

Total Transformation

Teaching by Joyce Meyer

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TOTAL TRANSFORMATION

Dare To Believe

- I. **Dare To Believe That You Can Experience Positive Change in Your Life.**
 - A. Everything is subject to change except God Himself.
 1. He never changes, but He is always changing things and people.
 - B. **Ephesians 3:20** – He can do more than we could dare to believe – so let's start being daring.
 - C. The Bible is filled with those rare individuals who got out of the boat and dared to believe.
 1. Peter dared to believe God could still use him and he could be forgiven – even after his sin of denying Jesus!

He believed he could let go of his past and go on.
 2. After eighteen years of being sick, the woman with the issue of blood believed that she could be healed if she could only get to Jesus.
 - D. Nothing is impossible with God.
 1. God's power has already been released. It is received into our lives and situations through believing.
 - E. **John 11:40** – Only believe, and you will see the glory of God.

II. Raise Your Level of Expectancy.

- A. **Jeremiah 29:11** – Expect good things.
 - 1. **Proverbs 15:15** – Do not allow evil forebodings.
- B. Expect favor, victory, peace, and the manifest presence of God. Expect grace, gifts, strength, health, and prosperity.
 - 1. **Isaiah 30:18**
 - 2. **John 1:16**
- C. **Psalms 27:13-14** – Expectancy fights despair.

III. A Transformed Mind Precedes a Transformed Life.

- A. **Romans 12:2** – Mind must be completely renewed.
 - 1. Learn to think like God in every area, and God's will in every area will be released.
- B. **Proverbs 23:7** – Where the mind goes, the man follows.
 - 1. **Romans 8:6**
- C. **Romans 14:14** – Our personal thoughts become our personal reality.

IV. Areas To Think Totally Renewed

- A. How we view trials, tribulations, and even minor inconveniences or irritations
 - 1. **Habakkuk 3:17-19** – See them as springboards for promotion.
 - 2. **James 1:2-4** – See them as character developers.

3. At the very beginning think, “This will work out for my good.”
- B. Change your view on the level of importance you assign to being accepted and approved of by everyone you know.
1. I want people to like, accept, and approve of me; but it will not be the end of my world if they don't.
 2. **Galatians 1:10** – You can choose popularity or fulfilling the call on your life.
 3. **Reject** (defined) – To cast aside as having no value.
 4. It is painful, but the only way to avoid rejection is to **bow!**

Bow (defined) – To be controlled, manipulated, and become a people pleaser.
- C. Change your mind about yourself.
1. Love yourself in a balanced way.
 2. Try to do your best, but do not expect perfection. Otherwise, you will always feel:
 - a. Disappointment.
 - b. Frustration.
 - c. Condemnation.
 - d. Failure.
 - e. Guilt.
 3. Believe that you are:
 - a. Valuable and needed.

- b. Loved and loveable.
 - c. Talented and creative.
- D. Change your mind about people.
- 1. They are not all supposed to like what you like, want what you want, be like you, think like you, or act like you.
 - 2. You are not supposed to be like them. You are free from comparison.
 - 3. Realize that good relationships take a lot of effort, but they are very valuable.
 - 4. If you think you don't need anyone, think again. We were not created to be all sufficient in ourselves.
- E. Change your mind about money.
- 1. It is not more important than people.
 - 2. See money as a vehicle to bless others, not just something to be hoarded up so you can feel secure and bless yourself.
- F. Change your mind about how you can see the change you desire!
- 1. **Zechariah 4:6** – Not by might
 - 2. **Job 14:14b** – *All the days . . . I will wait, till my change and release shall come.*
- Wait – Be patient; to hope, stay, and trust.
- 3. **I Peter 5:6-10** – As we wait, He makes our lives (and us) what they ought to be.
 - 4. God's grace (His power) changes people and things – not our dead works of the flesh.

Hebrews 6:1 – Dead works are called dead because they have no life or power.

5. As long as we THINK things change as a result of our efforts, that is how we respond to life.

We should only do what we truly believe we are Spirit-led to do.

G. Change your mind about God.

1. **Matthew 11:28-30** – He is not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing.

2. **James 1:16-17** – God is good.

3. **Psalm 30:5** – *For His anger is but for a moment, but His favor is for a lifetime . . .*

His mercy endures forever.

4. His love is unconditional. Even when we are faithless, He remains faithful.

5. **Psalm 103:14** – He knows our frame and remembers that we are but dust; therefore, He sent us a Savior and has left us a Divine Helper.

6. **Hebrews 4:15** – He **understands** our weaknesses.

