

Total Life Transformation

Acts 9:10-19

Introduction

The persistent, exhausting, but futile efforts of man to transform his own life.

Jeremiah 13:23

Jeremiah 5:3

“A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.” Proverbs 17:10

Proverbs 27:22

The only One capable of completely transforming a human life from the inside out is God.

God alone entirely transforms His chosen people *by grace through faith*: Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Cor. 5:17

Acts 22:12

“*street called Straight*”

“*Tarsus*”

Whole life transformation is marked by *daily communion with God*.

“*for behold, he is praying*” v11

Prayer should be completely natural to the Christian – like *breathing*.

A truly transformed believer should not have to be coaxed into praying.

1. Christians are devoted to prayer (Acts 2:42). “Devote yourselves to prayer” (Colossians 4:2).
2. Regarding His followers, Jesus said “at all times they ought to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1).
3. Prayer is a key piece of Christian armor (Ephesians 6:18).
4. Prayer is communion with God our “Father” (Matthew 6:9; John 16:23; 20:17).

Isaiah 64:7

“Prayer is not conquering God’s reluctance, but *taking hold* of God’s willingness.” Phillips Brooks

“I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,” 2 Timothy 1:3.

1Thessalonians 3:10

Why pray “constantly,” “night and day”?

One important reason: Satan accuses us “day and night before our God.” Revelation 12:10

Our praying should be as regular and consistent as *breathing* because it is every bit as necessary to life.

“he is a chosen instrument of mine” v15

God has chosen Saul to be His elect vessel carrying the message of mercy and grace to Jews and Gentiles.

Like all true Christians, Saul underwent a conversion that resulted in a *total life transformation*.

1. in relation to the Law of God – from something to strive for to something that only condemns.

2 Corinthians 3:4-6

Jeremiah 31:33

“I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.” Psalm 40:8

“for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love.” Psalm 119:47

Psalm 119:92

Jeremiah 15:16

“For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,” Romans 7:22

2. in the direction of his life – from mobilizing to eliminate all Christianity to traveling extensively spreading the gospel and planting churches.

3. in all of his relationships – from hater of Christians he called, ‘blasphemers,’ to loving Christians calling them ‘brothers.’

“Brother Saul” said Ananias.

2 Corinthians 2:4

Free from the Law of Moses replaced with the Law (Principle) of Love

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” 2 Corinthians 3:17

Galatians 5:13-14

“only faith working through love.” Galatians 5:6

1 Timothy 1:5

Philippians 4:1

“My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.” 1 Corinthians 16:24

4. in all his motives for what he does – from striving to earn favor with God to desiring to please Him.