



## Transformation: *The Restoration of All Things*

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**Everything changes...nothing stays the same.** It takes real courage to believe in the plan of God for mankind. It takes tremendous courage to trust the leadership of Jesus as He restores man from the Fall and moves the kingdom of God towards the “full restoration of all things.” For the last 2,000 years this restoration has been progressing towards its revolutionary climax at the return of Jesus referred to in the bible as “the second coming of Christ.”

Remarkable individual courage is making a way for a generation of believers to see spiritual transformation happen in everyday life

- **Personal transformation flows out of a lifestyle of worshipping God...** “give” and “let.” We start here. We give ourselves to Jesus because of what He gave to us. He is not an “attachment” to the Christian life, but the object of our affection as followers of Jesus. This is in no way a passive relationship. Worship is not passive, but it is dynamic and powerful.
  - *<sup>1</sup> And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to **GIVE** your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. **LET** them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup> Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **LET God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think** [“be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think” ~ PASSION]. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Rom 12:1–2 NLT-SE)*
  - **“Let” is a legal term.** God, Himself, uses the term when He gives man authority to rule over the earth after creation. “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” (Gen 1:26 NIV) By these words the Creator God established a law which gives only to mankind the legal authority to exercise dominion and control over earth.
  - In the same way, when you say you will, “let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think,” you are **giving Him permission** to transform the way you think, **as well as the authority** allow His will to be expressed through you!
- **Trusting Jesus means we have the courage to agree and cooperate with restoration, wherever we find it!** “Restoration of all things” began at the Cross and will reach fullness at the return of Jesus. What happens until then? Everything changes. When we see evidence of restoration that has the fingerprints of God on it, that’s our invitation to cooperate with Heaven to see the Kingdom of God move forward.

- <sup>19</sup> Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away [The beginning of restoration]. <sup>20</sup> Then **times of refreshment** will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. <sup>21</sup> For he must remain in heaven until **the time for the final restoration of all things** [chronos, sequential time, the culmination of ongoing restoration], as God promised long ago through his holy prophets. (Acts 3:19–21 NLT-SE)

- **Mankind's greatest transformation at the end of the age will not come through judgement, but through love!** Because we have a diluted understanding of God, we don't see clearly. We see God in a way that suits who we want Him to be, not necessarily who He is. As a result, we have distanced ourselves from a biblical fear of the Lord. Unfortunately, we will only love others to the degree that we have a biblically healthy understanding of the fear of God.

- Understanding God's love for us...**the Gospel Message**

- <sup>1</sup> Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of **the Good News** I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. <sup>2</sup> It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. <sup>3</sup> I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. **Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.** (1 Cor 15:1–4 NLT-SE)

- Living out our love for each other, not doing something, but being someone...**the Gospel Mandate**

- One of the most prolific teachers on the Kingdom of God, **Myles Monroe** said, “The term Christian was never to be a title nor label that we wore, but a lifestyle that we lived **demonstrating the nature of “Christ-likeness.”**
- Dr. Monroe goes on to say...“God, who is unseen, would put His Spirit into the unseen spirit of man—a spirit inhabiting a visible physical body living on the visible earth. Through man's spirit a window of the soul is created so that man can communicate with the invisible world of God and also through another window man is able to communicate through his body to the visible world of man. Man is created in such a powerful and unique way that he is exalted above all of God's creation. By this means God could communicate from the unseen realm through the unseen spirit man to the seen realm, so that the visible world of man could understand His will. Whatever God desired would be relayed to the unseen, then manifested in the seen on the scene so that the earth would show what heaven was thinking.”

- **Remember, transformation not only changes us, but changes what God reveals through us...**“let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then **you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.** (Rom 12:2 NLT-SE)

- **So, the result is that “the visible world of man could understand His will”**...Many think that our mandate as followers of Jesus is to disciple nations (Matt 28:18). But how? There is no discipleship apart from love. Without love, discipleship tends to become opinionated and manipulative. It becomes more like **me** getting **my** way in **your** life. That is *not* the way of Jesus.

- <sup>3</sup> Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: **Don't think you are better than you really are.** Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. <sup>4</sup> Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, <sup>5</sup> so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and **we all belong to each other.** (Rom 12:3–5 NLT-SE)

- **Courage: God wants to change the way we think about “risk.”** We tend to equate risk with failure more than success. Risk is mostly about the potential for love, not the possibility of failure. We are in a season when we need to let God change the way we think about taking risks. We will not take risks if the primary motivation is to avoid discomfort. It would serve us well to let God **change the way we think about risking love.**
- <sup>27</sup> More importantly, keep living your lives in the reality of the gospel of Christ which reveals Him to others. Then when I come to see you, or hear good reports of you, I'll know that you stand united in one Spirit and one passion—celebrating together as conquerors in the faith of the gospel. <sup>28</sup> **Never be shaken or intimidated by the opposition that rises up against us,** for your courage will only prove their downfall and that you have found a new life. (Phil 1:27–28 PASSION)
- The exhortation to “**fear not**” is found 33 times in the bible. Take a look at a couple of the occurrences:
  - **Courage closes the door to the enemy in remarkable ways...**Moses said to the people, “**Fear not,** stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. (Ex 14:13 ESV)
  - **Courage opens the door to God’s resources flowing to you and through you...****Fear not,** for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Is 41:10 ESV)
  - **Courage allows you to position yourself in the kingdom of God...**“**Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.** (Luke 12:32 ESV)
- “**Risking love**” will mostly come down to saying “no” to yourself, for the sake of loving others:
  - **Risking love means having the courage to move the first commandment back into first place...**<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, “**You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.**”<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: **‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**<sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” (Matt 22:37–40 NLT-SE)
  - **Risking love means living with honesty, clarity and compassion in relationships with others...**<sup>24</sup> God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be **no division in the body,** but that its parts should have **equal concern for each other.** (1 Cor 12:24–25 NIV)
  - **Risking love means you remain patient with the process, having a teachable spirit...**<sup>1</sup> My child, never forget the things I have taught you. **Store my commands in your heart...** <sup>3</sup> Never let loyalty and kindness leave you!...<sup>5</sup> **Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.** <sup>6</sup> **Seek his will in all you do,** and he will show you which path to take. <sup>7</sup> Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. (Prov 3:1, 3, 5-7 NLT-SE)
  - **Risking love means you’re courageously giving God room to move supernaturally in any situation...**<sup>23</sup> Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup> This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. <sup>25</sup> In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!” <sup>26</sup> The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked. <sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them intently and said, “**Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.**” (Mark 10:23–27 NLT-SE)