

SERIES: SOUL MANAGEMENT
SERMON: METAMORPHOO
3-10-19

OPENER:

Academy Sports is about to open. They have been working on it for quite a while. I have driven past it several times. When the foundation was being laid, the building process seemed extremely slow. Each day I would drive past and there was hardly any noticeable progress, just a big hole in the ground. Slowly the foundation was being laid, but then after months of laying the foundation, the building started going up. And once it started going up it went up in a hurry. This past week they poured the parking lot.

**THE FOUNDATION OF A BUILDING IN THE MOST IMPORTANT PART.
IF THE FOUNDATION IS NOT LAID RIGHT, THE BUILDING IS DOOMED.**

It doesn't matter how slowly you construct the rest of the building, or how carefully you build, or if you use the best material, or if you have the best builder. If the foundation is faulty, the building is in jeopardy.

**WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT YOURSELF IS
THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR LIFE.
IT IS YOUR IDENTITY.**

A FAULTY FOUNDATION IS LIKE HAVING CRACKS IN YOUR SOUL.

Proverbs 4:23 (niv) Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Proverbs 4:23 (nlt). Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

WHO YOU BECOME DEPENDS ON YOUR FOUNDATION.

WHO YOU BECOME DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT YOURSELF.

ILLUSTRATION:

Faulty foundations will stifle our growth and maturity in Jesus. You can't build a building that will stand over time without it being built on a strong foundation. It may look good once you get finished, but have a strong wind blow through and the building will fall. Some of you only grow so far in your lives and then everything seems to collapse and you are building all over again. For some this

continues to happen over and over again. You need to look at your foundation you are building on.

The taller the building the deeper the foundation. If you want to grow to new heights in God you have to go deep in Him. How far do you want to go in Him? If you want to go higher, you have to go deeper.

Do you want to stand in hard times? Make sure your foundation is secure.

I. WHAT IS OUR FOUNDATION?/WHAT IS OUR IDENTITY?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT WHO WE ARE?

In the first 3 chapters of Ephesians, Paul mainly focuses on who we are in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-14; 19-23(NLT) All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. God’s purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

GOD DOESN'T LOVE US BECAUSE OF WHO

WE ARE OR WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

**GOD LOVES US BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE. WHICH
MAKES GOD'S LOVE AND OUR FOUNDATION UNSHAKABLE.**

II. THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THE SOUL AND THE SPIRIT

For 3 chapters Paul is emphasizing God's love for us, then in Chapter 4 he makes a shift and He says, “

Ephesians 4:1 (NLT) Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

NOTE:

We are three part beings: Body - Soul - Spirit

**YOUR SPIRIT HAS BEEN PURIFIED, RENEWED, AND BORN AGAIN.
BUT YOUR SOUL, WELL....IT CAN STILL BE A BIT OF A MESS.
AND THAT IS WHAT NEEDS THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF CHRIST.**

There is a dividing line between your soul and your spirit. Even though your spirit has been made new and born again in “Christ, your soul can have hurt and bitterness. Your soul can still have sin and demonic strongholds. Your soul can have fears and faulty beliefs about who you are. Your soul can still feel condemnation and shame.

**TO UNDERSTAND WHO YOU ARE YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE DIVIDING
LINE BETWEEN YOUR SOUL AND YOUR SPIRIT.**

EXAMPLE:

You may know in your brain that you are loved. You may can quote the scriptures, but because you grew up in an abusive home or because of your own sinful behaviors, you don't feel loved. Your soul still feels shame. You may even feel unlovable, and you may feel distant from God. Until you deal with the issues of your soul, you will not experience the fullness of God, nor the intimacy with Him for which your heart longs.

**WORKING ON YOUR IDENTITY IS LEARNING TO BECOME
WHO YOU ALREADY ARE.
THIS BATTLE FOR YOUR IDENTITY IS A CRITICAL PART TO YOUR SPIRITUAL
MATURITY.**

THE MAIN PROBLEM WITH OUR IDENTITY IS THAT WE OFTEN BELIEVE LIES ABOUT OURSELVES RATHER THAN THE TRUTH.

THESE LIES ARE LIKE CRACKS IN OUR SOUL.

TWO THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER:

1. THE POWER OF A LIE IS YOUR AGREEMENT WITH IT

Whatever we agree with, we give power to. If you agree with the truth and hold onto the truth, the truth will set you free, but if you agree with a lie, its influence will cast a shadow on your life.

EXAMPLE:

This generation has grown up under a Darwin worldview in public schools. We have been taught that we are a purposeless, cosmic accident. Imagine how that shapes our lives. No wonder this generation came up with the phrase, "Whatever!"

2. WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT YOURSELF WILL SHAPE HOW YOU LIVE

It isn't enough to have the knowledge of the truth of who you are. Your life must be built upon this foundation of truth, and it must be deeply integrated into your daily existence. This never just happens.

You need to build your life on the foundation of who God says you are. This is your identity in Christ, and when this foundation is properly set in your soul, your life can be well constructed.

III. METAMORPHOO

Transformation in the NT is a Greek word **METAMORPHOO** from which we get "metamorphosis". In our Bible it is translated as transformation

This word only occurs 4 times in the NT.

