

Transformed

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Conformed: to fit into a fixed pattern

Paul wants believers to know He doesn't think its acceptable for them to fit into the worlds pattern

- This pattern isn't God's pattern

God created all things in the world "good;" however, Satan has polluted the world through sin

- God wants us to act better, above the worlds standards
- He wants us to be transformed

Transformed: "metamorphosis"

- A metamorphosis is a complete change
- When a caterpillar enters a cocoon and emerges a butterfly, it undergoes a metamorphosis
- Those two stages of life represent both a complete end and a new beginning

We are transformed by the renewing of our minds

- The mind is the part of our soul that activates or originates behavior
- By renewing our minds, we can know and do *God's good, perfect, and acceptable will*

5 Truths About Attitudes

You Choose or Change Your Attitude

Attitudes Are Not Caused by People or Circumstances

Happiness is a Chosen Attitude

Truth: *"If you don't have happiness right now, then you will also not have it when those things come"*

God Rewards Good Attitudes and Disciplines Bad Ones

Attitudes Precede and Predict Your Future

Good attitudes lead to success, favor and promotion

Bad attitudes predict a future of failure, disfavor, and demotion

- Your attitude affects your altitude
- When you are going through difficulties don't trust your emotions or someone else's opinions

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory,

- We often hear that attitude is more important than aptitude for success in life
- Even if other people have more gifting, talent, intellect, or beauty, you can succeed over them with attitude
- 2 Corinthians 4:1 NLT – We never give up

Quote: “*a smooth sea never made a skilled sailor*”

- It’s during the most difficult times we learn the most
- Its during those times that choosing the right attitude is most important

7 Attitude Killers

False Expectations

- False (or wrong) expectations will destroy your attitude
- You may expect everyone to treat you well
- You may expect your life will always be easy
- Neither are true

Comparing Up

- Its dangerous to compare yourself to other people
- Don’t look at other peoples lives and say, “*I wish my life was like theirs.*”
 - Don’t compare with others – 2 Corinthians 10:12
- It will kill your attitude

Entitlement

- If you think, “*Everybody owes me.*”
- Take your thoughts captive and get over it!
- Nobody owes you anything

Negativity

- Building up your faith will remove negativity
- Start to see things from God’s perspective

Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?

Pride

Proverbs 16:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

James 4:6 (NKJV)

⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: “*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*”

Bitterness

- God values forgiveness above almost all other values

Colossians 3:13 (NKJV)

¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

Self-pity

- This may be the most dangerous of all attitude killers
- When we feel sorry for ourselves our focus is inward
- This leaves no room for the Holy Spirit's power
- Your boyfriend or girlfriend didn't call
- Your boss got mad at you
- You're having trouble with the bills

Consider this story:

Jerry Long became paralyzed from the neck down in a diving accident

- He became a quadriplegic at the age of 17
- Jerry learned to use his mouth stick to type and an intercom to communicate
- He became a close friend and colleague of Viktor Frankl
- Like Frankl he didn't allow difficult circumstances to dictate his future
- Earned a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology
- He shared the following memory about Frankl after his passing

Once, after speaking to a large audience, I was asked if I ever felt sad because I could no longer walk. I replied, "Professor Frankl can hardly see, I cannot walk at all, and many of you can hardly cope with life. What is crucial to remember is this—we don't need just our eyes, just our legs, or just our minds. All we need are the wings of our souls and together we can fly."

7 Attitude Builders

Gratitude

- Being thankful for what you have, gives you a head start
- Gratitude builds a good attitude

Faith

- You can draw on the Lord's strength
- Your faith in Him is critical to your attitude

Humility

- Humility is your ability to see yourself in light of who God is
- It gives you God's perspective

Graciousness

- Graciousness means you treat others better than they deserve
- The Golden Rule – **Matthew 7:12**

Respect

- Respect is the un-earned esteem you give to others

Servanthood

- Don't live for others to serve you, live to serve them
– **Matthew 23:11**

Contentment

- Be content with what you have – **Hebrews 13:5, 6**

Seven Reasons to Have a Good Attitude

It is Christlike and a good witness

Matthew 5:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- Your good attitude serves as a witness of your faith and the difference that Christ has made in your life
- Because of Jesus you are also a light and you are a witness to His light

God Knows and Loves You and Has a Plan for Your Life

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- God Knows you and Loves you and has the best plan for your life

God Turns Bad Around for Good

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

- God will take your mistakes and the bad things that have happened to you and turn them around for your good

Nothing is Impossible for God

Luke 18:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

- God is bigger than your mountains and giants
- And nothing is impossible for Him

Jesus Has Authority Over the Enemy

Luke 10:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Jesus defeated Satan

- He has also given you authority over the enemy and all his forces

Jesus Paid for Your Sins

Isaiah 53:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

- Jesus paid for your sins and removed the curse off you
- He has born your grief and sorrow
- You do not have to bear the shame of your past

Jesus Defeated Death and Hell

Romans 8:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

- Jesus defeated death, hell, and the grave
- God raised Him from the dead
- He is now seated at God's right hand
- He is our High Priest, Intercessor, and Advocate