

# Transfiguration

**Composite Class**

**2008**

**Heard Lowry**

**The purpose of religion --  
at any rate, the Christian religion --  
is not to get you into heaven,  
but to get heaven into you.**

**Frederick Ward Kates**

# Thought Research Question

**What common experience did Jesus share with the visitors on the Mount of Transfiguration?**

**They went 40 days and nights without food:**

**Moses: Exodus 24:18; 34:28**

**(the tablets: without food and water -- twice!)**

**Deuteronomy 9:9-18 (review) prostrate**

**Elijah: 1 Kings 19:8**

**(no food for his travel)**

**Jesus: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12,13; Luke 4:1-13**

**(no food during the temptations)**

# Moses Receives the Tablets of the Law

When Moses went up on the mountain,  
the cloud covered it,  
and the **glory** of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai.  
For six days the cloud covered the mountain,  
and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses  
from within the cloud.

To the Israelites the **glory** of the LORD looked like  
a **consuming fire** on top of the mountain.

Then Moses entered the cloud  
as he went on up the mountain.

And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 24:16, 18

But the Israelites had gone wild!

# Moses Receives the Tablets of the Law

Then the LORD said to Moses,  
"Write down these words,  
for in accordance with these words  
I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."

Moses was there with the LORD

**forty days and forty nights**

**without eating bread or drinking water.**

And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant —  
the Ten Commandments.

**Exodus 34:27-28**

**This time Moses face was radiant!**

# Elijah Runs for His Life to Mount Horeb

**After the victory at the altar test Jezebel threatens Elijah**

**Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.**

**When he came to Beersheba in Judah,**

**he left his servant there,**

**while he himself went a day's journey into the desert.**

**He came to a broom tree,**

**sat down under it and prayed that he might die.**

**"I have had enough, LORD," he said.**

**"Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."**

**Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep.**

**Elijah tried to escape, and God helped Him**

# Elijah Runs for His Life to Mount Horeb

All at once an angel touched him and said,  
"Get up and eat."

He looked around, and there by his head  
was a cake of bread baked over hot coals,  
and a jar of water.

He ate and drank and then lay down again.

The angel of the LORD came back a second time  
and touched him and said,

"Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you."

So he got up and ate and drank.

Strengthened by that food,

**he traveled forty days and forty nights**

until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

1 Kings 19:3-5

**God appeared to Elijah and told him he was not alone**

# The Temptation of Jesus

**Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert  
to be tempted by the devil.**

**After **fasting forty days and forty nights**, he was hungry.**

**Matthew 4:1-2**



# The Temptation of Jesus

## After the endurance test:

The tempter came to him and said,

"If you are the Son of God,  
tell these stones to become bread."

Jesus answered,

"It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes  
from the mouth of God.'"

## Two other temptations:

- Show power by letting the angels catch him
- Offer the splendor of the world

## Afterword:

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matthew 4:3, 11

# The Endurance of Moses, Elijah, and Jesus

**After each man's endurance test,**

**God showed His presence and comforted them!**

**Moses: obtaining the law of God for His people—  
God's presence (face radiance)**

**Elijah: escaped to God's presence after the altar battle –  
God reveals Himself gradually  
powerful wind, earthquake, fire, gentle whisper**

**Jesus: temptation as He began His mission to save us –  
God's absence (face radiance)  
God was actually present,  
but standing back and watching**

# The purpose of this class

- Last time we talked about the Pattern of Truth
- Now we want to talk about how to change our own patterns.

**The Transfiguration of Christ is the Reference Point**

- We want to study transfiguration
- Think about how we transfigure ourselves
- How we sustain the transfiguration

**This will be a Journey of Discovery -- an Exploration  
We want to squeeze all of the juice that we can  
out of this theme**

# The Journey of Discovery

**What do you remember as your first Journey of Discovery?**

**My first “journey of discovery” with cousin Steve**

- **mapping out the trip later**
  - now it has been transfigured (new homes, etc)

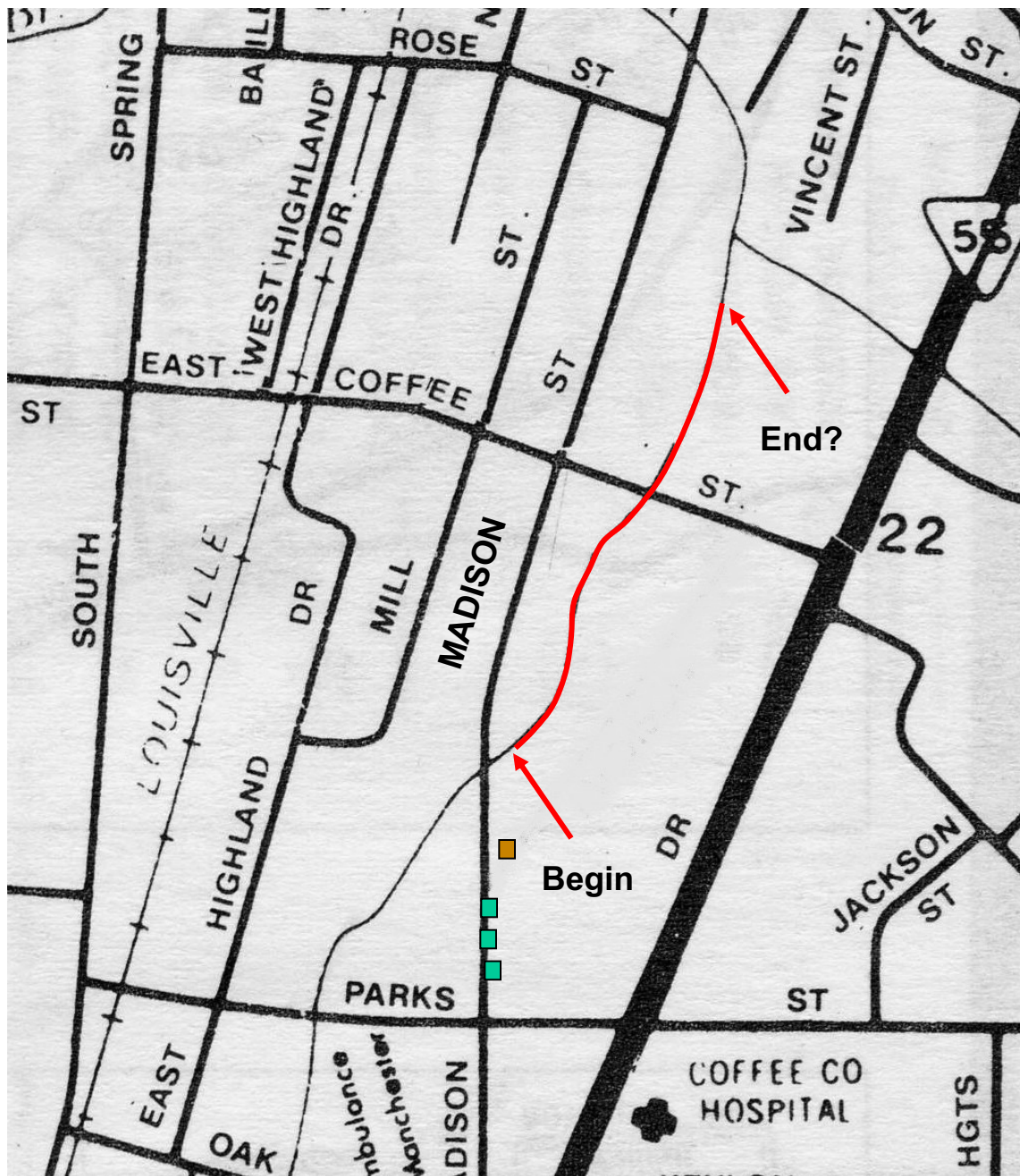
# The Journey of Discovery

## A Great Adventure:

Imagine two small boys, probably 6 and 7 years old, leaving home for the glory of exploration!

Crossing dangerous waters (Grindstone Hollow), confronting wild animals, crossing a busy street!

Lesson learned: Ask permission first (not that we would have gotten it)



# The Journey of Discovery

## What do you remember as your first Journey of Discovery?

### **My first “journey of discovery” with Steve**

- **mapping out the trip later**
  - now it has been transfigured (new homes, etc)
- **discovery in my backyard**
  - building forts

### **Zach and I**

- **hiking in the woods near the house**
- **going rafting and camping near the Smokey Mountains**

### **Mapping out your progress**

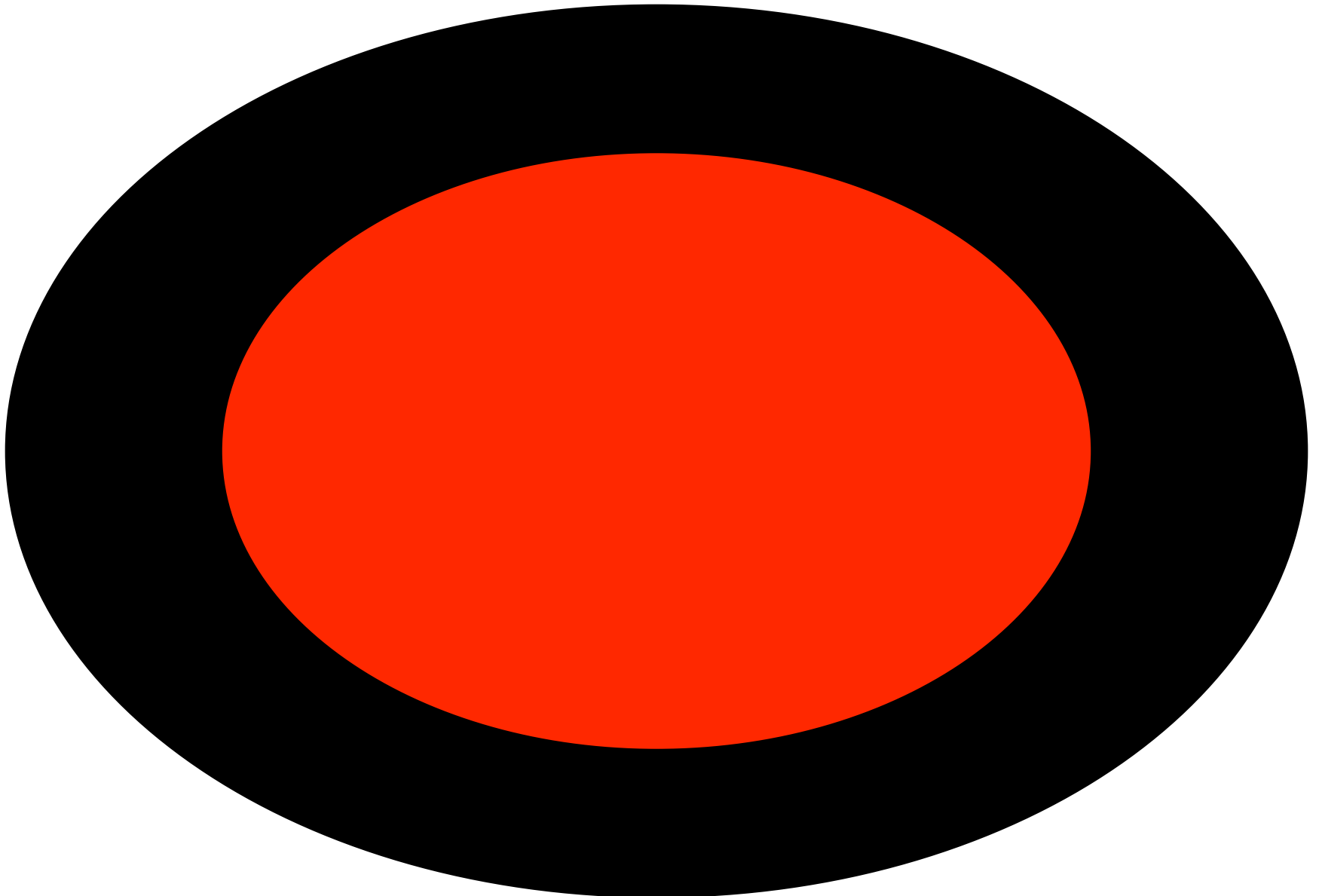
- **Where have you been?**
  - Collect all states, counties by ham radio
  - Counting US states visited
- **Where are you going?**

### **Relationship to Bible study**

**We should feel the same joy!**

# The Journey of Discovery

How many states have you visited?





