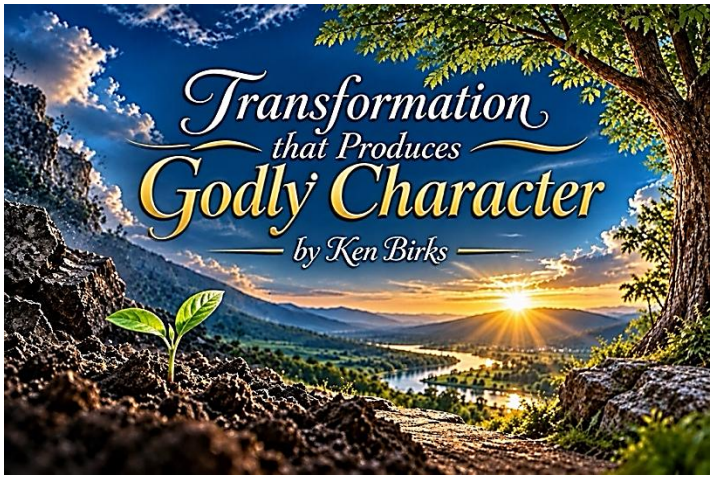
Transformation that Produces Godly Character

By Ken Birks



The Christian character Christ is forming within us is not measured by outward appearance, religious activity, or even good intentions. Jesus said, *"Every tree is known by its own fruit,"* [1] teaching us that what is truly in the heart will inevitably be revealed in our words, attitudes, and actions. The life of Peter provides a powerful picture of this transformation. He was impulsive yet passionate, courageous yet fearful, self-sacrificing yet sometimes self-centered. In many ways, Peter reflects the struggle we all experience as believers. Yet through the grace of God, he was transformed from a wavering fisherman into a steadfast apostle whose life displayed Christ's character. This is the essence of true Christianity: not perfection, but a continual surrender to the Holy Spirit that produces Christlike fruit within us. As Paul declared, *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."* [2] The genuine Christian is one whose heart is being changed so deeply that Jesus's nature, love, humility, truth, and obedience become increasingly evident in everyday life.

This transformation is especially critical in the challenging and uncertain days we live in. The world is experiencing moral confusion, growing deception, increasing hostility toward biblical truth, and unprecedented global instability, all of which remind us of the prophetic warnings Jesus gave concerning the last days. In such times, superficial Christianity will not endure. God is looking for believers whose roots run deep, whose character has been refined by trials, and whose hearts are fully yielded to Him. Just as Peter was entrusted with the keys of the Kingdom after being shaped by failure, repentance, and restoration, believers today are being prepared to stand as witnesses of Christ in a darkening world. The urgency of the hour calls us beyond mere profession of faith into genuine transformation. More than ever, the world needs to see Christians whose words flow from hearts full of God's presence, whose lives bear unmistakable spiritual fruit, and whose character reflects the King they serve. The signs of our times are a divine call to examine our hearts and allow Christ to complete His work in us, for

[1] Luke 6:44
[2] Philippians 2:5

the strength of our witness in the days ahead will depend not merely on what we know about Jesus, but on how fully His character has been formed within us.

Translated Into the Kingdom of the Son

One of the most encouraging truths of the Christian life is that God does not leave us as He finds us. Salvation is not merely a decision we make; it is the beginning of a lifelong transformation. The moment we come to Christ, God begins a work within us, shaping us into the image of His Son. Paul describes this beautiful process when writing to the Corinthian church. He says that we are *"being transformed into the same image from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord."*[3] Christianity, therefore, is not about becoming more religious. It is about becoming more like Jesus.

This transformation begins when God rescues us from one kingdom and places us into another. In his letter to the Colossians, he tells us that *"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His beloved Son."*[4] Before Christ, our lives were shaped by the influences of a fallen world. Our thinking, attitudes, values, and actions were molded by the kingdom of darkness. Every person is a product of the influences that have impacted their life, whether for good or for evil. Yet the kingdom of darkness has never possessed the power to truly transform human character. It may alter behavior for a season, but it cannot change the heart.

