

TRANSFORMED LIVES *(Available on CD)*

Resurrection Day declares Christ is alive and he is still transforming lives by his Spirit. The transformation the Bible speaks of is the result of a person accepting Christ as Savior and Lord and being filled with his Spirit. Yet, some people have incorrectly tried to explain Christian conversion as a psychologically induced experience brought about by brain-washing. However, to try to explain Christian transformation on a psychological basis does not fit the facts.

*Biblical Teaching Made Relevant in Today's World
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I. The Disciples' Reactions Before Christ's Resurrection

Although, Jesus lived with his disciples for three and a half years and had performed many miracles for them to see, they were still uncertain concerning what he said about the transformed life. For example, Jesus predicted his betrayal, "... but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this ..." (John 13:28)

Furthermore, Jesus talked about going to the Father and returning "after awhile", but his disciples said, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying." (John 16:18) The disciples' reactions before Christ's Resurrection was due to the fact they were not transformed by the Holy Spirit.

II. The Disciples' Reactions to Christ's Crucifixion

The Scriptures declare that after the crucifixion, Christ's disciples were disillusioned, frightened and dispersed. The disciples' reactions after Christ's crucifixion was due to the fact they were still not transformed by the Holy Spirit.

III. Christ's Resurrection Day Appearances Convinced the Disciples He Was Alive!

Jesus appeared to:

- Mary Magdalene. (Matthew 16:9, 10; John 20:10-18)
- The other women returning from the empty tomb. (Matthew 28:9-10)
- The two on the Emmaus road. (Matthew 16:12, 13; Luke 24:13-32)
- Peter. (Luke 24:33-35; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
- The apostles – Thomas not present. (Matthew 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25)

But, the disciples were still not transformed! They were convinced of his resurrection but not transformed!

IV. Christ's Post-Resurrection Appearances Further Convinced the Disciples He Was Alive!

Jesus appeared to:

- The apostles – Thomas present. (John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
- The seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee. (John 21:1-23)
- Five hundred people at one time. (Matthew 6:15-18; Matthew 28:16-20; 1 Corinthians 15:6)
- James. (1 Corinthians 15:7)
- The eleven disciples. (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20; Luke 24:33-52; Acts 1:3-12)
- Stephen. (Acts 7:55)
- Saul. (Acts 9:5)
- Paul in the temple. (Acts 22:17-21; 23:11)
- John on the Island of Patmos. (Revelation 1:10-19)

The apostles and disciples believed Christ was alive but still they were NOT transformed!

V. Transformed Lives – Then and Now

What transformed the lives of the apostles and disciples was the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The power to live for Christ came about by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

The only plausible explanation for the transformation of an individual then and today is the indwelling Holy Spirit! While Christ was alive:

- He told his followers of the power that would accompany the reality of being transformed.
- He spoke about the Counselor who would live within a transformed person. The Spirit of Truth, the third person of the Trinity, who would come after his ascension to heaven. John 14:25-26 says, “... the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things.”
- He said the Counselor would “convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: ...”

- He said, “The Spirit of truth” would guide a believer, reveal the fullness of Jesus to a believer, “bring glory to” him. In other words, a Christian would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a sanctified (set apart) life in order to overcome the many challenges of life such as depression, poor self-image, pride, fear of death, etc.

The Bible tells us, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.” (2 Corinthians 5:17) He is transformed! In other words transformation means knowing with absolute certainty the Holy Spirit lives within you and guides you.

The followers of Jesus lived with him, saw his miracles, saw his crucifixion, witnessed his Resurrection appearances but were not changed until the Holy Spirit came upon them 40 days later. This parallels many church people who see the transformation in others but are not filled with the Holy Spirit and transformed – converted. Does the Holy Spirit within you confirm Christ is alive?

SUMMARY AND APPLICATION FOR OUR LIVES

Transformed lives of believers then and now testifies to Christ's Resurrection! He has the power to forgive your sins, give you peace with God and power to face death and much more!

Transformation is a one-time event as I have implied. However, the Christian life is a series of steps forward after being filled with Christ's Spirit. Another way to say it is this – the Christian life is one of continuous transformation by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:2)

All that I have said about Christ's transforming power brings us to this question:

- Why did God redeem us and transform our lives?

The Bible tells us God transformed us in order that we would glorify him and enjoy him – bring praise to him and enjoy finding ways to serve him. We've been saved to find our joy in him!

Christ is alive and is still transforming lives by his Holy Spirit.

Hallelujah!