

The 6th Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, February 16, 2020

“2020 Vision: How God’s Word Changes Us”

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

When people encounter Jesus, their lives are dramatically _____. Christianity is about so much more than just intellectual assent to a series of doctrines or creeds—it’s about a _____ that has the _____ change, transform, and make new.

The primary way God changes and transforms us is through the work of the _____

“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” (2 Cor 3:18)

Transform = *Metamorphoo* = the process of _____, and where we get the English word **metamorphosis**.

Nothing is _____ in God’s economy, and the Holy Spirit can use anything and everything that comes into our life in this transformation process.

4 THINGS GOD USES TO CHANGE US

- **God uses the _____ in our lives to change us.**
“...we also boast in our suffering because we know that suffering creates endurance, endurance creates character, and character creates confidence.” (Romans 5:3)

What circumstances in your life has God used to change you?

- **God uses the _____ in our lives to change us.**
“Iron sharpens iron and one person sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17)

Who has God used to change you?

- **God uses _____ and _____ to change us.**
“Don’t copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.” (Rom 12:2)

How has God used new knowledge and insight to change you?

- **God uses His _____ to change us.**
“...as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendour, without spot or

wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:25-27)

The Word of God plays a central role in our sanctification; and the Bible is more than just a book or words on a page—it’s _____ for transformation.

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:16-17)

Inspired = *theo-pneustos* =

The Bible, unlike other books, is a tool for _____; and the ultimate goal of reading, studying, and meditating on Scripture is application: hearing God speak to us; allowing God’s Word to have its full _____ on us; and then _____ that Word out in our daily lives.

“Be doers of the word, not hearers only who deceive themselves.” (James 1:22)

We need to welcome that Word with _____—we need to be open to it and approach it from a place of humility and not pride. He says that if we hear God’s Word and don’t allow it to impact our lives, we’re only _____ ourselves. However, if we look into God’s Word not simply as hearers who forget, but doers who act, we will be _____.

6 WAYS GOD USES HIS WORD TO CHANGE US

#1. God’s Word changes us by _____ our life.

2 IMAGES THAT DESCRIBE THIS PROCESS

- _____
Being reborn is a spiritual process, whereby we _____ to self and sin and are _____ to new life in Christ.

God’s Word is where we encounter God’s _____.

“He chose to give us birth through the word of truth...” (James 1:8)

“From a child you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise unto salvation. (2 Timothy 3:15)

Like a sign post, map or GPS, the Bible points the way to Jesus—it's the pathway to _____ and new life.

- _____
The Bible is like a seed that God plants in our hearts, minds, and lives. Once it takes _____, it begins to sprout, grow, and, through the work of the Holy Spirit, bears _____—visible proof of God's work—within us.

“You have been born, again not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God.” (1 Peter 1:23)

“Humbly accept the Word planted in you, which can save you.” (James 1:21)
How has God's Word re-created your life?

#2. God's Word changes us by _____ our past.
Many people get stuck in the past—in _____ and memories they can't get over; by the _____ caused by people who've hurt them; or the _____ of hurting others.

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Rom 1:8)

Jesus took the _____ for all our sins—past, present, and future. This truth alone can eradicate our guilt, _____, regret, and resentment.

The Holy Spirit uses the Bible as a powerful cleaner and disinfectant to _____ us—spirit, soul, and body—and to cleanse our hearts and minds of the dirt, grit and grime of our lives and to make us _____.

“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.” (Jn 15:3)
How has God's Word eradicated your past?

#3. God's Word changes us by _____ our faith.
“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

Other books can give us all kinds of good information; however, God's Word not only tells us what to do, it gives us the _____ to do it.

“These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life.” (John 20:31)

How has God's Word activated your faith?

#4. God's Word changes us by _____ spiritual growth.
“... just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:6-7)

Our relationship with Jesus needs to be _____ and grounded. Our spiritual roots need to grow down deep into Him, so that we can stand and survive.

“...Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields their fruit in its season and their leaves does not wither. In all they do, they prosper.” (Psalm 1:1-3)

God's Word not only helps us grow by providing us _____ and strength, it also shows us how to _____.

“All Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness...” (2 Timothy 3:16)

HOW GOD'S WORD HELPS US TO GROW

- _____
God's Word shows us how to live; it _____ us; and shows us the right path to take.

- _____
God's Word shows us when we _____ from that right path and find ourselves in a ditch or dead end.

- _____
God's Word shows us the way _____ of that ditch or dead end and how to get back on the right path.

- _____
God's Word shows us how to _____ on that path so we don't deviate again.

How has God's Word stimulated your spiritual growth?

#5. God's Word changes us by _____ the way.
There are times in our life when we don't know the best way _____; what to do; or where to turn. God wants to enlighten our minds with the _____ of who He is, and what He's called us to do. He wants to

give us _____ for our lives so that we're not stumbling around in the dark.

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

God's Word can provide _____, insight, and discernment to help us know what to do; to help us _____ our will and purpose with God's, to help us make the difficult _____ in life that we have to make, and to know the best way _____.

God sometimes only illuminates a few steps at a time because He wants us to _____ Him. The best way that we can respond is to step out and walk by _____.

“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.” (Psalm 119:18)

How has God's Word illuminated the way for you?

#6. God's Word changes us by _____ our mood.

“Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (Romans 15: 4)

Everything we read in the Bible was written to _____ us and to give us _____.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, this book has the _____ to change your life.

Jesus is the Great _____, and His Word always _____ light in our darkness.

“I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground...” (Psalm 40:1-3)

How has God's Word elevated your mood?



The gospel is all about _____. This process of change and transformation lies at the _____ of the Gospel. It's the _____; it's the whole point of the Christian life—to be more like _____.

“For the word of God is alive and active, Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to *dividing soul and spirit*, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12)

God's Word is _____, not dead—it's living and breathing—not just letters on a page.

God's Word is _____—it has the power to change us.

God's Word is _____ than any double-edged sword. Unlike a chain saw, God's Word is like a scalpel that's able to do the _____ work that needs to be done within us. It has the ability to cut right to the _____ of the issue; to point out what's wrong in our life; and to fix what needs to be corrected.

NOTES: