

Going on to Maturity Be Transformed WOK Conference 2015

In the first message we began with this passage: **Hebrews 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection [maturity]... ..3 And this we will do if God permits.** Here we saw that God may or may not permit an individual to go on to maturity; and while this is God's choice to make, in a respect His choice is really based upon our willingness to leave the elementary principles of Christ, and do what is necessary on our part to go on to maturity. We saw that subsequent to our initial faith in the death and shed blood of Jesus, we must *go on to* faith; we must go on to *the obedience of the faith*. Once we become a child of God, God expects us to *hear* His Word with the absolute intention and determination to obey whatever it is that He says in His Word. It is only here that we can grow from immaturity to maturity; only in our allowing Father God to *child-train* us through His rod of discipline ó the Word which goes forth from His mouth ó that we can go from an immature child in His Family to a mature son, a son who awaits the adoption as a firstborn.

In this message, we will see this same idea of God responding to us based upon our actions. Let's read the primary passage for this message: **Romans 12:1 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. 2 And 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.**

Here we find the same type of principle working in this Romans passage as what we saw in our Hebrews passage. God responds to our actions performing a *transformation* that only He can do. We are to act in the prescribed way, and He will also act in a prescribed way. (Actually there is no surprise when it comes to the actions of God. From the beginning, God has laid out His response to man's actions.) Paul explained this type of action and reaction to Timothy in: **II Timothy 2:11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. 12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.** God will respond to our actions in a set way, a set pattern, a predetermined fashion simply because He cannot/will not deny what He has already said He will do. And Scriptures are replete with His informing His children that His actions toward them will be a result of their obedience or disobedience to what He has laid out, in *both* the Old and the New Testaments, even as early as Day Six in Genesis chapter one, when He told Adam what would happen on the day that he would eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In our passage in Romans, we are *to present our bodies a living sacrifice*; we are *to not to be conformed to this world* (Lit., this age), but instead we are *to renew our minds*. And if we do these things, then God will *transform* us. And all of this is for a stated purpose ó that of proving what is the *good and acceptable and perfect will of God*.

Well, before we look at what it means

- To present our bodies as a living sacrifice,

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- To not be conformed to this age, and
- To renew our minds in order to be transformed,

we would need to have a good grasp as to what is the *good and acceptable and perfect will of God*. The reason we would need to know this is because a good understanding of what the will of God is would be the very thing that would propel us to take these actions listed here, so that then God can take His action on our behalf.

So, what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God? Do we know? If you had to tell the person sitting next to you what the perfect will of God is, what would you say? Again, it is only in having a good grasp on this that we would have the incentive to strive toward *proving* it, right? And if we do not have a grasp as to what the good and acceptable and perfect will of God is, then most likely we would not have the motivation to present our bodies a living sacrifice; we would not have the desire to **not** to be conformed to this age (nor the understanding of the importance of this); we would not have the inclination to renew our minds. And if none of this took place in us, then God would not be able to transform us. So let's strive to understand these things more clearly.

God's Good and Acceptable and Perfect Will

We know that God has a stated purpose for Man. It is the very reason He created Man in the first place. God created Man to rule in Satan's stead. Lucifer was one of the original rulers created to rule over this part of the material universe ó Earth. He was a morning star, having been given jurisdiction over Earth by God. Lucifer had a host of created angelic beings under his authority, but at some point in an age past, he rebelled against God, and a third of his host of angels joined him in the rebellion. Due to this rebellion, the sanctuaries over which Lucifer and his host ruled ó sanctuaries which had been created in absolute perfection ó became desecrated, utterly chaotic, fully covered over with raging waters, all of which was shrouded with darkness (Gen. 1:2). Then 6,000 years ago God stepped in and a new age dawned (literally) ó the age in which we now live. At the dawn of this age, God restored Lucifer's desecrated sanctuaries: He brought light to shine in the darkness, separated waters above from waters below, separated dry land from the waters below, allowed trees, plants and herbs to grow, brought forth the light of the sun, moon and stars to shine over Earth once again. He then filled the waters below with living creatures, and the skies above with winged creatures, and created land animals to roam the whole earth. Then His final creation was Man: **Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."**

That which God stated at the very beginning of this age concerning mankind *remains* God's good, acceptable and perfect will for us, even today. So, wouldn't it have to be that Man would ultimately fulfil God's created purpose? Wouldn't it have to be that Man would ultimately be found in God's image, according to His likeness, ruling over Earth as described in this 26th verse of the Bible? Of course, it would have to come to this because He is God, and there is none like Him!

