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TRANSFORMED

In the book of Romans Paul is teaching the former nonbelievers how to change from what they were into a new person in Christ. In chapter 12:1-2 he admonishes them about what it is that is necessary to do just that. He said, ***“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”***

Often, without being taught what God requires of us, a new Christian falls back into their old sinful habits. Paul is warning them that this is unacceptable. They are to present themselves sacrificially to God. Notice it does not say “God make me transformed.” No, it is an act of our will to CHOOSE transformation.

This comes through changing our mindset. We have the Holy Spirit within us at salvation that guides us into all truth [John 16:13.] Yet, how do we know what the truth is? Is it what the preacher or prophet says? Is it what we read on social media? No! Unless it lines up with the Word of God.

God’s word is truth. So, in order to be transformed, which means in Greek to “change, transfigure, and literally metamorphose” we must study God’s word. You could compare this transformation to a caterpillar changing into a butterfly. We literally are changed from the inside out as we study the word of God. God’s Word is alive. It speaks to our spirit as we read it.

In 2 Timothy 2:15 Paul admonishes Timothy, who is already a pastor, to ***“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”***

God’s word guides us and supplies us. I remember years ago reading a verse in James 1:22 that brought immediate conviction to me. It said, ***“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”*** I remember saying to myself, “Oh my, I have heard it, but I am not doing it.” I repented and from then forward determined to be a doer of the word and not just a hearer of the word. I did not want to be deceived.

How about you? Do you take time to study the Word of God on your own, apart from hearing it in Church or even a bible study? God wants to talk to each of us individually. He has a plan that is designed just for “you.” You learn this plan as you study the word of God. He reveals himself to you and through his revelation of himself, you become transformed.

Take the time to do this and your life will be transformed!