7. He is not shocked or surprised by our behavior.

V. **Out of the Heart the Mouth Speaks.**

- A. Words are containers for power. They carry creative or destructive power.

1. **Proverbs 18:20-21** – These Scriptures really say it all.

2. We will live with the consequences of our words.

- B. A changed life requires a changed mouth.
 - 1. **Isaiah 6:1-9** – Isaiah’s life could not change until his mouth changed.
- C. **Malachi 3:13-18** – The blessings of God are released in abundance if we know how to talk right.
 - 1. **Malachi: Chapter 3** is speaking of the blessing of God that comes through tithing, but we can curse our seed!
- D. If we do what we can do, God will do what we cannot do.

God's Presence Transforms

I. Moses And Paul

- A. **Exodus 2:11-15** – Moses ran away from Egypt a murderer.
 - 1. He returned a deliverer.
- B. He left full of himself.
 - 1. **Numbers 12:3** – He returned meek and humble.
 - 2. **Meek** (defined) – Afflicted, humble, weak, wretched, lowly, needy, poor; depressed in mind or circumstances; especially saintly.
- C. **Exodus: Chapter 3** – He met God at the burning bush, and he was never the same.
 - 1. God's presence changed him.
- D. **Exodus 34:28-35** – He was in God's presence on Mount Sinai. He changed so much until he even looked different.
- E. **Acts 9:1-6** – Saul of Tarsus was a notorious hunter of Christians until he met Jesus on the Damascus road.
 - 1. God's presence changed him from “Christian hater and hunter” to “Christian brother and preacher.”
 - 2. **Acts 9:7-22** – Saul was transformed.

II. God's Presence Brings Contentment And Satisfaction.

- A. I was **DIS**-content and **DIS**-satisfied.
 - 1. **Jeremiah 2:13** – Digging wells with no water

2. To finally be content was a major transformation for me.
- B. I was always looking for something – wanting, wanting, yet never full.
1. **John 6:48-51, 57-58** – If you drink this water and eat this food (which is Jesus), you will never hunger and never thirst.
 2. **John 6:66**

They wanted what Jesus could do for them but could not be satisfied with Christ as their all, their everything, and their **first** concern in life.
- C. **1 Timothy 6:6** – Godliness with contentment is great and abundant gain.
1. What do you wish to gain?
 - a. **John 6:63** – The flesh conveys no benefit.
 - b. **Galatians 6:7-8** – Sowing to the flesh brings destruction. Sowing to the Spirit brings life.
- D. **Psalms 17:15** – I will be completely satisfied when I awake, beholding His presence.
- E. **Psalms 27:4** – One thing is worth seeking after.
1. His presence.
- F. Contentment requires abandonment. We must utterly abandon ourselves to God.
1. Abandonment is trust beyond reason. It says, “God is in control. My steps are ordered by the Lord, and God has a plan.”
 2. Abandonment means choosing to believe that each moment of our life is in God’s care, and that moment is part of God’s overall plan for our life.

- a. We do not always understand the parts that make the whole.
- b. Abandonment means we do not have to understand.
- c. We are free not to know!

NOTE: I am not speaking of a fatalistic *que será, será* attitude – everything is up to fate, everything is predestined, or there is nothing I can do. We can pray, believe, and exercise authority over Satan. We can stand. We can obey God and make right choices. But when we have done what we believe is our part, we must rest in knowing “God is God!”

III. The “How To” Of Entering God’s Presence

- A. Believe God is!
 - 1. He is here – right now – all the time.
 - 2. **Hebrews 11:6** – Believe He is, and He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
 - 3. **John 6:20** – Jesus said, “Why are you afraid? **I AM!**”
 - 4. **Exodus 3:14** – God told Moses to say to the children of Israel, “**I AM** has sent me to you.”
 - 5. We do not need to be concerned with what God is going to do. We must be content to know He is!
- B. Understand “diligent seeking.”
 - 1. Seek – Crave, pursue, and go after with all your might.
 - 2. Diligent means seek and keep on seeking. Show sincerity.
Realize you will need to make an investment of time.

