

TRANSFORMED

How God Changes Us

How to Get Closer to God

Transformed Week 1 – Spiritual Health

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

Transformation: From DEFEAT and FAILURE to FAITH and VICTORY, transformation changes us from INSECURITY and INFERIORITY to COURAGE and BOLDNESS. It is becoming all that God wants us to be.

All of us have a tendency to wander like a sheep without a shepherd, so today we will talk about how to get close to God, how to stay close and how we get back to Him if we have wandered off. Everything starts here to get positive results over the next seven weeks.

The Prodigal Son is a great story that teaches us about spiritual transformation.

Luke 15:11-24 (NIV) *"Jesus continued: 'There was a man who had two sons.¹¹ The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.¹² 'Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.¹³ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.¹⁴ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.¹⁵ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.¹⁶ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!¹⁷ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.¹⁸ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'¹⁹ So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.²⁰ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'²¹ "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.²² Bring the fatted calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.'²³ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.*

Pathway Back to Spiritual Transformation...

1) **Get FED UP** with my life.

2) **OWN UP** to my sin.

Psalms 51:1-4 (NIV) *"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.*

MEMORY VERSE – 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

3) **I OFFER UP** myself.

- From give me mine now to MAKE ME a SERVANT. This is transformation, from self-centeredness to God centeredness.

4) **LIET UP** my praise.

scriptures that relate

Monday: John 3:16	Wednesday: 1 John 4:4	Friday: 1 Corinthians 10:13
Tuesday: John 1:12-13	Thursday: 2 Corinthians 5:17	Saturday: 1 John 1:9

small groups—talk it over

1. What seems to get in the way of your spiritual growth?
2. How do you have daily time with God? What is your normal routine? What typically interferes with your time with God?
3. Why is being in a small group and serving others so important to your spiritual growth? What can you learn through relationships that you can't learn on your own?
4. In what ways have you chosen to grow spiritually? What has been most effective in helping you grow?

jeff alexander's prayer requests

Monday: Pray for our Transformed small groups that people will respond in obedience.

Tuesday: Pray for the women of our church that they would receive the Lord's blessing.

Wednesday: Pray for our youth and children that their love for the Lord will grow.

Thursday: Pray for the men of our church that they would be an example of living for Christ.

Friday: Pray for our special needs members that our ministry for them will be a blessing to them.

Saturday: Pray for the lost and broken that they will come to a saving relationship with the Lord.