# The Journey of Discovery (1)

**What do you remember as a great Journey of Discovery?**

**Steve and Heard Lowry exploring Grindstone Hollow**

**Lee Knox running away from home (with Dad's help)**

**Soozie and Cindy riding bicycles in Memphis**

**Exploring a cave at Martin Springs**

**Diane Vaughn chasing a ball into a torrent**

**Searching out the source of a stream at Savage Gulf**

**Diane Vaughn and her brother going to a movie on Wednesday night**

**My first trip to the Appalachian Trail**

**David and the mystery meat - his brothers made a dog food burger**

**Barbara Knox - the dog who jumped off a cliff and found a great cave**

**Heard's horse tale - seeing the belly of the horse running behind me**

**New York City with a native New Yorker**

**Doug Vaughn's trip to the Walls of Jericho; lost for hours**

**Riding the caboose from Manchester to Tullahoma**

**David taking a wrong path during the Tullahoma Christmas parade**

**We should feel the same adventure when we study the Bible!**

# The Journey of Discovery (2)

**What do you remember as a great Journey of Discovery?**

**Heard nearly breaking his neck and walking to the Dr.'s office**

**Doug Vaughn's brothers used to throw rocks at him to keep him from following on his tricycle**

**The light at the end of the (Cowan) tunnel**

**Going to college -- Manchester to Nashville (the big city)**

**Lee Knox -- rolling down a hill in a large tire**

**Ken Burgess -- firecracker in slingshot (sister lit too close)**

**James Winton -- Benny drove James to Nashville and introduced him to a man who wheeled him in the wheelchair all over the city; turns out the man had just gotten out of prison for murder; also a blind man pushed him one time with James hollering directions**

**After College -- reading with Blanton**

**Doug Vaughn -- flying in a plane with his brother (high wing / low wing); landing nearly one on top of the other**

**Heard -- CAP trip in open cockpit plane -- numb scalp**

**We should feel the same adventure when we study the Bible!**

## What do you remember as a great Journey of Discovery?

**Discovering Science -- Learning radio with my Dad**

**Discovering that I needed to serve God -- not just be one of the  
“sitting saved”**

**Mid-course Correction in my Scouting experience**

**Civil War Battlefield hikes: learning as we walked**

**Zach hunting for gems -- having one made into a ring**

**Marketing idea: selling bags of dirt for \$5**

**Finding something precious in the bag**

**Polishing a stone to transfigure it and reveal a jewel**

**Mounting it on a ring for a gift of love**

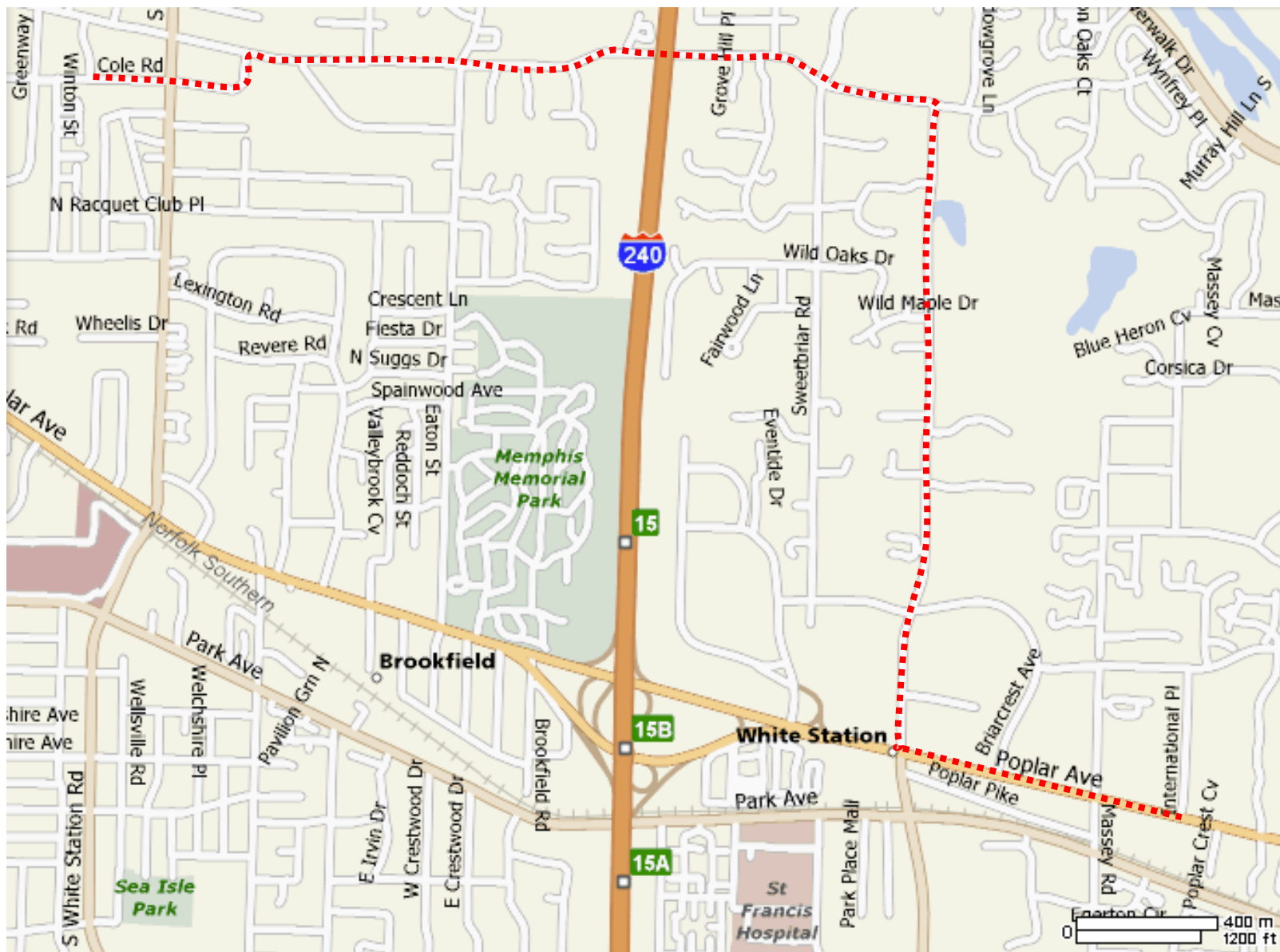
**Our soul can be likened to this precious jewel that emerges from  
the dirt**

**Scouting -- discovering strength to accomplish**

**We should feel the same adventure when we study the Bible!**

# The Journey of Discovery

## Soozie and Cindy riding bicycles in Memphis



# The Journey of Discovery

**Working all of the pieces of a jig saw puzzle**



**We end up looking at so many pieces  
without making a connection;  
then suddenly we have an Aha! Experience!  
Interpreting the image as we go is a key to solution!**

# The Journey of Discovery

**Transfiguration: Subject of the entire class?**



**Working all branches of a river for better discovery.**

# A love of trains



# Journey to/from Tullahoma by Train

12





# An Early Easter

**This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives!**

**And only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old or above!).**

**And none us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier!**

- 1. The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 (so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that!).**
- 2. The next time it will be a day earlier, (March 22), will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year!**

**Sometimes God hides himself  
in the cracks between words.**

**Frank Turner Hollon**

# Thought Research Question

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# Outline of the Class

## Transfiguration

- **Introduction**
- **Basic Analysis**
- **Spiritual Meaning**
- **Sustainment**
- **Practical Application**
- **Summary**

# The Transfiguration

After six days [about eight days later] Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves [to pray].

*Three: Transfiguration, healing of Jairus daughter, Garden of Gethsemane*

There he was **transfigured** before them.

His face **shone** like the sun,

*Whiter than anything imaginable*

and his clothes became as **white as the light**

[his clothes became **dazzling white**,

**whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them**]

[the appearance of his face changed,

and his clothes became as **bright**

as a **flash of lightning**].

*Three different views of brightness (each gospel writer)*

Matthew 17:1-2, **Mark 9:2-3**, **Luke 9:28-29**

# The Transfiguration

[Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his **glory** and the two men standing with him.]

Just then there appeared [in **glorious splendor**] before them [**two men**] Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

*How did the disciples know who they were?*

[They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.]

Matthew 17:3, **Mark 9:4**, Luke 9:30-31



# The Transfiguration -- Identification

How did the disciples know who they were?

**HELLO**  
my name is

Moses

**HELLO**  
my name is

Elijah

Why these two? More on that later...

# The Transfiguration

[As the men were leaving Jesus,]

Peter said to Jesus,

*Peter had just woke up*

"Lord [**Rabbi**], it is good for us to be here.

If you wish, I will put up three **shelters** —

one for you,

one for Moses and

one for Elijah."

[He did not know what to say, he was so frightened.]

*Peter wanted to sustain the experience*

Matthew 17:4, **Mark 9:5-6**, **Luke 9:33**

Perhaps Peter should have offered them Food rather than try to build permanent structures!

# The Transfiguration -- Booths

So... after you have gathered the crops of the land,  
**celebrate** the festival to the LORD for seven days;  
the first day is a day of rest,  
and the eighth day also is a day of rest.

Live in booths for seven days:

All native-born Israelites are to live in **booths**  
so your descendants will know  
that I had the Israelites live in **booths**  
when I brought them out of Egypt.

I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 23:39, 42

# The Transfiguration -- Booths

**Such booths (as are used in the feast of booths) may be what Peter had in mind when he offered to build shelters of tribute to Moses, Elijah and Jesus.**

**W.L. Coleman**

## **What is the connection?**

- **Celebration after the harvest**
  - OT: Indication of the end of the Old Testament Age
  - NT: Celebration of the coming of the Messiah
- **Remember the Temporary Housing through the Wandering**
  - OT: Indication of the presence and protection by God
  - NT: God's authorization of the New Kingdom

**Not all who wander are lost.**

**J.R.R. Tolkien**

# The Transfiguration

[As the men were leaving Jesus,]

Peter said to Jesus,

*Peter had just awakened*

"Lord [**Rabbi**], it is good for us to be here.

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Matthew 17:4, **Mark 9:5-6**, **Luke 9:33**

Perhaps Peter should have offered them Food rather than try to build permanent structures!

# The Transfiguration

While he was still speaking,  
a **bright** cloud enveloped them,  
[and they were afraid as they entered the cloud,]  
and a **voice** from the cloud said,  
"This is my Son, whom I **love** [have chosen];  
with him I am well pleased.

**Listen to him!"**

Matthew 17:5, **Mark 9:7**, **Luke 9:34-35**

# The Transfiguration (Summary)

- Jesus took Peter, James and John up a high mountain to pray
- Jesus was transfigured before them (face and clothes radiant)
- Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and Moses and Elijah
- Moses, Elijah, and Jesus discussed the plan and upcoming events
- As the men were leaving, Peter was frightened, but offered to build shelters for each
- A bright cloud enveloped them, and God spoke His approval for His Son: "This is my Son, whom I love; Listen to him!"
- The disciples fell facedown to the ground, terrified; Jesus came and touched them, telling them not to be afraid
- When they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone
- As they left, Jesus instructed the disciples not to tell anyone.

**Jesus was not transfigured so much as the Glory was briefly revealed**



## Other Occurrences

- **baptism of Jesus - Matthew 3:17**  
(transfiguration of life from carpenter to Messiah)
- **Gentiles - John 12:29**  
(transfiguration of the definition of who are the chosen people)
- **Saul on the road to Damascus**  
(transfiguration of a committed heart --  
a change in direction)

# The Transfiguration

When the disciples heard this,  
they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.  
But Jesus came and touched them.  
"Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."  
[Suddenly,] When they looked up [around],  
[When he voice had spoken]  
they saw no one [with them] except Jesus.

Matthew 17:6-8, Mark 9:8, Luke 9:36a

# The Transfiguration

As they were coming down the mountain,  
Jesus instructed them [**gave them orders**],

"Don't tell anyone what you have seen,  
until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

[**They kept the matter to themselves,  
discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.**]

[**The disciples kept this to themselves,  
and told no one at that time what they had seen.**]

Matthew 17:9, **Mark 9:9**, **Luke 9:36b**

# The Transfiguration

The disciples asked him,

"Why then do the teachers of the law say  
that Elijah must come first?"

Jesus replied, "To be sure, **Elijah** comes [**does come first**]  
and will restore all things.

But I tell you, **Elijah** has already come,  
and they did not recognize him,  
but have done to him everything they wished  
[**just as it is written about him**].

In the same way [**why then is it written that**]  
the Son of Man  
is going to suffer at their hands [**and be rejected**].

Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them  
about **John the Baptist**.

Matthew 17:9, **Mark 9:9**

**Spirits are very fragile.**

**They are easy to break,  
but not impossible to repair.**

**From the TV show “Monk”**

# The Transfiguration Revisited

**We did not follow cleverly invented stories  
when we told you about the power and coming  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.**

**For he received **honor** and **glory** from God the Father  
when the **voice** came to him from the Majestic Glory,  
saying, "This is my Son, whom I love;  
with him I am well pleased."**

**We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven  
when we were with him on the sacred mountain.**

**2 Peter 2:16**

**Peter witnesses to this in his letters to the churches**

# Stephen: a face like that of an angel

All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin  
looked intently at Stephen,  
and they saw that his face  
was **like the face of an angel**.

**Acts 6:15**

Stephen's face was also apparently transfigured;  
was this to show the live connection with God?

But the power of the image was not enough  
to keep the mob from stoning him. (Acts 7:54-60)

Tom Harbin: Moses and Stephen were the first and last people  
known to have been transfigured

# The Revelation of God's Glory

"As I looked,  
"thrones were set in place,  
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.  
His clothing was as **white as snow**;  
the hair of his head was **white like wool**.  
His throne was **flaming with fire**,  
and its **wheels** were all **ablaze**.

The ancient  
mental image  
of God

Daniel 7:9



# The Revelation of God's Glory

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me...  
and among the lampstands was someone

"like a son of man,"

dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and  
with a golden sash around his chest.

His head and hair were white like wool, as **white as snow**,  
and his eyes were like **blazing fire**.

His feet were like bronze **glowing** in a furnace,  
and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

In his right hand he held seven **stars**,

and out of his mouth came

a sharp double-edged sword.

[reflective]

**His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.**

Such a vision of God's glory!

Revelation 1:12-16

# Radiance

The Son is the **radiance** of God's glory  
and the **exact representation** of his being,  
**sustaining** all things by his powerful word.

Goodness!

After he had provided purification for sins,  
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 1:3

God's glory is too bright for us!

Christ cloaks it, but gives us a peek at the Transfiguration.  
Even the glory as contained in human form is too much!

But it is the power of His Personal Presence that is key,  
Not the Radiance of God's Power over the Universe!

Now if the ministry that brought death,  
which was engraved in **letters on stone**,  
came with **glory**,  
so that the Israelites could not look steadily  
at the face of Moses because of its **glory**,  
**fading** though it was,  
will not the ministry of the Spirit  
be even more **glorious**?

2 Corinthians 3:7-8

If the ministry that condemns men is **glorious**,  
how much more **glorious**  
is the ministry that brings righteousness!  
For what was **glorious** has no **glory** now  
in comparison with the surpassing **glory**.  
And if what was **fading** away came with **glory**,  
how much greater is the **glory** of that which lasts!

2 Corinthians 3:9-11

Comparison between the inferior system of “law”  
And the superior system of grace.

**Sacrificial love is...**

**a form of love**

**which transcends the limits of love.**

**It is a form of love**

**which cannot be embodied**

**in any moral code.**

**Reinhold Niebuhr**

**In obedience man adheres to the decalogue,  
and in freedom man creates new decalogues.**

**Martin Luther**

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.

