

Out Of The Old Into The New.

How believers are changed in the hands of God.



A Two-Part Message Series

PART 1 INTRODUCTION

Something happens inside every person who accepts Jesus. 1 John 3:9 says, “No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.”

In each believer there is a treasure is waiting to be unearthed, and is done so through a process of transformation in the hands of God. However, not everyone experiences this total transformation. Why is that so?

In the first part of the series, we identify how transformation takes place in us as Christ followers. The pattern in which God works is “gradually, gradually, suddenly.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you have a certain quality or habit that you wish could change, but find difficult to do so in your own ability?
2. “Gradually, gradually”: God uses our life situations to help us recognize the old (sinful way of living - Romans 7:18) by knowing the new (God’s way of living). Through this, we identify and work towards the new.

Romans 8:1-2 also reveals that it is through the law of the life-giving spirit that the law of death is nullified. If we allow the life-giving spirit to work in our lives, this is where real transformation takes place.

Which law is operating in your life currently? The law of the life-giving spirit, or the law of death? Can you identify certain situations in your life that God allowed you to go through to lead you to repentance?

3. “Suddenly”: These moments are when God’s light comes into our lives, quickens our spirit, and kills off the old forever. Our lives are instantly changed forever.

Can you think of any “gradually, gradually, suddenly” moments that have taken place in your transformative process? What factors contributed to it (‘suddenly’ moment)?

4. Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application) on 1 John 3:1-10. You can use the following as a guide.
 - i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your

teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.

ii. Read the passage aloud

iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:

- What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
- Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
- What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?

iv. Some observation questions of the passage:

- Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
- What is the main point or points?
- What surprises are there?
- What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?

v. Some meaning questions of the text:

- How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
- How does the passage relate to Jesus?
- What does this teach us about God?
- How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?

vi. Some application questions of the passage:

- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- Is there some attitude I need to change?
- How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

In the Bible, Job (Job 42:5), Jacob (Genesis 32:28) and Paul (Acts 26:15) each had their own “gradually, gradually, suddenly” moments which led them to radical, permanent transformation. God found each of them, and they in return responded by finding God and letting him change their lives.

Have you found God, and allowed transformation to take place?

CHANGE YOUR MIND

“No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.” - 1 John 3:9 ESV