

The Biblical Basis For Transformation Ministry

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Testimonies Of The Transformed

- † *“My soul is prospering, my life is being transformed, I’m a work in progress – on my way to a Masterpiece! I’m no longer a victim. I’m not carrying false burdens and false guilt. The disappointments of the past can no longer hide the face of God. I have a measure of peace and freedom I have never known before. There is a lot more room inside me for His presence and His higher purpose since Transformation Ministry!” - W.W.*
- † *“Thank you so much again for the life-changing ministry you led for my daughter and me. Life seems very different since that day, especially in the realm of not having to do battle all the time with so many hindering voices inside. Other people, who know nothing of my Transformation experience, are telling me they are seeing a positive difference in my life as well. Thanks again!” - Mary*
- † *“I can sure see a difference in my life after Transformation Ministry. I had backslidden after a divorce and it had been a long road back, not because God wasn’t forgiving, but because the devil didn’t want me to return to Him. All I can say is the blood of Jesus won again! I’ve found the biggest differences are that I’m able to pray more, study God’s Word more and witness more – and I’ve got my joy back again!” - Liz*

The Biblical Basis For Transformation Ministry

The mission Jesus came to earth to fulfill not only dealt with His dying for our salvation, but also His living to affect our sanctification – the re-making of our lives into His image (Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18). To fulfill this mission of right relationship with God and the progressive transformation of our lives to become more like Him, means healing, delivering and setting us increasingly free from the inner wounds, bondages and demonic oppression that characterize human existence (2 Corinthians 10:4, Romans 7:15, Hebrews 12:15, Acts 8:23, Acts 5:1-3 and Ephesians 4:26-27). This mission was originally stated in Isaiah 61:1-3 about the Messiah, and re-affirmed specifically by Jesus in His first sermon introducing His public ministry in Luke 4:18-19. He came to “heal the brokenhearted and set the captives free.” This may also be the background for David’s statement in Psalm 23:3, that “He restores my soul...” Transformation Ministry is a ‘soul restoration’ type ministry that fulfills God’s desire as enunciated by David in Psalm 51:6, to instill “truth in the inward parts,” which is ultimately what sets us free for God and His purposes.

This central emphasis of Jesus’ ministry is because of the obvious fact that everybody who has lived has had their heart broken in some way before, and has also been tempted and captured into bondage to a pattern of sin and lies in their lives that may have (intentionally or unintentionally)

eventually opened doors to the demonic, in the same way that garbage (sin) always attracts rats (demons) to it.

God's process of inner transformation based on Isaiah 61:1-3 includes Jesus' desire (through us and others) to...

1. Preach good news to the poverty of your heart (61:1)
2. Heal your broken heart (61:1)
3. Proclaim freedom from your captivity (61:1)
4. Release prisoners from your inner darkness (61:1)
5. Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor (grace and love) to you and the day of God's revenge on all Satan's works (61:2, 1 John 3:8)
6. Comfort your mourning and broken heart (61:2)
7. Give a crown of beauty to you instead of the ashes of defeat and despair (61:3)
8. Give the oil of gladness to you instead of unending loss and mourning (61:3)
9. Clothe you with the spirit of praise instead of the spirit of depression, despair and heaviness (61:3)

New Creation But Same Old Problems

But why do we need Transformation Ministry if we're "new creations" in Christ and "the old has gone and the new has come" as 2 Corinthians 5:17 says? Didn't salvation take care of all the past? Weren't all our wounds automatically healed, all our sin patterns and attitudes renewed and all the demons that lived inside us kicked out at the moment of salvation? Not according to the Bible, this specific passage or most people's experience. The word in the Greek translated "all things have become new," is 'gegonen,' and it does not even include the word 'all' in it (at all)! This word is in the perfect verb tense, which has to do with a past event that has *ongoing* consequences, not *completed* consequences. An amplified translation might read, "New things have begun, and are continuing to become new." It is roughly the equivalent of going from being single to being married – many new things come with a new relationship, but that newness is not to be confused with sudden perfection (as all couples can attest to). This truth corresponds to many other passages in God's Word (Acts 8:23, 2 Corinthians 10:4, Romans 7:15, 12:1-2, Hebrews 12:1, etc.), as well as people's continuing experience with sin and its on-going levels of influence and bondage.