We are not like Moses,

who would put a **veil** over his face

to keep the Israelites from gazing at it

while the **radiance** was **fading** away.

But their minds were made dull,

for to this day the same **veil** remains

when the old covenant is read.

It has not been removed,

because only in Christ is it taken away.

2 Corinthians 3:12-14

The Pharisees' veil made them not see  
the Good of healing on the Sabbath

Even to this day when Moses is read,  
a **veil** covers their hearts.

But whenever anyone turns to the Lord,  
the **veil** is taken away.

Now the Lord is the Spirit,  
and where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is freedom.

And we,

God wants us to become like Him

who with **unveiled** faces all reflect the Lord's **glory**,  
are being **transformed** into his likeness

with ever-increasing **glory**,

which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:12

# The Fading Radiance

- **Veil** – partially hides what lies behind
- **Mystery** – something to cause us to consider what is not known
- **Parables** – earthly stories with a heavenly meaning

These things are all related

Remember that Peter wanted to sustain the experience when Jesus was Transfigured and Moses and Elijah appeared

We should crave the “rush” of communion with God.



**A disciple once complained,  
“You tell us stories,  
but you never reveal their meaning to us.”**

**The Master replied,  
“How would you like it if someone offered you fruit  
and chewed it up before giving it to you?”**

**source unknown**

## **Whose face shone with great glory?**

**Moses, receiving the law; Exodus 34:30**

**Ancient of Days: Daniel 7:9 (white and radiant)**

**Man in Daniel's vision; Dan 10:6 (face like lightning)**

**Jesus, transfiguration; Matthew 17:2**

**Stephen; Acts 6:15**

**Christ; Rev 1:16 (face like the sun)**

**Angel of the Lord; Matthew 28:3 (appearance like lightning); Luke 24:4 says that there were two**

**Similar: Eccl 8:1 (Wisdom makes a man's face to shine)**

The Son is the **radiance** of God's glory  
and the **exact representation** of his being,  
**sustaining** all things by his powerful word.

Goodness!

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and in freedom man creates new decalogues.**

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# Trying to Sustain the Experience

## Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



# The Permanence of the Transfiguration

**Was the Transfiguration of Christ temporary,  
or was it that His Glory was only revealed temporarily?**

**God tried direct interaction with man;  
He finally sent His Son  
to help us see and understand Him**

**We need strength from God to sustain the glory  
similar to the endurance given Moses, Elijah, and Jesus.**

**The veil hides the true meaning,  
and perhaps our old physical weakness**

**(why does a bride wear a veil?)**

**The Glory of the New Covenant**

**(How can we look at the Glory?)**

**-- sunglasses, or a veil; sunglasses that are pinholes)**



**Do not merely listen to the word,  
and so deceive yourselves.**

**Do what it says.**

**Anyone who listens to the word  
but does not do what it says  
is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and,  
after looking at himself,  
goes away and immediately forgets  
what he looks like.**

**But the man who looks intently into  
the perfect law that gives freedom,  
and continues to do this,  
not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it —  
he will be blessed in what he does.**

**James 1:22-25**



# Treasures in Jars of Clay

## (Glory veiled by our human physical nature)

Therefore, since through God's mercy

Paul tries to encourage

we have this ministry, **we do not lose heart**

We have renounced secret and shameful ways;

we do not use **deception**,

nor do we **distort** the word of God.

On the contrary,

by setting forth the truth **plainly**

we commend ourselves to every man's conscience

in the sight of God.

And even if our gospel is **veiled**,

more on this later

it is **veiled** to those who are perishing.

2 Corinthians 4:1-3

# Treasures in Jars of Clay (Human Limitations)

The god of this age has **blinded** the minds of unbelievers,  
so that they **cannot see** the light  
of the gospel of the **glory** of Christ,  
who is the **image** of God.

For we do not preach ourselves,  
but Jesus Christ as Lord,  
and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

For God, who said,  
"Let **light shine** out of darkness,"  
made his **light shine** in our hearts to give us  
the **light** of the knowledge of the **glory** of God  
in the **face** of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:4-6

# Treasures in Jars of Clay

**But we have this treasure in jars of clay [weakness] to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.**

**We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.**

**We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the **life** of Jesus may also be **revealed** in our body. **[transfiguration]****

**For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his **life** may be **revealed** in our mortal body.**

**So then, death is at work in us, but **life** is at work in you.**

**2 Corinthians 4:7-12**

# Treasures in Jars of Clay

**It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken."**

**With that same spirit of faith**

**we also believe and therefore speak,**

**because we know that the one**

**who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead**

**will also raise us with Jesus**

**and present us with you in his presence.**

**All this is for your benefit,**

**so that the grace**

**that is **reaching more and more people****

**may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the **glory** of God.**

**2 Corinthians 4:13-15**

# Treasures in Jars of Clay

Are we veiled or unveiled?

Therefore **we do not lose heart.** echo of verse 1

Though outwardly we are wasting away,  
yet inwardly we are being **renewed day by day.**

For our light and momentary troubles  
are achieving for us an eternal **glory**  
that far outweighs them all.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen,  
but on what is unseen.

For what is seen is temporary,  
but what is unseen is eternal.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

**We all need daily renewal to stay in contact with God.**

# Treasures in Jars of Clay

## Longing for the Transfiguration

**Now we know**

**that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,  
we have a building from God,  
an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.**

**Meanwhile we groan,**

**longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,  
because when we are clothed, **Transfiguration**  
we will not be found naked.**

**For while we are in this tent,**

**we groan and are burdened, **We want to escape the struggle**  
because we do not wish to be unclothed  
but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,  
so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.**

**2 Corinthians 5:1-5**

# **We must work to remove the Veil or we will refuse to believe the Truth**

**And then the lawless one will be revealed,  
whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow  
with the breath of his mouth and  
destroy by the splendor of his coming.**

**Remember  
2 Cor 4:3**

**The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance  
with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of  
counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,  
and in every sort of evil  
that deceives those who are perishing.**

**They perish because they **refused to love the truth**  
and so be saved.**

**2 Thessalonians 2:8-10**

# The Power of Transfiguration

**The Transfiguration is about  
how God became man, and  
what we can become through Him.**



**In the beauty of the lilies  
Christ was born across the sea,  
With a **glory** in his bosom  
that **transfigures** you and me.  
As he died to make men holy,  
let us live to make men free.  
While God is marching on.**

**Julia Ward Howe**

**Do not merely listen to the word,  
and so deceive yourselves.**

**Do what it says.**

**Anyone who listens to the word  
but does not do what it says  
is like a man who looks at his face in a **mirror** and,  
after looking at himself,  
goes away and **immediately forgets**  
what he looks like.**

**But the man who looks intently into  
the perfect law that gives freedom,  
and continues to do this,  
not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it —  
he will be blessed in what he does.**

**James 1:22-25**

# God can keep us from being Disfigured, or Transfigured in the wrong way

**We are  
hard pressed on every side,  
but not crushed;  
perplexed,  
but not in despair;  
persecuted,  
but not abandoned;  
struck down [knocked down],  
but not destroyed [knocked out].**

**2 Corinthians 4:7-12**

**Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite.**

**"Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked.**

**Like the Pharisees?**

**"Hasn't he also spoken through us?"**

**And the LORD heard this.**

**(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)**

**Numbers 12:1-2**

**At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam,  
"Come out to the Tent of Meeting,  
all three of you."**

**Being taken to the woodshed**

**So the three of them came out.**

**Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud;  
he stood at the entrance to the Tent  
and summoned Aaron and Miriam.**

**When both of them stepped forward,  
he said,  
"Listen to my words:**

**Numbers 12:4-6a**

# Moses Foreshadowing the Role of Christ

"When a prophet of the LORD is among you,  
I reveal myself to him in **visions**,  
I speak to him in **dreams**.

Even parables?

But this is not true of my servant Moses;  
he is faithful in all my house.

More than a prophet

With him I speak **face to face**,  
**clearly and not in riddles**;  
he sees the **form** of the LORD.

Moses can "see" God

Why then were you not afraid  
to speak against my servant Moses?"

Numbers 12:6b-8

The anger of the LORD burned against them,  
and he left them.

When the cloud lifted from above the Tent,  
there stood Miriam —  
leprous, like snow.

Why was Aaron not punished?

Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had leprosy;  
and he said to Moses,  
"Please, my lord, do not hold against **us** the sin  
**we** have so foolishly committed...

Numbers 12:9-12

Moses is called "lord" by his older brother, who admits "their" guilt

# Moses Foreshadowing the Role of Christ

**So Moses cried out to the LORD,  
"O God, please heal her!"**

**Moses intercedes**

**The LORD replied to Moses,  
"If her father had spit in her face,  
would she not have been in disgrace for seven days?  
Confine her outside the camp for seven days;  
after that she can be brought back."**

**So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days,  
and the people did not move on  
till she was brought back.**

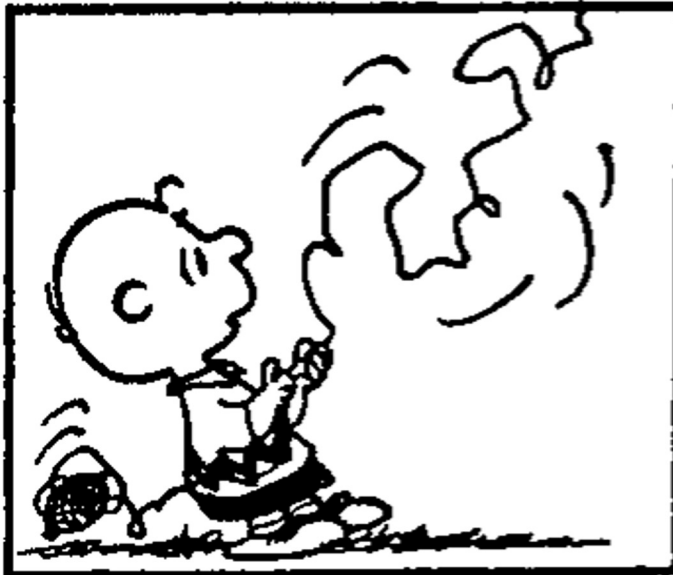
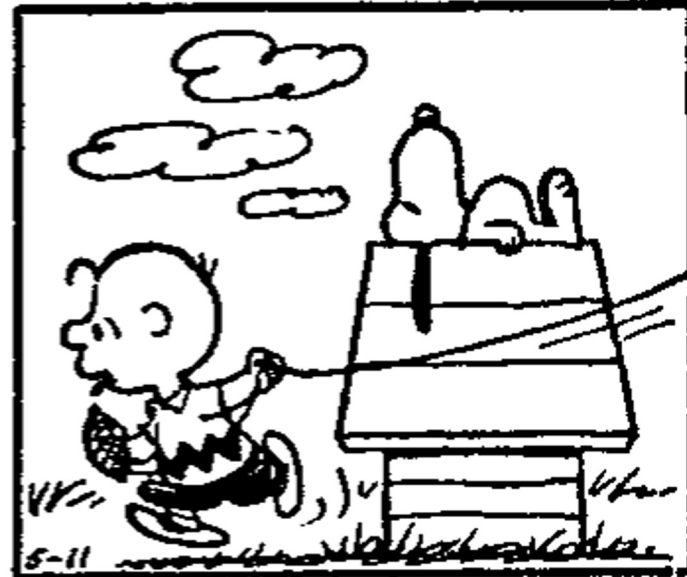
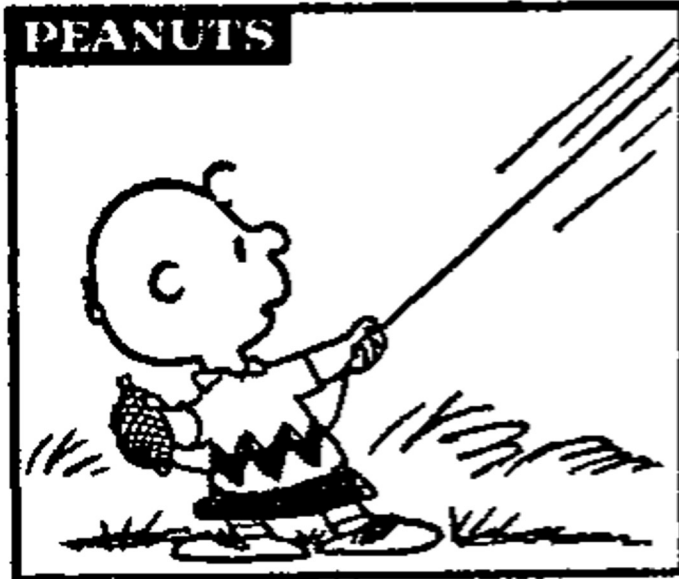
**Numbers 12:13-15**

**Moses intercedes for the Israelites at other times as well**



# Trying to Sustain the Experience

Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



# Trying to Sustain the Experience

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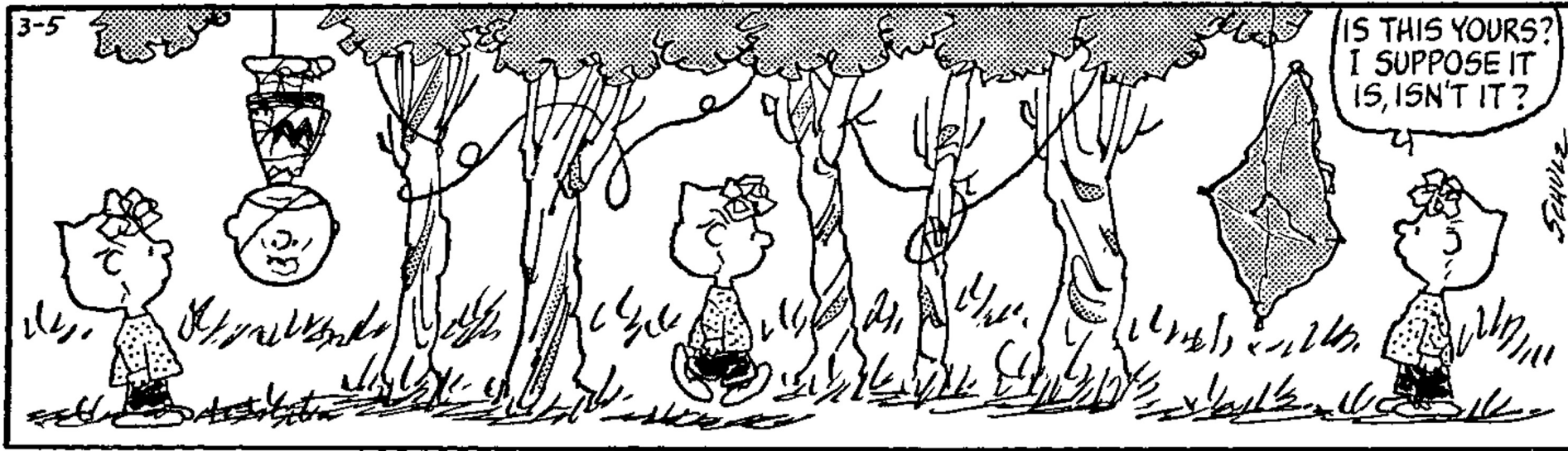


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Sometimes the Kite Flies Charlie Brown!

