

TRANSFORMATION

Celebrate Progress!

Several months ago she was having a conversation with someone regarding her experiences at work. She listened intently, asking questions, truly curious about her friend's situation. She treasured the opportunity to be brought into this person's confidence. Walking away from the encounter, the Holy Spirit whispered, *"Do you realize how far you've come? You could have interjected your own thoughts and experiences into the conversation, but you didn't. Not only did you not interrupt, but you also didn't even feel the need to. Do you realize how far you've come?"*

Wow! God really was changing her. She had been praying for God to increase her love and compassion for others but wasn't sure what that would be like. Until now. Although she still has a long way to go, this small interaction was the first step in celebrating her progress and the transformational power of the Holy Spirit.

Read Galatians 5:19-21, 26

How does Paul describe the sinful nature? List in current-day terms.

Read Galatians 5:22-23

How does Paul describe lives guided by the Holy Spirit?

Read Galatians 5:16-18, 24-25

How does transformation happen? What part do we play?

Dr. Tony Evans stated, *"Spiritual transformation is an internal change that reflects the character of Christ and brings about a corresponding external change."* While transformation requires our cooperation (i.e., surrendering to God's guidance, crucifying our sinful nature, and following the Holy Spirit's leading), God is the author of transformation. He loves us enough to not leave us in our sins. Instead, He continues to make us more like Jesus as we seek Him, obey Him, and trust Him (2 Corinthians).

How is God transforming you? What changes are you seeing on the outside as a result of the Holy Spirit's work in your heart? Take time to thank Him today! Celebrate your progress!

O, Lord, thank you for the transforming power of your Holy Spirit. Open our minds and hearts, Lord, to your Word. Show us where we need to grow, and remind us of the progress you have made in our lives. Thank you for making us more like your Son. In Jesus name, amen.