For most people, although salvation and newness in Christ brought some powerful life-changing experiences, it didn't (necessarily) change their over-eating habits, many of their ungodly attitudes and beliefs, some of their previous sin patterns and strongholds as well as probably at least a few of their troubled relationships! What is new? You now have a new, resurrected inner spirit that connects you to Jesus, the source of Life that points your life in a new direction – from self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness. However, while your spirit is new, your soul (mind, will and emotions – where the pain and 'stinkin' thinkin' still resides) is largely still intact. That is why Paul continues to appeal to Christians to change their hearts and minds in Romans 8:5-6 and 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and many other places. If the soul was completely set free from all sin, there would be no need and no call for such changes or for ongoing sanctification in God's Word, yet there is (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24). You're saved and new, but you're not fully like Jesus yet. That will take 'a lifetime and a moment' to fully achieve! Like a fish in a net, you've been 'caught,' but you're not yet fully 'cleaned.'

Most people are able to admit a month after their coming to faith in Christ that there remain many (if not all) of the same tendencies to sin that they struggled with before – including a few new

ones now (i.e., obeying commands they never cared about before, such as forgiving those who have sinned against you, speaking the truth in love, loving your enemies and evangelizing the lost)!

The sobering reality is that the past isn't over yet. The reality of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and many other similar experiences shout that fact. My mother was in a near fatal car accident decades ago. Up until the day of her death, if someone got too close to her car while driving, she would tense up and nearly panic even though no one else reacted – because the reality of that painful past wasn't over yet inside her! That's why even though someone can no longer recall a painful past experience, or have suppressed those details from their consciousness, they are still living (at least partially) out of the *hurts* of their past rather than out of the new *heart* Jesus has given them. That's because, when people bury their hurts and wounds, they bury them *alive*, not dead! Wounds from 10, 20 and 40 years ago may still be motivating people in subtle ways they're not even aware of today because while time may bury most wounds, it cannot heal them – only Jesus Christ, the Great Physician, can do that. If people live from their *hurt*, they will be largely blocked from living out of their *new heart*. Both their true identity and their destiny will remain a mystery to them. That is why people need to be set free from their *histories* – so they can live out their *destinies*!

Because God is the Great Physician, not the Great Magician, He chooses to minister through us who have “this treasure in earthen vessels,” (2 Corinthians 4:7 – meaning that while we have ‘all of Him’ in us, He does not yet have ‘all of us’ loyally living for Him). A fullness of inner transformation usually comes through a specific process, rather than in a few minutes of altar ministry or prayer, or through a long drawn out process, more typical of traditional counseling. I have put many people through Transformation Ministry who have spent weeks, months and even years in counseling. They have uniformly reported that while they were better able to understand and cope with their problems through counseling, they never got free or healed of them. The Physician who is the Healer of the body is the same One who heals hearts as well (Isaiah 53:4, 61:1). Significantly, physical healing is sometimes a by-product of inner transformation, since as one early church Father said, “physical illness is caused by wear and tear upon the soul.” Sometimes when the soul is healed, the body responds as well! Transformation Ministry deals with the repairing (i.e., the restoring or renewing) of the 3 most important relationships we have – our relationship with God, our relationship with ourselves, and our relationships with others.

Life Traumas And Common Responses

There are basically two kinds of trauma that people need to be healed from. They are...

1. Type A Trauma – which is the *absence* of important life-giving things such as love, affection, encouragement, communication, growth, etc. – it's the love and goodness people should have gotten, but didn't.
2. Type B Trauma – which is the *presence* of bad things (sin and evil) like abuse, trauma, curses, occult influences, condemnation, fears, generational sins and spirits, pride, rejection, etc. that people received in life from others.

There are three typical kinds of responses to the broken-heartedness of life...

1. Those who continue to blame their suffering on others, even if the offense is years old. “I'll be healed when they change,” is the lie this victim mentality produces. These people receive no real healing because they are bound by the lie that says for them to thrive depends on others, not God's work in them. They normally prefer known misery to unknown joy, whether they realize it or not.