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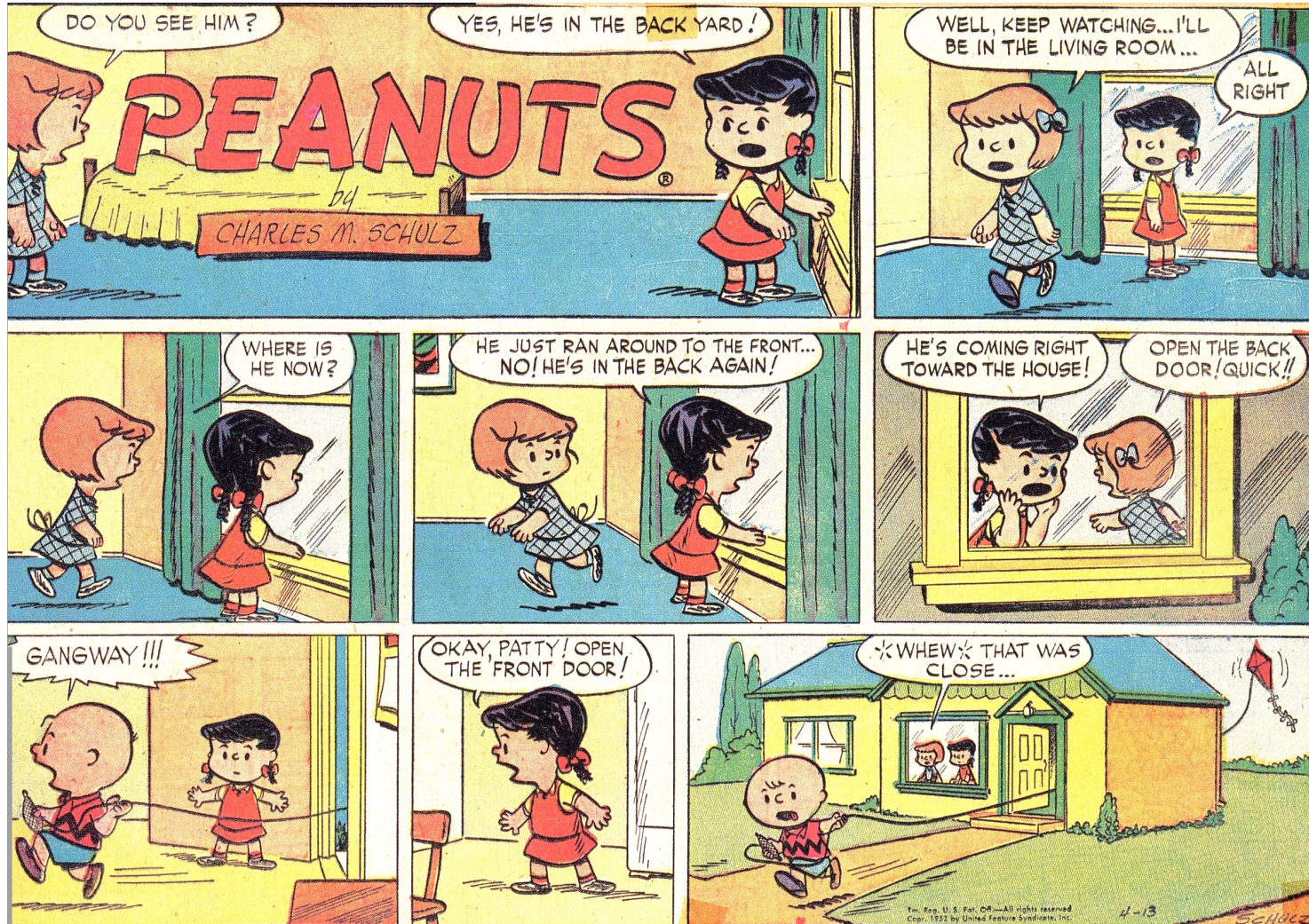


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Sometimes the Kite Flies Charlie Brown!

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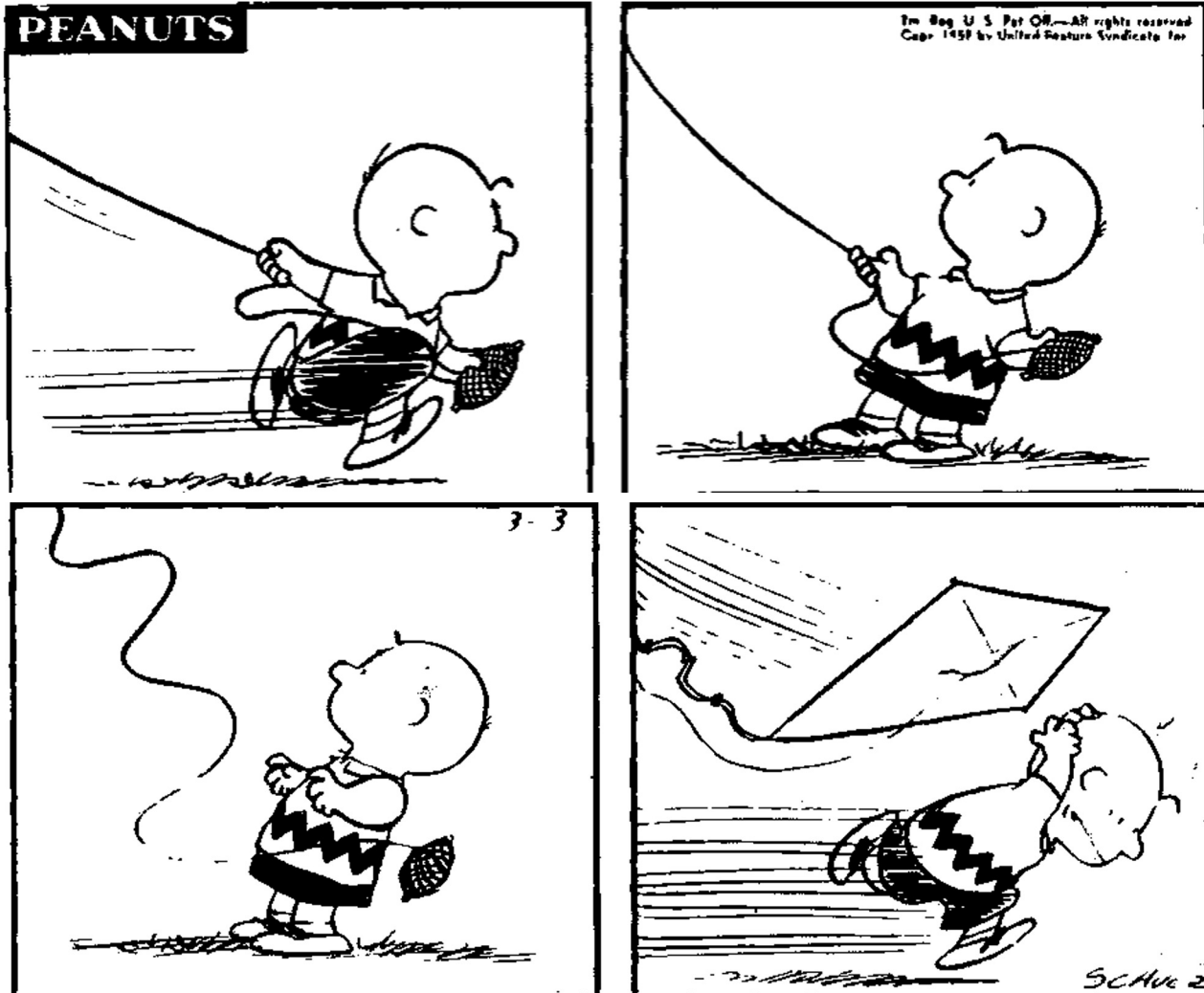
## Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



Charlie Brown is not really in control

# Trying to Sustain the Experience

Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



We have to get out of the way sometimes!

# Trying to Sustain the Experience

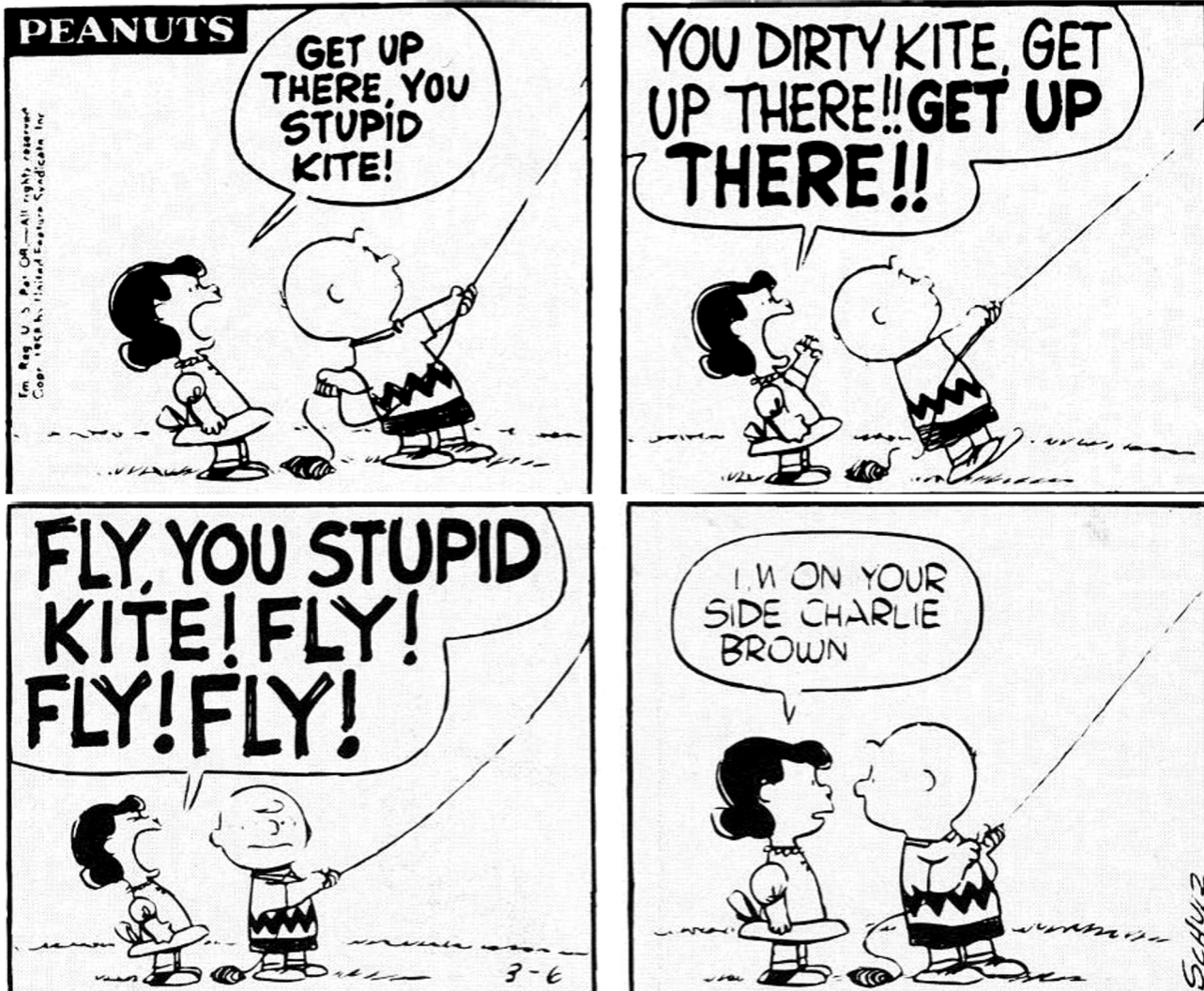
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Sometimes in our moment of frustration, the kite flies!