When Jesus Christ becomes Lord of our lives, everything changes. The old life begins to pass away, and a new life begins to emerge. As Paul declares, *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."* [5] God plants within us a new nature, a new purpose, and a new desire to know Him. The characteristics of Christ gradually begin to replace the characteristics of the old life.

The Transformation Begins with the New Birth

Every genuine transformation begins with what Jesus called the new birth. Speaking to Nicodemus, Jesus declared, *"Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* [6] Before Christ can be formed in us, the divine seed of God's life must first be planted within our hearts. This happens when we realize we cannot save or change ourselves. We recognize our sinful condition and our need for a Savior. Like Peter, who fell before Jesus and confessed, *"I am a sinful man, O Lord,"* [7] we come to God in humility and repentance. As we surrender to Christ, God places His Spirit within us, beginning the

[3] 2 Corinthians 3:18
[4] Colossians 1:13-14
[5] 2 Corinthians 5:17
[6] John 3:3
[7] Luke 5:8

miraculous work of regeneration. The seed of God's life takes root and starts producing kingdom fruit.

Peter and the other disciples provide a powerful example of this reality. Although they had walked with Jesus for three and a half years, they did not experience the fullness of spiritual transformation until after His resurrection. When Jesus breathed on them and said, *"Receive the Holy Spirit,"* [8] their understanding of the kingdom began to come alive. Truths that had once seemed mysterious suddenly became clear. What had been mere information became revelation.

Many believers can testify to a similar experience. Before coming to Christ, we may have searched for answers and explored spiritual truth, yet nothing seemed to fully satisfy. But when we surrendered our lives to Jesus, the Word of God came alive. The pieces began to fit together. The Spirit of God illuminated truths that had previously escaped us, and our journey of transformation truly began.

Growth Begins to Take Place

Just as a newborn child must grow and mature, so must every believer. Peter writes, *"As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."* [9] Spiritual growth does not happen automatically. Some attitudes must be removed, and disciplines must be embraced.

First, Peter tells us to lay aside malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and evil speaking. These attitudes hinder spiritual growth and choke the life God desires to produce within us. A heart filled with bitterness and pride cannot effectively receive the Word of God.

Second, we must cultivate childlike humility and faith. Jesus taught that unless we become like little children, we cannot truly enter into the realities of His kingdom. Childlike faith is the fertile soil where God's Word flourishes. Peter often demonstrated this characteristic. Whether stepping out onto the water at Christ's command or boldly declaring Jesus as the Messiah, Peter exhibited a willingness to trust God beyond his own understanding.

Third, we must develop a genuine hunger for God's Word. Throughout the Gospels, Peter stands out as a man who continually sought understanding. He asked questions. He desired deeper explanations. He longed to know more about the ways of God. His attitude reflected a heart that was hungry for truth. When many followers turned away from Christ, Peter declared, *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."* [10]

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[8] John 20:22
[9] 1 Peter 2:2
[10] John 6:68

This hunger for God's Word became a major factor in Peter's transformation. The impulsive fisherman gradually became a steadfast leader, a spiritual rock, and a faithful shepherd of God's people. The same man who once denied Christ became a courageous witness, proclaiming the gospel before hostile crowds and authorities. The difference was not natural ability but spiritual growth through continual exposure to God's truth.

Near the end of his life, Peter summarized the secret of spiritual maturity in one simple exhortation: *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" [11]

Putting On the New Man

As transformation continues, believers must intentionally put off the old ways of living and put on the new nature Christ has provided. Isaiah beautifully pictures this as being clothed with garments of salvation and a robe of righteousness.[12]

Before coming to Christ, our minds, emotions, and habits were shaped by the world around us. Therefore, the mind must be renewed. Through the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, our thoughts begin to align with God's thoughts, and our behavior begins to reflect His character.

