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Forerunner Church
The Transformed Life (Part One)

Well, good morning. It's good to be back with you. We just got back from our family vacation, my wife and I and our kids. Which, if you have kids, it is never a vacation, it is a relocation. So, you would normally just be living your life, cooking meals, changing diapers, looking for stuff animals in the middle of the night, and so you just do that somewhere else for a week and it's called a vacation. You're always a nightlight short and a sound machine short when you leave town. What did people do before there were sound machines, before the invention of white noise? I mean, you know the Christmas Carroll says, "The cattle are lowing the poor baby wakes." Somewhere along the line someone decided let's invent white noise so the cattle lowing won't wake up the baby anymore. You're always short a fan or something.

Okay. Good morning. We are going to look at Romans, chapter 12 this morning so, go ahead and turn there in your Bibles if you have one and we're going to talk about the transformed life. What it means to be a Christian and how that impacts us in regards to the transformation that we both go through and are continuing to go through in our lives.

I am going to read this verse from Romans 12 and then we'll pray.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Father, we love You and we come before You this morning with humility and gratitude within our hearts. Lord, we are so grateful for the Word of God. We are so grateful that we are able to live in a country where we can express our faith towards You, to worship You in public. Lord we remember those across the earth that are suffering for the sake of Christ and for their faith, those who do not have access to the Word of God, those that are enduring persecution and suffering, those that are in prison. Lord, we remember them today and we do not take our religious freedom for granted. We ask that You would strengthen them by Your Spirit, that You would visit those who are sick, that You would touch those, Lord that are suffering, those that have suffered the loss of married spouses and loved ones and family members, those that have suffered the loss of business, resources and homes. We ask You Lord that You would speak to them today, that they would be strengthened by Your Spirit. We remember them today even as we enjoy fellowship together and the reading of the Word together. In Jesus name. Amen.

Well, Paul talks about this idea, this concept of being transformed. Be transformed. And just as I have been thinking about this idea over the last couple of weeks, I've just began to wonder in my own life, do I have a vision for transformation? Do I have a vision for transformation as it relates to my family and my children and again, my own life, disciples that I make and the disciples that you are making, do you have a vision for transformation? Is your faith moving in a

direction? Are you becoming more and more and more like a person, the person of Jesus Christ? Or has your faith become stagnant? Are you simply waiting for something to happen? Or do you have this desire on the inside to be transformed more and more and more into the image of God and into the person of God and into the glory of God?

When you think of your own life, even in the age to come, there is never a time that you will not be going through a transformative process. Even when you receive faith in Christ at the moment of your salvation, that is only the beginning of your transformation but it actually never ends forever and ever and ever, you will constantly be transformed as you grow in the understanding of the glory of the knowledge of God and see His beauty forever and ever and ever.

This idea was fascinating to me. It struck me to think that when I die and do to be with the Lord, and that day that I receive a resurrected body, and I stand before Him and I stand before that storm that we call God, lightning, thunder, voices, the beauty of God. When I stand before that, I will continuously be going through a transformation process. I will be going, as Paul says in 2nd Corinthians 3:18, "From glory to glory to glory." I will not remain the same.

Those living creatures that stand before the throne even now that Isaiah talked about and John talked about in Scripture, they are going through a transformative process. They are not the same today as they were twenty-five hundred years ago. They're singing things of the beauty and the glory and the mystery and the power of God that they had never seen before and those elders that are there are casting their crowns down as the glory and the richness of God unfold before them as their minds and their hearts and their experience is expanded in God. They are forever being transformed in the presence of God.

The Christian life is a life of transformation. It is not to be stagnant and it's not just transformation at the very beginning but it's an ongoing transformative power and what I want us to see is where is that we are going. What is it that transforms us along the way? Scripture tells us in Ephesians chapter 4 that we are growing up into the head which is Christ, we are being transformed. We're growing. We're maturing into Him.