# Trying to Sustain the Experience

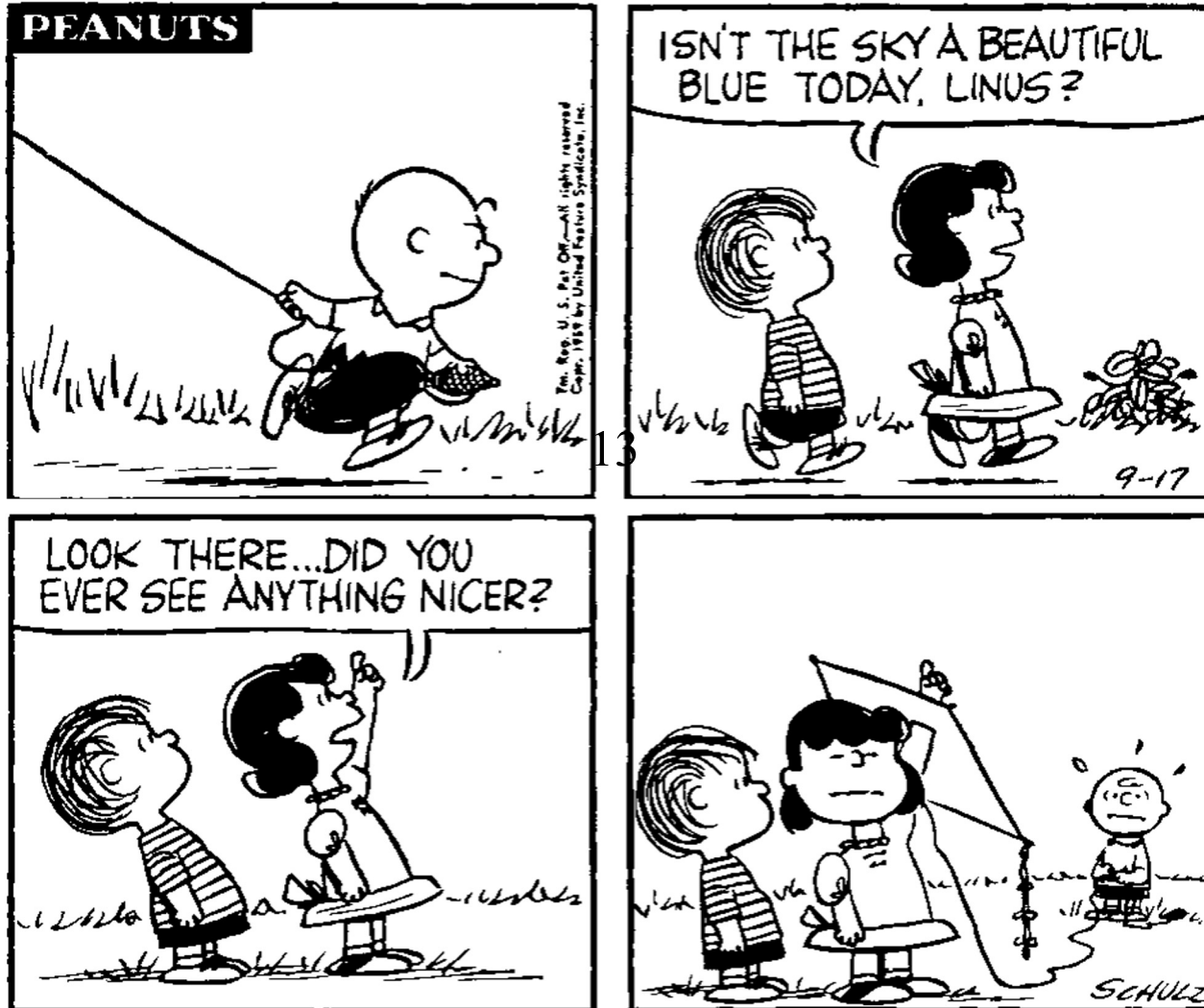
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People try to help us...

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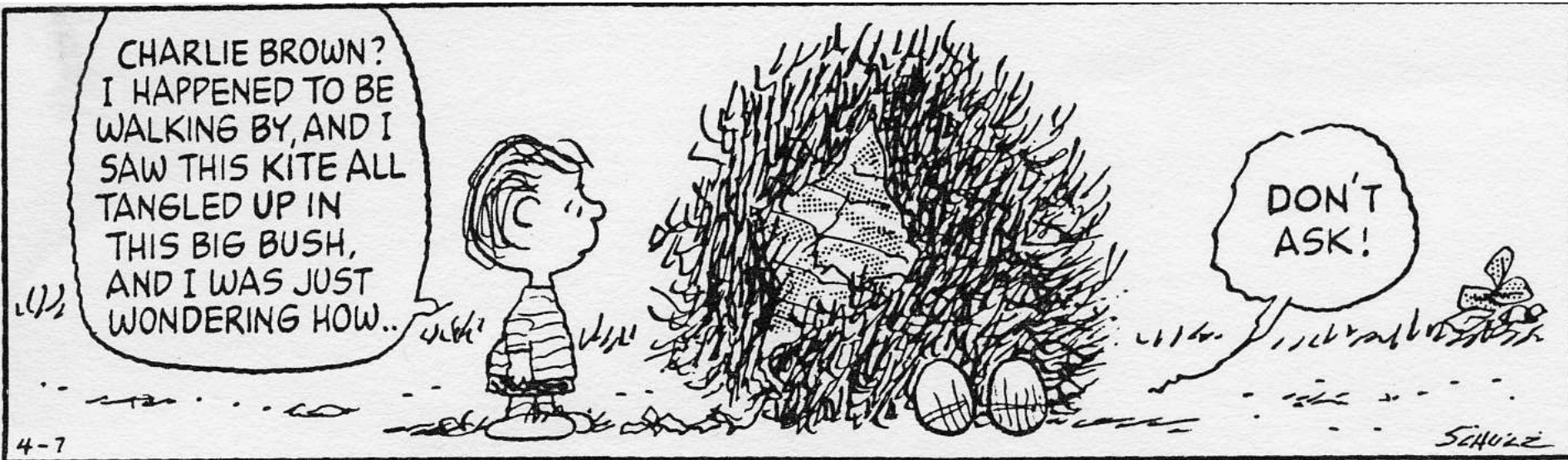


Other people are affected by our efforts...



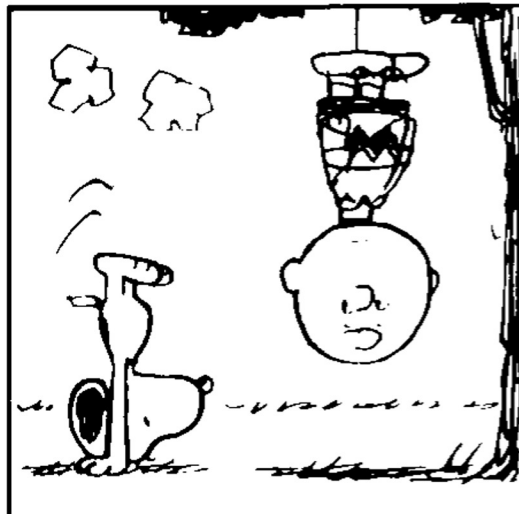
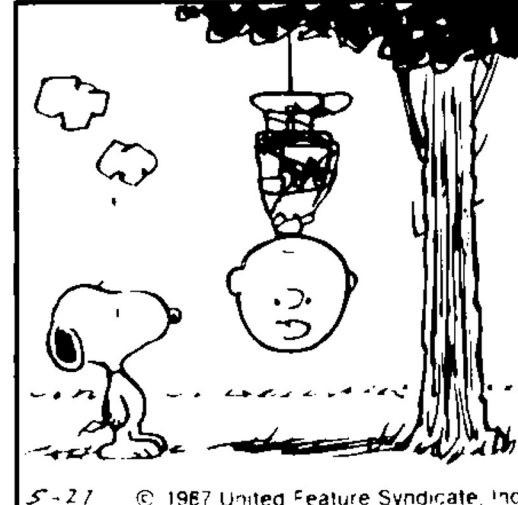
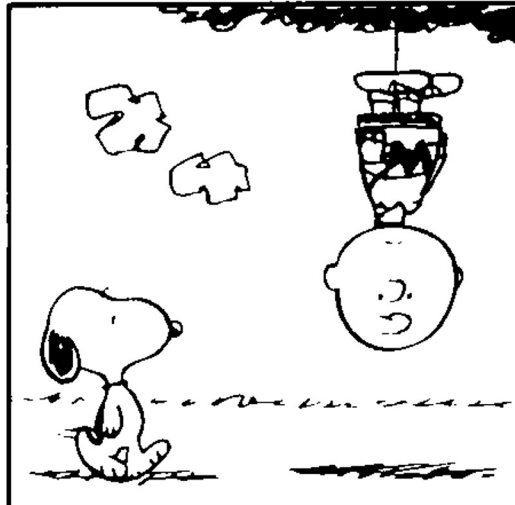
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# Trying to Sustain the Experience

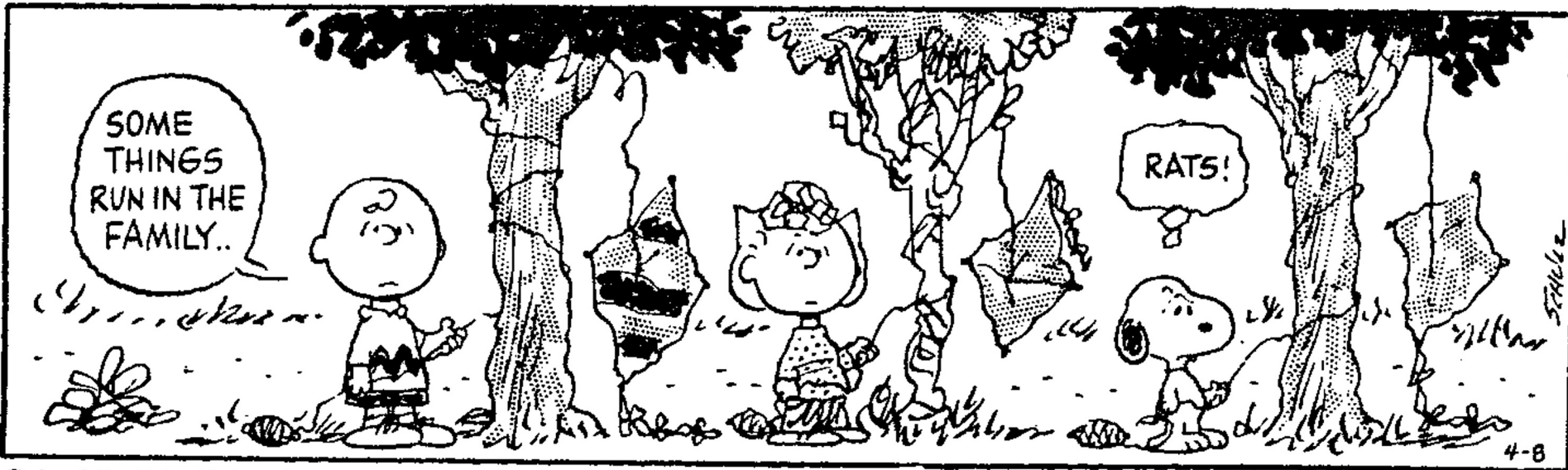
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We may get so wrapped up in it that others barely know us

# Trying to Sustain the Experience

Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



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We all have the same problem

# Trying to Sustain the Experience

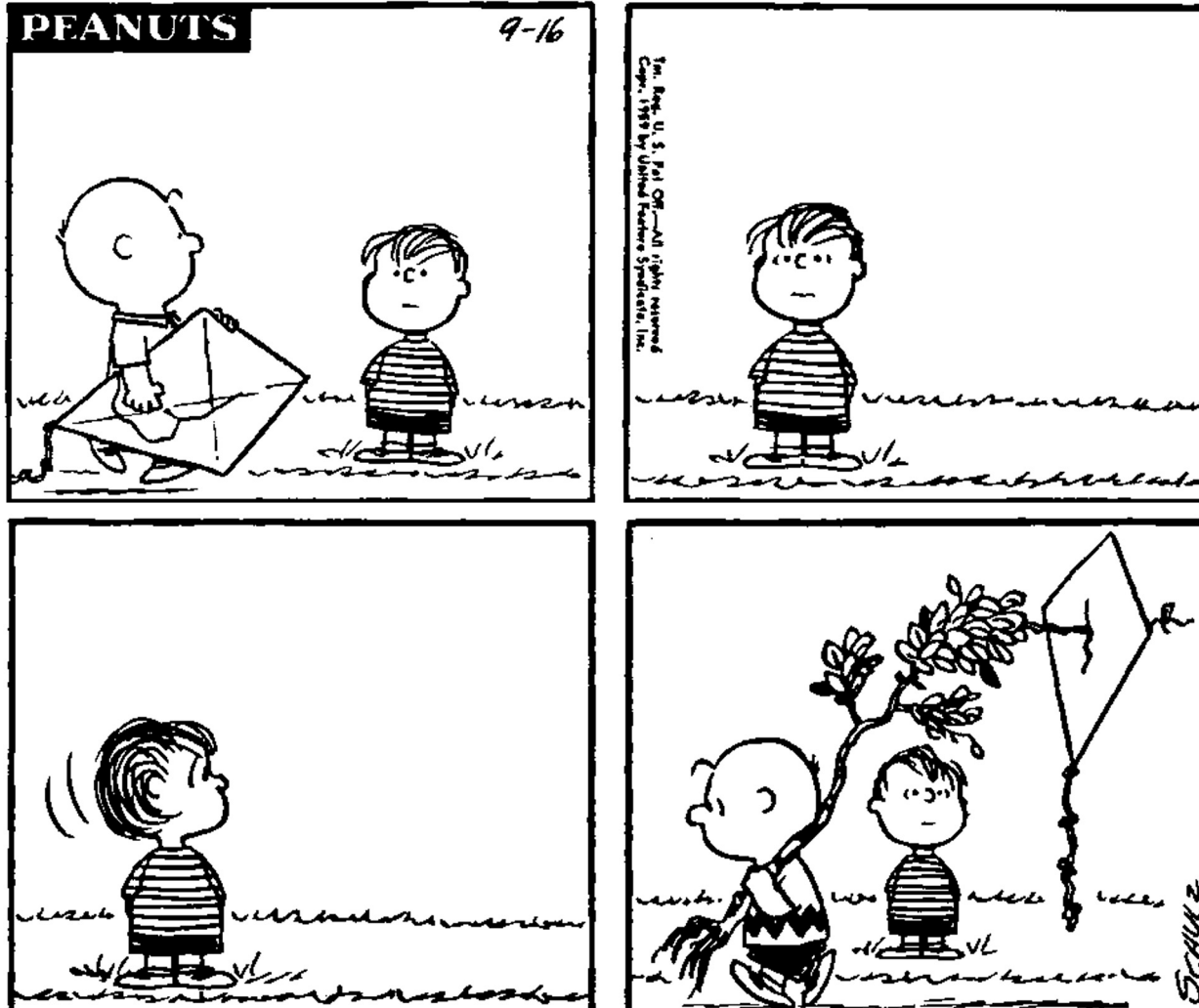
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We can't serve people when we get hung up!

