

## "The Government of the Living Spirit" II Corinthians 3:1-18

Transformation is very practical. It is both "being" and "doing". Christian transformation occurs under the government of the Living Spirit. It is nothing less than our unbroken union with God's Being expressed as God's doings for and in and through us.

This transformation is for all of us in Christ - "but we all" (3:18) -because God has shown His "face" (=Himself) to all of us in Jesus Christ. As we "turn" (3:16) to Him, "behold" (3:18) Him - in a glorious contemplation of Who Jesus Christ the Lord reveals God to be - transformation is occurring. It is Who we believe God to be (and where we believe Him to be) that changes (transforms) everything about us.

This ongoing transformation ("from glory unto glory") is the simple process of transferring the source and supply of our daily living from the created to the Uncreated, from below to above, ..."not I, but Christ." It is not about my improvement, but about His expression. It is not about me trying to be like God, but about God's Life coming out of me. When God's life is coming out of me as God's life... transformation is occurring! The Living Spirit is moving us from the possession of glory (Col 1:27) to the expression of glory - "from glory unto glory."

The dynamics are fairly simple. A precipitating event in a real life situation (there is no transformation in abstract!) -a "storm", a "thorn", a "tomb", a "cross" - brings us to a crisis. In the Christian life every crisis is the call to worship God. As we bow the knee of our hearts before Him (Eph 5:20; Phil 4:6; I Pet 5:6,7; et al), body and soul are being subordinated to Spirit. We are being turned and tuned to the government of the Living Spirit as we present ourselves to Him to hear and obey His direction (Ps 46:10; Ro 10:17). We are made aware of our holy options and respond with a "not I, but Christ" choice... "I believe You". We return to the action in our "I am what You say... I will what You will... I do as You do" - in the obedience of faith which activates and releases the supply of His life in and through us... and something changes! We are not living from a false self in separation from God, but from our true self joined to Him. We are not choosing with reference to what is best for ourselves, but with reference to what is best for others! We are no longer questioning what God's will is, we are "proving the will of God which is good, acceptable, and perfect" (Ro 12:2).

Under the transforming government of the Living Spirit, we have "confidence" (3:4), "hope" (3:12), "boldness" (3:12), and "liberty" (3:17). All is being made new. Even our scars start to cry "Hallelujah"!

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## *Praise Reports & Prayer Requests*

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# Greetings

I think each of us knows someone who feels "depressed". Perhaps many "someones" -maybe that "someone" is ourself! Acute bouts of depression are somewhat "normal" - it is a sign we have a pulse, that we care (about someone or something), that we still "feel". There is nothing pathological about sadness, un-Christian about anger, immature about deep discouragement (See Jo 11:36; Mk 3:5; II Cor 1:8 and others!).

However, if we fail to settle these issues in a godly and timely fashion, they may "harden" into something more chronic, more toxic, more disabling than they need to be. Certainly a brief "word" like this is not enough to comprehensively address all these concerns.

But in brief, these soulish reactions to life's events are meant by God to work for us. These "below the line" experiences point and take us to "above the line" realities. For example, "Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You." (Ps 56:3)

Be ever ready to pour your soul pain into the Infinite Love of God. Let it be your "escort" into His Liberating and Loving Truth. When we are honest, grace happens! Grace works! If you are "stuck", if the inner noise is so loud you can't seem to hear God, find God with a face on—a trustworthy mature person with compassionate eyes, sensitive ears, a soft shoulder. Let them help you listen for God. And always be ready to be that same "refuge" for others!

## CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 10 Alachua Study
- 14-17 Pope Avenue Baptist Church,  
Anderson, SC (864-227-1789)
- 27-29 Summit Baptist, High Springs, FL (352-575-0786)
- 31 Ocala Bible Study

### April

- 24-26 The Hill, Hardin, KY (270-437-4172)

### May

- 1-3 Waymart, PA (607-239-5006)
- 15-20 Fairview, NC (828-230-9344)

## Praise & Prayer



For our thoughts and feelings...



For a safe place to own them



For Truth that liberates them from shaping us



For others we know who are "stuck" under  
their influence