Now why is this important? It's important because everything that is of the world, everything that we experience in culture and many things in society are pressing down upon us to keep that transformation process from happening. Culture does not tell you, you need to be transformed. Culture doesn't say that. Culture says, "You need to discover who you are and then just accept it." And there are many people out there that are simply looking at themselves, looking at, who am I? What am I about? What are the things about me that make me unique and I need to learn to accept those, I don't need to be transformed out of them. My transformation is just about self realization and self acceptance and this is who I am and this is the way I am so everybody better just accept that. I will accept me and all of you just better accept me for who I am. And the gospel of Jesus Christ, the New Testament, the whole of Scripture tells us a very different story. It is one of complete transformation.

You don't end the way you began. Thank God. The last thing that you want in encountering me, Isaac, is for me to be who I was ten years ago. That is the last thing you want. The last thing that you want to do is remain the same stuck, stagnant, stuck in your own ways, looking at

yourself, self introspective, self loving. The gospel of Christ calls us out of that. He says, "Come and be like me." And that is the Christian call.

It's not so that we would just be us. That we would just be good little Christians and keep our personality and just be nicer to people, it's that we would be like Christ, that we would talk like Him, that we would think like Him, that our words would be His words, our thoughts would be His thoughts, our desires would be His desires.

I love the promise, the declaration of Christ in Psalm 45. It says that He loved righteousness and hated wickedness therefore God anointed Him with the oil of gladness more than all of His companions. Christ loved what God loves. He came under the authority of God the Father. He came under the yoke of who the Father was and what He's like and we are to do the same thing. We are to come under it so that we love what God loves and that we hate what God hates. And the promise is that that when you love what God loves and you hate what God hates, the Lord will release the oil of gladness and joy upon your life. The deepest satisfaction and the deepest pleasure that a human being can experience is not fully expressing and fully manifesting who they are. It's fully loving and serving God and His Son, Jesus. It's the deepest sense of delight and satisfaction within the human heart. Beloved, we must be transformed more and more into the person of Christ. That is what He invites us into.

Now the end of the story, in the book of Revelation, chapter 19, verse 7, it gives us a snapshot into what the people of God will be like when Christ the beloved returns to the earth. She, the people of God, they're called the Bride of Christ throughout the Scripture, the people of God are describes as this: She will be bright, she will be glorious, she will be without sport or blemish, she will be fully in agreement with Christ, leaning entirely upon Him. Revelation 19, verse 7 says this, "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory for the marriage of the Lamb has come and his wife has made herself ready." That means that she's not ready yet. The story isn't completed yet. There is still a transforming and a purifying and a process that she, who is we as the body of Christ, are going through until the day we see our Lord face to face and we are transformed into His image and we are with Him forever and ever and ever.

Paul tells us to not be conformed to the world. Because when we are conformed to the world, it's stagnates, it stops and slows down the transformative process that you are on as the believer. The word 'conform' here essentially means to take on the same outward form of expression, to mold into the pattern of the world.

Let me say it like this: If you are a Christian, you're to live and believe and think and pray and share and relate in the way that Christ did. It means this, it means that as Christians we don't do money, sexuality, and power in the same way that the world does. The way that the world does money, sexuality and power is entirely self serving, it's for them. The way the world expresses their money is to serve themselves. The way the express their sexuality is to serve themselves. They way they express their power to serve themselves. And Christ comes on the scene and He goes, "I'm gonna show you a better way. I'm gonna transform you into a better way. I'm gonna show you that money is about serving others. Sexuality is about serving your spouse and power is coming low so that you can lift up those that are broken and poor and needy." He comes low. He shows us a different way and He calls to His people, He goes, "I want to transform you to

think and act. I want you to do kingdom life, family, work. I want you to do everything in the way that I do. I want to transform you. I don't want to leave you as you are."

You know much is made of Jesus being the friend of the sinners and you know lots of people when they want to drink wine they say, "Well, Jesus drank wine and hung out with all the drunkards." And lots people that are dabbling in immorality, they say, "Well, Jesus hung out with the prostitutes." And that is true, He did go hang out with the drunkards. He did become a friend of sinners and He did hang out with prostitutes, but guess what? He did not leave them as they were. Guess what happened. The grace of God and the power of God through Christ transformed them.

They were no longer cheats. They were no longer immoral. They were no longer adulterers. He transformed them and He elevated them. He said, "You're seated with Me. You're royalty now. I want to transform you. I don't want to leave you as you are. Why would I want that? I don't want you to just accept who you are and just kind of get on with life. That's a fatalist mentality." He says, "I want to transform you into the very best. I want you to look just like Christ, My Son, the beautiful One."

