

Discovery Group - Gospel Living

(8) *Be Transformed*

Introduction: Read Romans 12:1-2

This is the first of three studies in which we discuss spiritual habits that help us to connect with and grow in Jesus. This passage in Romans provides a general theme for all three.

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Ephesians 3:14-21

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What role do we have in our own transformation? In being rooted and established in love?
- What is the difference between believing the gospel and it taking root in our hearts? What does it mean to have a transformational relationship with Jesus?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Ephesians 1:15-23 Romans 12

Be Transformed

Romans: *Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.* In the next few studies, we will be looking at this passage and discussing the importance of spiritual practices / habits. Why is it so important to cultivate spiritual habits? Paul tells us that it is through renewing our minds that we are transformed. What is our role in this process?

Ephesians: This passage is a prayer for the Ephesians (and for us). It issued a prayer that we would all know the fullness of God. In Ephesians 1, Paul writes another prayer asking the Father to “give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.” He also prays that “the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you.” He yearned for them not only to understand the gospel in their minds, but to be convinced in their hearts; to have a transformational relationship with Jesus. He wanted their lives to be overflowing with the gospel. Later, he urges them to “live a life worthy of the calling you have received” (4:1). Being rooted in the the gospel is not a passive calling.

Paul’s prayer is that the Ephesians (and we) would be “strengthened with power through his Spirit in [our] inner being.” He wants us to “know this love that surpasses knowledge.” There is more going on here than mental assent to a series of truth statements. God’s Spirit is determined to work on you from the inside out — to cause things within to be different so that your actions and lifestyle will be different. How does this inner transformation happen? Obviously, it is a work of the Spirit. In that sense, we cannot do it ourselves. But apparently we do have a part to play.

Remember these commands from our Romans passage: “Offer your bodies... Do not conform... Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” These are exhortations for us to do our part. We have decisions to make; intentional actions to take. But it is not simply a matter of trying harder. Our work is to open our hearts to God. To receive His love and move towards Him. The vision is for Christ to actually dwell in our hearts. For us to be rooted and established in love and to grasp the awesome extent of God’s love. He wants us to experience this love that surpasses knowledge. To be made complete with the fulness of God’s life and power.