

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Free to Choose

Notice that the second verse says this man delights himself in the Word of God and meditates on it **DAY AND NIGHT**. Why is that? Because of all the things God created about us, nothing is quite so unique as the soul, except of course the human spirit. Contained within the soul is our will and the right to make choices, which means we can choose to serve God or the flesh.

No angel or man has ever been forced to serve God against his will. It was with great price that God left intact the free will of men and angels. Even though the freedom to choose can be used both wisely and unwisely, it is the only thing that makes the true worship of God possible.

Long ago, the angel Lucifer was created a free-will moral agent and he chose to lead a third of the angels into rebellion. When this happened, God

didn't reduce him to some form of slavery because he exercised his freedom of choice. Instead, God banished him from Heaven and then repaired the damage Heaven had sustained. And at the end of this world, God will incarcerate the devil—not by His own choice but because of what Satan chose to do.

Just look at the damage the human race has sustained because of Adam's choice to disobey God. Thank God that we will begin our lives in the new Heaven and earth without Satan's influence!

God has put the highest priority on our right to choose. So if we choose to meditate on His Word day and night, He can take us into victory. But we can also choose to take ourselves into destruction. In that case, it would be our fault, not God's. We can choose the flesh, or we can choose the Word. When we choose the Word, a unique attribute of the soul begins to operate.

Transformed to What We Subject Ourselves To

Whether good or bad, the soul has the ability to transform us to whatever we subject ourselves to the most. This is why Psalm 1:2 says we are to meditate on the Word of God day and night. Even though we have a new nature, that new nature—which is our reborn human spirit—can be hampered by the soul when our will chooses to take counsel from our flesh nature rather than our new nature.

Romans 12:2 says it this way, **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. In other words, the more we subject ourselves to the flesh nature, the more we will be conformed to its carnal desires. But the more we subject ourselves to the Word of God, the more we will be transformed by its life-changing truth.

Soul Power

Let me give you an example of the power of the soul. Have you ever wondered how a little child can learn to speak two or three languages fluently by the age of five? When the child speaks, he doesn't give any thought to it. When he wants to say something, it just flows out, translated instantly. He didn't even try to learn each language; in fact, he never knew he did. He assimilated them.

You see, assimilating a language is not just a mental ascension. It is a process where we give ourselves to the language and assimilate it—it becomes part of us, and we become part of it. But how we generally try to learn a new language, let's say Portuguese, is by mentally comparing a word of Portuguese to a word of English. However, we're only using one attribute of the soul this way—the intellect. That process of assimilation will be very slow and we'll forget most of what we are trying to learn.

By contrast, if we dropped you off in a remote Brazilian village with no English speaking people in it, and picked you up two or three years later, I guarantee you your soul will have assimilated the Portuguese language as your mind, will, intellect, and

emotions kicked in to aid in your survival. Your soul has the power to transform you to the point where you don't even have to stop and translate the language in your mind. The words just flow out.

Now think about this: What do you think would happen if you ever learned to meditate on the Word of God like that? If you learn to meditate on God's Word by using all the attributes of the soul, you'll go from only intellectually giving yourself to the Word—consenting to it with just the intellect—to giving yourself completely to the Word and assimilating it the way a child does a language. Remember, the soul is created by God to transform you to whatever you subject it to the most.

When your soul assimilates the Word, you won't have to stop and think what God will say about this or that first—it will be spontaneous because you've reached a state where the Word becomes a part of you, and you become a part of the Word. Jesus said, "If My Word lives in you, you'll abide in Me. Ask what you will and it shall be done" (John 15:7). Assimilating the Word transforms your soul and your mind until you become everything that God says you are in Christ.

Chapter 3 ***Transformed to God's*** ***Way of Thinking***

Let's suppose that one day I woke up and decided I wanted to know much more about giving and receiving. In fact, I wanted to become a successful entrepreneur for the purpose of giving for the sake of the Gospel.