Conformity to the world and its ways are the antithesis if the transformation of what God desires for His people. Christians live under incredible pressure to conform to the world. The culture will loudly sound over and over and over "to conform, conform." The truth is this: Being a Christian is not easy. It is incredibly hard. Are you kidding me? Being a Christian is incredibly hard because I don't do what I want to do. One guy said it like this, "My life was incredibly easy until I got saved."

When I got saved I began to act in relationship to an authority that was higher than myself. I began to do and say and believe and look at and listen to those things which God, my God, my King, agreed with. I didn't do what I wanted anymore. I didn't conform into the world and where ever you go, where ever you are, there is a constant pressure to conform, conform, conform.

And Paul is telling us, "I'm gonna give you some insights, transform, transform, transform."

Be a transformed life that you can transform another's life. If you are transformed you will be able to transform others.

Let's look at this word transform that Paul uses. To be transformed means to become something entirely different. The word that Paul uses for transform is the word where we get metamorphosis. Do you remember that from biology? Animals that go under this metamorphosis process and they began as one gross things and then, you know, becomes something else. Right? I mean the most dramatic one is the one caterpillar to the butterfly. And it's probably the most over used clique in Christian VBS camps and all that stuff.

But, think about, the caterpillar is this furry fat slug crawling around on the ground. Many of you deeply identify this that. When I am really tired, like this morning, I felt like a caterpillar getting out of bed, fuzzy, gross, crawl on my belly to the shower. It goes into this cocoon and it comes

out as something entirely different. It goes through this transformative process, it comes out and almost everything that the caterpillar did, it doesn't do anymore. The caterpillar is furry and gross and the butterfly is beautiful. It has form and beauty and elegance. When you see a butterfly, you know, if you're with your kids or near some children, you begin to, "Hey hey, look. There's a butterfly." There's this elegance and beauty. The caterpillar crawls around on its stomach. The butterfly can fly.

Imagine spending half of your life crawling around on your stomach and then you go through a transformative process and suddenly you can fly. You're beautiful, your sought after. You are no longer at the mercy of kids stomping around in the back yard that are going to squash you, birds that are going to come take you, cars that are going to run over you. You can fly. You're Peter Pan. There's a transformative process that happens to the Christian that so dramatically changes you. The change that occurs is greater than that of a caterpillar to a butterfly. You become something entirely new. You become like Christ. You're not going to die. You're going to live forever in the presence of God. You are probably gonna be able to fly. Actually flying will be so under rated you'll be like "Gah."

The word of this transformation, again the metamorphosis, combines two different ideas. I want you to hear these ideas. They are so powerful.

Number one, it means this: Change after being with. Number one, change after being with.

Okay, that is number one.

The second is this: Change in keeping with inner form.

Because the caterpillar had everything inside of it already that it needed to become the butterfly. It didn't get an injection. It didn't get caterpillar Botox. It didn't go down to the health salon and be like, "My life is rough, look at me. I'm a hair grub. Inject me with something so I can transform into what I am supposed to be." It didn't do that. Everything biologically that it needed to be who it was supposed to be was already inside.

Listen to this: The Christian goes through a dramatic transformation when they are with Jesus. Becoming a Christian is about being with a person, it's Christ. It's about encountering Him. It's about having that experience with a person. He is a real man. It's not about praying a prayer. It's not about religious duty. It's not about reading your Bible everyday or attending church or kind of like subscribing to moral, ethical values. It is about a person. The transformation occurs when you're with a person, that first part of the word of transformation.

Listen to this in Acts chapter 4, the religious leaders, they look at Peter and John. This is what they say in verse 13, "When they saw the boldness of Peter and John they perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men." And they realized that they had been with Jesus. What if that was the testimony of your life? What if the testimony of your life, the wake that you leave behind you, to your children and grandchildren, the wake you leave behind you at your workplace, the wake that you leave behind you in your neighborhood, in an Uber, what if the wake you left behind you was the person couldn't help but think, "They must have been with

Jesus." That's part of that transformation. Peter and John had gone through a transformative process because they had been with someone and it was Christ. And Christ began to manifest His power through their words and through their lifestyle that was undeniable and even the religious leaders said, "They must have been with Jesus." It's unmistakable.