3. **Proverbs 8:17** – Seek Him early (before other things) and diligently, and you will find Him.
- C. Study the Word to know Him, His ways, and His character.
1. It is impossible to know God and not know the Word.
 2. You would not expect to be a doctor without learning. Neither should you expect to be a Christian without learning.
- D. He will be in our midst, but we will not know it is Jesus unless we truly know Him.
1. **John 21:4** – He came to His disciples, but they did not recognize Him.
 2. **John 20:13-16** – Mary did not recognize Jesus.
 3. He often shows Himself in very natural ways, but we do not recognize Him. Perhaps, we expect His presence in our lives to be more supernatural than it is.
 4. One of the most exciting and faith-building things I know is learning to recognize God's presence in our midst.
- E. For no apparent reason, we can recognize His presence in a place that is beyond reason or joy.
1. I sense joy deep in my spirit each time I go to the Dream Center in St. Louis. He is letting me know He approves.
 2. In the conferences as we worship and wait on God, I sense deep peace; and it often gives way to laughter – an expression of joy.
- F. If you want to find Him, but do not seem to be able to:
1. Seek silence

2. Seek solitude
 3. Perhaps your life is too noisy to recognize Him.
- G. His presence can be seen in the favor He gives you or the small things He does for you that would seem like nothing to someone else.
1. Example: My desiring orange Jell-O and coming home to find it in my refrigerator – without even asking my housekeeper to make it!

IV. Music And The Presence Of God

- A. **I Samuel 16:23** – Saul had David play music to drive evil spirits away.
- B. **Ephesians 5:18-19** – Music keeps us filled with the Spirit.
- C. **II Kings 3:15** - The prophet needed some music so he could get into the Spirit and hear from God.
- D. **Psalms 22:3** – He inhabits the praises of His people.

V. Transformation (Change) Is More About “Entering In” Than “Trying To Do Something.”

- A. Learn how to get in and stay in.
 1. **II Corinthians 3:17** – Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (emancipation from bondage) or change.
 2. **II Corinthians 3:18** – Go to the Word when you need to get in the Spirit.
- B. **Ephesians 5:19-20** – Being thankful gets you in and keeps you in.
- C. **Psalms 1:1** – A friend that is in can get you in. One that is out will get you out.
 1. You become like what you are around.

2. **II Kings 2:1-15** - Elisha would not leave Elijah.
- D. **John 14:27** – Don't permit yourself to get upset. It gets you "out" real quick.
- E. Remember: the more time you spend "in the Spirit," the quicker you will see transformation in your life.

VI. Cannot Enter With Known Sin In Your Life

- A. **Psalm 51** – David had lost the presence of God because he had not repented of his sin with Bathsheba.
- B. **Luke 8:1-3** – As soon as Mary Magdalene repented of her sins, she began to travel with Jesus.
- C. Regular straightforward repentance is a key to staying in the Spirit.

Change

I. Change

A. Transform (defined) – To change the **nature**, function, or condition of; to convert.

1. We may be able to change our condition or our function, but only God can change our nature.
2. **I John 3:9** – Receiving God’s nature.
3. God supplies us with everything we need for total transformation.
4. New believers are often called new converts.

B. Restore (defined) – To bring back to an original state; to put someone back into a former position; to give back to the owner or possessor.

1. God wants to restore man to the original plan He had for him in the Garden of Eden.
2. He wants to give us back everything the devil has stolen from us over the years.
3. He wants to see us in the position He intended for us – one of authority, not one of being UNDER something continually.
 - a. Under pressure
 - b. Under stress
 - c. Under attack

C. We crave change, yet we resist it.

1. Change is a sign we are growing – a sign we are alive.

2. It is a fact of life.
 3. Change can be **INITIALLY** frightening and **EVENTUALLY** refreshing.
- D. We want to be changed, but do we really want to change?
- E. Did you come to change?
1. First we change. Then our circumstances change.
 2. **Deuteronomy 8:2-7** – God tests us and works in us so He can bring us into the good things He has for us.

He has things prepared for us, but we must be prepared for the things.
- F. **Ephesians 2:10** – We learn to do the “good works” so we can live the “good life.”
1. We do not do them in our own strength, but in His. He gets the glory – we don’t.

II. Metamorphosis

- A. **II Corinthians 3:18** – We are changed (transformed) into His image.
- B. **Transform/transfigure** (defined/Vine’s) – To undergo a complete change, which under the power of God, will find expression in character and conduct . . . the present continuous tenses indicate a process.

We are changed into the image of Christ in all His moral excellencies.
- C. Emotions are very undependable during change.
1. Do not make hasty, premature decisions based on how you feel during times of change.

2. Emotions can be affected when we change location or vocation, meet new people, step out into new things, or undergo personal change in our body, soul, or spirit.

D. The caterpillar is transformed into a beautiful butterfly.

1. Caterpillars are known to be pests. They devour the food plants of man.
2. The caterpillar finally begins to molt (skin shedding). This occurs several times.