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However, because this stated plan of God would displace the one originally created to rule Earth, very early on God had some serious opposition to His perfect will being brought to pass ó NOT THAT THIS TOOK GOD BY SURPRISE! Lucifer, now seen as Satan (Lit., Adversary), stepped into the Garden and did what *might* appear to thwart God's very purpose for man ó he brought about the fall of Man! But again, God is God, and there is none like Him! **Isaiah 46:9 “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’...**

To think that any created being could thwart the plan and purpose of Sovereign God would be absurd! Of course God's purpose will be established! That which He stated in ancient times will most certainly yet be established, even being established on an already designated calendar, at a very specific time. What Satan did in the Garden 6,000 years ago was not a *thwart* to God's plan; it wasn't even a *delay* to God's plan! Satan played into God's hand in bringing about a situation that had to be brought about! Yes, in the Council Chamber of eternity past, God had already established that any and all prospective *replacement* rulers would have to be tested in order to show themselves individually worthy to rule. And we can see that even the One Who would replace Satan himself as the Morning Star, even the Only Begotten Son of God Himself was tested by the very one He would replace. **Mark 1:9 It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. 11 Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 12 Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. 13 And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.**

And evidently, this testing of Man to prove himself worthy to rule in the stead of the originally created rulers (the angels), would have to come about at the hand of the very one to be replaced. Not only do we see Jesus ó the Only Begotten Son of God, the Second Man, the Last Adam ó being tested by Satan in a garden 2,000 years ago, we also know that Adam ó the first man, the first Adam ó was also tested by Satan 4,000 years prior to that. And because the first Man, Adam, originally sinned, all of his progeny would be born into sin. And because of this fact, every individual ever born to woman would have to be tested for worthiness in order to rule in angelic stead. Hence, we ourselves are personally and individually tested as well. Tested for obedience to what God has said. Tested to prove our personal worthiness to literally take the place of one of the angels whom God originally created to rule over Earth. It's a remarkable thought, really! Isn't it?

And if God's purpose for man was only ~~forested~~ by the sin of Adam (which was in itself a part of God's plan) ó brought about by the hand of the present morning star over Earth ó an action which brought forth death (a separation of Man from God and from His stated

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purpose for Man), then wouldn't God's perfect Will ultimately be accomplished through the *full scope of the salvation* which God brought about through the Sacrifice of the very One Who would take Satan's place? Of course it would! In this we need to realize that *the reason and purpose for salvation* itself is one and the same as *the reason and purpose for Man's creation* in the first place, that to rule in Satan's stead! God *saved* Man for the very same purpose He *created* Man.

And so we can see that the *full scope of this death – this separation* – involved more than what might initially *meet the eye*, so to speak. The separation that took place at the moment of Adam's sin involved not only the whole of man himself ó his spirit, soul and body, but also involved the whole of Man's progeny. Originally, Man was created in God's image and likeness ó that of:

- being in eternal spiritual union with God,
- knowing only good, and
- being covered in glory awaiting the reception of the outer garments of splendor and majesty.

But sin brought forth death, and death is separation. Sin *separated* mankind from eternal spiritual union with God, separated mankind from knowing only good (he now also knew evil through experience), and separated mankind from the covering of glory which had enswathed Adam and the Woman originally ó the very glory which would allow man's reception of the garments of royalty, both of which would have to be in place in order to rule over Earth. Essentially stated, Adam's sin separated mankind from being found in the image and likeness of God ó glorified and ready to be clothed with splendor and majesty; separated mankind from his very created purpose ó to rule in Satan's stead. Sin placed man in a position wherein it would be *impossible* for him to step into his created position as ruler in the angelic stead.

