

## GOOD NEWS

about

## GRACE

### Part # 4: Transforming Grace

God's "Grace" is a spectacular transformation of your whole being! By completely trusting in Him, you are changed into an instrument of blessing and grace to the people around you.

**Philippians 1:6** <sup>6</sup> *There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.*

#### **Before you begin:**

- 1. Do you see evidence of God's transformation of your life?
- 2. Can others recognize any changes in your life?
- 3. What changes do you identify that God can transform?

### **Transforming Grace . . .**

#### **Monday:**

#### **Start with allowing God to make some changes:**

##### **1. Attitude Change: Philippians 2:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> *Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.* <sup>6</sup> *Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.* <sup>7</sup> *He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.*

**Many people think they cannot control their "bad" attitude, but Scripture does not agree. Romans 8:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> *Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.* <sup>6</sup> *If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace.* <sup>7</sup> *For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.* <sup>8</sup> *That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.*

**a. What do you think about?**

**b. Do you think God is pleased with your thoughts?** \_\_\_\_\_

**c. What are the characteristics of thoughts that are directed by the Holy Spirit? Galatians 5:22-33**

<sup>22</sup> *But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.*

**d. What changes do you need to make in the thoughts you allow your mind to entertain?**

#### **Tuesday**

**2. Attitude is influenced by the company you keep.**

**1 Corinthians 15:33**

<sup>33</sup> *Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character."*

**a. Do the people you consider friends allow Holy Spirit to direct their lives? How?**

**b. Who are some potential new friends in whom you have observed Christ-likeness?**

#### **3. Right attitude reflects total reliance on God.**

**Philippians 2:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> *Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion.* <sup>9</sup> *Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever,* <sup>10</sup> *so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ,* <sup>11</sup> *and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.*

**a. Are you busy doing things for God or are you obediently listing for what wants you to be doing? What is the difference?**

**b. How will relying on God more for strength and direction change your attitude toward your own life and toward others?**

#### **Wednesday:**

#### **Transforming Lives**

**For God to make transforming changes in your life you need to be correctly focused: on your blessings not your burdens; on others not on yourself; on God's store house of rich blessings not your own limited resources.**

**Matthew 6:25-34** <sup>25</sup> *"So I tell you, don't worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food, drink, and clothes. Doesn't life consist of more than food and clothing?"* <sup>26</sup> *Look at the birds. They don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are.* <sup>27</sup> *Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Of course not.* <sup>28</sup> *"And why worry about your clothes?"*

Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing,<sup>29</sup> yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are.<sup>30</sup> And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you? You have so little faith!<sup>31</sup> "So don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing."<sup>32</sup> Why be like the pagans who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs,<sup>33</sup> and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.<sup>34</sup> "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today."

### 1. Which of these are caused by worry?

- damage your health
- consume your thoughts
- disrupt your productivity
- draw you closer to God
- negatively affect the way you treat others
- bring you peace
- immobilizes your activities

### 2. Which of these are evidence of being focused on God?

- Give your energy and time to serve in a church.
- Be ready to tell others what God means to you.
- Support projects and purposes that God would approve.
- Keep your promises to family and friends.
- Show love to those that God puts in your life.
- Be accountable to the values of Christ.

(Psalm 121:1-2; Philippians 2:3-4; James 3:16)

## **Thursday:**

### **Transformed Future**

You have discovered that God transforms you as you allow Him to change your attitude and your focus is on Him. This positions you to begin your new journey toward becoming the person God created you to be.

### **Three steps to maintain a changed attitude and a correct focus.**

#### **1. Stay in the Word** Psalm 119:9-11

*9 How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word and following its rules. <sup>10</sup> I have tried my best to find you— don't let me wander from your commands. <sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

**a. Verse nine implies that humans have a struggle keeping their life pure in the eyes of God. What help and guidance does the verse offer?**

**b. In verse ten the Psalmist suggests a way to make God's Word accessible in all situations. What is that solution?**

## **2. Personalize God's Word**

**a. You can personalize Scripture by selecting a passage and after discovering its message then apply it to your personal situation. Take the following passage and apply it to your personal situation.**

**Proverbs 3:5**

*<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;*

**b. You can personalize Scripture by selecting a passage with a promise from God that meets a current, personal need. Then use that Scripture as a prayer offered to God. You find a passage and pray that promise to God.**

## **3. Analyze your life based on Scripture**

**2 Timothy 3:15-17**

*<sup>15</sup> There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. <sup>17</sup> Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.*

**a. Why is Scripture a good standard by which to measure your life?**

**b. After measuring you life by God's standards, what corrections do you need to make in order for your life to be what God needs it to be for the ministry to which He has called you?**

## **Friday**

### *Turning Point...*

Following God's process will bring you through the toughest of times and set your feet on solid ground. Daily it can become more and more like Christl.

Let my mind be filled with your wonders,  
To keep my mind on things Holy.

Let my hands be your hands,  
To serve others in need.

Let my eyes be your eyes,  
To discern the needs of others.

Let my feet be your feet,  
To spread the good news of your Grace!

Let my mouth be filled with your words,  
To tell others of your love.

**I knew that in all my trials,  
That He would see me through!**

Let my heart be filled with thanksgiving,  
To pass on to others your hope.

*Doris Higgs*