

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A
MAN OF GOD, WEEK 12

TITLE: SPIRITUAL METAMORPHOSIS

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 3:18

INTRODUCTION: (1) METAMORPHOSIS IS DEFINED IN
WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY AS A "PROFOUND CHANGE IN
FORM FROM ONE STATE TO THE NEXT IN THE LIFE
HISTORY OF AN ORGANISM."

* "A COMPLETE CHANGE OF FORM, STRUCTURE OR
SUBSTANCE."

** AND "ANY COMPLETE CHANGE IN APPEARANCE,
CHARACTER, CIRCUMSTANCES, ETC."

**(2) NOW WITH THOSE DEFINITIONS BEFORE US,
NORMALLY WHEN I THINK OF METAMORPHOSIS IN GOD'S
CREATION, I THINK OF A CATERPILLAR BECOMING A
BUTTERFLY. THE DRAMATIC CHANGE FROM AN UGLY
CATERPILLAR TO A BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY.**

*** AND BUTTERFLIES GO THROUGH A CYCLE OF LIFE
KNOWN AS COMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS.**

**** AND THERE ARE FOUR STAGES IN THE METAMORPHOSIS OF A BUTTERFLY: NO. 1 EGG; NO. 2 LARVA; NO. 3 PUPA; AND NO. 4 BEAUTIFUL ADULT.**

***** AND A MONARCH BUTTERFLY TAKES JUST 28-38 DAYS TO COMPLETE ITS LIFE CYCLE, WITH WARMER WEATHER TEMPERATURES GENERALLY BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR FASTER DEVELOPMENT.**

(3) NOW WITH THAT INFORMATION BEFORE US, NOTE THAT OUR ENGLISH WORD METAMORPHOSIS IS A TRANSLITERATION OF A GREEK VERB THAT IS USED 4 TIMES IN THE N.T. MEH-TA-MORE-FOE-O-MY.

*** AND THIS GREEK VERB IS USED IN MATTHEW 17:2 AND MARK 9:2 TALKING ABOUT THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS CHRIST BEFORE PETER, JAMES AND JOHN AS JESUS UNDERWENT A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN APPEARANCE AND THEY BEHELD JESUS IN HIS GLORY.**

**** AND THE GREEK VERB FOR MEH-TA-MORE-FOE-O-MY IS TRANSLATED TRANSFIGURED AS JESUS WAS TRANSFORMED BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES.**

***** AND THEN THIS GREEK VERB IS USED IN ROMANS 12:2 WHERE IT IS TRANSLATED TRANSFORMED, QUOTE ROMANS 12:2.**

****** AND THEN THE FOURTH AND FINAL TIME THIS VERB IS USED IN THE N.T. IS IN OUR TEXT FOR TODAY, II CORINTHIANS 3:18 WHERE IT IS TRANSLATED TRANSFORMED OR CHANGED.**

(4) AND THIS VERB LIT. MEANS TO CHANGE INTO ANOTHER FORM, TO TRANSFORM, TO TRANSFIGURE.

*** AND WE WILL SEE FROM OUR STUDY OF GOD'S WORD TODAY THAT WHEN A PERSON TURNS TO THE LORD, TO USE PAUL'S LANGUAGE IN V. 16 OF II CORINTHIANS 3, WHICH SAYS: "BUT WHENEVER A PERSON TURNS TO THE LORD, THE VEIL IS TAKEN AWAY."**

**** NOW WHEN THIS HAPPENS, SALVATION, A PERSON IS JUSTIFIED AND WHEN A PERSON IS JUSTIFIED, THEY WILL GROW IN SANCTIFICATION WHICH IS BECOMING MORE LIKE CHRIST, BEING MORE AND MORE CONFORMED TO HIS IMAGE, BEING TRANSFORMED, TRANSFIGURED, CHANGED INTO HIS IMAGE, AND ONE DAY WILL ULTIMATELY BE LIKE JESUS CHRIST IN GLORIFICATION AT HIS COMING ON THE RESURRECTION DAY, QUOTE PHILIPPIANS 3:20&21, I JOHN 3:1&2 AND ROMANS 8:28&29.**

