

Steps for Personal Transformation

God's Message:

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)

Optimist person sees an opportunity in every disaster; pessimist person sees a disaster in every opportunity. (Herbert V. Prochnow)

There is one thing that we need to understand about transformation: no programs made by human being can make a transformation happen. Transformation can only happen because of God's visitation. God's strong presence and glory which fall down on us are the things that make transformation happen. What we have to do these days is to make a big throne for God in the place where we live. The most important parts in transformation are prayer, praise and worship. We need more people who pray, praise and worship God to make a greater throne for Him. If the quality of people who pray, praise and worship increases, the throne will be greater.

In Colossians 3:1 Paul said that in order to come to personal transformation process, "we must have been raised with Christ", and we have to come to these steps:

1. **Set your minds on things above (Colossians 3:2)**

When we believe in Lord Jesus, the Spirit of God is inside us. At that time, we die from our sins, die from the world, die from "myself" and rise again with Lord Jesus in a new life. For those who have died and risen in a new life with Christ, God asks them to seek and set their minds on the things above. We appraise, consider, and think about all things from a heavenly and eternal perspective. Our goals and purposes are to seek spiritual things (verse 1-4), fight the sin (verse 5-11), and put on Christ's characters (verse 12-17). All good characters, power, experience, and spiritual blessings belong to Christ in heaven. He will give all these things to those who truly ask, keep seeking and knocking.

2. **Put to death whatever belongs to earthly nature (Colossians 3:5)**

In this second process of personal transformation, we have to put to death whatever belongs to earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming to those who do not want to enter personal transformation process.

3. **Get rid all dirty things (Colossians 3:8)**

In this third process of personal transformation, we must rid ourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from our lips. We can't lie to other people, because this is a bad issue in our old life which has been abandoned by us. Now we are going to perfection. We are reminded to be careful with our mouth. If we can't control our mouth, we are far away from perfection. Watch our mouth so that we do not sin with our mouth and we can become more perfect.

4. Put on the characters of new man (Colossians 3:10)

In this fourth personal transformation process, we have to be kept renewed to have the right knowledge in the image of our Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. If we put on the love of Christ we will have characters of a new man. We have to prepare ourselves to be filled with Christ.

Personal transformation will happen if a person realizes that he/she must be consistently be a better person. Better than last year, better than last month, better than yesterday. Personal transformation will happen if someone has personal encounter with God. Transformation agent will make encounter with God as a mission in his/her life. People who know God will do great things, including great transformation. National transformation is started from personal transformation.

Essence:

God's visitation, presence and glory which fall down strongly on us are the things that make transformation happen. To enter personal transformation process, we have to take these steps: set our minds on the things above, put to death whatever belongs to earthly nature, get rid all bad things, and put on the characters of a new man.

Reflection:

The things that we are thinking and doing these days: are they more to earthly nature or more to heavenly nature?

Commitment:

With Jesus, I try to become [a] better [person] today, [a] better [person] than yesterday and start thinking about heavenly things.

*Taken from the book "Transformation Journey"
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