**Spiritual Transformation Part I**

Tonight we start at two- or three-part series of midweeks on the subject of Spiritual Formation.

What does Spiritual Formation mean?

What does Spiritual mean?

Psalms 46:10 The goal here is to know God.

To be spiritual is to know the things of the Spirit—to know God.

To undergo spiritual formation is to grow in our knowledge of and experience of God.

We have been raised to think that the goal of our ministry is to get people saved—to get them baptized.

This is not the ultimate goal.

Many of us think that the goal is not just to get people saved, but to keep them faithful to the end—to get them to heaven.

This is not the goal either (although it is a really good goal).

The goal is to bring people to maturity in Christ. But what does that look like?

The goal is not to start well but to end well.

Are you getting old, or are you becoming mature?

Are you growing? Are you becoming, steadily, more spiritual.

Honestly, this is not the norm among us. We plateau.

Are you being transformed? Let’s get real here!!!!

2 Peter 1:3-4 The goal: To participate in the divine nature. What does that mean?

One way to think about it is as a journey.

The spiritual journey:

Chaos → Conversion → Conformity → Questioning → Conviction → Convergence

This is what Eastern Christians describe as deification.

The Bible calls it sanctification. It is already-but-not-yet.

Our passage for tonight:

2 Cor 3:7-18

2 Cor 3:7-11

The old covenant is “the ministry that brought death.”

Why? Romans 7:13 It made sin utterly sinful.

It made us realize what great trouble we were in.

It brought about ceremonial cleanness. This is a bit like the conformity stage.

But, it was glorious.

Q: What does glorious/glory mean.

English: magnificent, wonderful, worthy of great praise.

Hebrew: Shining forth—emitting great light

And Moses’ ministry was truly glorious!!!! Literally!!!

He had to wear a veil.

When the temple was consecrated the priests came running out because of the glory of the Lord.

But the ministry of Christ—the New Covenant is far more glorious.

v. 9 It brings righteousness.

v. 11 It lasts.

2 Cor 3:12-18

v. 12 Because we have this hope, we are very bold.

What hope? The hope of glorification. (we will say more about that)

Q: Would you say that you are very bold?

v. 14, 16 In Christ the veil is removed!!!! In Christ you can finally see.

Q: Can you remember when God removed the veil?

v. 16 This happens when we receive the Holy Spirit at baptism

Here is the main passage for tonight—the real take-home lesson:

2 Cor 3:16 Having the veil removed is not the goal. The goal is spiritual transformation. The goal is convergence. The goal is glorification!!!

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate/reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory.

It is both. We contemplate, then we reflect, then we contemplate, then we reflect, then we contemplate, then we reflect.

Q: Is this happening in your life?

What is the key: Contemplating!!!

Justification (veil removed) → Sanctification → Glorification.

That is the goal.

So, how will we do this.

Step 1 for tonight Psalm 46:10

See you in four weeks.

Discussion:

Chaos → Conversion → Conformity → Questioning → Conviction → Convergence

1. Where are you at in this process?

2. How do you feel about that?

3. Any thoughts on how to proceed toward the right?