***** NOW I COULD SUMMARIZE ALL THESE VERSES BY SAYING, JUSTIFICATION LEADS TO SANCTIFICATION WHICH ULTIMATELY LEADS TO GLORIFICATION, PERFECTLY CONFORMING TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST.**

****** AND BELOVED, WE CAN NEVER ENCOUNTER CHRIST AND REMAIN UNCHANGED. FOR AS A PERSON TURNS TO THE LORD IN SALVATION, PROGRESSIVELY WE WILL ACT MORE LIKE CHRIST AND LIVE MORE LIKE CHRIST.**

(4) AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A CONTINUAL PROCESS OF GROWING INTO THE IMAGE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, ASCENDING FROM ONE LEVEL OF GLORY TO ANOTHER.

*** AND SIN TARNISHED THAT IMAGE WITH THE FALL OF ADAM, BUT NOT IRREPARABLY. FOR IT IS BEING RESTORED AND WILL ULTIMATELY BE RESTORED FOR EVERY TRUE BELIEVER.**

**** THUS WE CANNOT SEPARATE SALVATION OR JUSTIFICATION FROM SANCTIFICATION. SALVATION LEADS TO SANCTIFICATION AND ULTIMATELY TO GLORIFICATION.**

***** SPIRITUAL METAMORPHOSIS TAKES PLACE IN THE LIFE OF EVERY BELIEVER AS WE ARE CHANGED, TRANSFIGURED, TRANSFORMED INTO CHRIST'S IMAGE.**

****** THEREFORE I'VE TITLED OUR SERMON TODAY, SPIRITUAL METAMORPHOSIS.**

(5) AND UNDER THAT TITLE AND THEME WE'LL LOOK AT 3 POINTS AS WE EXAMINE II CORINTHIANS 3:18. NO. 1

THE CONTEMPLATION, V. 18A, BEHOLDING THE GLORY OF THE LORD; NO. 2 THE CHANGE THAT TAKES PLACE AS WE BEHOLD THE GLORY OF THE LORD, V. 18B; AND NO. 3 THE CAUSE OF THIS CHANGE, THE HOLY SPIRIT, V. 18C.

*** SO WE'LL LOOK AT THE CONTEMPLATION, THE CHANGE AND THE CAUSE UNDER THE TITLE OF SPIRITUAL METAMORPHOSIS.**

**** AND WITH THOSE POINTS TO LEAD US TO MORE CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION FROM WITHIN, LOOK AT V. 18A PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE CONTEMPLATION.**

I. THE CONTEMPLATION, (READ V. 18A)

A. NOW PAUL BEGINS IN V. 18 WITH THE WORDS “BUT WE ALL” OR “AND WE ALL” OR “AND WE” DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE.

*** AND THE “WE” MAKES REFERENCE TO PAUL'S READERS, THE BELIEVERS AT CORINTH, ALL NEW COVENANT BELIEVERS, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL OF**

US THAT KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR TODAY.

**** AND CONTEXTUALLY IN THE OLD COVENANT ANALOGY THAT PAUL HAS BEEN USING TO CORRECT THE ERROR OF THE FALSE TEACHERS, THE JUDAIZERS WHOM HAD INFILTRATED THE CHURCH AT CORINTH AND WERE TRYING TO PUT BELIEVERS UNDER THE OLD COVENANT, ADDING CEREMONIAL, SACRAMENTAL RELIGIOUS ACTS TO BE JUSTIFIED.**

***** IN THIS OLD COVENANT ANALOGY, ONLY MOSES SAW GOD WITH AN UNVEILED FACE.**

****** BUT IN THE NEW COVENANT EVERY CHRISTIAN CAN WITH UNVEILED FACE BEHOLD THE GLORY OF THE LORD REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST.**