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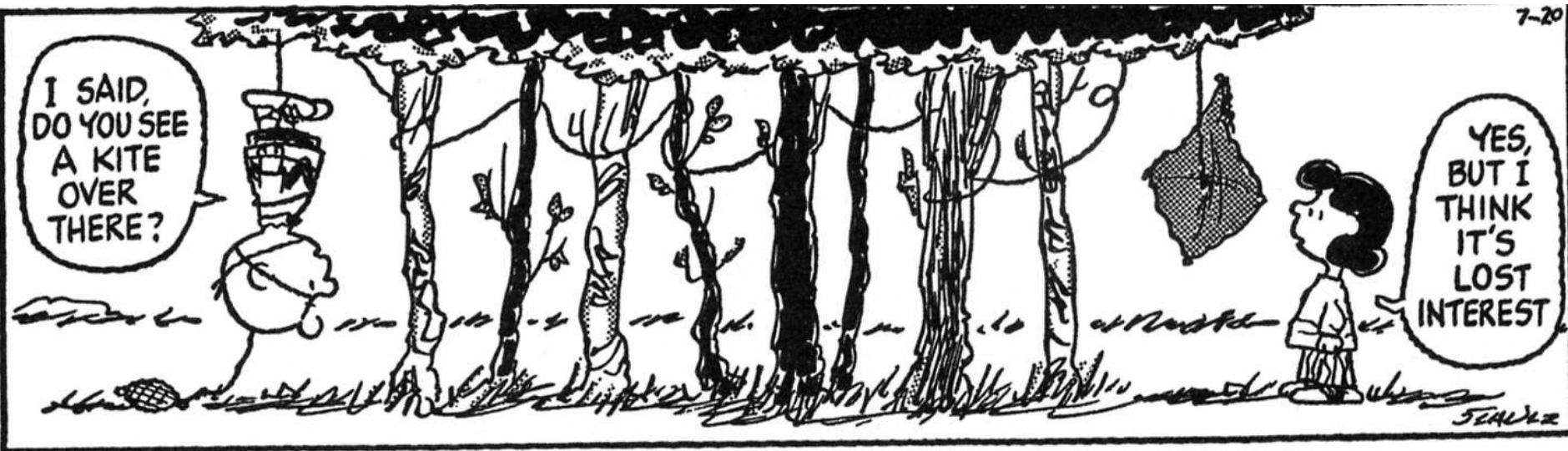
## Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



We sometimes have to remove obstacles that get in our way!

# Trying to Sustain the Experience

Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



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We must never lose interest in spiritual flight!

# Trying to Sustain the Experience

Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



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Sometimes the obstacles don't last forever.

# Trying to Sustain the Experience

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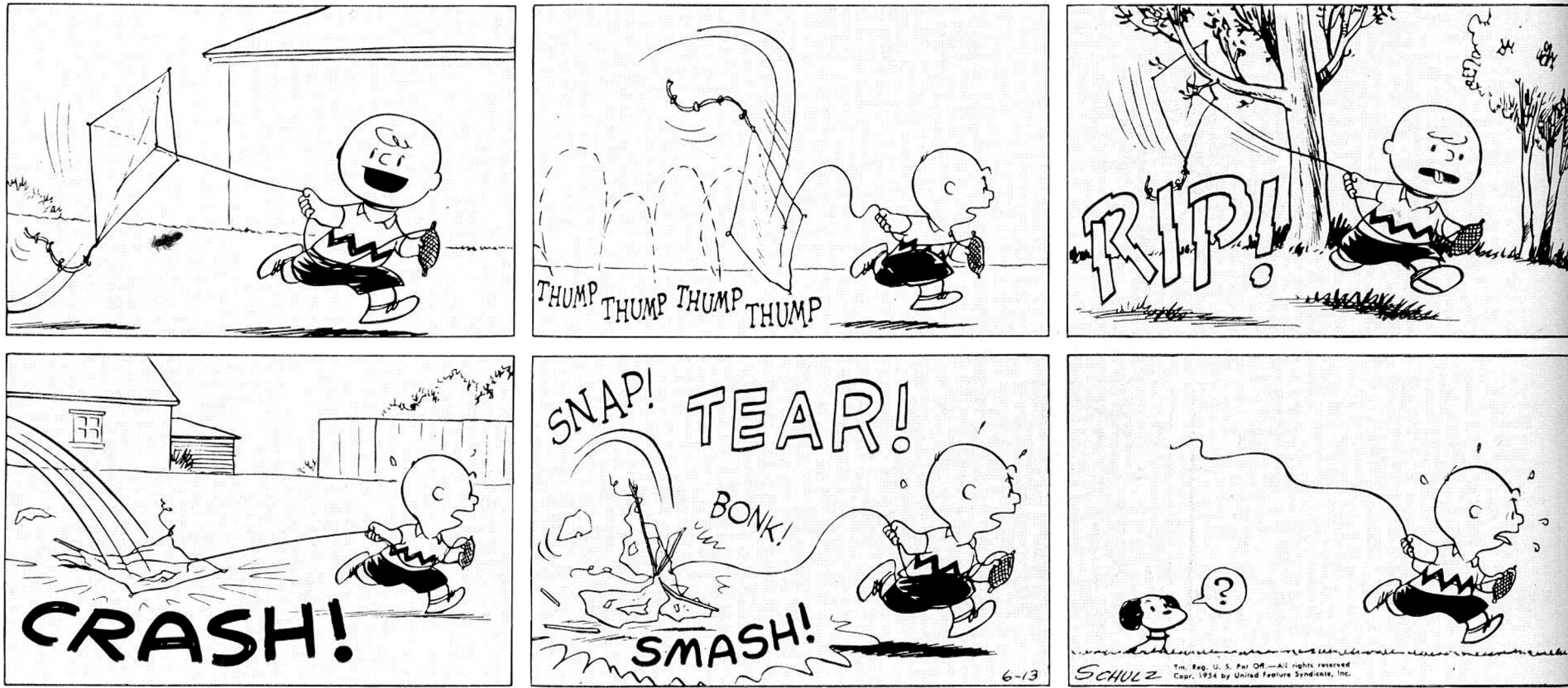
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We may not be able to understand our failure.



# Trying to Sustain the Experience

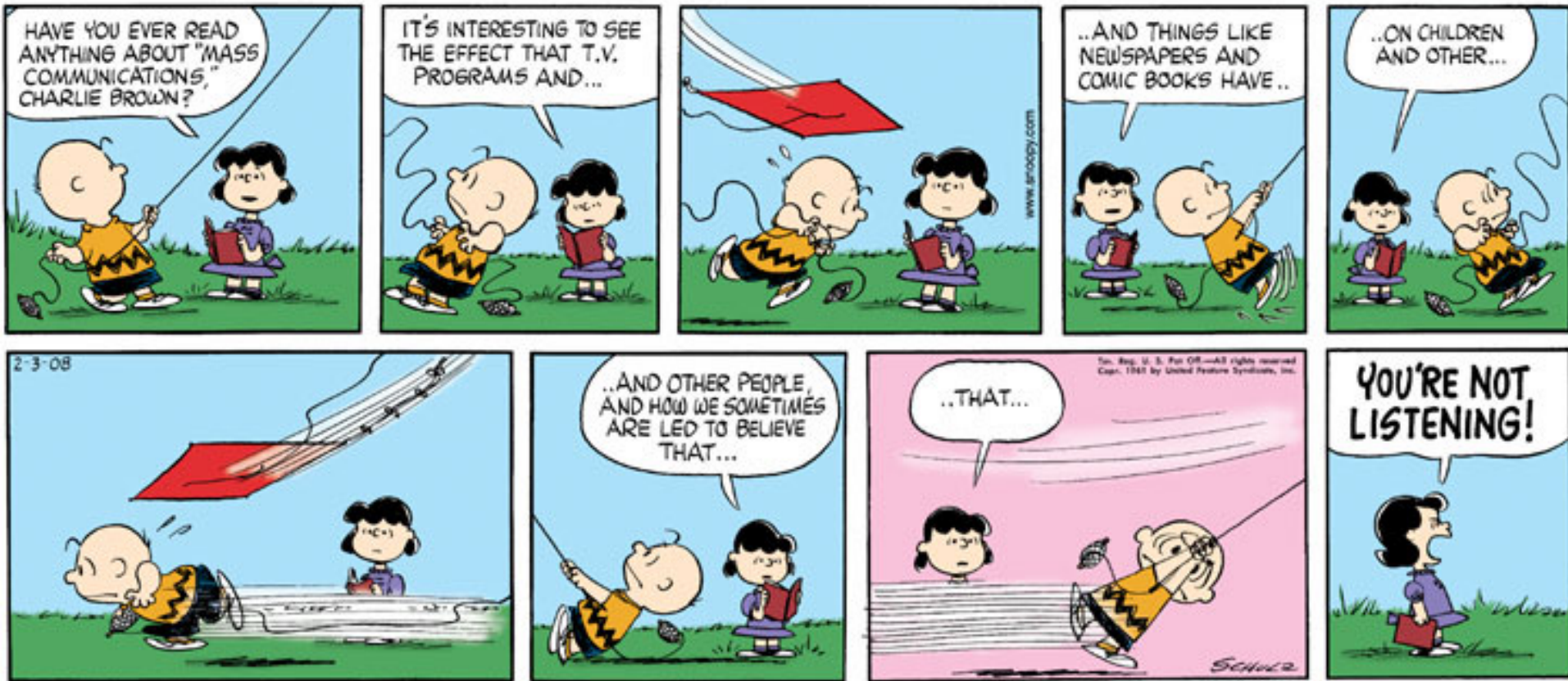
Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



We may lose sight of our objective.

# Trying to Sustain the Experience

Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



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Not everyone appreciates the importance of our mission.

# Trying to Sustain the Experience

Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



Charlie Brown had struggled in his mind whether to continue.

We must not be intimidated and give up.

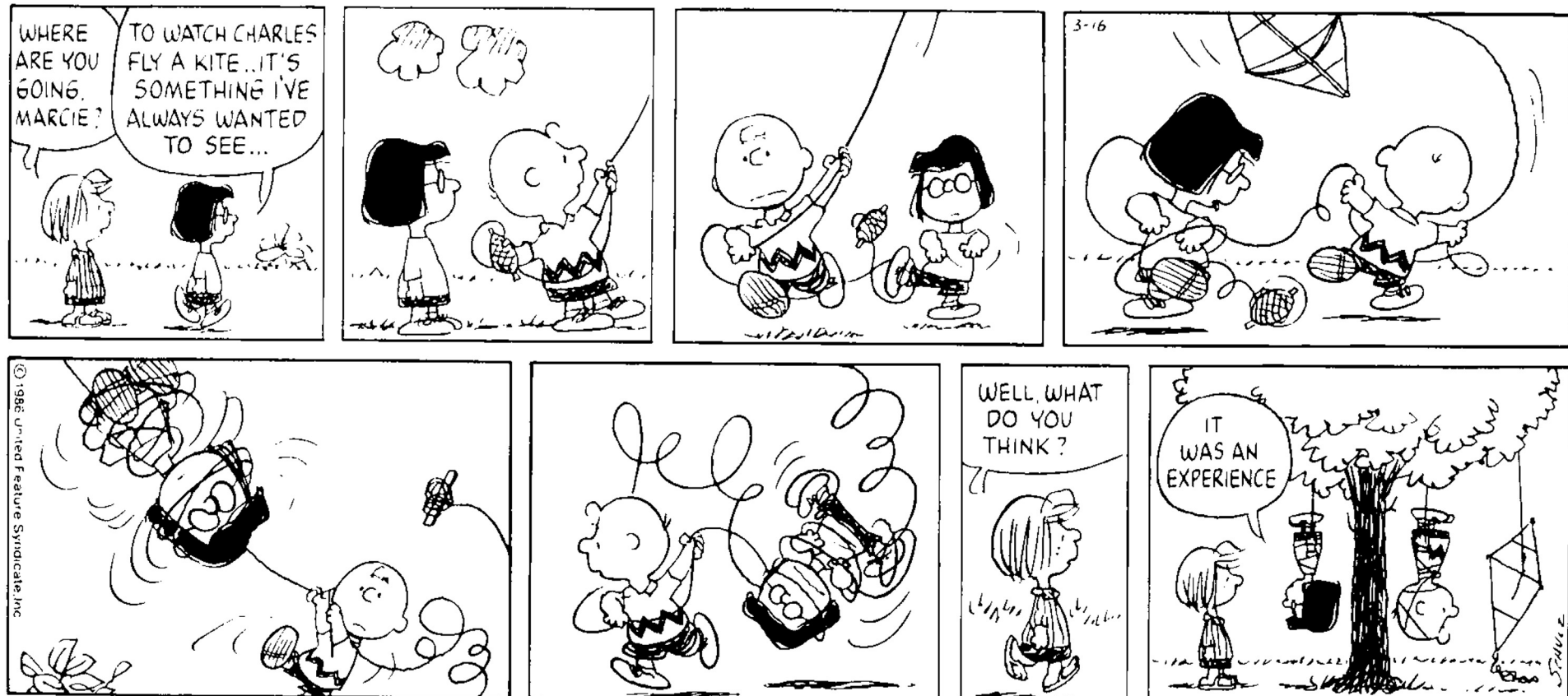
# Trying to Sustain the Experience

Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



There is no place we can't fly our spiritual kite.