Oh, that that would be the testimony of our lives, of this church, of the church in Kansas City, at the nations, the cities of the earth would look at this people, God's people. Let's just talk about this church right here that we are sitting in right now and tuning in on line and they would say, "They have been with Jesus. They care about what He cares about. They say what He says. They do what He does. Their life is not their own, it's about Him."

Isn't that what Paul says in Colossians 3? Did he not say, "Your life, you die. Your life is hidden in Christ." There are so many right now in the culture, in the church that are going, "I don't have to die. I don't have to be different. I don't have to be transformed. I'm just going to accept life as is, as a caterpillar, fuzzy, grubby. It's good enough for me. I say, "No. I don't want to stay like I am. I want to be transformed. I want to be with Him and when I'm with Him there is an exchange, there's a process that takes place within me and I come out feeling different, believing different."

Moses went up on the mountain and he came down shining with the glory of God. Where are the people that shine with the glory of God who are with Christ, unmistakably? When Christ was transfigured on the mountain in Matthew 17, that word for transfigured is the same word that Paul uses for transformed here in chapter 12.

Christ goes up on the mountain. It says that He took Peter, James and John and He lead them up on a high mountain. And verse 2 says He was transfigured, metamorphosed, metamorphosized, before them and He face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as the light. See what had happened was the two things. Christ was with someone. Who was it? The Father. He walked with the Father. He prayed with the Father. He did the works of the Father and then secondly, there was an inner reality in Him that already existed that was there and it began to break out of Him and He began to shine with the brightness of the sun and His garments began to radiate white light. Could you imagine actually seeing that? Your best friend suddenly, the sun is coming out of their face and their eyes? That would be terrifying, absolutely terrifying. You know it's terrifying because in the story what do they do? They all fall down like they're dead and go to sleep because they are not like, "Wow, this is such a cool experience." They are like, "Ahhhhhh."

Jesus is transformed in front of them, transfigured right before their eyes. Christ was with the Father and His inner form broke through the veil of the flesh and shown with light that was greater than the sun. The Christian is to live in the same way to be transformed with Christ and to allow the inner reality of what Christ has put in you, the Holy Spirit, to break out of you. Yes, to release power. Yes, to heal the sick. Yes, to raise the dead. But not just that, what about to love with a godly Christ-like love? What about to be meek and restrain our strength and words and our arguments? What about to be humble? To choose the low road, to do the dishes when no one else wants to, to pick up the trash when no one else wants to, to listen, to be kind, to be tender, to be gentle. You see the world doesn't care about any of those things. If you do those

things in the world, you get left by the wayside. You're not going to advance in your career, you're not going to advance in this, you're not going to advance if you do those things. But Christ did them. And then He ascended. He was more humble. He was more gentle. He was more kind, more loving, more compassionate than anyone. He served more than anyone. He gave more than anyone and He was exalted. He ascended on high.

Let's look at this word 'renewed.' Paul tells us to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. The way in which the Christian experiences this ongoing transformation is by renewing our mind according to the Word. We fill our minds with the Word of God. It can't be gotten on the go. It can't be gotten on the go and here's why. One of the meanings of the word "renewed" is renovated. Now these are two very different words but in the Greek it can be translated either way, renewed or renovated.

Now let's think about this for a second. If I tell you I am going away for a weekend to renew. You know, you would picture a spa with like those you know waterfalls cascading in the background and the sound of chirping and things that are pleasant and these black stones that they put on peoples' backs that you see in all the "Sky Mall" magazines. So relaxing to have hot bricks on your back. I feel more at home now with these black stones on me that I ever have. So, there's like seaweed wrapped around your head. Your body is caked in mud. Somehow spa treatment and like the toddler years are like overlapping in a very dynamic way. Anyway... that just struck me.

Okay. So if I go, "I'm going away to be renewed." That image comes to your mind. If I go, "I'm gonna be gone this weekend. I am going away and they are going to renovate my body." You would be like, "What?"

"Yeah, they're gonna renovate. I'm real messed up. I need to be fatter here, thinner here, hair longer here, shorter over here. I need this color hair. I need some things that they are going to renovate me right now for the next three days. Please pray for me."

