

Totally transforming: Part 2- Independently Growing
Psalm 119:9-11 and James 1:22

I. ME

- A. Review
 - 1. Series... New Creation... Measures of Transformation
 - 2. Week One- Confidently trusting: Am I trusting Jesus with every part of my life?
- B. Not a Xian?
 - 1. Why do they do all of this? What's the point?
- C. Liz
 - 1. Love and appreciate
 - 2. Enjoy being married to her
 - 3. B/c we have spent so much time together
 - a. Talk the same
 - b. Same sense of humor
 - c. Same smell
 - d. Wear matching clothes on "accident."
 - 4. Really genuinely enjoy our relationship
 - a. Helps bring out the best version of me.
 - 5. But what if I only relied on what other people told me about her to get to know her?
 - a. Never talked to her, never tried to get to know her myself... just let other people tell me what she is like and go with that?
 - b. Good relationship? Would it even be able to be called a relationship?
 - c. No.
 - 6. But I personally take the time to get to know her, talk to her, study her, think about her.
 - 7. More time I spend with her, better I understand her... more likely to give her a benefit of a doubt... more I trust her love for me.

II. WE

- A. Same with our relationship with God.
 - 1. For many people, the base their relationship with God on what someone else tells them... at most once a week.
 - 2. Don't take time to get to know Him personally... and wonder why he feels far away or doesn't make a difference. Why don't I feel like a new creation?
 - 3. The more we are around Him, the more time we spend with him, the more we are transformed.
 - 4. The closer we are the more we are changed into the best us... who we were always meant to be.
- 5. Proximity determines transformation.**
- B. So how do we get closer to Him?
 - 1. What does it mean to "spend time with Him?"
 - 2. And how can we do it in a way that actually brings us closer to him and helps us keep transforming more and more into the best us?
- C. **Independently Growing- Am I personally getting to know God and applying what I learn?**
- D. Difference between studying a map of the coast and actually going to the beach and smelling the air, swimming in the water, walking in the sand.
- E. Psalm 119:9-11**
 - 1. Psalm- Ancient Songs
 - 2. Most attributed to David
 - 3. 119- Acrostic Poem... "A is for alligator"
- F. How we can move closer in our relationship
 - 1. Simple but powerful

III. GOD

A. Verse 9

1. Young person- young at heart?
2. Pure- Clean, avoid pain and causing pain? Follow the law of love
3. Living according to your word- Word- Scripture/Bible
4. Why the Word of God?
 - a. God inspired people to write his thoughts, feelings, his message to humanity.
 - b. Different types of documents from different times all telling the same story of God's love for us.
5. Need a whole series to explain why it can be trusted historically, logically, and theologically.
6. Reading it is like reading a diary.
 - a. **Reading the Bible lets us see the world and ourselves through God's eyes**
 - b. Shows us what's important to Him and why.
7. Imagine if your spouse or the person you love the most let you read every entry of their life-long diary... unfiltered.
 - a. You would learn a lot about them
 - b. Would you be looking for facts or too understand who they are, their heart, how they think, what they feel?

8. Tips for reading...

- a. **What does it say?**
- b. **What does it say about God?**
- c. **What does it say about me?**
- d. **What should I do about it?**

B. Verse 10

1. Seek you... talk to you... praying
2. Not some mystical force for you to be able to get whatever you want from Santa Jesus.
3. Simply talking to God... conversation... running conversation
4. Writer is not talking about a formal, memorized prayer.
 - a. Real, heartfelt communication.
 - b. Seeking after God with his whole heart... personally trying to know HIM
5. Jesus' Greatest commandment... Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, strength
6. Disciples- "Teach us to pray"
7. Jesus- "Our Father" Revolutionary! So personal! So intimate
 - a. Abba- Daddy
 - b. Exact opposite of the religious leaders... dry, forced, FORMAL!
8. Of course religion has turned this example of personal/intimate/genuine prayer into a ritualized memorized prayer!

9. **Honest, genuine prayer changes religion into a relationship**

- a. It's not about changing his mind... it's about knowing Him.

10. B/c Prayer is more about listening than requesting
 - a. "God, I want this. What do you think?"
 - b. "What should I do in this situation?"
 - c. "You said no to this. Why? Help me understand?"
 - d. "I'm scared/worried... show me why I don't have to be."

11. A relationship where you never talked? Talk to HIM
 - a. In a relationship you are deliberate and spontaneous.
 - 1) You call and make plans to talk
 - 2) You text and talk throughout the day.
 - b. Same with God. **Include Jesus in your everyday thoughts**
 - c. **Example**- How I pray w/o ceasing.

C. Verse 11

1. Scripture memorization
2. Allows us to replace the lies we hear all day with the truth about who God is.
3. Examples
 - a. Impossible to possible
 - b. Unloved to loved
 - c. Nail polish being changed
 - d. Coffee cup having water poured into it in sink
4. Do you worry? What if you were able to meditate on this promise?- **Phil. 4:8-9**
5. Gives you God's truth when you need it the most.
 - a. **Me**- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

6. How to memorize... R.I.P.

- a. **Be Repetitive**... ABC's
 - b. **Be Intentional**
 - c. **Be Purposeful**... something you can apply today
 - 1) Husbands love your wives/children obey your parents/do not be afraid for I am with you
 - 2) "All the curtains were the same size—28 cubits long and 4 cubits wide"
- D. All 3 of these bring us closer to God... and changes how we think.
1. Start thinking his thoughts.
 2. Not just downloading information
 3. But creating new thinking patterns. New responses to life's situations.
4. **New Thinking Creates New Living.** - Transformation

IV. YOU

A. Whole point is of this is to transform us.

B. James 1:22

1. Deceive- b/c they think they have done all that is necessary... b/c they listened.
2. Reading, talking, memorizing and then not acting is pointless.
 - a. My life is never changed by just listening and knowing something.
3. I know lots about exercise and how to build muscles and get in shape.
 - a. "Did you exercise today?"
 - b. "No, BUT I thought about it. I turned on the tv and watched a p90x work out video while I finished my doughnut and coffee."

C. The bridge between knowledge and transformation is application.

1. Algebra homework v. basic training.
 - a. You pay attention to what you are planning to use.
2. Bible study boring? Maybe you haven't been using it
3. Prayer seem pointless? Maybe you've been trying to get from instead of get to know.
4. Scripture memorization seem like a chore? Maybe you need to rely on it to replace lies with truth.

- D. For someone who is being transformed and Independently growing in their relationship... the complaint of "I'm not being fed" doesn't make any sense.
1. At what stage of life do we complain about someone else not feeding us? Babies.
 2. But as we mature, transform into who we are meant to be, we realize its much better to feed ourselves.

- E. But you can't do it if you don't know it.
1. So learn it and apply it.
 2. Take what you learn here and ask God, "What do you want me to do about this?"
 3. "What relates to me today and what can I do about it?"
 4. Maybe this will lead you to start reading the Bible for yourself... to learn what God says in your particular area of life...
 5. Read it, memorize it, listen to Him and act on it!

F. Challenge

1. 1- Chapter a day
2. 1- Scheduled prayer time a day
3. 1- Verse memorized this week

V. WE

- A. Imagine a life with a vibrant, real, relationship that transforms us.
- B. Inspiration to actually do it...