## Like Charlie Brown Trying to Fly a Kite



**We are all involved together in the same pursuit!**

# Outline of the Class

## Transfiguration

- Introduction
- **Basic Analysis**
- Spiritual Meaning
- Sustainment
- Practical Application
- Summary

# Keeping the Law is not Simple

**People consider the 10 Commandments the “Law of God”**

**But it wasn't long before Moses**

**had to introduce a set of judges (Exodus 18:22)**

**to handle to the burden**

**of all of the legal issues of the people.**

**This was another sign**

**that man cannot keep the law in a perfect way.**

# Covering Everything with the Law is not Possible<sup>8</sup>

**After all of the law (10 commandments and other rules) were given men, a case came up that was not covered.**

**The case of Zelophehad's daughters and their inheritance.**

**So Moses brought their case before the LORD and the LORD said to him,**

**"What Zelophehad's daughters are saying is right.**

**You must certainly give them property**

**as an inheritance among their father's relatives**

**and turn their father's inheritance over to them.**

**Numbers 27:6-7**



# Outline of the Class

## Basic Analysis

- **Who**
  - Moses, Elijah, the “three” apostles
  - Common Themes
- **What**
  - Definitions
- **Where**
  - The Mountain
    - Why a mountain?
    - Alone or with God
- **When**
- **Why**
  - Revelation of God’s Glory
  - Integration of Human and Divine

# Why bring these two people back from the dead?<sup>6</sup>

**Jesus:** Presenting the new kingdom (as priest and king)  
Acting as Son of God (personal contact)

**Moses:** God's Law given through Him [tribes]

**Elijah:** Prophet who fought to revive [kingdom]

**Elijah and Moses – two figures (prophet and lawgiver)  
before whom God had revealed himself in the OT .**  
– how many others did God reveal himself to?

**It is a strange thing that Moses and Elijah  
are the two greatest Old Testament figures  
about whose death there is a mystery.**

**William Barclay**

# Why not other key people?

**These were favored by the people of Israel:**

**Adam (first man)**

**Enoch (walked with God)**

**Noah**

**Daniel**

**Job**

**Abraham (covenant promise and people -- the father of many nations)**

**Isaac**

**Jacob**

**David (king)**

**Was John the Baptist already dead?**

**Angels (Michael, Gabriel)?**

**No 40 day endurance experience!**

# What did these three people have in common? 6

- **Endurance**
- **Providing Nourishment**
  - bread
  - water
- **Other experiences with Water**
- **Voice of God: Moses (~), Elijah (whispers), Jesus**
- **Face transformation? Moses and Jesus**
- **Fire: Moses and Elijah**

# Providing Nourishment

food for thought

## **Moses:**

manna from heaven (Exodus 16)

water from the rock (Exodus 17:6, Numbers 20:8ff)

## **Elijah:**

continual oil and never-ending jar of flour

(1 Kings 17:1ff; esp 16)

this after he had been fed bread and meat by ravens

## **Jesus:**

bread of life (John 6:25ff)

living water (John 4); water of life (Revelation 22-22)

fed the multitudes (Matthew 14:13ff, 15:29ff)

turning water into wine (John 2:1ff)

net full of fish (Luke 5:6, John 21:6)

I am the **bread** of **life**.

Your forefathers ate the **manna** in the desert,  
yet they **died**.

But here is the **bread** that comes down from heaven,  
which a man may eat and **not die**.

I am the **living bread** that came down from heaven.

If anyone eats of this **bread**, he will **live forever**.

This **bread** is my flesh,  
which I will give for the **life** of the world.”

John 6:48-51

Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves,

"How can this man give us his **flesh** to eat?"

Jesus said to them,

"I tell you the truth,

unless you eat the **flesh** of the Son of Man

and drink his **blood**,

you have no **life** in you.

**John 6:52-53**

# Bread from Heaven

Whoever **eats** my **flesh** and **drinks** my **blood**  
has **eternal life**,

and I will **raise him up** at the last day.

For my **flesh** is real **food** and my **blood** is real **drink**.

Whoever eats my **flesh** and drinks my **blood**  
remains in me,  
and I in him.

Just as the living Father sent me and

I live because of the Father,

so the one who **feeds** on me will **live** because of me.

**John 6:54-57**



This is the **bread** that came down from heaven.  
Your forefathers ate **manna** and **died**,  
but he who feeds on this **bread** will **live forever.**”

**John 6:58**

To know Christ through his **encounters**  
is to appreciate how he **transfigures** lives  
and changes futures.

Let us pray that he will continue  
to **encounter** us in this same way.

**Alister McGrath**

# What did these three people have in common? <sup>7</sup>

- **Endurance**
- **Providing Nourishment**
  - bread
  - water
- **Other experiences with Water**
- **Voice of God: Moses (~), Elijah (whispers), Jesus**
- **Face transformation? Moses and Jesus**
- **Fire: Moses and Elijah**

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net full of fish (Luke 5:6, John 21:6)

# Bread from Heaven

Jesus stated that he was the **bread of life**.  
He then compared himself to the **manna** given  
to the people in the desert, yet they **died**.  
He is the **living bread** that came down from heaven  
that allows us to **live forever**.  
Then he compared this **bread** to His flesh,  
which He gave for the **life** of the world.  
Jesus then said that we must eat  
the **flesh** of the Son of Man and drink his **blood**,  
to have eternal **life**.

How much do we desire this?

# The Shock of Thinking of the Flesh and Blood 7

On hearing it, many of his disciples said,

"This is a **hard teaching**.

Who can accept it?"

Think of other images that offend

Aware that his disciples were **grumbling** about this,  
Jesus said to them,

"Does this offend you? ...

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit  
and they are life.

Yet there are some of you who do not believe."

How many  
came  
back?

From this time many of his disciples turned back  
and no longer followed him.

The first time Jesus' popularity decreased

John 6:61-66

# The Israelites grumbled about the Manna, too 7

The rabble with them began to crave other food,  
and again the Israelites started wailing and said,

"If only we had meat to eat!

We remember the fish we ate in Egypt

**at no cost** —

**Did they forget they were slaves?**

also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.

But now we have lost our appetite;

we never see anything but this manna!"

Numbers 11:4-6

God sent them quail until it was coming out their noses!

He also sent a plague that killed many.

**The flesh was still stuck in their teeth**

Numbers 11:19-22

# Transubstantiation

7

**Definition: the change of the substance of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ occurring in the Eucharist (Communion) according to the teaching of some Christian Churches, including the Roman Catholic Church.**

**Is this Transfiguration? At some level?**

**The Bread and Wine**

**are **symbols** of the Flesh and Blood of Christ:**

**We don't need them to physically change --**

**this would limit the power of God to be with us in Spirit**

**This has to work in our head, not in our physical body.  
It is spiritual, not physical nourishment.**



**Jesus answered,**

**”Everyone who drinks this **water** will be thirsty again,  
but whoever drinks the **water** I give him  
will never thirst.**

**Indeed, the water I give him will become **in him**  
a spring of water welling up to **eternal life.**”**

**John 4:13-14**

**We don't have to continually go somewhere and get it.  
It “wells” up from within us.**

**He said to me:**

**"It is done.**

**I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
the Beginning and the End.**

**The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"**

**And let him who hears say, "Come!"**

**To him who is thirsty I will give to drink**

**without cost**

**from the spring of the water of life."**

**Revelation 21:6, 22:17**

**We cannot pay the cost: Christ did**

# Satisfaction of Our Desires?

more food for thought

**Our desire remains to be with God**

– we don't want that to end

- living water Jn 4; “no more thirsting”
- bread of life Jn 6:35; “no more hungering or thirsting”

**We are always hungry/thirsty again;**

**is this good or bad?**

- The desire keeps our attention focused

**Living water: never thirst, or never be in need?**

**We may not thirst in heaven,  
but we will still “thirst” for him**

# Satisfaction of Our Desires?

**Does God satisfy our desires  
like a pill that instantly cures our disease?**

**As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, O God.**

**Psalms 42:1**

**We must desire God as the deer pants for the water.**

**God is easy to please, but hard to satisfy.**

**We have to have more than textbooks –  
we need text-people.**

**Abraham Joshua Heschel**

# Nourishment from Heaven

Jesus stated that he was the **bread** of **life**.  
He then compared himself to the **manna** given to the people in the desert, yet they **died**.  
He is the **living bread** that came down from heaven that allows us to **live forever**.  
Then he compared this **bread** to His flesh, which He gave for the **life** of the world.  
Jesus then said that we must eat the **flesh** of the Son of Man and drink his **blood**, to have eternal **life**.

Jesus also claim to provide the water of life.

- It wells up from a source deep within.
- He paid the price; it is at no cost to us

# The Fundamentals of the Flesh and Blood

## The life is in the blood

What else could represent life in such a dramatic fashion?

For the life of a creature is in the blood...

it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

Leviticus 17:11

## The new testament (of Grace) required more:

In the case of a will,

it is necessary to prove the death  
of the one who made it...

even the first covenant was not put into effect  
without blood...

and without the shedding of blood  
there is no forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:16-23

**The Old Testament taught us  
the inadequacy of the law,  
or a set of rules to live by --  
but it also prepared us  
for the fundamentals,  
as with the life-power in the blood.**



# **We don't properly count the cost**

**"If only we had meat to eat!**

**We remember the fish we ate in Egypt**

**at no cost —**

**also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.**

**Numbers 11:4-6**

**Sin fools us the same way –  
We think that there is no cost!**

**The wages of sin is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life...**

**Romans 6:23**

# **Satan tries to distract us, or make us lose focus 8**

**What is really important?**

**Whether the bread really becomes flesh?**

**The exact nature of the thousand-year reign?**

**Eating meat offered to idols?**

**Treating your personal Bible as “untouchable”?**

**Satan distracted Eve**

**from the real meaning of and relationship to God**

# Christ Promises an Eternal Water Flow



# Satisfaction of Our Desires?

**Our desire remains to be with God**

– we don't want that to end

- **living water Jn 4; “no more thirsting”**
- **bread of life Jn 6:35; “no more hungering or thirsting”**

**We are always hungry/thirsty again;**

**is this good or bad?**

- **Our sense of needing to “earn” our salvation is gone**
- **The desire keeps our attention focused**

**Living water: never thirst, or never be in need?**

**We may not thirst in heaven,**

**but we will still “thirst” for him**

**There is no pill that kills this desire**

**Does our soul “pant” for God?**

- **Moses**

- Nile (ark, plagues)
- crossing the Red Sea
- Jordan (barrier)

**Think about other connections  
with water for the three:**

- **Elijah**

- rain (drought for three years)
- turned water into fire (duel with Ahab)
- stream where he was fed by ravens
- crossing the Jordan

- **Jesus**

- turned water into wine
- living water
- crossing the Sea of Galilee
- baptism
- if someone gives a cup of water in my name
- thirsty on the cross – wouldn't take a drug
- washing (ceremonial)
- water from Jesus' side
- stilling the storm

# Crossing a body of water

- **Moses**

crossing the Red Sea:

he kept his arms raised while the water was divided while the people of Israel passed to safety (Exodus 14:16ff)

- **Elijah**

crossing the Jordan:

he rolled up his cloak and struck the water with it;

He and Elisha crossed to the place where Elijah was taken up in a fiery chariot;

the power and call of Elijah was passed on to Elisha,  
who also used the cloak to divide the water on the way back  
(2 Kings 2:8ff)

- **Jesus**

crossing the Sea of Galilee:

He walked on water (would have walked by the disciples in a boat);

He encouraged Peter to get out of the boat and walk on water for a moment (the storm caused his faith to weaken) (Mark 6:45ff)

# Transfiguring Water

- **Moses**

Turning water into blood:

one of the plagues

Moses struck the water of the Nile with his staff and God turned it into blood (Exodus 7:17ff)

- **Elijah**

Burning water:

at the contest between Baal and God

he soaked the altar and sacrifice with water (and dug ditches to collect it) and God sent down fire to burn it all up (1 Kings 18:30ff)

- **Jesus**

Turning water into wine:

His first miracle

He created the best wine at the feast (at the request of his mother) ☒  
(John 2:1ff)

- **Moses**

  - The Burning Bush (Exodus 3:2)

  - Moses interceded for the complaining people of Israel after the Lord sent fire to destroy them (Numbers 11:1-3)

- **Elijah**

  - The altar at the contest between Baal and God

    - God sent down fire to burn it all up (1 Kings 18:30ff)

  - Fire from heaven to destroy Ahab's soldiers (2 Kings 1:10-11)

  - Fiery chariot to take him to the presence of God (2 Kings 2:11)

- **Jesus**

  - Will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Luke 3:16)

  - Refused James and John's suggestion to bring down fire on the Samaritan city (Luke 9:54)

  - Will be revealed from heaven in blazing fire (2 Thessalonians 1:7)



# Those thought important in New Testament Times<sup>8</sup>

## Herod Wonders about Jesus

Luke 9:7-9

## Peter's Confession of Christ

Luke 9:18-27; Mt 16:13-16; Mk 8:27-29

*Who is Christ?*

- *John the Baptist resurrected*
- *Elijah appeared*
- *prophet of long ago resurrected*

*Why only look to the past and not the future?*

*The people waited for the Messiah,  
but were very unclear about how He would come.*

# Why such interest in Elijah?

**"Remember the law of my servant **Moses**,  
the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.**

**[See the connection here between Moses and Elijah]**

**"See, I will send you the prophet **Elijah**  
before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.**

**He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children,  
and the hearts of the children to their fathers;  
or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."**

**Malachi 4:4-6**

**Martin Luther called it “left-handed” power.**

**Right-handed power consists of  
the blatant demonstration of power over people.**

**Left-handed power is the quiet demonstration  
of power in people,  
the power to stir up an appetite for God  
no matter what may be happening in someone’s life.**

**Larry Crabb**

# Discussion of Moses and Elijah in Romans 10-11<sup>9</sup>

**Christ is the end of the law  
so that there may be righteousness  
for everyone who believes.**

**Moses describes in this way  
the righteousness that is by the law:  
"The man who does these things will **live** by them."**

**Romans 10:4-5**

**Moses promotes righteousness from the law**

# Discussion of Moses and Elijah in Romans 10-11<sup>9</sup>

Isaiah weighs in as well

Again I ask: Did Israel not understand?

