

Vision 2024: Transformed from Glory to Glory

2 Corinthians 3:18...we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

4:1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,
² but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,
⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

⁶ For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves;

God's means of transformation:

1. Prayer and Worship

Ephesians 5:18 ...be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

2. Bible meditation and application (Hear, read, study, memorize, meditate and apply)

1 Thessalonians 2:13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

3. Fasting and solitude

Luke 6:12 And it was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

¹³ And when day came, He called His disciples to Him; and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles.

4. Stewardship and simplicity

Matthew 6:19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

²⁰ "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

²¹ for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

²² "The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.

²³ "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

5. Marriage and family

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

²⁶ that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

6. Fellowship (friendships w Christ-followers)

Hebrews 10:24 let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

... ³² But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,

³³ partly, by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

³⁴ For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one.

7. Small groups (Life groups)

Ephesians 4:14 ...we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, *even* Christ,

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

8. Partnerships

2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

² And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Titus 2:3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

⁴ that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

⁵ *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

9. Ministry to God's family locally

Philippians 2:1 If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;

⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

10. Ministry to God's family worldwide

2 Corinthians 8:1 Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

² that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

³ For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability *they gave* of their own accord,

⁴ begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

⁵ and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

11. Outreach (love, serve and share)

Acts 4:18 ... they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge;

²⁰ for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard."

Acts 8:1 And ...on that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

² And *some* devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him.

³ But Saul *began* ravaging the church, entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

⁴ Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

12. Missions

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

13. Adverse circumstances

Romans 5:3 ...we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

⁴ and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

14. Temptation

James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

15. Persecution

1 Peter 1:6 ... you have been distressed by various trials,

⁷ that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;