



## Life in the Spirit Spirit Transformation

### No Camping Allowed

God has called us to be ‘pioneers’ not ‘settlers.’ We are to ‘walk in the Spirit,’ that means keep growing in Him. Our destination does NOT have an address here on earth. Our growth and work in the kingdom here is NEVER done.

#### A. What is Spiritual Formation?

- 1. Body and spirit:** The essence of man is body, soul and spirit. In this regard—everyone goes through ‘spirit formation’ which is often referred to as ‘spiritual formation.’ The question then becomes: Is the formation good or bad? Is it according to ‘the word’ or the world? *Rom 12:2*
- 2. Biblical formation:** Jesus said we are to be ‘perfect’ as our heavenly Father is perfect. The word for ‘perfect’ carries the idea of ‘end.’ Hence ‘perfection’ means the ‘end toward which something or someone was purposed for. Jesus is saying: ‘Be engaged in the task of becoming what you were meant to be...Christ formed in you—fully mature.’ *Eph 4:19b; Matt 5:48; 2 Cor 5:17*

#### B. How To Be Transformed *Rom 12:1-2*

- 1. Agricultural model:** It’s important that we use the model of John 15:1-8 when considering what it means to be ‘transformed’ by the renewing of our mind.
  - a. Work of the farmer:** To produce fruit the farmer (we are the farmer in this case) must plant the field and prepare the soil and in some cases provide for irrigation. Similarly, for the ‘fruit of the Spirit’ to grow we MUST do the abiding of Joh 15 and the walking of Gal 5:16. We could call this walking and abiding ‘obedience.’ See *Joh 14:15; 1 Joh 3:24; Matt 28:20*
  - b. Work of grace:** Once the farmer has planted and prepared, the harvest is dependent upon forces that he cannot control: Rain, wind, sun, and other natural conditions. Likewise, for true Biblical transformation to take place—grace MUST complete its work according to *2 Cor 3:17*.
- 2. Grace, truth and time:** Christ (*the fruit of the Spirit*) is formed in us over time through the seasons of life. Each season provides an opportunity for growing in maturity—godliness in character.
  - a. Learning contentment:** Paul said that godliness with contentment was great gain. *1 Tim 6:6*. He also LEARNED to be content in whatever situation he was in. *Phil 4:11*
    - HOW DID HE LEARN THIS? It was over many seasons of abundance and want where Paul was abiding in Christ and walking in the Spirit and God poured out grace.
  - b. Overcoming failure:** Peter received special revelation from God about the Gentiles. Acts 10-11 Yet we see from Gal 2:11-14 that Peter failed to live what he had learned. Peter needed a brother (Paul) to confront him—a fresh experience of the forgiveness of God. We need each other in the Body of Christ to grow into maturity—Christ formed in us.

*Christ in you, the hope of glory! Col 1:27*

#### Scripture (NKJV)

**Eph 4:19b** “...until Christ is formed in you.”

**Matt 5:48 NASB** “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

**Gal 5:16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

**2 Cor 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

**John 6:63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

**Rom 12:1-2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And do not be 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.

**Matt 28:19-20** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

**2 Cor 3:17-18** Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. **18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.