The believer must shed many things during transformation.

3. They spin a button of silk that adheres to a twig, leaf, branch, or other solid support.

John 15:4-5 – Abiding is very different than visiting.

4. They cling to the button and molt for the last time. The old caterpillar skin peels off and a naked pupa (called a chrysalis) appears.
 - a. Some spin cocoons; others burrow into the ground.
 - b. It is a process that takes place in private.
5. The time spent in the cocoon varies with the kind of insect. It may be weeks or months.

The believer must not compare his or her rate of change to anyone else's. Most people take years.

6. The pupa does not appear to be alive.

Does that express how we feel sometimes?

7. Nonetheless, marvelous changes are taking place inside.
8. Everything inside turns into a liquid; and from this substance, the parts of the adult are formed.

Finally, at the right time, it breaks out of the cocoon or by means of thrashing movement is raised to the surface of the ground where it had been buried.

9. Although it is now a butterfly, at first it is wet, soft, weak, and limp. But as it exercises its wings, it gradually gains strength to begin its new life.

III. Changed Into The Image Of Christ

A. Into all His **moral** excellence

1. We begin to do what is right – make right choices, act right, think right, talk right, have right attitudes, treat people right, and use our money and other resources for right things.
2. Rules or habits of conduct that meet high standards
3. **Genesis 1:28** – God told Adam to subdue the earth, using all its vast resources in the service of God and man.
4. We must be transformed from being totally selfish, self-centered, and greedy to being restored to God’s original plan.

B. **Genesis 1:26-27** – God made man in His own image (likeness).

1. Satan introduced sin into the man’s nature.

C. **Romans 8:29-30** – Those who believe in Christ (our Redeemer) are **destined** to be molded into His image and raised to a **glorious** state.

[Use clay and molds to show how much of us must go!]

D. Whatever we are destined for, we can never be completely satisfied without!

1. We must die to live.
2. **Galatians 2:20** – It is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me.**

3. **John 3:30** – *He must increase, but I must decrease . . .*
4. **Galatians 6:14** – I am crucified to the world and the world is crucified to me. (KJV)

I can enjoy it, but I can live without it. It has no hold on me.
5. **II Corinthians 4:11-12** – We must die (the old man) so the life of Jesus can be actively at work in us.

IV. Death By Starvation

- A. **Colossians 3:1-5** – Kill the flesh.
- B. We cannot beat these wrong things out of our soul, but we can choose not to feed them – they will get weaker and weaker until they ultimately die.
- C. Examples of things I have killed by starvation:
 1. Self-pity
 2. Smoking cigarettes

Do not be addicted to comfort.
 3. Reasoning
 4. Rebellion

I began doing what I was asked to do whether I liked it or not. Next, I graduated to doing it without murmuring. Next, I learned to do it with a good attitude; and finally, with joy.
- D. The fruit of self-control is one of the best things we have been given.
 1. See **II Timothy 1:7**. – We have a spirit of self-control.

E. The longer you give in to the flesh's demands, the longer you will be its slave.

1. **Romans 8:12-13**

V. If We Won't Kill The Flesh, God Will Do It For Us!

A. **Psalm 94:12-13**

B. Things God uses to kill us:

1. People we cannot control

a. Authority

b. Those who become thorns in our flesh

Personalities that irritate us

2. Circumstances we cannot control

Isaiah 41:10

3. Divine delays

Psalm 31:15

4. Divine failure

John 21:1-6

C. **Lamentations 3:27-28**

D. During all changes, trust God. You may not like the process, but you will love the end result.

See **TEACUP STORY** in the last section of these Teaching Notes.

Taking Back What Belongs To You!

I. We Have Been Robbed!

- A. One of the first revelations I received was, “**I’ve been robbed!**”
 - 1. As I began studying God’s Word, I realized I had an enemy. He was a thief and a liar. He had deceived me and taken my inheritance.
- B. I knew nothing of being victorious over situations that came against me, moods that attacked without warning, or attitudes that were poisoning my life.
 - 1. I knew nothing of healing, prosperity, spiritual authority, living without guilt and condemnation, or having close fellowship with God.
 - 2. I did not know I could have peace and joy during the storms of life.
 - 3. I had been robbed.
- C. **Isaiah 42:18-22** – This is a people robbed and plundered, hidden in houses of bondage.
 - 1. I was a believer, not an unbeliever. I attended church regularly. I did church work, but I was still spiritually deaf and blind.
- D. **Isaiah 61:7-8** – God hates it when His people are robbed, and His promise is justice and double for our trouble.

