

TRANSFORMED!

**INTRO: From: “How To Be Led By The Spirit Of God” by Kenneth Ha-
gin**

The Life of God will do that for anybody!

The most amazing miracle I have seen of Eternal Life affecting mentali-ty was in a girl I that will call Mary. Her mentality was increased at least 90 percent.

She started school at seven and went seven years without getting out of the first grade. In those seven years she never learned to write her name. Finally, they asked her parents to take her out of school.

As an 18-year-old, in the church I pastored, I saw her behave like a 2-year-old. She would get down and crawl around on the floor like a baby. If she happened not to be sitting with her mother, she would slide under the pews, or lift up her skirt and step over them to get to where her mother was. Her clothes were always a sight. Her hair was never combed.

Then one night, during an evangelistic revival meeting, Mary came to the altar. There she received Eternal Life – the Nature of God. A drastic change occurred instantly. The very next night she sat in the service and behaved like any 18-year-old young lady. She had fixed her hair and dressed up. Her mentality seemed to have increased overnight.

Years later I was back in the city to help with a funeral. “What ever happened to Mary?” I asked the church secretary. She led me out on the front porch. “See all those new houses going up out there?” I said, “Yes.” “That’s an addition to the city. Mary is building that. She’s a widow now. She handles all her own money. She is her own financier. She has three lovely children. They are on the front pew every Sunday. They are the best-dressed, best-mannered children in church. As church secretary I can tell you that Mary’s tithes and offerings are here every Sunday.”

The life of God came into her!

Romans 12:1, 2 – *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

- **Vs. 2 [Wuest]** – *“And stop assuming an outward expression that does not come from within you and is **not** representative of what you are in your inner being but is patterned after this age; but change your outward expression to one that comes from within and is representative of your inner being, by the renewing of your mind, resulting in your putting to the test what is the will of God, the good and well-pleasing and complete will, and having found it meets specifications, place your approval upon it.”*

- **Transformed** – to undergo a complete change which, under the power of God, will find expression in character and conduct. [Inward change]
 - **Conformed** – lays stress on the outward.
 - **Note** – the present continuous tenses indicate a process.

**Stop working to becoming something you're not;
instead, be transformed into what you already are!**

Trying to become something you're not:

- Behavior modification.
- Hard work.
- Focus on you.
- Dependent on the flesh.
- Frustration.
- **Note:** trying to change the outside without tapping into who you are inside is a roller coaster ride at best!

Behavior modification: a poor substitute for transformation.

- **Moving Your Invisible Boundaries** – “Behavior modification is usually done through a form of conditioning. Conditioning is not altogether wrong; it is only wrong when it is a substitute for a true change of heart. Grace – God’s power, capacity and ability, which comes through unmerited favor and works from the heart, is what makes us able to be, do and have what God promises. Grace only comes through faith in the heart. We do not want to totally reject the value of conditioning. Like almost anything else, conditioning can bring value when used properly. It is a great basic development tool when coupled with heart development.”
- **Examples:** dieting, exercise, breaking bad habits, adopting good habits, etc.

Ephesians 4:17-24 – *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²²that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

- **vs. 17-19** – conformed to this world.
- **vs. 20, 21** – learn the correct information: the TRUTH is IN JESUS!
- **vs. 22** – put away anything tied to who you were BEFORE the new birth.
- **vs. 23** – be renewed in the way you think.
- **vs. 24** – put on who you already are on the inside!

Important: to be renewed in the way we think will require heart adjustments.

Proverbs 23:6-8 – *Do not eat the bread of a miser, nor desire his delicacies; ⁷For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, but his heart is not with you. ⁸The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up, and waste your pleasant words.*

- “**thinks**” – a door, gate, opening.
- The thoughts of the heart become our doorkeeper.
- We all live from the beliefs of our heart.
- This person is acting different on the outside than he is on the inside.

II Corinthians 3:17, 18 [AMP] – *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (emancipation from bondage, freedom). ¹⁸ And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.*

- **Note:** continue to look in the Word to see who you (really) are!