

Hebrews 6:1

(ESV)

6 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

The Transformed Man Lyrics

BY WILLIAM SHATNER

One day, just another day of organized happiness
like all the others

I closed all the doors behind me
And as a leaf drops out of a tree
I quietly walked out of the life they had planned
for me

Not once did regret clutch my hand
I left on the wings of instinct

I turned away from a city teeming with desperate
and haggard faces

Away from the peddlers of hate and vengeance
Away from the clock that decrees time is money
Away from the arrogant and infallible
Whose hands are stained with blood

All this I left far behind me
And as a moth seeks light
As water seeks water
I sought the purity of higher regions
Where austere mountains thrust their faces
towards the sun

There in my sanctuary
Surrounded by the dignity of pines
And the serenity of grey boulders
I let my eyes drink in the clarity of windswept
skies
I felt the warmth of sun-drenched stone
I listened to all the sounds of the earth and I
waited
As calm as a hooded falcon for the hand of faith
to lift the darkness

Each new dawn flamed above the tree tops
And scattered white fleece about the skies
And the darkness came and pushed the red lip of
sun below the horizon
I lost track of the days, to count them never
occurred to me
Cutting myself adrift from the past and the future,
I became immersed in the of the living moment
The eternal now!

Then one day, in the split of the moment the
shutter within flashed open
And a gush of light flooded my being
I became as a pure crystal submerged in a
translucent sea
And I knew that I had been awakened
I had touched the face of God!

John 15:1-11

(ESV)

I Am the True Vine

*15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the
vinedresser.*

*2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he
takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

*3 Already you are clean because of the word that I
have spoken to you.*

*4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot
bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you, unless you abide in me.*

*5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever
abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much
fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

*6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown
away like a branch and withers; and the branches
are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.*

*7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for
you.*

*8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear
much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

*9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.
Abide in my love.*

*10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide
in my love, just as I have kept my Father's
commandments and abide in his love.*

11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Psalm 80
(ESV)

Restore Us, O God

To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. A Testimony. Of Asaph, a Psalm.

1
*Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.*

2
*Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might
and come to save us!*

3
*Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!*

4
*O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?*

5
*You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.*

6
*You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.*

7
*Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!*

8
*You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.*

9
*You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.*

10
*The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.*

11
*It sent out its branches to the sea
and its shoots to the River.*

12
*Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?*

13

*The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.*

14
*Turn again, O God of hosts!
Look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,*

15
*the stock that your right hand planted,
and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.*

16
*They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your face!*

17
*But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,
the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!*

18
*Then we shall not turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call upon your name!*

19
*Restore us, O Lord God of hosts!
Let your face shine, that we may be saved!*

Romans 6:1-11
(ESV)

Dead to Sin, Alive to God

1 *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?*

2 *By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?*

3 *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?*

4 *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

5 *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*

6 *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought*

to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:1-4
(ESV)

Put On the New Self

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians III.3

Our Life Is Hid With Christ in God

BY GEORGE HERBERT (3 April 1593 – 1 March 1633)

MY words and thoughts do both express this notion,
That LIFE hath with the sun a double motion.
The first IS straight, and our diurnal friend:
The other HID, and doth obliquely bend.
One life is wrapt IN flesh, and tends to earth ;
The other winds t'wards HIM whose happy birth
Taught me to live here so THAT still one eye
Should aim and shoot at that which IS on high—
Quitting with daily labour all MY pleasure,
To gain at harvest an eternal TREASURE.

Colossians 3:22
(ESV)

22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

1 Peter 3:15-16
(ESV)

15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

Teleios - “Maturity” - “Completeness”

Colossians 1:18
(ESV)

18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Luke 2:52
(ESV)

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Hebrews 5:9
(ESV)

*9 And being made **perfect**, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,*

Hebrews 2:9-11
(ESV)

9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

*10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation **perfect** through suffering. 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have*

one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

Hebrews 3:14

(ESV)

*14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the **end**.*

1 Corinthians 14:20

(ESV)

*20 Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be **mature**.*

Ephesians 4:11-16

(ESV)

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

From Our Daily Bread (December 5)

“But in our relationship with God, maturity means moving from independence to dependence on Him.”