II. It Is Time To Possess The Land.

- A. **Joshua 1:2-3** – I have given you the land. Now you go take it.
 - 1. It is like I said to my daughter recently: “I have some gifts at the house for you. You need to come and get them.”
 - 2. They were hers; but if she would not put out the effort to come and take them, then she would be without them.
- B. Possess means to occupy by dispossessing the current occupants.
 - 1. Israel fought wars in order to possess what God had given them, and we will do no less.
- C. **II Corinthians 10:4** – The weapons of our **WARFARE**
 - 1. We are called soldiers in God’s army.
- D. Be realistic. This will take time and hard work. Not works, but work and effort.
- E. **I Peter 5:8-10** – Be determined because Satan does not give up easily.
- F. Endure – you will have to go through some things.
 - 1. **Hebrews 10:36, 38-39**
 - 2. The only way out is through.

III. It Is A Process – The Restoration Of A Piece Of Furniture Requires:

- A. **Stripping** – This is done one layer at a time and may require repeated applications to remove all the old stain. It may require a variety of processes.
 - 1. I was stripped of many things – attitude, thought processes, ways, wrong friends, self-reliance, pride, anger, fear, etc.

2. Over and over again I went through the same thing in a variety of ways.

B. Sanding

1. God uses people and circumstances that we cannot control as sandpaper in our lives. We say, “This person or situation really grates on me” but it is actually part of the process.
2. We have lots of rough edges that must be smoothed out.

C. Sealing – We are sealed in the Holy Spirit Who is the guarantee of our inheritance (**Ephesians 1:11-14**).

1. We will not possess what belongs to us without the work and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

D. Staining

E. Polishing – Polishing never stops; that goes on all our lives. We get a little dusty, and out comes the polishing equipment.

IV. Prepared Through Sanctification

A. Joshua 3:2-5

1. We must learn to follow the Spirit. We have lived in a confusing maze. Only the Holy Spirit knows the way out.
2. We each go through many things we were not expecting.
3. **Sanctification is preparation for promotion.**

B. Hebrews 10:10 – We have been made holy, sanctified, and consecrated.

1. **Hebrews 10:14** – Completely cleansed and perfected

C. Satan has stolen the truth about the believer’s condition.

1. He tells us what we do is who we are. Our condition before God is based on our works.
 2. He is a liar. I am sanctified, consecrated, made holy, righteous, justified, redeemed, completely cleansed, and perfected.
 3. All this is in me (in my spirit); and through the work of the Holy Spirit, it is being worked out in my life.
- D. Sanctification – The separation of the believer from evil things and ways. It must be pursued by the believer earnestly and without interruption. Holy character cannot be imputed or transferred. It is built up little by little as a result of obeying the Word. The Holy Spirit is the agent in sanctification.
- E. There is a difference in what we have legally and what we have experientially.
1. Some never possess because they do not believe it is theirs.
 2. Some never possess because they will not take what belongs to them.
 3. Some never possess because they prefer the old over the new.

V. **If We Are Holy, Why Do We Act So Unholy?**

- A. When a man is born again, his spirit declares war on his flesh.
- B. One stronghold after another must be taken. Each one is a battle.
1. **Deuteronomy 7:22** – God gave the Israelites their enemies little by little.
- C. Satan loves to give a daily report on what we are not, on how far we have to go, and everything that is negative.
1. We must look at our progress and be encouraged.

Concentrating on our weaknesses redoubles their strength over us.

2. **Galatians 5:16** – Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.
 3. I do not spend much time thinking about what is wrong with me. I concentrate on God and on staying ever-filled with the Spirit. His work in me continues daily.
 4. He convicts me of sin. I agree with him. We partner together to get things changed, and I go on without condemnation.
- D. **Romans 7:15-8:1** – Paul explains the battle we go through and clearly shows, “The battle belongs to the Lord.”
1. **II Chronicles 20:12-22** – The people worshiped and sang praise, and God defeated their enemies.

VI. Why Are Some Problems Recurring Ones?

- A. **Galatians 5:1** – Stand fast in your liberties and do not be ensnared in a yoke you have once been freed from.
- B. Example: A person is born with a predisposition to infections. As long as he takes his medicine, he is all right. Even if he misses it occasionally, he is still all right. But if he gets lazy or unrealistic and just quits taking it, the old infection will come back.
- C. I have always had a tendency to be afraid that I am not pleasing God.
 1. This is due to being in fear of my father. I could not please him (at least not for long) no matter what I did.
 2. I have been delivered; but if I do not take my medicine (the Word), I get the problem back.
 3. Our souls can be sick, as well as our minds and bodies.

