

# The Process of Metamorphosis

- This sermon was born over 30 years ago.
- It was in the spring, but it was a misty day.
- There was a butterfly landed on a plant.
- It's wings were damp and it didn't fly away.
- I looked it over carefully and considered its form, function and beauty.
- I thought about its humble beginning as a caterpillar, crawling on the ground.
- How had it come to this! God's Creative Genius

If we didn't see it all the time  
We would say it was impossible



# The Process of Metamorphosis

- *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. Rom 12:1-2*
- These are in the imperative mode.
- But they are both passive commands
- God does it, but we make it possible
- It is by our will and actions that it is possible.

# The Process of Metamorphosis

- Each One of us is in control of every step:
- YOU *present your bodies a living sacrifice,*
- *holy, acceptable to God,*
- *which is YOUR reasonable service*
- YOU *do not be conformed to this world,*
- YOU *transformed* *by the renewing of your mind,*
- *that YOU may prove what is that*
- *good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
- None of this will ever happen without our willing participation. Without our decisions it will never be



This is our Journey  
God Has made it possible  
We must make it happen!!



# How do we Make this Happen?

- First we must make three conscious decisions and then stick to it.
- **YOU** *present your bodies a living sacrifice,*
- **YOU** *stop being conformed to this world,*
- **YOU** *be transformed*
- **HOW** *by the renewing of your mind,*
- **YOU** *may prove (put to the test)*
- *Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 1Th. 5:21-22*
- It must be God's good, acceptable perfect Will

# The Process of Metamorphosis

- *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed (metamorphosis)** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor 3:18*
- The Word of God reveals the will of God on the pages of the NT Scriptures.
- As we read and learn those Scriptures we look into a mirror and slowly (passive) are transformed into the same image.

# Controlling Our Transformation By Looking in the Mirror

- *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed (summorphos)** to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Rom 8:29-30*
- *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. James 1:23-25*



# How we Control the Transformation

- *If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Col 3:1-3***

# No Longer conforming

- **Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth:** fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8 **But now you yourselves are to put off all these:** anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Col 3:5-9

# The Command: You Be Transformed

- *12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 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. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. Col 3:1-17*

# How God Made Our Metamorphosis possible

- *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter 1:3-11*



# How we Complete our Metamorphosis

- *5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 2 Peter 1:3-11*

# Controlling our Own Metamorphosis

- *Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. . 2Pet. 1:3-11*
- We do the same thing with:
- The Sermon on the Mount
- The Fruits of the Spirit

# Our Spiritual Metamorphosis

- *be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
- *beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*
- *While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. John 12:36*

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# The Metamorphosis Begins

if you do not **BELIEVE** that I am He, you will die in your sins." Jn. 8:24

unless you **REPENT** you will all likewise perish. Lk. 13:5

if you **CONFESS** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **BELIEVE** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom. 10:9-10

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who **BELIEVES** and **is BAPTIZED** will be saved; Mk. 16:15-16

**REPENT**, and let every one of you **be BAPTIZED** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins Ats 2:38

If we **CONFESS OUR SINS**, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



# Baptism is Man's Spiritual Spring

- buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, Col 2:12-14
- But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), Eph 2:4-6



# Resurrection from the Dead

- *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Gal 3:27-28*
- *17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Cor 5:17-18*



# Power of His Word

- *For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isa 55:10-11*