

“Transformed”

“And 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.” Rom. 12: 2

Transformers are those objects that appear one way, but when the time comes and the need arises, they are able to transform into another shape that enables them to do fulfill a different function and meet the need.

Likewise, we currently occupy one shape in our faith walk, but there is another shape God is calling us to. It's like being a rowboat, but there is a jet plane inside of you. You can be content being a rowboat, but there may be a need tugging at your heart for faraway places and accomplishing new things. The only way that will happen is by being transformed into that jet plane.

It won't be easy. There are obstacles. The world is trying to keep you as a rowboat, to keep you conformed, to squeeze you into its mold. Then it will seek to put holes in your boat or run you aground, to sink you or stop you. The world wants to control you and keep you from transforming.

We must overcome the forces that seek to conform us to this world. They come from outside of us and inside of us. These are the desires of the flesh and of the mind (Eph. 2: 1-3). There's still some of the course of this world in all of us. If you think there's not in you, you're setting yourself up for a fall (I Cor. 10:12).

So we have to navigate carefully around the rocks and sand barges. There are things and people we have to avoid in order to be transformed.

Not only do we have to avoid being conformed, we have to embrace the renewing of our minds. This does not happen overnight. It's a metamorphosis. Everyone is different. For some it may take longer than for others.

How about you? Are you content where you are, or do you want to discover how much more is inside of you that God placed in you to accomplish? We cannot hide it under a bushel, but we must set it on a lampstand, so all will see our good works and glorify God (Matt. 5: 14-16).

The only way to realize it is by being transformed by the renewing of your mind. As the transformation occurs, you will reach God's will in stages, good, acceptable, and perfect. Maybe you're in His good will and want to move to acceptable. Maybe you're in acceptable and want to be in His perfect will. So how do we renew our minds?

*Renewing* means restoring to an original state, like restoring antique furniture. There are features of God's original intention we can recapture, some pre-fall fellowship with God, imitating God as His children (Eph. 4: 23-24, 5:1-2).

The *mind* here is not just the intellect or understanding. It also refers to a mind-set. This includes our will and emotions, our entire souls. Our minds are to conform to his mind. Once there we develop His heart for the world, His love for people, His willingness to get involved (i.e. Good Samaritan).

When our thoughts become His thoughts, this changes our behavior and actions, and these new actions lead to new habits that shape a new character. This then enables us to fulfill his purposes (Rom. 8:28-29). Notice in Rom 8:28-29 that His purpose is linked to being conformed to the image of Christ, which is character. What is His character like? That ought to be our goal.

In this series we will examine how to renew our minds, and when we do, we will be transformed and accomplish God's will as He always intended. Are you ready?