1. AND AGAIN THIS PICTURE CONTEXTUALLY TAKES US BACK TO MOSES, FOR IN EXODUS 34:34&35 IT SAYS THIS OF MOSES –

*** V. 34 – “BUT WHENEVER MOSES WENT IN BEFORE THE LORD TO SPEAK WITH HIM, HE WOULD TAKE OFF THE VEIL UNTIL HE CAME OUT; AND WHENEVER HE CAME OUT AND SPOKE TO THE SONS OF ISRAEL WHAT HE HAD BEEN COMMANDED,**

V. 35 – THE SONS OF ISRAEL WOULD SEE THE FACE OF MOSES, THAT THE SKIN OF MOSES’ FACE SHONE. SO MOSES WOULD REPLACE THE VEIL OVER HIS FACE UNTIL HE WENT IN TO SPEAK WITH HIM.”

**** NOW WITH THAT TEXT BEFORE US IN II CORINTHIANS 3:6-18, PAUL HAS BEEN COMMUNICATING THE SUPERIORITY AND GREATER GLORY OF THE NEW COVENANT OVER THE OLD TO CORRECT THE FALSE DOCTRINE OF THE JUDAIZERS.**

***** AND PAUL CONCLUDES THIS SECTION IN V. 18 BY GOING BACK TO EXODUS 34:35 WITH HIS INSPIRED COMMENTARY FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT IN INSPIRATION.**

****** AND THAT IS, MOSES WORE THE VEIL OVER HIS SHINING FACE UNTIL HE WENT IN TO SPEAK WITH THE LORD AND PAUL APPLIES THAT ALL CHRISTIANS UNDER THE NEW COVENANT, APPROACH THE GLORY OF THE LORD WITH UNVEILED FACES AND EXPERIENCE A TRANSFORMATION.**

2. AND WHEN MOSES REMOVED HIS VEIL IN THE TENT OF MEETING AND SPOKE WITH THE LORD FACE TO FACE, HE EXPERIENCED A PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION AS HE DID ON MT. SINAI AS HIS FACE BECAME LUMINOUS, IT REFLECTED GOD’S GLORY BY SHINING.

*** MOSES' TEMPORARY EXPOSURE TO THE GLORY OF THE LORD WORKED A PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION ON HIS COUNTENANCE.**

**** BUT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TURNED TO THE LORD AND THE VEIL OF THE OLD COVENANT IS REMOVED, THOSE WHO ARE NEW COVENANT BELIEVERS, LOOK AT THE LORD WITH AN UNVEILED FACE, BEHOLDING AS IN A MIRROR THE GLORY OF THE LORD, AND WE ARE CHANGED AND TRANSFORMED, NOT IN OUR FACES, BUT INSIDE THAT MAKES US ACT MORE LIKE CHRIST ON THE OUTSIDE, THE WAY WE LIVE.**

***** AND THIS CHANGE IS PROGRESSIVE, SO THAT WILLING EXPOSURE TO THE SUNLIGHT OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE WILL BURN HIS IMAGE EVEN DEEPER IN OUR CHARACTER AND WILL – PRACTICAL PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION, WE BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST PROGRESSIVELY.**

****** BUT THEN ULTIMATELY AT CHRIST'S APPEARANCE WHEN WE SEE HIM FACE TO FACE, WE WILL UNDERGO A TOTAL TRANSFORMATION OR CHANGE AND BE LIKE CHRIST IN GLORY FOREVER.**

3. SO WE ALL, ALL BELIEVERS, WITH UNVEILED FACE LIKE MOSES, BEHOLD, LOOK AT, AS IN A MIRROR, THE GLORY OF THE LORD.

*** MEANING NEW COVENANT BELIEVERS GAZE AT CHRIST'S GLORY AS IF LOOKING IN A MIRROR, AN ILLUSTRATION THAT SPEAKS OF AN UP CLOSE, INTIMATE LOOK.**

