

"In Christ"
(The Arena of Personal Transformation)

"The life I now live..." (Ga 2:20). What happened to the one Paul used to live? (It was crucified and buried in Christ.) How did he get a new one? (It was raised, newly created in Christ.) It is Paul's way of saying, "There is now an immeasurable gulf between "me" and who I once was!"

Christian transformation is about getting used to this new life, this new being in Christ. As we acclimate to life in this new arena there is dynamic movement - this is no static or merely positional arrangement. We "are being transformed" (II Cor 3:18) from sickness to health, from infancy to maturity, from captivity to freedom. This transformational change doesn't occur when I'm trying hard to be like Jesus, but when I'm trusting His Life to come out of me as His Life! We already have the perfect character of Christ in us - God is now pressing us into living from Him. We are "moving"... from "not I", to "but Christ." It is always personal - the personal life of Christ "en-fleshed" in and through our unique persons.

It is also co-operational - our cooperation with His operation . We do not actively and willfully make ourselves like Jesus. Neither are we passive, indifferent "tools". Transformation calls for a receptive and responsive posture as we willingly give God ascendancy in the "all things" of our lives. Such a posture calls for honesty. Grace works when we are honest! As we stand in the light before God, pour out our limited, finite story into His unlimited, infinite Love and then submit our story to His story, we are ready to be raised to the Truth of the situation. We see every "crisis" as a call to worship, give Him thanks, offer a "sacrifice of praise" and set ourselves to wait upon God and listen for His story (Eph 5:20; Heb 13:15; Is 40:31). In our willingness and readiness to know Him and be a living expression of His Life, we respond with "the obedience of faith." (Ro 1:5; 16:26) We say our "Amen", our "Yes, certainly!", our "So be it" and marry our chooser to His will and act upon His "say so". We get out of the boat, cast our net on the other side, walk to the pool of Siloam - "Whatever He says to you, do it" (Jo 2:5) - placing our faith in Him!

This is when we are "moved" -from theological awareness to operational oneness, from un-Christ-likeness to Christ-likeness. Transformation in Christ follows the obedience of faith. And in this "arena" we present a visible image of the invisible God, in whom we live and move and have our being until He returns!

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 **GREETINGS** 

We've just finished our 2016 Florida Retreat and I want to thank all of you who prayed for, attended, and helped behind the scenes to make this weekend so fruitful. It's the most labor intensive event of our year, with all the study, logistics, and teaching sessions involved, but one of our most enjoyable as well. We visit with long time friends, make new friends, see the "lights come on" in one another and introduce our visitors to our CCF church family.





We do have a couple of options left for 2016 events if you are interested in hosting an OIC meeting in your home town. Let us know soon if that may fit into your plans.

Finally, thank you for all your many expressions of personal and ministry support. It's still amazing to me that we are able year after year to teach, counsel, and encourage the body of Christ so fully and so freely. Thank you for partnering with us - letting us partner with you - in enlarging the liberating awareness of "Christ in you, the hope of glory!" Hope to see all of you face-to-face in 2016!

 **CALENDAR** 

FEB 28 - Mar 2	Tyler, TX (903-561-9995)
MARCH	
6,20,27	CCF
8	Alachua Study
10-14	San Antonio (210-478-0618)
29	Ocala Study
APRIL	
22-24	Monticello, UT (859-393-4104)
MAY	
6-8	Waymart, PA (607-239-5006)

 **PRAISE and PRAYER** 

-  2016 Florida Retreat
-  Transforming Power of Christ
-  Maturing Pastors and Leaders
-  Our unsaved family and friends (and enemies!)

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