Paul describes this process in the Ephesian church, urging believers, *"that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts."*[13] Likewise, he instructs the Colossians to put away anger, malice, filthy language, and deceit because these things belong to the old nature that has been crucified with Christ.

Peter's life again illustrates this transformation. The fisherman who once used profane language and acted impulsively became a man marked by holiness, humility, and bold faith. His life shows that God can transform ordinary people into extraordinary witnesses for Christ.

Living a Radiant Life

The ultimate purpose of spiritual transformation is not merely personal improvement. God transforms us so that His glory can shine through us. Jesus said, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*[14]

Paul echoed this truth when he challenged believers to "*live blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among*

[11] 2 Peter 3:18
[12] Isaiah 61:10
[13] Ephesians 4:22
[14] Matthew 5:16

whom you shine as lights in the world."[15] The darker the world becomes, the brighter the light of genuine Christianity should shine.

Peter's life became a remarkable testimony to this reality. The same man who once struggled with fear, doubt, and inconsistency became so filled with the presence and power of God that people brought the sick into the streets hoping that even his shadow might fall upon them.[16] His life radiated the character and power of Christ.

That same transforming work continues today. God is still taking ordinary men and women, translating them out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of His Son. He is still planting His divine life within human hearts. He is still changing fishermen into rocks, doubters into believers, and fearful disciples into powerful witnesses.

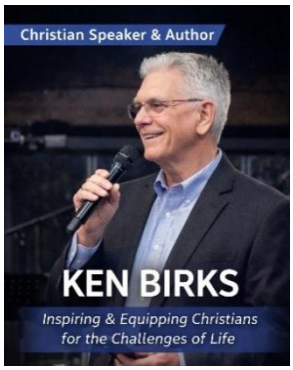
As believers, our calling is to continually yield to that transforming work. We are not merely called to believe in Christ. We are called to become like Him. And as we behold His glory, day by day, we are being transformed into His image until the character of the King is clearly seen in the citizens of His kingdom.

As we look at the world around us, it becomes increasingly clear that God is calling His people to more than a profession of faith. He is calling us to character transformation. In an age marked by deception, compromise, lawlessness, and spiritual confusion, the Lord is preparing a people whose lives reflect the nature of His Son. The trials, pressures, and shakings of our day are not merely challenges to endure; they are instruments God is using to refine His Church and reveal what is truly in our hearts. Just as Peter was transformed from a fearful and unstable disciple into a steadfast rock of faith, so the Holy Spirit is working within every yielded believer to produce Christlike character. This is not the hour to remain spiritually immature or content with outward religion. The signs of the times remind us that Christ's return is drawing nearer, and heaven is calling the Church to deeper holiness, greater faithfulness, and unwavering devotion. Let us therefore embrace God's transforming process, allowing Him to shape our hearts, renew our minds, and conform us to the image of Jesus, so that when the world looks at us, it will see not merely Christians in name, but the very character of Christ shining through our lives.

May God bless you mightily in the days to come as you clothe yourself in the garments of salvation and the robe of His righteousness. As you do, the Holy Spirit will fill you with the fruit of the Spirit as you give yourself wholeheartedly as His servant of righteousness to His purposes to which you were called.

[15] Philippians 2:15
[16] Acts 5:15

About Ken Birks



Ken Birks has walked with God through seasons of quiet wonder, deep refining, and unexpected grace — journeys that have shaped both his faith and voice. From early moments of sensing God's nearness to years of learning to listen more closely, Ken has discovered that the Lord often speaks in whispers, rhythms, and poetic impressions.

From those sacred encounters came a desire to write—not to impress, but to invite. To invite others into the same stillness, clarity, and holy encouragement that has carried them through life's valleys and mountaintops. His devotional poetry and other writings flow from a heart that has wrestled, worshiped, and been transformed by God's presence.

Today, Ken writes to help fellow believers pause, breathe, and rediscover the treasures God longs to place within them. Ken's hope is simple: that every reader will feel the Father's nearness, hear His voice more clearly, and walk with renewed courage into the calling He has lovingly prepared.

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