**** BUT UNDERSTAND MIRRORS IN THAT DAY WERE NOT MADE OF GLASS, BUT OF POLISHED METAL.**

***** SO A MIRROR IN ANCIENT TIMES PROVIDED A CLEAR BUT LESS THAN A PERFECT REFLECTION, AN APPROPRIATE ILLUSTRATION OF THE NEW COVENANT WHERE TRUE BELIEVERS SEE CHRIST CLEARLY, BUT NOT AS CLEARLY AS THEY WILL IN THE FUTURE WHEN WE SEE JESUS PERFECTLY FACE TO FACE.**

****** AS PAUL SAID IN I CORINTHIANS 13:12 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE I JOHN 3:2 AGAIN.**

4. SO NOW WE SEE JESUS WITH AN UNVEILED FACE, LOOKING AS IN A MIRROR, THE GLORY OF THE LORD.

*** WE SEE HIM CLEARLY, BUT NOT PERFECTLY. NOW HOW DO WE SEE THE GLORY OF THE LORD? WHAT IS THE GLORY OF THE LORD IN THIS CONTEXT?**

**** WELL, IT IS LOOKING INTO THE FACE OF JESUS. AND THE REMARKABLE REALITY OF THE NEW COVENANT IS THAT EVERY BELIEVER CAN SEE GOD'S GLORY REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST.**

***** FOR THE VEIL THAT PARTIALLY OBSCURED GOD'S GLORY IN THE OLD COVENANT WAS NOT REMOVED UNTIL ACCORDING TO HEBREWS 1:1-3, "GOD SPOKE LONG AGO TO THE FATHERS IN THE PROPHETS IN MANY PORTIONS AND IN MANY WAYS, IN THESE LAST DAYS SPOKE TO US IN HIS SON...WHO IS THE RADIANCE OF HIS GLORY."**

****** AND IT IS ESSENTIAL AT THIS POINT TO CLARIFY AS WE BEHOLD JESUS TODAY AND HIS GLORY, AS WE LOOK INTO THE FACE OF JESUS, IT IS NOT SPEAKING OF A SUBJECTIVE MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE.**

5. BUT AN OBJECTIVE, REAL, HISTORICAL LOOK INTO THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST REVEALED IN THE BIBLE.

*** FOR HOW DO WE SEE JESUS TODAY? NOT FACE TO FACE YET, BUT THROUGH HIS WORD.**

**** AND THE UNVEILING OF SEEING JESUS IN THE WORD COMES THROUGH THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL OF THE GLORY OF CHRIST WHO IS THE IMAGE OF GOD, II CORINTHIANS 4:3&4 – NEXT WEEK, QUOTE IT.**

***** AND THEN II CORINTHIANS 4:6 SAYS: “FOR GOD, WHO SAID, “LIGHT SHALL SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS,” IS THE ONE WHO HAS SHONE IN OUR HEARTS TO GIVE THE LIGHT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE FACE OF CHRIST.”**

****** AND FOR NEW COVENANT BELIEVERS GOD HAS SHONE IN OUR HEARTS TO GIVE US LIGHT INTO OUR SOULS THAT TAKES US OUT OF THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS INTO THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT.**

6. AND THAT LIGHT IS THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL THAT UNVEILS OUR SPIRITUAL EYES TO GIVE US LIGHT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE FACE OF CHRIST.

*** SO THROUGH THE SAVING POWER OF THE GOSPEL WE SEE THE LIGHT THAT UNVEILS CHRIST AND NOW WE SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST UNVEILED.**

**** NOW WE HAVE THE CAPACITY, THE CAPABILITY, THE ABILITY TO SEE JESUS. AND WE ARE CHANGED, TRANSFORMED BY HIM THROUGH THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE WORD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

***** THEREFORE WHEN PAUL SPEAKS OF LOOKING INTO THE FACE OF JESUS, HE HAS IN MIND, AN OBJECTIVE, HISTORICAL LOOK AT THE PERSON OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST REVEALED IN THE BIBLE. AND THOSE TRUTHS TRANSFORM US.**

****** WHICH LEADS US BACK TO V. 18 WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE CHANGE.**

II. THE CHANGE (READ V. 18A&B)

A. NOW AS WE LOOK INTO THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST REVEALED IN THE WORD OF GOD, WHAT HAPPENS?

