

The Encouragement Newsletter

TRANSITION



FOR



Transformation

Several months ago I was asked to minister and I immediately knew the topic—"Transition for Transformation". I thought I would be relating this topic solely to my recent movement to a new ministry. However, after doing some study, it became clearer that it was way more to the topic than what I thought.

There have been many messages, slogans, etc. related to transitioning and transforming the mind to the word of God. As I studied, I discovered one could transition, but not go through transformation. Prime example of this is the children of Israel. They crossed over the Red Sea (transition), saw the miracles of God, but never transformed to the ways of God. How do I know? The initial generation that came out of Egypt (bondage) did not go to the Promised Land (freedom, liberty). They feared, mumbled, grumbled, doubted, complained, and were stubborn and stiff neck. They did not grasp nor understand the transition. The deliverance meant transformation and not to stay the same. How many of you know of people who say, "Yes, I am a Christian, I love God and I go to church. Yet, they still do the things they did before they claimed salvation. For example, many still club, drink, sleep around, party and participate in other acts as if they are unredeemed. They are bold about it because it shamelessly posted social media. Why are they so comfortable being like this? The answer is, I believe, "They may have Transitioned, but they have not been Transformed".

What is Transition and Transformation?

Transition - A change from one state or condition to another. Its origin means "a going across or over, removing, removal, migration, a changing, change, revolution. "

Most relate to transition meaning "Change", which is a movement development, evolution from one form, stage or style to another; A musical modulation

Transformation is made up of two words **Trans** (across, beyond, through, on the other side of, to go beyond, to cross) and **Form** (semblance, image likeness, create, give life to, give shape or structure, to make, build, construct, devise). The origin of transformation means Change of shape. Transform is to change in shape, metamorphose. Undergo a change of form. In the Strong's Concordance, transform is simply "change after being with". Lastly, and very important to remember, transformation includes the process for sanctification and holiness.

To put this altogether, Transformation is— A complete or major change in someone's or something's appearance, form etc. It is a metamorphosis, a major change in the appearance or character of something or someone; a change of physical form, structure or substance especially by supernatural means. A good example of this word is seen in the transition and transformation of the butterfly, which is a total metamorphosis.

Why Is Transition and Transformation Necessary

I provided the definitions to show not only the meaning, but to show a distinction between Transition and Transformation. In reality, I believe, in God's world, transition is the means to transformation because it is about being acceptable to God and conforming to His image.

Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. That you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:2

Scripture is commanding “transform” because one can accept Christ, but not renew their mind and be transformed. If we are not transformed, we will consistently conform to the world, a denomination; wisdom of man; man’s belief system or a preacher’s way of living, and omit going through a metamorphosis to be transformed and conform to Christ’s image. His way of thinking and behaving. It is a call to become one with or agreement with Him.

Let me make a point about the word “conform”. Conform is to be similar to or the same as something. It also means to bring into harmony. In the natural, we know how being around a person will cause a change in the way one thinks, behave, dress, etc. The Lord is in the business of conforming you and I. Our responsibility in this process is come into harmony with Him (conform) by submitting to Him and “being with” (transforming) Him. This is the way we are shaped for His purpose and plan on earth.

God is in the business of transitioning and transforming His people. Simply put—Movement and Change. The word of God has plenty of examples of God’s way to accomplish this. Let us look at Abrahams life.

We read chapters and verses quickly and we do not think of time and mode of travel. But, the journey of Abraham was by foot and on the backs of animals. He had a lot of stuff to transport in his large caravan. Therefore, his traveling, movement, transition and transformation took more time than it takes for us to read the seven chapters of His life.

Known as the “Father of Faith”, Abraham did not get to the place of trusting God nor knowing him overnight. He had to “be with God” in order to conform to His image and fulfill His plan. The conforming process took a life time of tests, trials, triumphs, and victories. Genesis chapters 12—25 details Abraham’s transition and transformation experiences. I want to point out a few of his experiences that we all can identify with today.

- 1) **Hearing the voice of God and Obeying**— Genesis 12:1-5 tells us that Abram heard and obeyed the voice of God to transition and move away from what was familiar.. In the command to go, God reveals His purpose, which is important to understanding God’s will.
- 2) **Fear**—Genesis 12:11-13, 16:1–15 and 20: verses 1 and 11 show how Abram/Abraham experienced fear in many seasons of his life and transition. Fear is that one nagging emotion that comes in concert with transition and transformation. In order to be a man of faith, he had to experience fear. His fear caused him to fear his life and the birth of a son.
- 3) **More Separation**—Genesis 13:1-8 shows more

separation from familiarity. Abraham’s initial separation came at the beginning of his obedience to the call, but more separation was important for the fulfillment of God’s purpose.

- 4) **Assurance from God, Even in Fear**— Genesis 14 and 18 show that God was not threatened by Abraham’s fears or insecurities. His will stands regardless and He provided constant assurance.
- 5) **Revelation**— In Genesis 18 God reveals in depth revelation of His plan. He would not hide what He was going to do. Abraham’s transition and transformation resulted in a new name (Genesis 17:1-5, 15) a new character, mindset and behavior. His constant metamorphosis made him eligible for more revelation.