In my search for understanding on this subject, I find out that Heaven really doesn't care to get involved with my finances until I care to get involved with Heaven. I also find out I don't have to be an evangelist, preacher, or teacher in order to amass souls to my credit, for whom I will be rewarded later on in Heaven; I just need to get involved with God in a partnership. Then, as He and I conduct business together, we will finance some of the greatest soul-winning adventures of our time!

However, I know that God isn't going to conform Himself to my way of doing things. So that leaves only one option: I must transform myself to **HIS** way of thinking. In order to do that, I have to go to the Word of God. In the Word, I find the revelation knowledge of some of the greatest men of God—men who have blazed these trails of transformation before me. All I have to do is assimilate what God taught them and then walk the same path.

The Wisdom of Solomon To Make Wealth

In the Word, I don't believe that Jesus ever spoke more highly of a man in the area of wisdom than He did of King Solomon. When Jesus referred to

Solomon, He did it in light of God's willingness to meet our needs:

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Matthew 6:28,29

God gave Solomon such wisdom and wealth because of his willingness to judge righteously, to help people, and to evangelize the stranger who was not of his people. Solomon became a standard for all time of God's willingness to bless people.

If my goal is to become a Gospel-giving entrepreneur, I should really seek to know precisely what God taught Solomon. In one year, this man amassed 25 tons of gold. At today's prices, this would equal over a billion dollars—and that isn't even counting the ivory, silver, jewels, and other precious metals he had!

Solomon's first official act as king after assuming the throne from his father, David, was to sacrifice a thousand burnt offerings. Solomon wanted to make sure there was nothing between him and God. These offerings cost him roughly a quarter of a million dollars!

Later, at the dedication of the temple he had built for God, Solomon sacrificed 144,000 burnt offerings. Let's see how he made intercession to God for the strangers in Israel:

Moreover concerning the stranger, which is not of thy people Israel, but is come from a far country for thy great name's sake, and thy mighty hand, and thy stretched out arm; if they come and pray in this house;

Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for; that all people of the earth may know thy name, and fear thee, as doth thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name.

2 Chronicles 6:32,33

Here is a man whom God made rich because he chose to subject his soul to God in order to be taught by Him. And God did teach Solomon how to operate, both in righteousness and in the affairs of men.

Assimilating Solomon's Wisdom In Proverbs

If I desire to become a Gospel-giving entrepreneur with the wisdom and prosperity of King Solomon, I should not seek out a beggar for my teacher. On the other hand, let's just suppose that Solomon left behind a record of everything God taught him, just in case there was someone out there who wanted to follow suit. Suppose Solomon could teach me everything God taught him about the entrepreneurship of Gospel giving and the transformation of the soul. If I could find such a record, do you think it would be worth my while to study it? Of course it would. Well, that is exactly what the book of Proverbs is—Solomon's legacy.

Remember, it was Solomon's father, David, who wrote in Psalm 1:1,2:

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly . . .

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

David instructed his son Solomon in God's Word, encouraged him to obtain wisdom and understanding, and to love, exalt, and embrace the Word as his very life (Proverbs 4:3-13). These principles were so thoroughly engrained in Solomon that he amassed an incredible fortune from the wisdom he walked in.

God has used Solomon's book of Proverbs as an ageless standard for His people to understand the pitfalls and dangers of increase. Proverbs provides the wisdom needed to not only prosper greatly, but to never stop loving God more than money.

Therefore, if I was called to a ministry of giving into the Kingdom of God, or if I just wanted to increase my wisdom for living and for conducting business, I would learn to meditate on God's Word. I'd start my learning process by throwing myself into an environment where I could subject my soul to the wisdom of Solomon with the intention of assimilating the book of Proverbs in order to transform my soul.

I would read through Proverbs at least 50 times without doing any studies on individual verses. I would keep on reading, deliberately disciplining my mind to acknowledge

the thought that is in each verse. I wouldn't have to understand all of what it means, but I would acknowledge the content in each verse before going on to the next one. If I ever find myself eight, nine, ten verses down without remembering a single thing I've read, I would go back to the last verse that jogs my memory and begin from there. I would read deliberately and precisely until I had read the entire book of Proverbs 50 times from beginning to end.