*** WELL, WE ARE SANCTIFIED, QUOTE JOHN 17:17. ALSO QUOTE I THESSALONIANS 2:13, II TIMOTHY 3:16&17, PSALM 119:105, PSALM 119:130 AND PSALM 19:8.**

**** NOW AS WE LOOK AT THE FACE OF JESUS IN HIS WORD WE ARE SANCTIFIED, WE ARE TRANSFORMED, CHANGED, TRANSFIGURED, MEH-TA-MORE-FOE-O-MY, WE GO THROUGH SPIRITUAL METAMORPHOSIS INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST FROM GLORY TO GLORY.**

***** AND THE WORD IMAGE HERE LIT. MEANS LIKENESS, CHRIST'S MORAL LIKENESS THAT WE ACT MORE LIKE HIM, WE ARE HIS IMAGE ON THE EARTH TODAY.**

****** AND THEN THE PHRASE "FROM GLORY TO GLORY" MEANS WE MOVE EVER CLOSER TO THE LIKENESS OF OUR LORD JESUS. WE BECOME MORE AND MORE LIKE JESUS CHRIST INWARDLY WHICH REFLECTS HIS IMAGE IN THE WAY WE ACT.**

1. WE ASCEND FROM ONE LEVEL OF GLORY TO ANOTHER, MOVING EVER CLOSER TO THE LIKENESS OF JESUS CHRIST.

*** AND HERE IS A KEY TRUTH THAT CAN TRANSFORM OUR LIVES.**

**** AS WE ARE OCCUPIED, FOCUSED, ON THE GLORY OF CHRIST LOOKING AT HIM IN HIS WORD, WE WILL BE TRANSFORMED, CHANGED, TRANSFIGURED.**

***** AND HERE IN SHORT IS A KEY FOR CHRISTIAN HOLINESS AND SANCTIFICATION: WE NEED TO BE OCCUPIED WITH CHRIST.**

****** TO SAY IT ANOTHER WAY: A PERFECT PREOCCUPATION IS TO BE OCCUPIED WITH CHRIST IN HIS WORD, NOT OCCUPIED WITH SELF, FOR WHEN THAT HAPPENS WE FALL.**

2. BUT AS WE ARE OCCUPIED WITH CHRIST IN HIS WORD, WE BECOME MORE AND MORE LIKE HIM, THE TRUTHS OF CHRIST IN HIS WORD TRANSFORM OUR LIVES, AS WE LEARN THEM AND LIVE THEM.

*** AND THE GOAL IS CHRISTLIKENESS, AND AS WE GAZE STEADILY INTO THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE, WE BECOME MORE LIKE HIM IN THE WAY WE WALK, TALK, THINK AND ACT.**

**** SO TO USE THE POPULAR EXPRESSION OF OUR DAY, "WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?" WELL WE FIND THAT ANSWER IN HIS WORD AND AS WE ENGRAFT IT INTO OUR LIVES, WE LIVE WHAT JESUS WOULD DO. WE ARE CHANGED, TRANSFORMED, SANCTIFIED, TRANSFIGURED, PURIFIED AND MADE MORE HOLY.**

***** WHICH MEANS WE WILL BE TREMENDOUS LIGHTS FOR THE LORD WHEREVER WE ARE AT, WE WILL BE BETTER CITIZENS, BETTERS HUSBANDS, BETTER WIVES, BETTER**

CHILDREN, BETTER EMPLOYERS, BETTER EMPLOYEES, AND WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL SO PEOPLE CAN TURN TO HIM IN REPENTANT FAITH AND HAVE THE VEIL LIFTED BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE.