We are no greater than Abraham and will constantly transition and/or transform. We can anticipate the same feelings and experiences, the call to leave the familiar, loss of what has been accomplished in the old place, requirement to separate from the familiar, uncertainty and anxiety. But, just as Abraham, we must continue to run the race set before us no matter what. We cannot claim this type of faith if we do not continue and transition as Abraham. Jeremiah 29:11 let’s us know that God knows His intents and purpose for us, but we must cooperate with the Holy Spirit to get His expected end. Just like Abraham, we will run into many battles that will hinder our transformation process and that is what we will look at next.

What will hinder our transformation process? The list of hindrances to our full transition is long. I have created a non-exhaustive list of things that will make transformation for you and I very difficult. They include -

- o Fears of all kind (fear of the unknown, what others may think, etc.)
- o Doubt and Unbelief
- o Unwillingness to do what it takes
- o Stubbornness like the children of Israel
- o Discouragement & Disappointment
- o Discomfort in the new place
- o Looking back at what was and longing for the past like Lot’s wife
- o Lacking the understanding of God’s plan
- o Frustration with the process

Let me encourage you while in the transformation process, earnestly seek the Lord and ask “What are you saying to me in this?” and “How are you using this to transform me and conform me to your image?” Get counsel, prayer and encouragement from someone who has been where you are going.

Transformation is for Others. I am sure you have heard and perhaps sang the song by William McDowell titled “I Give Myself Away” and Withholding Nothing”. Both are good songs of surrender and conforming to the Lord Jesus Christ. Our life is not our own once we have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Jesus (Colossians 1:13). We have been bought with a price. (I Corinthians 6:20 and I Corinthians 7:23) Since our life is not our own, God will transition and

transform for His intents and purpose. Not our own. With this in mind, we all must realize and accept that He will make us uncomfortable, but it is not for naught. It is because He has generations in His mind. Jesus told Peter in Luke 22:31-32, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren (KJV)". In this verse converted is to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix your brothers. This verse brings to light that transition and transformation is for others. Jesus' words to Peter applies to us today. Satan's plan is to sift every vessel of God to nothing, but just as Peter had a mighty call that required transition and transformation, our call requires no less that we may convert others.

To transform and transition, we need some keys. Let's talk about the keys necessary.

- Faith in the word of God. Without faith it is impossible to please God. His word is a lamp and light.
- Constant prayer and worship. This will no doubt bring you into God's presence to be comforted and strengthened in the process.
- Made up mind; studying God's word,
- Willingness to relinquish the past (even accomplishments) Paul said I forget what is behind and reach forward
- Forgiveness for those who may criticize or shun you for transitioning to transform - in the end we stand before God and must give an account to Him for every deed done on earth. Can't hit the undo & redo, cut & paste buttons when we stand before God.
- Someone to help you in your transition and transformation. Moses needed the counsel of Jethro.
- Release from the frustration with the transformation process.
- Confidence that God has started a good work in you and will complete it.

Transition and Transformation is a Constant

One important thing I want to leave with you. Transition and Transformation can be for the purpose of God (positive) or the purpose of God's enemy (negative). The choice really is up to you and I. If you look at your life today, it involved transition and transformation at different seasons. Transformation and conforming will be a constant in life. It is so much that has to be undone in our mind, behaviors, attitudes, outlook, viewpoint, opinions, etc. God

knows our frame and that we are like grass (I Peter 1:24). But, that is not an excuse for not conforming and being transformed by His power. He knows His intentions for sending you and I to earth and He wants that intention fulfilled.

The word says in John 15:5 (KJV) "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without me ye can do nothing**". Simply put, we cannot transition nor transform nor conform without the Holy Spirit. He is the one that will give the energy, strength, wisdom, understanding, encouragement and courage to grace (ability and enablement) to go through a metamorphosis.

My Conclusion— Again, Transition and Transformation is a progressive constant in life. Sometimes, transition does not make sense until after there's a conscience decision to obey God and the move. Then as transformation begins to unfold things will fall into place. It's after that initial obedience. Like we saw with Abraham, he was told to transition then transformation followed. Had he not transitioned, he would not have walked into the plan of God. This is the same for us. We will not receive the promises of God until we transition and transform. So, if you are waiting for the fulfillment of a promise, ask yourself, "Have I walked in obedience to transition?" and "Have I allowed the Lord to transform me in this new place?" As you think about where you are, forget what was, obey God and move forward into transition and transformation. I want to end in this verse, Paul said in **Philippians 3:13-14** "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Let's end in prayer—

Lord I am flesh and I do not always understand Your ways. I often think my ways are higher than Your ways and my thoughts are higher than Your thoughts. I do not see the big plan on my own and I have been guilty of not obeying You when You say transition and transform. I ask for Your forgiveness.

I have, at times transitioned as You have said, but I have not transformed. I have neglected to follow through because of my fears, doubts, frustration, stubbornness, unbelief. For this I ask for your forgiveness.

Oh God! I humble myself to You to transform according to Your word and not be conformed to the ways of the world that leads to death. Give me the grace. Give me the strength. Give me the fortitude. Holy Spirit, fill me with your power to do the will of God. Cause me to will to renew our minds that we may be entirely in your will. We fix our mind and hope on you.

Right now I receive the strength, the mind of Christ to transition and transform according to Your will. I stand on your word. You will not leave me, nor forsake me. I will not fear. I am Your servant, strong, full of good courage and walk in your ways.

I love you God and thank You for Your love and patience towards me. Again I thank you and bless You Almighty God in Jesus' name Amen.