And you would pray. Not only you would pray, you would get your kids and be like, "Someone I know if being renovated. Dear Lord."

See the Word of God is uniquely designed, not just to renew and refresh you, but renovate you. When the Holy Spirit comes and knocks on the door of your mind, He goes, "I'm not just here to put some new paint on the walls of what you believe. I'm holding a sledge hammer. It's demo day." Chip Gains shows up on your front door and he's like, "Guess what, Christian, it's demo day." When you go in on demo day, you have to wear safety gear. You got to protect your eyes and your ears. You got to wear boots and like thick clothing and all this stuff. Why? Because it's a violent process to be renewed by the Word of God is not just a gentle and refreshing, He does do that, but that's not the point of this message. It's not just a gentle or refreshing, "Aw, I love you." He comes and He goes, "We're going to move some things here. This carpet, out, Walls, out. Countertops, out. Sink, got to bring in that white farmhouse sink. You got to, you have to renovate the house, it's going to be violent. It's going to be loud. It's going to be dangerous. It's going to be uncomfortable. Have you ever lived in a renovated house? It's like living in prison. There's tarps everywhere and there's dust and it's horrible. If you renovate your

house, you move out. The problem is the Holy Spirit comes in and He goes, "You don't get to move out, I'm just gonna renovate while you're here."

And then re interpret it as, "My life is so disrupted. I'm in a wilderness season."

The Lord is like, "No, I'm renovating your house because guess who's going to live here now? Me."

The Lord goes, "You signed away the deed to your house when you were 15 at camp. And I took you seriously. I am no respecter of age or persons. I don't care that you were 15. That might work with your parents with some decisions that you make, but now with me. That's my house now and I'm gonna move in there and I'm gonna live there forever and guess what, every time you open the Word, I show up with a sledge hammer. I'm here to renovate your home. I'm here to disrupt your thinking. I am here to disrupt your processes. I am here to disrupt your desires and your dreams and oh look, nice, you spent your whole life building this giant vanity of your dreams." It's called a vanity. Right? That's a little pun. I mean He will absolutely wreck your life. He'll wreck your life so that it can be saved. Some lives have to be absolutely wrecked in order to be saved. Some lives have to be absolutely brought to ruin to be saved and it's not because God doesn't love you. It's because He does love you. It's because the riches of this life, the dreams and the desires of this life, they are just sitting in there like a vanity and the new landlord wants it out.

So what do we do? We have to surrender. We have to absolutely surrender to this transformative process. We just have to go, "Okay, have Your way in me. Anything that needs to go just let it go. Confront me. Put your foot on it. Put your thumb upon my heart, press down upon me."

So many Christians interpret warfare as God trying to renovate the house of their heart. "I am in so much spiritual warfare."

It's like, "Well, what's going on?"

"I'm depressed."

It's like, "Well, let the Holy Spirit get that thing out of the house of your heart."

And I am not talking about clinical depression. I'll say that. I am just saying that so much of what we interpret as God resisting us or the enemy getting in and all this stuff, is God going, "I'm here to renovate you. Will you let me? What is your vision? What do you want to be like? Is this about you or is this about me? Is your life about what you want? Or is it about what I want? Will you go where I send you? Will you say what I'm telling you to say? Will you believe what I am telling you to believe? Will you believe what is true about you or do you need to find what you want to be true about you and then say that's true about you?"

You see demo day is messy. And this Word of God there is actually a Bible verse about it. Jeremiah 23 says, "Your Word is like a hammer and a fire."

What does that do to the condo of our soul? Hammers and fires whipping around in the apartment, blazing, smashing, renovating. This is what's going on inside of us and He goes, "I'm transforming you. Say yes to the process."

The Word of God is uniquely designed to renovate the mind. It tears down, it builds up, it shifts things, it moves things. It is so unique. There is no other book like this. You read it and there is power that comes off the pages. You read it and you come under conviction. You read it and you are encouraged. You read it and you cry. You read it and you laugh. You run away from it because you know it's going to do all that stuff. You go three, four, five days or weeks or whatever, you don't want this. Why? Because it's a hammer and a fire and when I touch this thing, "Ouch, it hit back."