By this process, I would be equipping my soul and spirit with a complete outline, the whole embodiment of everything Solomon said about wisdom from beginning to end in the book of Proverbs. Only after accomplishing this goal would I do breakdown studies on individual verses.

You see, it is impossible to study, read, or memorize the Word of God day and night. That is why these activities can only assist me in my meditation on the Word but cannot replace it. However, when I assimilate the entire outline for the book of Proverbs by reading it 50 times, I have taken the first step in equipping myself to meditate on the wisdom in Proverbs day and night, anywhere, at any time—because I have equipped the Holy Spirit with what He needs to transform my soul to what the Word says—anywhere, anytime, day and night.

One day God told me, "I want you to begin to give yourself to the Word of God differently, but I want you to continually go through it. I want you to go through it continually, on a consistent basis, time after time after time. Then I will give you books to go

back and assimilate. I want you to keep going through it time after time after time after time, because eventually, I want to prophesy My mind in every book to the people. I want to be able to come on you and pull it up and do it as I move. Assimilate it, son; the power lives there."

Winning the Battle

Let me tell you right now, in the same way that you have to be two times as strong as the average Christian to survive a steady prayer life, you will have to be just as strong to stand up against Satan's resistance to your transformation and meditation on the Word. You'll find yourself taken out of prayer and away from the Word without even knowing what happened—the devil can be that slick. You have no idea how afraid he is of this, and it's because you will become very, very dangerous.

If you are fighting a mental war or your emotions, one step out is to continually read the Word of God out loud. You need to replace your thoughts with His. When you speak out loud, you're adding one more key to the assimilation of God's Word—you're adding the power of confession.

Depression, hopelessness, and a loss of reality are some of the weapons the enemy likes to use. Just wait until you discover the volumes of revelation and the power of transformation when you begin assimilating the mind of Christ in the Word, for faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

God will take life situations and every emotional thing, every business problem, everything you run into, and He will use them to teach you about all of those chapters that you've been assimilating—He will use your situation to teach you.

Whether you need a physical healing, a healing of family relationships, emotional stability, the ability to pay your bills on time, or you desire to become a Gospel entrepreneur—whatever your desire or concern—the principles of meditation remain the same and can help you overcome the enemy's strategies in your life.

Practical Steps For Assimilation

Like my earlier example, suppose becoming an entrepreneur is your goal. As you begin the process of reading the book of Proverbs 50 times, it would also be a good idea to obtain an audio version of the book, and then play it over and over again.

You might even make a recording of Proverbs in your own voice. Play the recording as you sleep, then throughout the night, all the chapters will pass through your spirit, causing your spirit to assimilate the scriptures in Proverbs. Finally, after you have finished reading the book of Proverbs at least 50 times, you can begin to conduct breakdown studies on individual verses.

If you follow this process as I've related it to you, you'll be amazed at the revelation knowledge you'll receive that will help you become an

entrepreneur for the furtherance of the Gospel!

If your concern is in a different realm, look up pertinent scriptures and read them over and over again. If you can, record these scriptures in your own voice and play them the same way I just described. This will effect a change in your area of need just as the book of Proverbs will for prospective entrepreneurs.

Preparing Your Soul For Revelation Knowledge

One of the best times for assimilating and assessing information is when we first wake up and can lay there on the bed, listening. Our souls can function at full capacity at that time because our minds are cleared from the previous day's clutter.

You cannot force revelation knowledge to come. Only the Holy Spirit can give you understanding of spiritual things. But assimilating the Word equips you with the truth you need to become a good student under the tutelage of the Holy Spirit. Through this process of meditation, you open the door for the Holy Spirit—your Teacher—to bring to your spirit all the revelation knowledge you need for your spiritual growth and benefit. May you be abundantly blessed as your soul is transformed to God's will!

Let the Transformation Begin!

God commands us in Romans 12:2 to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. But have you ever wondered what practical steps you could take to obey that command? Dave Roberson answers that question in his book, *Transformation of the Soul*. Gleaning from his many years of walking with God, Dave provides practical steps for meditating on the Word that will help you become all God has called you to be.

Find out how to harness the power of your soul according to God's Word—then let the transformation begin!

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