****** SO IT'S THROUGH THE POWER OF THE WORD OUR LIVES ARE CHANGED, AND THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT TAKING THE WORD AND SANCTIFYING US. LOOK BACK AT V. 18 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE CAUSE OF THE CHANGE, THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

III. THE CAUSE, (READ V. 18)

A. NOW I LIKE THE ESV, NIV AND THE NKJV TRANSLATIONS AT THE END OF V. 18.

*** THE ESV SAYS: "FOR THIS COMES FROM THE LORD WHO IS THE SPIRIT."**

**** AND THE NIV SAYS: "WHICH COMES FROM THE LORD, WHO IS THE SPIRIT."**

***** AND THE NKJV SAYS: "JUST AS BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD."**

****** SO THE PERSON OF THE GODHEAD WHO IS INVOLVED IN TRANSFORMING US IS THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD, THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

1. AND HE TAKES THE WORD OF GOD AND SANCTIFIES US.

*** AND AS WE YIELD TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN OUR LIVES, THE AUTHOR OF SCRIPTURE, THE AUTHOR OF THE WORD OF GOD, AS WE YIELD TO HIM TO OBEY THE TRUTHS OF THE WORD OF GOD, WE BECOME LIKE CHRIST.**

**** FOR GET THIS, THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT ARE IN REALITY THE CHARACTER AND ACTIONS AND PICTURE OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST, QUOTE GALATIANS 5:22&23.**

***** NOW CHRIST WAS THE MOST LOVING PERSON WHO EVER WALKED ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. AND IF WE WANT TO BE MORE CONFORMED TO HIS IMAGE, WE MUST BE MORE LOVING.**

****** AND CHRIST WAS THE EPITOME OF JOY, NO ONE HAD MORE JOY AS HE OBEYED AND DID THE WILL OF HIS FATHER.**

2. AND THEN HIS LIFE WAS LIVED IN PERFECT PEACE, RESTING AND TRUSTING IN HIS FATHER'S SOVEREIGN WILL.

*** AND HE WAS THE PICTURE OF A LONGSUFFERING PATIENT PERSON, OF KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS AND SELF CONTROL.**

**** AND WOULD THAT KIND OF PERSON STAND OUT IN A POSITIVE WAY IN OUR WORLD? YES.**

***** WOULD THAT KIND OF PERSON HAVE MANY OPEN DOORS TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL? YES.**

****** AND BELOVED, BOTTOM LINE THAT KIND OF PERSON WOULD BE CHRISTLIKE. ONE CHANGED, TRANSFORMED IN THE POWER OF THE WORD AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

2. AND BASICALLY THAT SHOULD BE ALL OF OUR GOALS THAT HAVE HAD THE VEIL LIFTED FROM OUR EYES TO KNOW CHRIST, I WANT TO BE LIKE JESUS, I WANT TO BE LIKE HIM AT HOME, AT WORK, IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND SERVING THROUGH HIS CHURCH, THE LOCAL CHURCH.

*** THE SPIRIT OF GOD TAKES THE WORD OF GOD TO TRANSFIGURE US INTO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S GLORY IN OUR DARK WORLD.**

IN WRAP UP: (1) PRACTICALLY HOW CAN MORE SPIRITUAL METAMORPHOSIS TAKE PLACE IN OUR LIVES,

FOR WE THAT HAVE HAD OUR EYES OPENED UP BY THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL?