4. I have to take a specific kind of medicine. I have to take large doses of faith and **aggressively** believe God is pleased with me and that I am led by the Holy Spirit.

As long as I take my medicine, I am fine.

D. We all have certain things

1. Some might demand perfection of themselves and others.
2. Some might be lazy, others workaholics.
3. Some may be touchy and easily offended.
4. Others may be given to gossip.

E. Whatever the case may be, remember: even a totally restored piece of furniture stills needs to be regularly polished.

**EVERY TIME YOU REFUSE TO GIVE UP,
YOU ARE TAKING BACK WHAT BELONGS TO YOU.**

The Greatest Transformation

I. The New Man In Contrast To The Old Man

A. II Corinthians 5:17 – A new creature

1. He does not look different – except he is probably happier and more peaceful. His moral and spiritual condition is new.
2. He is thus enabled to change in behavior.

B. Ephesians 2:1-6 – We need a greater revelation on our new condition once we are born again. We are not what we used to be.

C. Ephesians 4:22-24 – Daily put off the old and put on the new.

D. Colossians 3:1-4

1. Set your mind on the new, not the old.
 - a. Galatians 5:16 – Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The flesh will always lust, but we have a “new man” to put on.
 - b. I might have old rags and new clothes in my closet. It is up to me what I wear.
2. Colossians 3:10 – Clothe yourself with the new man, which is ever in the process of being renewed through knowledge. Become Christ-like.

What if I had one dress that got more worn out every day and another that looked better every day? Which one would I value and care for?

3. Colossians 3:14 – The place we are headed for (our destination) is **LOVE**.

- E. We are a new creation, filled with new life, a new man living under a new covenant with a new heart, walking in a fresh new living way. (**Hebrews 10:20**)

We have been given one new commandment to follow. God has placed a new song in our hearts. We are filled with new wine. We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth where we will receive a new name.

II. What Is Our Part?

- A. **John 15:5** – Apart from Him, we can do nothing. But apart from us, He does very little.

1. God can and does move sovereignly, but normally it is with man's partnership.
2. We cannot do His part and He will not do our part.

- B. **Hebrews 5:13-6:3** – We need to get grounded in the Word, know who we are “in Christ,” and move from the baby stage to maturity.

1. It is an ongoing process that requires our dedication, commitment, and determination.
2. A revelation on the doctrine of righteousness is vital.

- C. **Galatians 3:26-28** – In Christ there is no distinction between us.

1. One is not better than another. Our worth is “in Christ.”
2. **Philippians 3:3** – Put no confidence in the flesh.
3. **Ephesians 2:13-15** – When we are recreated in Christ, there is no dividing wall between others and us.

We are free from comparison, competition, insecurity, poor self-image, and fears about ourselves; that is, fear of failure and rejection.

- D. Our part is faith. We learn to walk by faith.
1. **Hebrews 11:6** – Have simple trust and confidence that God is and He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him
 2. Faith is leaning all of ourselves on Him in every situation. We walk by faith.
 3. **Romans 1:17** – In the Gospel, a righteousness is revealed that leads us from faith to faith.
 - a. As long as we feel inferior or not worthy, we will not reach out in faith expecting God to meet our need – not because we do not believe He is good and powerful, but because we do not believe He will do it for US!
 - b. **Isaiah 41:13-15** – He called Jacob a worm and then said, “I will help you.”

III. What Is The Advanced Teaching We Are To Proceed To?

- A. Is it something deep and mysterious that few can grasp? Or is it so simple that in our complexity we miss it?
- B. **Hebrews 6:3-14**
1. We cannot get saved over and over, so do not get stuck there and never go on.
 2. **Hebrews 6:8-10** – We are to walk in love and bear good fruit.
 3. **Hebrews 6:11-12** – If we do not reach out with what we know and give it to others, we get spiritually dull and grow disinterested.

Multitudes of Christians backslide and fall away from church because they are **spectators instead of participators.**

4. **Hebrews 6:14** – We are blessed in blessing others and are multiplied in helping others grow.

This is the law of the kingdom. There is no other way to kingdom blessings. **We all reap what we have sown.**

- C. **Ephesians 2:10** – We are recreated for good works.
 1. They are the doorways to the “good life.”
- D. **Matthew 22:36-39** – The heaviest command is: **love God, love yourself, and love others.**
- E. **John 13:34-35** – I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another just as I have loved you.
 1. It is proof of our Christianity.
 2. Our love walk is our credentials.
 3. It is our authority to move about freely in the kingdom, enjoying all the privileges of the kingdom.

