



Destiny Center
Sunday, March 11, 2012
THE NEW Series 3

Isaiah 43:19 NLT – *"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Don't you see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."*

Session 2 - "A New YOU"

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Caterpillar - Metamorphosis

I am amazed at God's display of grace in nature. There is one activity that I believe is God's mini-motion picture of a sinner becoming a saint. That one thing is the transformation of a caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly.

A caterpillar is a prickly, lazy, self-centered bug working hard to go nowhere. But in a moment of grace, something significant happens; a thick film covers the caterpillar and it entombs itself in its own flesh and causing a chemical reaction. This is known as the Chrysalis period. Soon the cocoon becomes transparent releasing the first glimpse of the transformation of the emerging butterfly. Once the change is complete, it spreads its wings and begins to kick off its old life and begin a new one. This life cycle is known as **metamorphosis**.

This kind of change is what Apostle Paul was referring to in **verse 17**. Every new Christian goes through a spiritual metamorphosis. We are saved by God's grace. Grace is that thick covering that completely surrounds us. Once we were useless caterpillars, but in an instant, the Holy Spirit comes into the cocoon of our hearts and begins a spiritual metamorphosis; the end result transforming us so we can fly to new heights and have limitless potential in changing our surroundings, seeing everything differently. Have you allowed God to complete the transformation into a full-blown beautiful butterfly?

This spiritual metamorphosis brings three things...

1.) A NEW Destiny

Vv. 14-15 - Paul is saying that the new creation the new Christian does not live any longer for themselves. The live for Jesus who dies for them.

The caterpillar is no help to those around. It does not eat other pests it only drinks sap from trees and plants. It lives a self-centered life. As Christian, we will no longer live only for ourselves. We no longer live to make us look good. We now live to make Him look good. Our new purpose is found only through Jesus Christ.

Illustration - One spring, sometime before the Civil War, a boy in search of work came to Worthy Taylor's prosperous Ohio farm. The farmer knew nothing much about the boy except that his name was Jim, but he gave him a job. Jim spent the winter cutting stove wood, bringing in the cows and making himself generally useful. He ate in the kitchen and slept in the hayloft.

Before the summer was over, Jim had fallen in love with Taylor's daughter. The father refused to let him marry her because he had no money, no well-to-do name, and a very poor future. Even though Jim was disappointed, he put his belongings in his old carpetbag and disappeared.

Thirty-five years passed before Taylor one day tore down his barn to make room for a new one. On the rafters above the hayloft he discovered that Jim had carved his full name--James A. Garfield. He was then the president of the United States.

People may look at you and think there's not much hope--no money, no name, very poor prospects. But God comes along and sees a diamond in the rough. He sees possibilities. After all, He created you with incredible potential. Christ sees the potential of failed humanity; people like Zaccheus, the rejected tax collector; Peter, the cussing fisherman who denied Him; and the adulterous woman, who was brought before Jesus to be condemned. But Jesus believes people can change. He looks at our messed up lives and sees a prayer warrior, an evangelist, a pastor, a missionary, greeter, nursery worker, an encourager of others, etc. Thanks to God He sees in us what no one else sees. And it's a brand new life, not a refurbished life. Not something used, but NEWNESS of LIFE.

The caterpillar would look at a large boulder as a roadblock, forcing him to turn around or walk around it. In his new life as a butterfly, he looks at the boulder as a landing pad to get a better view of where he wants to go next in life. He can now fly ***over and beyond*** his old obstacles. God wants you to fly over yesterday's failures and tomorrow's fears. Fly!

The second thing this spiritual metamorphosis gives you is...

2.) A New Identity

Vv.16-17 - Christ became sin for us that we may become perfect in front of God. We take on a new identity.

The birds that once ate the caterpillar don't even recognize the butterfly that shares the friendly skies with them. The caterpillar has a new identify, a new beginning, a fresh start.

If He has saved you by grace, you have a new identify. Many of you may not feel like you look much like Christ because the film of your old life is still hanging on. The answer to your issue is to spread your wings and fly. There is some old baggage you need to shake off.

We ask questions like...Who am I? Where did I come from? Why was I born? But when Jesus came into my heart he began a spiritual transformation. He gave me everything, even His life, so that I can live a NEW LIFE! Now I know who I am.

Ephesians 2:10 NLT - *" For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good work which God prepared in advance for us to do!"*

- I am salt of the earth.
- I am the light of the world.
- I am God's handiwork, created in Christ to do His work.
- I am a citizen of heaven placed upon this earth to bring heaven to earth.
- I am part of the true vine, and Christ's life flows through me.
- I am a prisoner of Christ.
- I am a slave to righteousness.
- I am a friend of God.
- I am chosen by Christ to bear fruit.
- I am Christ's personal witness sent out to tell everybody about Him.
- I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life.
- I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved.
- I am a coheir with Christ, inheriting God's glory.
- I am a temple for God to dwell in.
- I am joined forever to the Lord and am one spirit with Him.
- I am a new person. My past is forgiven.
- I am an enemy to the devil.
- I am born again in Christ, and the devil cannot touch me.
- I have a new Identity. I am a new person.
- I have a new name written in God' book of life.

The third thing we get in this marvelous metamorphosis is...

3.) A New ETERNITY

Vv. 18-20 - Paul is saying that GOD has a new purpose for our life and this new meaning hinges on every purpose of eternity. Turn back with me to verse 5. Paul

has just been talking about in the previous verse how are bodies are groaning to go to heaven.

This is our new purpose. Our new purpose is to set eternity in the hearts of other people. We all have the ministry of reconciling this rebellious world to a loving God that never left us in the first place. It was we who left. It was us that forsake our heavenly father. We went our own ways. We fulfilled the desires of our flesh. We broke the heart of God.

But now, we have the ministry of telling others about eternity.. and the message that God won't hold their sins against them. God is calling his children home. He wants you home.

Because of Jesus, I quit doing the sinful, pointless things that were wasting my life and getting me nowhere. Jesus freed me from a life of sin and provided me with a life of purpose and meaning. Because of Jesus, I was able to marry a beautiful woman and we have three beautiful, intelligent and anointed kids that God is raising up to change the world. I didn't deserve all He has given me. Because of Jesus, I regained my self-confidence, joy, meaning and purpose. Now I know I can do all things through Christ. And because of Jesus, I have an abundantly blessed life! I traded my old life of sin, for a new life found in God.

Conclusion: DIE –This is the irony of becoming a new creation. In order to live. I mean really live, you first must die to yourself. You must die to your old habit; die to your old ways; die to your old life. Dying causes you to LIVE.

John 12:24-25 NLT – *"²⁴I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. ²⁵Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity."*

God's morphing power to transform you into a new creature empowers you to create a butterfly effect on the world around you.

God can scrape up the ashes of your own destruction and breathe his spirit once again into the nostrils of your soul so you can be born again...

Prayer

Ending...