



Dear Friends

March 2019

TRANSFORMED

Before I was a Christian one of the things that kept me away from church was the lives of most Christians did not seem to match what they claimed to believe. In over 40 years of ministry with youth, adults, poor, rich, white, black, incarcerated and free, the same problem arises. The lost don't see enough difference in those who claim to know Christ or in many cases outright hypocrisy. The church has many little clichés to help explain this "Be patient, God isn't through with me yet", or "Church isn't a sanctuary for saints, it's a hospital for sinners." There is some truth to those sayings. We will all struggle with sin until Jesus completes the good work He began at our salvation. (Philippians 1:6) But what is the "Good Work" that God began in us that He is determined to finish?

Is it to save us? No, that is completed.

Is it to fix this life for us? No, this life will have ended when He completes the work.

I think one reason God has allowed me to see so many people that have been involved in this ministry through the years become fruit bearers themselves is that I believe Jesus came first and foremost to Glorify God and secondly to seek and to save the lost, **but not just to save us but to TRANSFORM us into His image.** God created man in His Image, sin destroyed our ability to reflect that image, salvation restores our ability to reflect His Image. (*2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,^[a] are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.^[b] For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*)

Our responsibility is not to simply lead people to Christ, or to get them to join our church. We have been called to be followers of Christ, faithfully reflecting His image to a dark and dying world and reaching and equipping the next generation to also be disciples and makers of yet another generation of disciples. This can only be accomplished by men and women who have been transformed into the image of Christ.

Please pray that God would will continue to transform the lives of those He gives us to work with into the people He created them to be.

In His Love

Shane



Transformation

[Romans 12:2](#)

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

[Ezekiel 36:26](#) "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#) Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

[Ephesians 4:22-24](#) that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

[2 Corinthians 3:18](#) And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

[Galatians 2:20](#) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

[Colossians 3:10](#) And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

[Ephesians 4:22-24](#) To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

[Galatians 3:27](#) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.



PRAYER REQUEST

I introduced you to Henderson Palmer, Team 5:18's new intern in last month's letter. After months of pain and other treatments Henderson will be undergoing surgery to remove part of his intestine April 1st. Please pray for successful surgery and that the end result will be Henderson's full health.