

Why the need for transformation?

In the beginning God created mankind (Adam) in His own image, likeness, perfection, righteousness; **there was no sin**. But he was confronted with a test—there was one restriction—*do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. God intended that humans know only good; there was no need to know evil. You know the story of Adam's fall from grace and perfection. As the first human Adam's sin brought consequences to all succeeding generations. Until the present time his descendants carry the inherited, marred, genetic profile of their first father—and the penalty is death. The remedy is that one-by-one humans must be **re-gene-erated** into the image and likeness of God. This calls for transformation.

Before the foundation of this present world system (**Genesis chapter one**) God had a plan in reserve for restoring fallen people and this plan called for the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, to be born of man and God. As man: he could bear mankind's sins on the cross; and as God Jesus' sinless blood could make atonement and thus satisfy the demands of justice and righteousness. Being suspended between heaven and earth Jesus could bridge the gap between earthly, human sinners and a heavenly, righteous Creator God. To sum it up—Adam was created with sinless genes (his offspring could have been sinless too); but because of sin his *genes* lost their purity and all mankind inherited Adam's fallen nature. Thus the need for new *genes—or re-gene-eration*—for transformation!

Medical science teaches that although a child in its mother's womb is nourished by the mother's blood—the child's own blood comes from the father alone. "*In due season*" Jesus was born with sinless *genes* because He had no human father. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and therefore His blood came from God—and He also lived a life without sinning—therefore He did not need *new genes*. He alone of all men born of women had no sin and therefore He could die on behalf of Adam's fallen race and His blood would atone for the sin of all mankind.

What is required of humans for them to be forgiven, cleansed from all unrighteousness and qualified to stand in judgement before a holy God? **Romans 10: 9 & 10** provides the concise answer—: "*Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart*" that Jesus died in your place and that "*God has raised Him from the dead*" (and He lives today), "*for with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*". This explains God's redemptive plan to forgive human beings—who were born with corrupted Adamic *genes*—and make a way for the redeemed to have eternal life. Being "*born again*" transforms the human, marred, *genetic* nature back into a righteous state. In reality, the penalty for human sin has been satisfied before the court of heaven and believers have new hope and new life.

Think of God sitting at the judgment seat and a believer appears before Him. Jesus stands as the believer's defense attorney (**Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25**) and proclaims that He, Jesus, paid the penalty when He died on the cross (Romans & Hebrews). God reaches over and picks up a pair of blood stained glasses. When He looks at the former sinner through those blood-stained glasses the sins can no longer be seen—they are gone because the penalty has been paid in full by the One Who shed His blood on the cross. What an awesome exchange has occurred: Jesus' righteousness for the believer's sin! And it is a free gift to all who will accept it. Now, although salvation is a free gift (**Rom. 6:23**) there are a few things believers must do. And that brings us back to the **Law of Transformation in Romans 12:1**.

First—we are to live a different life style. We are to *present our bodies as a living sacrifice unto God*. The old Adam which influenced our behavior through his marred genes, no longer keeps us chained to evil thoughts and deeds. The new Adam (Christ Jesus) has set us free from the law of sin and death (**Romans 6 & 8:2**) and set before us a new way of life. Through His teaching while on earth, and through the on-going teaching of the invisible—but always present—Holy Spirit, we know what the kingdom of God

requires. Therefore it is man's responsibility to live up to those kingdom requirements. We must first offer our physical bodies to serve the Lord in righteousness.

How do we do it?

Romans 12:2 provides the answer: *we are not to be conformed to the world or live according to its corrupted life-style.* When we made our confession of faith in Christ our dead and dormant spirit was revived—it was born again. But we still live in a sin controlled society and face temptations. Like the first Adam, we must make choices. God wants us to know good, **not evil.** So we must make choices to be obedient to what the indwelling Holy Spirit prompts, or we will yield to fleshly temptation thus rejecting God's better plan. The choice is always ours to make.

Verse two continues: *be transformed by the renewing of your mind.* The mind—what you think—is so vital. The real battle is fought in the mind. *As a man thinks so is he*—or so he will become (**Prov. 23:7**). On the one hand you have the knowledge of God's Word, His law and His nature; and on the other hand you have the lies and deceptions of the devil, the world culture and the cravings of the physical flesh. **The choice is yours at every turn.** To help you win the battle against evil, temptation and the devil you must understand **1) the devil's tactics, 2) the arena in which he fights and 3) your spiritual weapons for repelling the devil's attacks. I have a chart that will help you.**

Understanding Spiritual Warfare (2 Corinthians 10:4 & 5) (Ephesians 6:12—18)

Devil's Names	Battlefield	Weapons	Believer's Response
Deceiver Gen. 3:13 Rev. 12:9	Mind Gen. 3 Rom. 7:13—25; 8:5	Lies Gen 3	Truth John 8:32
Accuser Rev.12:10; Job1:6—13	Heart Matt. 15:16—20 Acts 5:3;	Guilt / Depression 1 John 3:20 1 Sam. 16	Praise / Singing 1 Sam. 16:14-23; ch 30 Ps. 16:16—34; Ps. 100
Destroyer 1 Cor. 10:10	Body 1 Cor. 5:5; 1 Tim. 1:20	Disease John 10:10;	Authority/Bind/Resist Luke 10:19; Matt. 16:19 Acts 10:38; James 4:7

There are 12 groups of Scriptures. Take the time to read each of them in relation to the group name, i.e. **Deceiver, Mind, Lies, Truth, etc.** You will see that the chart Scriptures accurately apply, and that this is an effective presentation to help you use the proper weapon for each and every attack Satan makes. When the attack comes against the mind, heart or body—we need to use the correct weapon to have victory.