So the question could be asked: Why would God allow sin? At least part of the answer to this age-old question would have to be found in these aforementioned thoughts. Based upon the fact that God gave Adam the command to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, with the stated consequence of disobedience being death (separation from God and from His stated purpose for him), Adam would have to prove himself worthy to replace the ruler over Earth. *The test of worthiness would be obedience to the command of God.* This initial scenario set out by God at the very beginning would then become a pattern which God would set to be the case for anyone who would replace an incumbent angelic ruler ó any and all who would want to rule alongside the Son of God, would be tested for worthiness through choices of obedience. And again, we can not only see this to be the case with Adam, but also with all the sons of Man, even including Jesus Christ, the Son of God/Son of Man. So let's look at God's 6,000-year plan, even His 7,000th year goal.

Just as God took six days to restore Satan's desecrated sanctuaries followed by His rest on the 7th day (Gen. 1:3-2:3), God is taking another six days to restore desecrated mankind along with the ruined material creation, Earth, and this is also to be followed by another 7th day of rest (Gen. 4-Rev. 22). Then it was 24-hour days, now it is 1,000-year days (II Pet.

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3: 8). The perfect pattern for the restoration of a ruined creation was set 6,000 years ago in the first 34 verses in Scripture. And since it was a perfect pattern then, it will be the pattern which God would use again as God is perfect in all He does all the time. He cannot improve on Himself. And part of this restoration of Mankind is our individual tests of obedience; our going from faith to faith in order to prove ourselves worthy to be part of God's good and acceptable and perfect will. It's what we looked at in the first message, the obedience to the faith. This is God's good and perfect and acceptable will.

So then, part of our personal testing to prove ourselves worthy to rule is found in our opening verses today in Romans ó our *presenting our bodies a living sacrifice, and our not being conformed to this world, but rather being transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we might prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.* So let's break this passage down a bit, comparing Scripture with Scripture and see just how we can individually prove this good and acceptable and perfect will of God in our own lives.

Present Your Bodies a Living Sacrifice

The choice that each one of us has to make in presenting our bodies a living sacrifice is a choice we make moment by moment as we walk this life. There is a constancy that must be present in this. The choice we must continually make is to "sacrifice" the lusts of the flesh as we see in **Romans 6:13** **And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.** Presenting our bodies *to God as alive from the dead* would be referring to the whole picture and purpose of baptism, which is exactly what we see in the preceding context of this verse. Let's look at it: **Romans 6:3** **Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** I'd like for us to catch the verb tenses used here in this whole passage. The tenses of the verbs being used here are past and present tenses, but certainly *all* with a view to the future! The past tense: *We were baptized* into His death. *We were buried* with Him. And just as *Christ was raised* from the dead! Now the present tense: *even so we should walk* in newness of life. Now watch how this thought moves on: **5 For if we have been united [Lit., planted] together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with [past tense], that we should no longer be slaves of sin [present tense]. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin [past tense]. 8 Now if we died with Christ [past tense], we believe that we shall also live with Him [present tense], 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead [past tense], dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him [present tense]. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all [past tense]; but the life that He lives, He lives to God [present tense]. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord [present tense]. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts [present tense]. 13 And do not present your members as instruments**

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of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God [present tense]. And of course all of the past and present actions would be with a view to the future! That is always the way it is in Scripture, isn't it? And so it does here as well. Then jumping down to v. 22, we read: **Romans 6:22 But now having been set free from sin and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting** [Age-lasting] **life**. The point to all of this is this: Because of the death that Jesus died for sin, once for all, and because, through the picture of baptism, we died and were buried with Him, which if that be the case, then we are also resurrected with Him, then we need to reckon our bodies (our old nature) dead to sin *now*, and alive to God *now*. The power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that gives us new life in His resurrection *now*. And because of this power, this new life, our redeemed spirit, we can walk in resurrection life now, so that we do not need to let sin reign in our mortal bodies.