- Twice at the transforming of Jesus. Jesus is metamorphosed right before their eyes as they catch a glimpse of His majestic glory.
- The other 2 times it is found involves our transformation

(TALK ABOUT CHRIST'S TRANSFORMATION)

The word - METAMORPHOO

“transformation” - a profound change in form from one stage to the next in the life history of an organism.

Example:

Caterpillar to the butterfly.

Called eating machines, the caterpillar’s daily agenda is simple: eat, eat, avoid being eaten and eat. They have perhaps the fastest growth rate of any animal in the world. A tobacco hornworm, for example, increases its own weight 10,000 times in less than 20 days. The monarch increases its mass by 30,000 times as a caterpillar.

FOR US TO TO CHANGE, TO BE TRANSFORMED, WE MUST EAT A DIET OF GOD’S TRUTH.

Because caterpillars grow so fast, they must shed their skin multiple times. The process is very similar to the way a snake sheds its skin when its body outgrows the skin. A caterpillar typically sheds its skin five times during the larval stage.

FOR US TO CHANGE, TO BE TRANSFORMED, WE MUST TAKE ON A NEW MIND AND SHED OUR FORMER WAY OF LIFE.

God tells us..... *“My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways.”*

IV. LET’S LOOK AT THE WORD - METAMORPHOO AS IT PERTAINS TO US, IN THE BIBLE.

FIRST VERSE:

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ASV)But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit.

ILLUSTRATION:

The scriptures tell us we are like a mirror reflecting God’s glory and image. For a mirror to reflect an image, the image must stand in front of it. If you are a mirror and you are never facing God, then how can you reflect His image?

1. HIS PRESENCE TRANSFORMS US

THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS TRANSFORMATIONAL. THIS IS WHY YOU NEED TO SPEND TIME ALONE WITH GOD.

HIS PRESENCE IS LIFE-CHANGING!

I often spend time alone with God in silence. I don't say anything. I don't come for what he can do for me. I don't seek his hands. I just come to be with him. In his presence God can do deep things in my soul. Things that I am not even aware that need to be done. His presence reaches into the deep placers in the basement of my soul and He changes me. He whispers His love for me and the revelation of His voice in His presence is transformational. These are identifying moments that are critically important for setting a firm foundation.

SECOND VERSE

Romans 12:2. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. TRUTH TRANSFORMS US

Renewing your mind with the truth doesn't just happen.

NOTE:

We misquote *John 8:31-32*. We say, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

This assumes that if we only know the truth, we will experience freedom. But knowledge alone does not produce freedom

Let's look closer at what Jesus actually said. "

John 8:31-32. If you hold to my teaching, you really are my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Jesus is saying if we hold to his teaching, we will know the truth and the truth will set up free. This is an "if you" promise.

IT ISN'T IN JUST KNOWING THE TRUTH
THAT FREEDOM COMES.

IT IS IN KNOWING THE TRUTH AND HOLDING ON TO THE TRUTH THAT WE ARE
SET FREE.

ILLUSTRATION:

The truth is like setting a bone.

In order for something to be set right in your life. You have to keep it on. You can't lay it down or take it off.

To set your soul right, you have to hold onto the truth. Your soul will naturally want to bend another way, but you have to keep truth on and wear truth

and walk in truth. Even if it is uncomfortable. Even if it's unnatural. Even if its painful.

**THE TRUTH ALONE WILL NOT SET YOU FREE BUT
HOLDING ON TO THE TRUTH IN THE FACE OF THE LIE,
OVER AND OVER AGAIN WILL SET YOU FREE.**

EXAMPLE:

If you grew up in a home where you were abused, you will most likely struggle with the lie that something is wrong with you, that you aren't loveable. You may act out sexually when you are in your teen years or early twenties in an effort to secure love. But sadly, your promiscuity only left you with guilt and shame. But this isn't actually who you are in Christ. In Christ you are forgiven. You are adopted. The Father chose you out of a heart full of love to be holy and blameless in His sight. He accomplished this through Christ. Your spirit is holy and blameless. Your blameless is not dependent on your getting your act together. It is graced to you before the foundation of the earth.

All of us are affected by lies.

1. They form in us as a result of things we were told.
2. Things that happen to us.
3. Pains we have suffered.
4. The culture we live in.
5. Our own sin.
6. Satan's dirty work.

CLOSING:

Do you need to experience the transforming power of Christ? Do you want to be transformed? Do you want to change? Do you want to grow? Do you want to shed some old behavior and some old thinking that ? Do you want to go to a new level and new stage in Christ?

Do these two things:

1. Get into God's presence so you can reflect the image of Jesus. Take time to sit in God's presence alone. Turn your face into his face. When will we apply this basic foundation principle to keep your soul's healthy? Get alone with God!
2. Saturate your soul with the truth. Set your mind on the truth and put it on.

Are you holding on to truth?

This begins by each of us asking ourselves this question: Who or what has the final say in my life? When it comes to decisions I'm making, to how I navigate relationships, to how I parent, to how I work, to how I worship and believe, who or what has the final say in my life?

- **Is it my feelings? In the final assessment, do I simply do whatever I want to do?**
- **Is it a person? In the final assessment, do I simply do whatever my boss or my friends or my spouse wants me to do?**
- **Is it my culture? In the final assessment, do I simply do whatever accords with the way our world seems to work and think today?**
- **Is it comfort? In the final assessment, do I simply do whatever is easiest and causes me the least amount of trouble?**