

THEME: WHO I AM IN CHRIST.

TOPIC: I'M TRANSFORMED BY TRUTH.

TEXT: JOHN 8:31B-32, 15:7, ROMANS 10:17, PROVERBS 4:20

Introduction

Spiritual growth is the process of replacing lies with truth. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth." Sanctification requires revelation. The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to make us like the Son of God. To become like Jesus, we must fill our lives with His Word. The Bible says, "Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us."

1. The truth transforms us – Hebrews 4:12

The Bible is far more than a doctrinal guidebook. God's Word generates life, creates faith, produces change, frightens the devil, causes miracles, heals hurts, builds character, transforms circumstances, imparts joy, overcomes adversity, defeats temptation, infuses hope, releases power, cleanses our minds, brings things into being, and guarantees our future forever!

Q: How do we know that the truth transforms us?

2. Abiding in God's Word – Psalm 119:10-13, Job 23:12

There are more Bibles in print today than ever before, but a Bible on the shelf is worthless. Millions of believers are plagued with spiritual anorexia, starving to death from spiritual malnutrition. To be a healthy disciple of Jesus, feeding on God's Word must be your first priority.

Q: How do you ensure that the word is priority?

3. I must accept its authority – Psalm 119:105,

The Bible must become the authoritative standard for my life: the compass I rely on for direction, the counsel I listen to for making wise decisions, and the benchmark I use for evaluating everything. The Bible must always have the first and last word in my life. Many of our troubles occur because we base our choices on unreliable authorities: culture ("everyone is doing it"), tradition ("we've always done it"), reason ("it seemed logical"), or emotion ("it just felt right"). All four of these are flawed by the fall.

Q: How do we position the word has a standard above our choices?

4. I must assimilate its truth – Romans 12:2

It is not enough just to believe the Bible; I must fill my mind with it so that the Holy Spirit can transform me with the truth. There are five ways to do this: You can receive it, read it, research it, remember it, and reflect on it.

Q: Why is it important for us to assimilate the word?

5. I must apply its principles – James 1:22-25, Matthew 7:24

Receiving, reading, researching, remembering, and reflecting on the Word are all useless if we fail to put them into practice. We fool ourselves when we assume that just because we have heard or read or studied a truth, we have internalised it. Without implementation, all our Bible studies are worthless.

Another reason we avoid personal application is that it can be difficult or even painful. It's human nature to resist change, so applying God's Word is hard work.

Develop the habit of writing down exactly what you intend to do. This action step should be personal (involving you), practical (something you can do), and provable (with a deadline to do it). Every application will involve either your relationship to God, your relationship to others, or your personal character.

Conclusion

Nothing can take the place of the consistent consumption of God's Word for spiritual growth. It is absolutely pivotal in the process of sanctification, in becoming increasingly like Christ. Regular and persistent Bible reading, study, research and meditation must be followed by the believer if he would be transformed into the image (character) of Christ.

- What has God told you to do in his word that you are yet to act on?
- Write down a few action statements that will help you act on what you know.

Prayer

Lord! Help me to hunger and thirst for righteousness, truth, and your presence in my life so that I may both submit to and glorify Your Word. In Jesus name Amen.

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