Prior to our accepting Christ's finished work on the cross for our sins we only had one nature – our old nature, which was made in the image of fallen Man (*cf.* Gen. 5:1-3). But once we through faith accepted Christ, we received a new nature, a nature with the potential of being *transformed* back into the image of God, as was Man's original state. Now we no longer have to present the members of our body as instruments of unrighteousness, as we once did. We no longer have to obey the lusts of sin. Now we can present ourselves to God as instruments of righteousness; we can present our bodies as living sacrifices. And all of this is possible through Christ's resurrection; through His life now. We can see this idea again in **Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

And this is all accomplished in the sacrifice Jesus made. Because Jesus died *in the flesh*, we now have the power *to die to the flesh*, which would be our offering ourselves as a living sacrifice on a daily basis. Jesus confirms this idea in telling His disciples what it would take to become a disciple of His: **Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.** The cross is an instrument of death, in fact the very instrument that was used in Jesus' own Sacrifice some time later. And it is no coincidence that Jesus referred to a cross in this verse. Jesus is referring to our *sacrificially* putting to death the lusts of the flesh here; our offering our own bodies as a living sacrifice, all the while knowing that He would offer His body to death as a sacrifice on a cross. Herein is the picture of our offering our bodies as a living sacrifice. Now with that in place, let's look at the phrase:

Do not be Conformed, But be Transformed

In conjunction with presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice, Christians are commanded *not to be conformed to this world*, a command which is followed by another command *to be transformed*, with the means of this transformation coming about through *the renewing*

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of the mind. The negative command literally reads in the Greek that we are to *stop being conformed to this age*. The Greek word translated *conformed* here is the compound word *suschematizo*. The word reveals that we are *to stop having a close association with the outline or diagram of this present age*. The reason for this is simple! The present age is diametrically opposed to the way things are to be, as seen very succinctly stated in: **I John 5:19b ... the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.** This God-breathed statement leaves no doubt as to the extent of Satan's influence in this world during this age. He is the god of this age, of this world. He is the prince of the power of the air. And *we are to not have an association with this system as it is not associated with the plans and purpose of God*. The Greek word preceding the word *world* in this verse ó the *whole world* ó reveals that Satan's influence is *all-inclusive; complete in extent; altogether; completely throughout* the world. There is no part of this world system that is not under his influence, *nor can there be*. And because that is absolutely true, Christians are commanded not to be *conformed* ó not to follow the schematics or outline ó to any part of the world system, at any time, in any way, in any place. Even our involvement in trying to presently change any part of this present world system would be an endeavor in the flesh, something we are to die to! The *only* way this system is going to change is by God stepping into the affairs of man at the predetermined time He has set. To think that we can do anything to change this world system before God's pre-set timing would be absolutely absurd. And to involve ourselves in the world system's activities, thinking we might change it now (because ô oh my! ó it surely needs changing!), would be to enmesh ourselves in this world system itself. The things of this world system *will* change, to be sure. Paul was inspired to write **I Corinthians 7:31 í For the form [schema] of this world is passing away.** But this present world system will remain unchanged until God changes it. And to involve ourselves in any way to try to change it now, would only be to act in futility. And any time that we would put into trying to change the system before God changes it would be to take valuable time away from doing the things that God wants us to do: that to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Paul encouraged Timothy in this way: **II Timothy 2:3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.** **4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.** If we are enlisted by Jesus as His soldier, then we would only do the battles to which He leads us. And His warfare is in the spiritual realm, not the physical realm. And so should ours be! **II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God...**

Paul encouraged Timothy to wage a good warfare: **I Timothy 1:18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck** í The warfare that Paul tells Timothy to wage concerns *the* faith ó articulated faith, faith specific to things concerning the Coming Kingdom of Christ ó not warfare waged within the confines of the present world system. That battle is the Lord's and His alone! We can see Paul reiterating this to Timothy again in: **I Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith [Lit., the faith], lay**

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hold on eternal [Lit., age-lasting] life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. It is life in the Coming Age to which we have been called. And our warfare is against the powers and principalities in the heavenly (not earthly), because of which we are to don the full armor of God so that we can withstand the onslaught of the Adversary! And all of this is for the purpose of our qualifying ourselves to be part of the administration *there*, not here! The warfare we are to be enmeshed in cannot be seen by physical eyes or heard with physical ears. The battle that we are to do is 100% spiritual! **Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.** So when is the *devil day*? We find the answer to that question a few verses prior: **Ephesians 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.** That good and acceptable and perfect will of the God! The days in which we now live are evil. So we must be wise in what we do with our time! We must walk circumspectly.