Peace, joy, righteousness, favor, God’s presence, prosperity, power, etc.

IV. The Greatest Transformation

- A. Being changed from a selfish, self-centered, self-absorbed, self-conscious, self-pitying person to one who has intense love for others is the greatest miracle we will ever see.
- B. God is love. Let us pray that we will be reduced to love.
- C. **I John 4:12** – No one has seen God. But if you love one another, God abides – His love is matured and runs its full course in us!
- D. **Romans 5:5** – The love of God has been poured out in our hearts as a free gift. Let’s allow it to mature and have full expression.

Restoration

I. He Restores My Soul.

A. Psalm 23:3

B. Restore (defined/Vine's) – To give back, return to former condition, take back to the beginning. The tense is the continuous present, suggesting the necessity for patience and perseverance in the process.

C. My soul

1. Mind
2. Will
3. Emotions

D. Restoration of the mind

1. Adam was created to think like God – positive, aggressive, creative, and wise.
2. **I Corinthians 2:16** – We have been given the mind of Christ.
3. Now we must learn to use it.
 - a. **John 5:38** – His Word is His thoughts.
 - b. Learn to live and think by the Word not the world.

E. Restoration of the will

1. We were not intended to be stubborn, stiff-necked, rebellious, and self-willed. We are to be pliable, moldable in God's hands, and yoked to Him so He always has the lead.

2. **Isaiah 14:12-15** – Rebellion caused (and still causes) the fall of man.
 - a. The only time “I will” is a good statement is when it is a declaration of determination to set oneself in line with God’s will.
 - b. **Psalm 118:24** – This is the day the Lord has made. I **will** rejoice and be glad in it.
 - c. **Psalm 42:11** – I shall praise Him even when my soul is downcast.
3. The rebel resists **direction** and **correction**. The rebel will insist on his own way even though it leads to destruction.
4. The rebel is proud. Pride is actually the fuel for the rebellion.
5. Man’s will must be restored. He should submit to God and other constituted authority God places over him. He is not to be abused, manipulated, or controlled; but neither is he to be rebellious.
 - a. **Romans 13:1-5**
 - b. **I Peter 2:13**
6. My will had to be restored, and it was a painful process.

John 21:15-18

7. Submission is not true submission if the heart is still rebellious.
8. **Colossians 3:18-22** – Authority is everywhere. Simply submit with a right heart. Your reward will come from God!

F. Restoration of emotions

1. The calloused must be softened.

Those who have been hurt may have locked up their emotions or they are calloused. They will need to be softened. This occurs through the water of the Word and taking steps of obedience.

2. The unreliable must become stable.
 - a. **Psalm 94:12-13** – Stable
 - b. **II Timothy 4:5** – Calm, cool, and steady
 - c. It is very difficult to depend on someone or enjoy them if you never know how they will act in various situations.
 - d. **Proverbs 24:21** – Avoid those given to change.
 - e. **Ephesians 6:13** – Having done all – **STAND!**
3. **James 1:8** - Being double-minded is also being unstable.
4. Reasons for being emotionally unstable:
 - a. Fear of not being safe or taken care of – requires the development of faith and revelation on God’s love.
 - b. Lack of discipline – requires practice.
 - c. Lack of proper parental training – requires “unlearning” and “relearning” which is actually harder than doing it right the first time.

It is much easier to build boys and girls than to repair men and women.

II. God Restores More Than We Lost.

- A. **Isaiah 61:7** – Double

- B. **Exodus: Chapter 22** (See **Verse 4.**)
- C. **Proverbs 6:30-31** – Restore seven-fold
- D. **Deuteronomy 28:7** – The enemy comes one way and flees seven ways.
- E. **Job 42:10** – God gave Job twice as much as he lost.
- F. **II Kings 2:9** – Elisha was a faithful, dedicated, and committed servant to Elijah for years; and he received a double portion of his spirit or anointing.
 - 1. The faithful servant must sacrifice many times, but God rewards double.

III. He Restores The Years The Locust Has Eaten.

- A. **Joel 2:25**
- B. My childhood was stolen through abuse.
 - 1. My teen-age years were stolen.
- C. I have learned to be a child and thoroughly enjoy my life as a fifty-eight-year-old woman.
 - 1. Those who walk in faith must come as a little child.
- D. I have responsibilities but not worries.
 - 1. I tell my “Daddy” what I want and need, and trust Him to get it.
- E. Every healthy adult should have a child in them.
 - 1. **John 10:10**
Children enjoy life.