2. Those who understand their woundedness and the bondages in their lives but choose to seek out help primarily to alleviate the pain in their lives rather than seeking a godly direction for themselves. These people usually receive only some amount of healing.
3. Those who acknowledge the pain and bondage in their lives and seek out Jesus' ways of healing and freedom for their wounds (Isaiah 55:8-9) in order to fully live their lives for God's glory. These people receive the greatest healing at every level of their lives.

Inner Transformation – The Doorway To An Abundant Life

So, how do we know when someone is really healed from the deepest pains of their lives? It is when they possess the inner freedom to fully blossom in their life and relationships, regardless of the external circumstances around them, as Paul alluded to in Philippians 4:6-8 and Jesus promised in John 10:10. The more Jesus has healed and delivered (and then taught and disciplined you) – the more you will be free to be able to *thrive* in this life not just survive, to *flourish* in life, not just to function and strive to appear successful externally. Jesus never promised in His Word to help you survive, He only promised to make it possible for you to thrive, because to survive is sub-Christian, flesh-driven living that anyone can do, with or without Jesus. Only He can make you thrive.

Some of the characteristics God promises that illustrate a healed and whole personality according to Isaiah 61 and 62 include that...

1. They will rebuild ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated in people's lives (61:4).
2. They will be named ministers of our God and feed on the wealth of nations for God's glory (61:6).
3. They will receive a double portion and everlasting joy because of the freedom they've experienced (61:7).
4. All who see them will acknowledge they are a people the Lord has blessed because their life will demonstrate an abundance – a thriving, not a striving or surviving (61:9).
5. They will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give as God did with numerous people in the Bible (62:2).
6. They will be called "Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord," and they will be called "Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted" (62:12).

A biblical example of *thriving* even in traumatic experiences in life is Stephen, as he was being stoned to death in Acts 7:55-60. As Stephen looked to Jesus, he knew "truth in the inward parts" that set him free to give his life for Christ. Those truths included...

1. The pain would not last forever – he would soon die, but he would soon be resurrected!
2. His core person/soul was safe – he would soon join Jesus in paradise.
3. His destiny would be fulfilled – his life and death was for a purpose and would bless many.

That is the way someone who is healed and free inside faces opposition and death – as Jesus did and Luke 23:47 records, "the Centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, 'Surely this was a righteous man.'" He'd never seen a man endure such pain and unjust death with such peace and grace before (John 1:14)!

Ultimately we know we are healed and transformed when we can revisit the events of the past that were once deeply wounding and painful without the 'sting' of that former pain afflicting us anymore – consciously or unconsciously! Once healed we may even become grateful for those same events (Romans 8:28, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Ephesians 5:20). When that happens, people often come to see some of the worst moments in their lives as of great value, because through them, God

has inscribed eternal lessons on their hearts and prepared them to minister to those who have suffered in the same way (Hebrews 2:18). That is freedom – that is healing and that is destiny!

The Goal Of Transformation Ministry

Ultimately, Transformation Ministry is the evangelization of the unbelieving regions (Mark 9:24, John 8:32) of a believer's heart with the liberating power, love and truth of God. The goal is to become transformed more nearly into the image of Christ (Romans 8:29), by becoming more powerfully free, healthy and strong enough on the inside to live a life where one's flesh has largely died (Galatians 2:20, Matthew 16:24) and Satan's influence has become mostly ineffective in the believer's life (Luke 10:18). Therefore we seek to more fully be able to say as Jesus did in John 14:30b, "...*he (the prince of this world) has nothing in Me...*" – no lies (John 8:44), no roots of bitterness (Hebrews 12:15), no strongholds of sin (2 Corinthians 10:4, Romans 7), no ungodly judgments against others (Matthew 7:1-5, James 2:13), no unforgiveness toward anyone (Matthew 18:21-35). Freed from the ball and chain that all that heavy baggage represents, we can take upon ourselves the "easy yoke and light burden" (Matthew 11:28) that Jesus promised. Which would you rather carry? Which are you carrying around?

