Chapter

Renewal and Transformation

*Romans 12:2 7 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed 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.*

The world grips us, from the moment we are born and continues its hold on us until the day that we die. It is more than temptation to sin or the sweet intoxication of power. It includes bad behavior and overt practices of sin, but it is more, much more. It is the general context of our reality that we seldom see and maybe never question. It is the subtle grip of the context of life and the assumption that we hold as true.

We are born into sin and shaped by iniquity. We assimilate the context of our world socially, politically, religiously, economically and in every way that life is defined and played out. Our philosophies, our understanding and our sense of self are all shaped by our context. It is not that the world is evil, but that it is incomplete. It is that in the fall mankind died spiritually and we are incomplete. We are here, on planet earth, without spiritual perception, presuming to understand reality within the limitations of a natural world.

Yet, there was, before the foundation of the earth and plan to redeem humankind and to regain that part of us that dies. The first Adam submitted his heritage to the god of this world, Satan and he died, but the last Adam, Jesus Christ lived and died for our atonement (at-one-ment), making it possible for the presence of the eternal God to once again abide with and in us. It is His singular act of sacrifice on the cross that wipes clean the record of human failure and make us again at one with God the Creator.

Redemption has nothing to do with our goodness, our rightness or our works. It had everything to do with the obedience of Jesus, the son of God. In our inviting Christ into our lives, we give place to a complete person and a place of union with our Creator. As Paul writes:

*2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Transformation happens by the genetic nature of the species being transformed. The pollywog becomes a frog, the caterpillar becomes a butterfly. So also, the process of transformation is not something we create it is something that we are made to be by the spiritual genetics of the seed of the spirit. It is not a religious process of conforming to the forms and rituals of Christianity. It is not found in belonging to the right religious organization or structure. It is in Him and in Him alone - plus nothing.

The challenge is to not be conformed to the world, its patterns and its context. Yet, until we are born of the spirit we are already conformed to the world and its definitions. The idea is to put the old man to death and awaken to the new man. We are to reckon, consider and declare that our old life in the flesh is dead with Christ on the cross and that His spirit, that same spirit that raised Him from the dead, is in us to live through us. The process is simply to get in touch with the power of His resurrection within us and to shut the door to the old dead man.

Life in Christ is realized as we renew and retrain our minds to recognize the power of the new birth. Our memory banks are filled with 'stinking thinking." We have been programmed to think as the world thinks and to identify ourselves as the world identifies itself. We are in need or reprogramming, and a complete revolution of our thinking. We are given all we need to make the transformation from death to life, from thinking as the world thinks to living by the faith of the Son of God. It is there resident, ready to be revealed. We are transformed by that renewing of our thought, our intentions, our desires and our will. We are made new, totally new. The task is to realize it and allow the spirit within to be expressed through us.

Stop dragging the old man around and let go of him. That is no longer who you area. Stop allowing the habit patterns of the past and the handles of the past to be used by the enemy of your soul. You are empowered to life in the spirit, walk in the spirit and express the mind of God. You have the mind of Christ.

We live by His faith, by His spirit, by His mind, by His power. It is not an issue of human works but by yielding to the newness within. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.