Trail Life
Adventure › Character › Leadership

BECOMING A ROMANS 12 TRAILMAN

APRIL TOPIC: Be Transformed from the Ways of the World to the Ways of God

[2] Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be <u>transformed</u> by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2 (NIV)

[18]And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being <u>transformed</u> into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

Trailmen: Both of the verses above tell us that all believers should be transformed from the ways of the world to the ways of God and to be continually transformed into the likeness of Christ.

This transformation is not trivial; rather it should be very profound. We see this by examining the word *transformed* used in both of these verses. The word is a translation of the Greek word *metamorfoo* which has the same meaning as metamorphosis in English.

In nature, metamorphosis is an amazing phenomenon. We observe an egg transformed into a larva, then into a pupa, then finally to emerge as a beautiful butterfly. These are dramatic transformations! Metamorphosis is an illustration of the momentous transformation that should take place in every believer that trusts in Christ and strives to follow Him.

<u>Renewing of Our Minds</u>

The first verse above tells us that this transformation begins with the renewing our minds. This is possible when our minds have been changed to think after the ways of God. Our minds control every aspect of our life. How do we continually renew our minds? The Bible has the answers.

<u>Renewal through God's Word</u>

An essential part of this *continual renewal* is saturating our minds with God's Word, the Bible. The Bible contains everything needed to equip us for a life of faith, service and continual spiritual growth. *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:15–17.* It is from the scriptures that we are able to progress in knowing God's perfect will.

<u>Renewal through Prayer</u>

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, we are commanded to *pray without ceasing.* This means that we should always have our minds on the things of God and be in constant communication with Him for the continual renewal.

[6]Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. [7]And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Renewal by the Indwelling Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:16 teaches us that at the moment that we accept Christ as savior, the Holy Spirit indwells in each of us. Allowing the indwelling Holy Spirit to control our minds also essential for continual renewal. The Bible tells us in Romans 4:6a that *". . .the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; . . ."*

A Continual Process

The phrase *being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory* in the second verse above reveals to us that the transformation is a continual process. This is further shown by the use of the word translated as *perfect* in the first verse when referring to the perfect will of God. This word is a translation of the Greek word *teleios* which refers to a destination, such as the finish line in a race. Being transformed is a lifetime process as we should strive to continually progress toward the goal of being able to *test and approve* God's *perfect will*.

Work of the Holy Spirit in the Transformation

From the second verse above, we see the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit in this transformation. The work of the Holy Spirit is to continually bring willing believers into the likeness of Christ.

Only Believers May Be Transformed

The verses above apply only to believers. Unbelievers are alienated from God due to their sins. But one becomes "as perfect" in the eyes of God when they trust in Christ as he suffered and died for our sins so that they might be taken away.

21 *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* 2 Corinthians 5:21

Christ didn't die for Himself; He died in our place, as our substitute, to pay for our sins and allow us to enter into a right relationship with a holy God.

You must first be a believer before you can begin this transformation.

9 *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* Romans 10:9