*** WELL, CHRISTIANS MUST ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES THAT MAKE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK FLOW IN CHANGING OUR LIVES.**

**** FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT SUPERNATURALLY EMPOWERS US TO DO WHAT THE WORD OF GOD TELLS US TO DO AND MAKES US WANT TO DO AS WE LET THE WORD OF CHRIST ABIDE IN US, COLOSSIANS 3:16.**

***** THE RESULT, MORE CHRISTLIKENESS.**

****** BUT WE MUST YIELD TO HIS HOLY DESIRES, YOU MUST DISCIPLINE YOURSELF FOR THE PURPOSE OF GODLINESS, I TIMOTHY 4:7.**

(2) SO LOOKING INTO THE FACE OF CHRIST MUST BE A DAILY PRIORITY, NOT SOMETHING YOU DO WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE IT, OR IF YOU HAVE TIME, AFTER YOU HAVE DONE EVERYTHING ELSE YOU WANT OR NEED TO DO.

*** BELOVED, THE ONUS IS ON US TO MAKE OUR BUSINESS TO BEHOLD CHRIST'S GLORY IN HIS WORD, TO MAKE JESUS THE FOCUS OF OUR THINKING, OUR LONGINGS, OUR PRAYER AND ASPIRATIONS.**

**** AND OF COURSE THE CHURCH OFFERS MANY THINGS FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN TO BE IN THE WORD. ADULT ELECTIVES, TRAINING TIMES FOR MEN AND WOMEN, CORPORATE WORSHIP, GROW FOR OUR WOMEN, FLOCKS, CHILDREN'S CLASSES AND AWANA.**

***** AND THEN WE OFFER GOOD SOUND RESOURCES IN OUR BOOKSTORE.**

****** AND THEN PERSONALLY THERE MUST BE DAILY QUITE TIMES TO BE IN THE WORD.**

(3) IF YOU HAVE A SMART PHONE, DOWNLOAD THE BIBLE ON IT, WHICH MEANS FOR MANY OF US, WE WILL HAVE THE BIBLE ON US A LOT!

*** IF NOT HAVE A COPY OF GOD'S WORD IN YOUR CAR, READ IT DAILY, AND THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF OPTIONS AND DAILY BIBLE READING PROGRAMS AND THINGS LIKE READING A PROVERB A DAY, ETC. (ELABORATE)**

**** MEMORIZE A VERSE OF SCRIPTURE A MONTH, HAVE IT IN YOUR HEART.**

***** AND AS YOU READ, LISTEN, STUDY, MEDITATE AND MEMORIZE, CONCENTRATE ON THESE THINGS BY**

ASKING YOURSELF, HOW DID JESUS BEHAVE IN THIS PASSAGE? WHAT ATTITUDE CHARACTERIZES JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE? HOW DID HE RESPOND TO DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AND DIFFICULT PEOPLE? HOW DID HE PRAY? HOW DID HE CONDUCT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER? WHAT TRUTH CAN I APPLY FROM THIS PASSAGE? AND ALWAYS ASKING THE HOLY SPIRIT TO TEACH YOU.

****** AND TURN WHAT YOU'VE JUST READ INTO A PRAYER? LORD MAY I LIVE THIS TRUTH, THIS TEXT, LORD I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU.**

(4) BELOVED, WE HAVE AN UNVEILED VIEW INTO THE FACE OF JESUS IN HIS WORD, AND AS WE LOOK INTO HIS FACE, THE SPIRIT OF GOD WILL TAKE THE WORD OF GOD TO TRANSFIGURE, CHANGE AND TRANSFORM OUR LIVES TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS CHRIST.

*** BELIEVER, MAY WE GROW MORE INTO THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST THROUGH SPIRITUAL METAMORPHOSIS.**

**** AND IF YOU HAVE COME HERE TODAY AND KNOW NOT THE SAVIOR, DON'T BE LIKE THE RELIGIONISTS WHOM PAUL WAS CORRECTING IN II CORINTHIANS 3.**

***** SEE THAT YOU FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD IN YOUR SIN AND ASK THE LORD TO TAKE THE VEIL OF PRIDE AND SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH BLINDS YOU**

**AND TURN TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ALONE FOR
SALVATION AND FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS. (LET'S
PRAY)**