

# TRANSFORMATION

## PRECEPT

### COLOSSIANS 3:1-2, 12-14

<sup>1</sup> Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth... <sup>12</sup> Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

## PROMISE

Comfort prevents us from doing hard things, and hard things are often the right things in life. Compassion replaces comfort; it understands people's pains and drives you outside of your comfort zone to help others. Matthew 9:36 tells, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Compassion for others stirs you to move out of your comfort zone.

Convenience prevents us from being committed. Kindness cuts out convenience; kindness is a commitment to continually help others, persevering through inconvenience. Titus 3:4-5 notes, "When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." Kindness perseveres even when it's hard and full of commitment.

Control makes us worry about uncertainty, and humility leads us to think less about ourselves and more about others. Philippians 2:3-4 says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Humility replaces control; it surrenders control to God, trusting Him, which frees you to prioritize others.

Complacency makes our faith stagnant. It makes us think "it's good enough." Gentleness substitutes complacency; it responds to others with care, even when wronged or provoked. Proverbs 15:1 notes, "A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare." Complacency leads you to think you don't need to further improve your behavior, while gentleness exercises your faith by developing Christ-like attributes.

Comparison makes us focus on what we don't have. Romans 12:12 tells, "Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying." Focus on becoming more like Christ. God's timing is perfect and never late; patience comes from an identity in God.

Consumerism pursues meaningless things; it is driven by the need to satisfy the self. Ephesians 4:32 says, "Forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." Forgiveness is an overflow of God's love in your heart, which fills the void of consumerism. Consuming things of this world won't fix your heart, but forgiveness will!

Conceit makes you focus on yourself. John 13:34-35 notes, "Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other." Focus on serving others; love corrects conceit. Love leaves the throne, humbly chooses to serve the needs of others, and genuinely cares for them. Transformation is hard and long, but the results are life-changing. If we don't fight temptations, they become habits—and our nature. Transformation begins as our old life ends and His new one begins. Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." We must take off the old nature and put on the new nature. Repent of our sins, turn away from our old nature, our old life, and run towards God, and He will convict our hearts and instruct us on what he wants us to do with our lives!

## PRACTICE

**1. Transformation.** How do you describe your current or past experience of spiritual transformation?

**2. Old habits.** What is one thing God wants you to focus on? pursue? or start committing to today? And how can we pray/encourage you regarding this?

## PRAYER

### I. Ministries

- May God bless our ministries and guide us as we seek to glorify Him in all that we do.

### II. Life Worship

- May their talents glorify God and inspire others to draw near to Him.

### III. Life Sports

- May this ministry be a place of encouragement and teamwork.

### IV. Life Kids

- Pray that God may guide and protect them, filling their hearts with joy, faith, and love.

### V. Life Link

- Pray that God may bless each usher with a heart of joy, hospitality, and kindness.

### VI. Life Line

- Pray that God will speak to His people through our postings on various social media platforms.

### VII. Unity

- Pray that we will support one another as we work together for God's Kingdom.