Being transformed is basically the freedom to live out your destiny, not your history. It does not erase a memory or change one's personal history; it simply enables people to live in and by the truth of those events as God sees them, instead of by the lies and pain that were implanted inside their heart years ago.

God Himself is the Healer as Isaiah 61:1-3 testifies, and so when we minister Jesus' transformation to people, it is He Himself who leads the session as the 'attending physician' and as the Surgeon. Our job is to assist Him as His nurses and followers.

A Word About Deliverance

Deliverance ministry is variously practiced today – ranging from the dead serious, to the circus-like, from the biblically sound to the spiritually questionable to the just plain weird and extreme. Nevertheless, in the same loving way Jesus ministered physical healing to people, He also ministered deliverance from demonic oppression to them. In fact about 25% of Jesus' ministry consisted specifically of delivering people from demonic oppression (in addition to deliverance He did while healing or doing other miracles) – and these were people who were by covenant God's own! In addition to that, He trained His own disciples to do it (Matthew 10:8, Luke 9:1, 10:17,19) and commanded the church to continue doing it following His death and resurrection (Mark 16:17), as Paul and others did in the Book of Acts.

The great importance of this ministry is demonstrated not only in Jesus' ministry focus, but also in the life of the early church. A secular Yale University scholar has written in recent years that the #1 reason that the early church was able to so powerfully influence and revolutionize the Roman culture was due to the dramatic changes in the lives of people who were transformed and delivered from demonic influence! Not surprisingly, historical records of the early church tell us that this ministry was considered so vital and necessary that in the city of Rome alone, the church employed 52 full time deliverance ministers to minister healing and freedom from demonic oppression to the early believers who were then set free to evangelize and expand the Kingdom of God throughout the known world!

While the words ‘demon-possessed’ are a popular term today, they are an unfortunate mistranslation of the Greek word, which actually means to ‘be demonized,’ or demon-oppressed, afflicted or harassed. Christians cannot literally be ‘possessed’ (completely controlled) by demons because they are owned and therefore ‘possessed’ by God (1 Corinthians 7:23) – but they can be demonized. Which is to say, they can come under the attack and subtle influence of the works and deception of demonics – normally unknowingly. These spirits work to carry out the mission of their master “to steal, kill and destroy,” (John 10:10) God’s people. That is why, as Jesus gave His first followers power and authority to drive demonics out of people, He still does to people today. Demonics are under our authority and must respond accordingly if we know who we are in Christ and exercise the power Jesus has given us in the Holy Spirit. We are assured of the victory (if we choose to engage in the battle God’s way) because “He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world...” (1 John 4:4, Luke 10:19, Colossians 2:15). Therefore, there is nothing to fear about attacking and evicting demons in Jesus’ name.

Transformation Ministry Specifics

The Transformation Ministry process normally takes between 4-8 hours, depending on a variety of factors, and can often be completed in a day or so. This is not an extended counseling session – it is a prayer ministry based on the love, power and truth of the living God being released to heal the brokenhearted and set the captives free.

There may be two or three people on the team that ministers to you, although everything that happens in the session will be kept strictly confidential. If you would like to pursue this further, you will need to fill out the Transformation Ministry Inventory on the ‘Being Freed’ page of this website. While it may seem at first to be a little intimidating, it is similar to the questionnaire a doctor would ask a new patient to fill out regarding his physical condition. You are simply being asked to do the same thing for your soul, since the ministry team needs a general idea of where the wounds, hurts and pains are as well. If you have any questions or problems filling out the paperwork, please feel free to email (bk@stronginspirit.com or stronginspirit01@yahoo.com) or give Pastor Bruce a call at 423.201.9552 and he will be happy to help you with any questions you may have.

While everyone will benefit from Transformation Ministry, some will be more deeply changed than others due to a variety of factors. Nevertheless, a great many people have received powerful, deep and normally long-lasting freedom from issues that have plagued them for many years. Please read the Transformation Testimonies on the ‘Healed In Heart’ page of the www.stronginspirit.com website.

I look forward to your coming for ministry and experiencing a far greater measure of the freedom promised to Jesus’ disciples in John 8:32 and Galatians 5:1! To God be all the glory.