And in doing this, we would be following Paul's good example here: **Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. 17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.**

These last few verses here nicely bring us back to our Romans passage. Here again we see, that we are not to be conformed to this world system, we are *not to set our mind on earthly things*. Why? Because our citizenship (actually the Greek word used here for *citizenship* is the word that from where we get our English word *politics*) is in heaven. Our politics is in heaven! We are sojourners in this world. We are just passing through this place. We are ambassadors, not citizens of this system, as we once were. All that changed when we became Christians. Our focus now needs to be there, not here. Our conversation needs to be there not here! Our politics needs to be there! NOT HERE! That's where our focus

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needs to be, from which we await the return of the Lord. Why? Because when He comes, *He will change things*. But until then, we wait! We wait *eagerly* but we *wait*! And if we wait *properly*, then when He comes He will not only change the world system, but He will also change something else! He will also *transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body*. If we have eagerly waited for Him to return, all the while not conforming to this world, but instead renewing our minds in the prescribed way, which we will see in a moment, then our naked bodies (naked with respect to the glory which had once enswathed Man in creation) will be covered in glory just like Jesus Christ is now shrouded with GLORY. And all of this has to do with our future salvation, the salvation of our souls. It is this salvation that we await: **Hebrews 9:28b ... To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.** He can bring about the transformation. Interestingly enough, just as we cannot bring about a change in this world system (only God can do that! And He will!), we also cannot bring about this change in us ó this transformation, this metamorphosis. Only God can do this! But just like He is the One Who allows an individual to go on to maturity based upon ones actions, He will bring about this change based upon our actions, as well. There is something we need to be actively engaged in, in order for this transformation to take place. This is an *inward* change that will eventually effect an outward change, as well.

So what is the proper way *to eagerly wait for Him*? It would be to *renew our minds*. But how do we do that? We could find several statements in Scripture that would reveal the *how-to*.

Ephesians 4:22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Renewing our minds is a matter of the *spirit*. It is a matter of öputting off the old man and putting on the new man.ö

Then we see the same idea here: **Colossians 3:8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him...** Again we see the importance of *putting off the old man and the deeds of the old man*, and of *putting on the new man*. Here the renewal of the mind has to do with *knowledge* (the epignosis). The only way we can get this knowledge is from a proper engagement with Scripture. And according to v. 8, who is to do this work?

And our next verse reveals a little more of the *how-to*: **II Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.** This passage reveals how the renewal is to take place ó day by day!

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So there you have it! By comparing Scripture with Scripture we are told to renew our *spiritual* minds, through our *putting off the old man – the old nature* – the nature we were physically born with and *putting on the new man – the new nature* ó the nature we were spiritually born with through the knowledge of the One Who created us (and all that attends to that). And we are to do this day in and day out! We must be *intentional* about it daily, and over time. And while this inward process is taking place daily, while our *spiritual minds* are growing *daily in the knowledge of Him Who created us* ó something else is happening over time. God is changing us inwardly! In this way (and frankly *only* in this way), God will then bring about the transformation *within* us. And though we cannot now see this inward change taking place over time, one day the change will be exposed *outwardly*. We have already seen this in Scripture! **Philippians 3:20 ... the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself...**

When will these things happen? When will He *subdue all things to Himself*? Among many places in Scripture, one of the places it tells us is in the midst of a passage that we have already touched on today. And I think the passage bears repeating in the larger context. **Colossians 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. 5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him...** And all of this is so that *you may prove the good, acceptable and perfect will of God* ó that of being in His image and likeness, that of being covered in glory (as was the original state of Man, prior to sin bringing forth death), and able to don the clothing of splendor and majesty and rule as the Wife of the Second Man, the Last Adam, Christ, as His co-heir and as an adopted first-born son. So we *must* do the things necessary for us to do and then we can be absolutely confident of Paul wrote in **Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.**