Smith Wigglesworth said, "I don't read the Word of God, it reads me."

I love old Smitty.

Two keys for transformation. I'll say them and then we'll spend just a minute on them.

Key number one, the Christian has become the righteousness of God through faith in Christ.

Now we are going to talk about, these are truths that we apply to our minds to renovate our minds. In your mind are walls and furniture and pillars that are called religion. There are there automatically. You don't have to put them there. You don't have to become religious. You are religious. You are one. Okay.

There's a Pharisee in you that needs to be renovated and thrown out. This is what the Pharisee inside of you tells you, "You much work to become righteous and accepted by God." You must do these things to become righteous and accepted by God, that is religion at it's core.

It is very quiet in here right now. The gospel of Jesus Christ is called 'Good News' for the very reason that you don't have to do the work to become the righteousness of God. As a matter of fact, you can't do the work to become the righteousness of God. But we act like we can. And we act like if we just got our life a little more together and if we got some things just a little bit more in order and we just did our finances a little bit well. And well, there's just this secret sin over there and we're gonna figure that out later and you know if we could just get some things together then God will accept us. If we are more diligent in our Bible study and our discipleship and our church attendance and our prayer meeting attendance, if we could just do these things a little bit better and be kinder to our neighbors and actually mow their lawn every once in a while and not yell at the kids in the car and on and on and on and on. If we can self help and fix ourselves up enough we will be accepted by God. That is the religious spirit.

Let me read this to you. 2nd Corinthians 5, verse 17 and 21, Paul says, "If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation." The moment you say "yes" there is an internal renovation that occurs, you pass from death to life. Your spirit comes alive inside of you which was formerly dead and not only that, look what he says in verse 21, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us."

That's talking about the Father and Christ. Christ became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. When you become a new creation in Christ, you become the righteousness of God. The Spirit of God inside of you lives, the Holy Spirit lives inside of you, your spirit comes alive, it's in union with the Holy Spirit inside of you. You are a new creation, accepted, not because of your works, not because of how good you can be and how pious you can be, and how committed you are, but because how committed Christ was. Because He pushed the envelope and He did not back down. He committed no sin and no fault and His works, the works of His life, become your works.

And there is an exchange that happens. You become the righteousness of God. Think about this. Think about this, your bank account is empty and God takes the billion dollars of His righteousness and just deposits it in your account. Boom! Day one. That's why it's called good news. That's why the message turned the world upside down. That's why they threw men into prison and had them tortured. That's why people lost their homes and their families because the good news of Christ and His worth and His grace and His coming is so offensive to all of the religious junk we have in our own homes and our own hearts.

We have to get into these truths. We have to allow them to wash us again and again. We have to remind ourselves, we have to remind one another, you are the righteousness of God. You're justified by your faith. Your works will not gain you anything. But you're made clean and whole and perfect because of another person's works. And by faith you receive, you receive from Him.

Number two, second key, the Christian becomes the recipient of the affections of God. Oh I love this. Everybody knows that God loves them. But it's almost like the pity that a child feels for a little baby hamster. Like you don't really love that hamster, you feel pity for it, you have to take care of it, it's there, it's cute sometimes. Don't accidentally put it in the dryer. You know it's like I pity this thing. And I love it.

You know, if you ask a little kid, "Do you love your pet hamster?"

"Yes, I love my hamster."

"Would you die for it?"

"Absolutely not."

Who would die for a hamster? It's a furry cute rodent. Ish on the cute part.

But not only does God love us but He enjoys us. He enjoys us. Oh that is such a rich and glorious truth. God, He doesn't just pity you and He doesn't just love you because you're His creation, He actually enjoys you. Even in the midst of your immaturity. And my immaturity. And my weakness and my failure and all of that, He still delights in me. He loves me. He's put his righteousness in me. I'm His forever. I'm His son. I will never die. I will be with Him in glory forever and ever and ever. And so will you and He goes, "Aw... I just love you so much I just want you and I delight in you and I enjoy you."

So many people go through their life and they never feel delighted in and enjoyed. They might feel loved because they are cared for, you know like someone provides meals for you, they buy you clothing, they send you to school, you know many of those things. We like, "Oh we are loved in that way." But we don't ever feel enjoyed often. And God actually enjoys us.