IV. Things Restored In My Life So Far:

- A. **Health** – I feel much better now than when I was thirty.
1. **Jeremiah 30:17** – *For I will restore health to you and I will heal your wounds, says the Lord, because they have called you an outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no one seeks after and for whom no one cares!*
- B. **Right standing with God, confidence, and proper self-image**
1. **Isaiah 54:17** – It is your heritage to be secure.
- C. **Peace** – This has been an awesome blessing.
1. I grew up rooted in fear, anxiety, worry, strife, and violence.
- D. **Attitude** – I had a terrible attitude, and my attitude has been restored to balance.
1. A balanced attitude is one that expects good things but is not bitter when it has to deal with difficulty.
 2. Enjoys abounding but can still be content when being abased
 3. Forgives those who hurt or disappoint them
 4. Stays positive when a negative circumstance arises

Removing The Old Finish

When restoring furniture, you must do the most unpleasant part of the job first. Removing the old finish can be a cumbersome and messy task. For a while (early in the process) you may feel that you have completely ruined the piece – until you start getting down to the wood underneath the mess. Have patience. Once you get to the point of finally sanding the wood, you will have graduated from making a mess to creating a masterpiece. When you are finished, you will be proud of what you were able to create.

Teacup Story

A couple went into an antique shop and they saw this BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL, MAGNIFICENT little teacup sitting high up on a shelf. And they just fell in love with that teacup. They said, “We have got to have that teacup!” They were admiring the teacup – all of a sudden the teacup began to talk to them.

It said, “You know, I have not always been like this! There was a time when nobody would have wanted me. There was a time when I was not attractive at all. You see there was a time in my life when I was just an old, hard, gray lump of clay. And the master potter came along and he picked me up one day, and he began to pat me and reshape me; and I said, ‘STOP IT! What are you doing? That HURTS! Ahhh, LEAVE ME ALONE!’ And he simply looked at me and said: ‘Not yet!’

And then he put me on this wheel and he began to spin me around, and around, and around, and around! And I got so dizzy and I couldn’t even hardly see where I was going anymore! I was losing it! Everything was spinning around and around and I felt sick to my stomach. And I said: ‘LET ME OFF OF HERE!’ And he said: ‘Not yet!’

Finally, the day came when I had taken on another shape. All of that spinning around finally gave me another shape. All of that patting and molding and squeezing and pinching gave me another shape. And all of a sudden – he put me into this FURNACE! It is called the first firing. And it was SO HOT in there! Oh, I could not believe how hot it was. I thought, ‘I can’t stand this! I’m going to DIE in here! GET ME OUT OF HERE!!! Don’t you love me? (*Crying*) Why are you leaving me in here?’ You see, the oven door had glass in it and the master would just look in that glass and he had this big ol’ grin on his face and this certain look in his eyes AND HE WOULDN’T LET ME OUT!!! But he would just smile at me and say, ‘Not yet!’

FINALLY, the oven door opened and he took me out – set me on a shelf and I thought, ‘Whew! Thank God that is over!’ Then he began to paint me all over with this stinky paint! Changing my color from gray to this pretty blue that I am now! And I said: ‘This stuff STINKS! It is choking me! (*Coughing*) I don’t like this smell! STOP IT! STOP IT! STOP IT! STOP IT!’ He would just say: ‘Not yet!’

Then he put me back in a SECOND oven. It is called the second firing, and it was TWICE as hot as the first oven! And I thought, ‘Now, I will DIE in here for sure! This is the end of me. This will finish me off! GET ME OUT OF HERE! I CAN’T STAND IT! I CAN’T STAND IT! Really – I am telling you – I can’t stand it!’

This is going to kill me! GET ME OUT OF HERE!!' And he would just look through that glass and say: 'Not yet!'

Then one day the door finally opened – he took me out and he put me up here on this shelf to let me cool off. After I cooled off, one day he came by and he handed me this mirror and I looked at myself and I could not believe how BEAUTIFUL I was! I could not BELIEVE how I had CHANGED! Why, I did not look anything at all like that old, gray clay that I started out to be!

Now, I am this beautiful, little, delicate teacup! And EVERYBODY wants me now! But there was a time in my life when NOBODY wanted me; NOBODY liked me; NOBODY paid any attention to me! They just kicked me around; walked on me.

But now – I AM SPECIAL! But I WASN'T ALWAYS this way!"



Joyce sharing the "Teacup Story"
on Album A-156,
The Potter And The Clay

