

TRANSFORMATION – A PURIFICATION PROCESS

(2 Cor 7:1) Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1. Purification and Sanctification are 2 sides of the same spiritual coin

- a) Purification Removal of the effects of sin cleansing
- b) Sanctification Making one Holy in the eyes of God imputation of the Perfect Righteousness (+R) in Christ.

2. Purification, like all aspects of Christian life is experienced in 3 phases

- a) Positional Tit 3:5 washing of regeneration – some ceremonial washings of Old Testament
- b) Practical Eph 5:26 cleansing by washing of the word → sanctify her
- c) Permanent 1Cor 15:42-44 perishable, corrupted body exchanged for a spiritual body

3. Phase 2 cleansing is a necessary part of transformation – spiritual growth unto maturity

(2 Cor 7:1) Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse/purify ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

- a) Promises (2 Cor.6:14-18) – separate from idolatry – I will be your Father, you my sons/daughters
- b) Purification (katharizo) (A/A/Subj) – potential – opportunity – exhortation, command
- c) katharizo Cleanse, purify;

- literal washing
- ceremonial, ritual cleansing
- healing of disease related to uncleanness (leprosy)
- cleansing from Old Man sinful belief/behaviors

- d) Mechanics: Water/word (Eph 5:26); by Faith (Act 15:9); target conscience (Heb 9:14)
defilement – **molusmos** – to smear with mud/filth; false beliefs, idolatry (1 Cor.7:1) – flesh & spirit

- Flesh – overt sins especially those sins related to lust – gluttony, fornication
- Spirit – polluted beliefs/behaviors related to worship – idolatry

- e) Perfecting - growth & transformation into a mature believer in Christ

(1 Cor.7:1) perfecting – **epiteleo** – P/A/Ptc – to finish, complete, accomplish totally, to bring to an end, finish the job, to reach maturity – while bringing to maturity

Notice the two aspects of spiritual growth – purification of old & perfecting of new

(Eph 4:22-24) taking off – renewing – putting on

(Heb 12:1) lay aside every encumbrance & most besetting sin – run the race

(Peter 2:1-2) laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisies, envies, and all evil speaking, ² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

4. The Need for Cleansing

Adam's Original Sin (Rom 5:12) – sin and death were passed down to all mankind – no exceptions

(Ephesians 2:1) And you were dead in your trespasses & sins, ² in which you formerly walked acc to the course of this world, acc to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh & of the mind, & were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Spiritual Death Separation from God; inability to interact with spiritual phenomena

Old Sin Nature Self-centered nature causing us to interpret life as about “me” & for my benefit

Old Man Self-centered, worldly belief system – operating system developed by all mankind

- Developed by volition (personal choice) to believe ideas not sourced from God as reactions to life experiences.
 - Ideas are believed & put on by volition/faith & must be removed the same way – they will not fall into disuse or be removed passively – taking them off must be intentional.
 - Ideas believed become unconscious, habituated patterns forming the subconscious.
 - These unconscious beliefs/patterns continue to influence our views about everything, **lying in wait to wrest control of our souls under pressure & specific circumstances.**
- a. Driven by our needs: love, affection, acceptance, accomplishment, variety, laughter
 - b. As we grow, we use volition to attach faith to ideas about fulfilling our needs & protecting self from disappointment & pain from failure to meet our needs.
 - c. Personal sins are committed seeking to meet needs outside of God & His plan.
 - d. Paul – hunger for recognition & approval – saw an opportunity to meet his need
 - e. Peter – hunger to belong, accepted by Jesus for his love and loyalty

5. Examples of Old Man beliefs continuing to control core motives.

- a. **Exodus Generation** – the enemies they allowed to stay in the land became thorn in their side.
- b. **Jacob** – Inherited family favoritism & passed them on to his own children.
- c. **David** – tried to fill emptiness in his heart through sex & love – 8 wives; (Deut.17:14-17) (2 Sam 11) – Bathsheba incident – unlimited numbers of beautiful women were not enough
- d. **Saul** – (1Sam 15:17) he was small in his own eyes – low self-esteem – hungry for approval (1Sam 10:8) wait 7 days; (1 Sam.13:8-10; 15:1-21) – Saul’s fear of the people’s disapproval

6. Old Man beliefs must be intentionally observed and removed – Erase & Replace

(2Cor 7:1)	katharizo	A/A/Subj	Active voice – subject produces action of the verb
(Eph 4:22)	apotithemi	A/M/Inf	Middle voice – subject acts upon self
(Eph 4:25)	apotithemi	A/M/Ptc	Subject acts upon self
(Col 3:8)	apotithemi	A/M/Impv	Subject acts upon self
(Heb 12:1)	apotithemi	A/M/Ptc	Subject acts upon self

- a. God the Holy Spirit is the supernatural power enabling the believer to process spiritual truth
- b. God the Holy Spirit gives us the wisdom to understand the truth and power to choose for it.
- c. God the Holy Spirit will not decide what we will believe or what ideas we will apply to our life.
- d. God the Holy Spirit will empower us to observe / remove Old Man beliefs but will not choose for us.
- e. The beliefs we hold in our hearts & use to live by are the key to our place in the Angelic Conflict
- f. Cleansing/removing false beliefs and strategies are an important part of spiritual growth