When we take that truth and we begin to apply it to our mind, we begin to apply it to our emotions it begins to tear down so many things. Renovation occurs. Transformation occurs. We take these truths we apply them to our own souls. We go, "I am the righteousness of God. I don't feel it. I don't get it, but if you say it it's got to be true. I'm not going to allow my emotions to dictate truth anymore. I am going to let You the creator, the One who formed me, the One who knows me, the One whose Spirit searches the depths of my own soul. No one knows me like You do. No one upholds me like You do. I'm gonna let you say about me what it true."

And then I am going to believe it. I am going to choose to. It's going to take some time but I am just gonna keep banging in my soul again and again and again until I actually believe it. And then secondly, I am going to allow the affections of God to wash over me. And then I would believe that God actually delights in my, even in my immaturity.

I'm gonna invite the worship team to come out.

The transformed life doesn't happen on the go because the renovation of a house doesn't happen on the go. Someone has to be in there. Someone has to be working. Someone has to open the door. Someone has to give permission. So when Paul says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." He is saying you got to at least leave the front door open and allow my Spirit to come in.

You got to at least take some of these truths, apply them to your heart, in the most simplistic way. The way that we renew our mind is by praying and reading the Word of God. And this is what I pray when I read this, when I read Psalm 18, verse 19, we were singing that in the earlier service, "He delivered me because He delighted in me."

This is my prayer life. "Lord is that actually true? You actually delivered me because you delight in me. Not for any other reason. Now because you felt bad for me because you looked at me and like blah he's really jacked up? You delivered me because You delighted in me?"

And then I just go into a discussion with the Lord. I just go, "I don't believe that. Tell me that's true." And then I listen and then I go, "Tell me it's true. Tell me again. Tell me again. Tell me again." And then I sing it in a little phrase before the Lord. I just put it in my own words. "He delights in me." I just go, "That is so unbelievable. Tell me it's true. Tell me it's true." And then over time, over a year, months, and years go by then your mind becomes more and more renewed. You undergo that transformation process. It's really that simple.

Do we envision this for ourselves, for our families for our disciples that we are all making? Do we have a vision for transformation by the renewing of the Word of God?

Let's stand.

Holy Spirit and Father we honor you. We honor Your Son. We honor You. We honor Your way. We honor Your Word. We honor Your all. The Words that You have spoken, the affections of Your heart, Lord, oh that we would be a people transformed by Christ, that we would look like You. That when people interact with us they would say, "They must have been with Jesus. They must have been, there is no other explanation. That our neighbors would think, "Those people, they must be those Jesus people because they act just like Him. They love just like Him. They serve just like Him."

Holy Spirit all across this room and through the web stream to the end, Lord we ask that Your presence would come, that You would bring conviction, that You would bring desire, that You would awaken things on the inside, that You would tear things down that need to be brought down. Every high and lofty things that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, against Your person and Your character. We ask that You would tear it down, bring it low. That it would be humbled before the King of all the Ages, Jesus Christ.

We ask that You would move throughout our community. We ask that You would move in healing power and in signs and wonders. We ask that You would heal Tom Westbrook and Greg Clinton and many many others that are battling sickness and illness and infirmity. God we ask stretch out Your hand in power. Do it oh God. Do a great work in our midst, in our days. In the name of Jesus.

If the Lord is touching your heart this morning, you need these truths, you might go, "I don't know if I am the righteousness of God. Or I don't know if God really delights in me. Can that be true? Can that be true of me? We want to invite you to come down. We have a prayer team that wants to pray with you. Just come down and line up on these front lines right here. If the Lord is stirring Your heart right now, we want to agree with that with you in prayer. Anyone else in the room that is battling sickness and you would like to receive prayer for healing, we want to invite you to come down. We are going to again and again and again raise that sail and ask the Holy Spirit to move in healing power. Others, you're in the midst of a heavy just emotional burden. You're going, "I'm not even listening to the messages or the worship or whatever. I'm not even interested. I'm going through such a difficult time right now in my marriage, in my work and my finances are hell for whatever it is for relationships. We want to pray with you. Come down to the front. We want to agree with you in prayer.

Thank you Holy Spirit. We love you.