First, Moses says,

"I will make you envious by those who are not a nation;  
I will make you angry  
by a nation that has no understanding."

And Isaiah boldly says,

"I was found by those who did not seek me;  
I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me."

But concerning Israel he says,

"All day long I have held out my hands  
to a disobedient and obstinate people."

Romans 10:9-21

The people in general rejected the law

## **Discussion of Moses and Elijah in Romans 10-11<sup>9</sup>**

**God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew.**

**Don't you know what the Scripture**

**says in the passage about Elijah —**

**how he appealed to God against Israel:**

**"Lord, they have killed your prophets**

**and torn down your altars;**

**I am the only one left,**

**and they are trying to kill me"?**

**And what was God's answer to him?**

**"I have reserved for myself seven thousand**

**who have not bowed the knee to Baal."**

**Romans 11:2-4**

**But God did not reject His people**

# Discussion of Moses and Elijah in Romans 10-11<sup>9</sup>

So too, at the present time there is

**a remnant chosen by grace.**

And if by grace, then it is no longer by works;

if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

**Romans 11:5-6**

**Elijah's case leads to a lesson on Grace**

# How about other connections?

**Moses and John;  
here were the Bible's first and final authors  
in one place.**

**Talk about a writers' conference!**



# Witnesses to the Transfiguration

**God** Witnessed that Christ was His Son and Representative

**Moses and Elijah** Witnessed that the Actions of Christ were in accordance with their message from God (They gave their approval)

The three, **Peter, James and John**, were also witnesses to the fact that the heavenly beings gave their witness

The **other nine apostles** connected this to their own witness of the ministry of Christ

The **church** should also bear witness  
It should transform the world – has it?

**Each of us** should be a witness to Christ and His transforming power

**It is as if they**

**(Moses and Elijah on the mount of transfiguration)**

**said to him:**

**'It is you who are right,**

**and it is the popular teachers who are wrong:**

**it is in you in whom there is the fulfillment**

**of all that the law says**

**and all that the prophets foretold.'**

**William Barclay**

**The Transfiguration showed advocacy  
from the leaders of the OT as well as God Himself**

# The Transfiguration Revisited

We did not follow cleverly invented stories  
when we told you about the power and coming  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
but we were **eyewitnesses** of his majesty.

For he received **honor** and **glory** from God the Father  
when the **voice** came to him from the Majestic Glory,  
saying, "This is my Son, whom I love;  
with him I am well pleased."

We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven  
when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

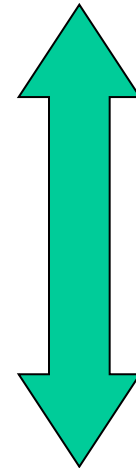
**2 Peter 2:16**

**Peter witnesses to this in his letters to the churches**

# Raphael's Transfiguration



**Glory of God**



**Weakness of man**

**Healing of the lunatic boy**

# Focus on the Point of Fusion between God and Man

## Italian artists

**The scene was returned to so often  
because it illustrates  
a central concept of Christianity:**

**the physical juncture of Christ's  
humanity and divinity,**

**the human manifestation of  
God's presence in the world.**

# Demonstration to the Apostles

## Why these three (Peter, James, and John)?

- **Jarius' daughter (Mark 5:37)**
- **Transfiguration (Mark 9:2)**
- **Signs of the end of the age (Mark 13:3)**
- **Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:33)**
- **Pillars of the church (Galatians 2:9 )**

# Demonstration to the Apostles

- **This is the only time in the Gospels where Christ's divinity is revealed by God to the apostles**
- **This is the first time in the gospels that God spoke to the apostles**
- **The event strengthened the apostles for the coming passion**
- **The disciples were very much in awe of Moses -- Think about how they grew up thinking about him.**

**Think of the awe they must have felt,  
in being so close to God!**

# Outline of the The Transfiguration

## What

- **Definition(s)**
- **Study of Event**
- **Comparison to the Crucifixion**



# Transfiguration Definitions

- **A marked (striking) change in form or appearance; a metamorphosis.**
- **A change that glorifies or exalts.**
- **Bible. The sudden emanation of radiance from the person of Jesus that occurred on a mountain.**
- **The Christian feast commemorating this event, observed on August 6 in the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches, on August 19 in the Eastern Orthodox Church, and on the Sunday before Lent in most Protestant churches.**
- **The process or result of changing from one appearance, state, or phase to another: transmutation, transubstantiation.**

**Remember that the transfiguration of Jesus was more of a revelation of God transfigured into the form of a man**

# Transfiguration Synonyms

**about-face\***, adaptation, alteration, born again\*, break with the past, change (sea, major, radical, revolutionary, sudden, total), changeover, conversion, evolution, exchange, flip-flop\*, metamorphosis, modification, mutation, permutation, quantum jump, quantum leap, rebirth, reconstruction, reformation, regeneration, remodeling, renewal, reorganization, repent, reversal, revolution, shift, switch, transfigurement, transformation (marked), translation, transmogrification, transmutation (lead to gold ☐ fake!), transubstantiation, turning; see **reformation, revision**

**Roget's New Millennium™ Thesaurus**

**\* = informal or slang**

**The key Transfiguration  
is from the old way of doing things  
to the new way of the New Kingdom**

**Our Lord's transfiguration was not a masquerade.**

**The angels did not shine spotlights on Him:  
the glory came from within.**

**Warren Wiersbe**

**But we need a complete change!**

**Which is the most important?**

**Revelation of the Power and Glory of God,**

**or**

**Revelation of the Personal Presence of God?**

# Outline of the Class

## Basic Analysis

- **Who**
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  - Definitions
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- **When**
- **Why**
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  - Integration of Human and Divine

**Whereever there is a spark of human spirit,  
it is the teacher's job to fan it.**

**Viktor Lowenfeld**

# Isolation from the Power

**Moses said to the LORD,**

**"O Lord, I have never been eloquent,  
neither in the past**

**nor since you have spoken to your servant.**

**I am slow of speech and tongue."**

**No immediate  
miraculous fix**

**The LORD said to him,**

**"Who gave man his mouth? ...**

**Is it not I, the LORD ?**

**Now go;**

**I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."**

**We all need this kind of help**

**But Moses said,**

**"O Lord, please send someone else to do it."**

**Exodus 4:10-13**



**Now when the LORD spoke to Moses in Egypt,  
he said to him,  
"I am the LORD.  
Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you."**

**But Moses said to the LORD,  
"Since I speak with faltering lips,  
why would Pharaoh listen to me?"**

**Then the LORD said to Moses,  
"See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh,  
and your brother Aaron will be your prophet."**

**Exodus 6:28-29, 7:1**

**The LORD said to Moses,**

**"Speak to the Israelites and get twelve staffs from them,  
one from the leader of each of their ancestral tribes.**

**Write the name of each man on his staff.**

**On the staff of Levi write Aaron's name...**

**The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout,  
and I will rid myself of this  
constant grumbling against you by the Israelites."**

**... Moses placed the staffs before the LORD  
in the Tent of the Testimony.**

**Numbers 17:1-7**

# Transfiguration of Aaron's Rod

The next day Moses entered the Tent of the Testimony and saw that Aaron's staff, which represented the house of Levi, had not only **sprouted** but had **budded**, **blossomed** and **produced almonds**.

He can produce more in us than we expect, too!

Then Moses brought out all the staffs from the LORD's presence to all the Israelites.

They looked at them, and each man took his own staff.

Numbers 17:8

Transfigured beyond promise, and beyond imagination!

# What are the key “body” events of Christ?

- **birth (divine enters human)**
- baptism (mission validated by God)
- transfiguration (divine revealed)
- **crucifixion (divine leaves human)**
- resurrection (divine re-enters human\*)
- ascension (divine and human\* leave)

**Gory (with blood) or Glory (with epiphany/radiance)**

# Comparison: Transfiguration vs Crucifixion

**Glory on Mount Hermon -- Suffering on Mount Calvary**

## **Transfiguration**

**His being shone with  
incredible light**

**His robes were radiant**

**Moses and Elijah were with  
him**

**God's voice of approval was  
heard  
"This is my beloved son, in  
whom I am well pleased"**

## **Crucifixion**

**He suffered in awesome  
darkness**

**His robe was a gambler's prize  
(He was essentially naked)  
Two criminals were with him**

**(others forsook him)  
God's silence is felt in Christ's  
cry**

**"My God, My God, why  
have you forsaken me?"**

# Outline of the Class

## Where -- The Mountain

- **Why on a mountain?**
  - Alone
  - With God
- **Which mountain?**
- **Is the place sacred?**

**Real Estate: Location, Location, Location!**

# Why so much activity on a mountain top?

**not a valley or mine shaft**

- **isolation**
- **perspective**
- **closeness to God**

## **Other places for interaction with God or Jesus:**

**Seaside**

**Pool**

**Well**

**Home**

**Road**

**Tree**

**Temple**

**synagogue**

**Christ ministered to  
people anywhere**

# Which mountain?

**Moses: Horeb (on the Sinai peninsula); Deuteronomy 4:10**

**God said that he would produce a nation from Moses  
(after destroying the existing rebellious one)**

**Elijah: Horeb; 1 Kings 19:8**

**(Carmel was the altar contest with many people)**

**Elijah claimed that he was the only one**

**God said that he had 7000 others**

**Jesus: unknown, but why not Horeb?**

**Could have been anywhere**

**Note that God was displeased**

**with the people of Israel on Horeb,**

**But pleased with Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration!**



## **Some disciples eventually accomplished Peter's misguided wish**

**The mount of Transfiguration is thought by some to be  
Mt Tabor:**

**by the 6th century three churches stood on the  
summit of that isolated hill;**

**one for each of the booths the disciples wished to  
make for Jesus, Elijah, and Moses.**

# Why Horeb?

**Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, **the mountain of God.****

**There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush.**

**Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.**

**Exodus 3:1-2**

**The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb.**

**Deuteronomy 5:2**

# How alone was Christ?

**He was crowded worse than  
when we go to Walmart!**

**Jesus was never truly alone:**

**I am not alone, for my Father is with me.**

**John 16:32**

**But on the cross God temporarily kept from Him:**

**Eloi, Eloi, lama sabbacthani?**

**My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?**

**Matthew 27:46**

# God is with them on the Mountain

(personal faith, direct interaction from God)

**Moses:** (1,1)  
one on one with God (1,1); face to face

**Elijah:** ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ )  
he needed to be convinced  
of the presence of God (middle ground)

**Jesus:** (1,1) - Transfiguration  
given approval by God

(1,0) - Calvary  
He was separate from God,  
but in a complete state of faith

**The higher your structure is to be,  
the deeper must be its foundation.**

**Saint Augustine**

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**Abraham took Isaac on top of a mountain (Genesis 22:2)**

**God asked him to sacrifice his promised son.**

**But God transformed/transfigured the sacrifice**

- **God held the hand with the knife**
- **Isaac was traded for a ram caught in the thicket**

**The scapegoat was used in the Bible  
to take the sin out of the camp (Leviticus 16).**

**Jesus was the ultimate scapegoat --  
He stood in our place.**

# How sacred is the place of spiritual activity? 11

**"Sir," the woman said,**

**"I can see that you are a prophet.**

**Our fathers worshiped on this **mountain**,  
but you Jews claim that the place  
where we must worship  
is in Jerusalem."**

**Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman,  
a time is coming when you will worship the Father  
neither on this **mountain** nor in Jerusalem.**

**John 4:19-21**

**Not that they couldn't worship there,  
but that the place was not important**



# How sacred is the place of spiritual activity? 11

**You Samaritans worship what you do not know;  
we worship what we do know,  
for salvation is from the Jews.**

**Yet a time is coming and has now come  
when the true worshipers will worship the Father  
in **spirit and truth**,  
for they are the kind of worshipers  
the Father **seeks**.**

**God is spirit,  
and his worshipers  
must **worship in spirit and in truth**."**

**John 4:22-24**

**The place of worship is our heart!**

**"Behold, I will create**

**new heavens and a new earth.**

**The former things will not be remembered,  
nor will they come to mind.**

**But be glad and rejoice forever**

**in what I will create,**

**for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight  
and its people a joy.**

**Isaiah 65:17-18**

Then I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**,  
for the first heaven and the first earth  
had passed away,  
and there was no longer any sea.

I saw the Holy City, the **new Jerusalem**,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
prepared as a bride  
beautifully dressed for her husband.

Revelation 21:1-2

**Not even the universe is sacred!**

# The Universe itself will be Transfigured

**And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
"Now the dwelling of God is with men,  
and he will live with them.**

**They will be his people,  
and God himself will be with them  
and be their God.**

**Revelation 21:3**

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# Outline of the The Transfiguration

## When

- **Mid-ministry**
- **Between sending the 12 and the 70**

**The vision of the transfiguration probably came at night, for the following reasons, namely,**

- 1) Jesus had gone into the mountain to pray, which he frequently did at night;**
- 2) the disciples were heavy with sleep; and**
- 3) Jesus and the three apostles went down from the mountain on 'the next day'.**

**Teacher's Annual Lesson Commentary 1966**

# Outline of the Class

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# Outline of the The Transfiguration

## Why

**To induce awe in the witnesses**

**A partial revelation of the Mystery**

**To promote discussion among the followers**



# Why transfigure Christ?

**To reveal the divine connection between Christ and God.**

**To show the presence of God**

**To show the spiritual side of Christ**

**The prophets could perform miracles,**

**but God is pointing past them directly to Christ.**

**There is a foundation of the prophets and miracles, etc,**

**but God underlines Christ as the chosen way.**

**To move the veil for a moment**

**to show God's glory underneath**

**The veil of the temple is opened as well**

**the veil over our hearts must be eliminated.**

# Transfigured from man to God?

- **Some people think that the transfiguration marks the historical event when God became present in Christ's body**
- **Others think the same thing about his baptism, when the Spirit appeared as a dove and God also proclaimed His Son**

**This theory stems from the difficulty people have about Jesus being born as God.**

**They cannot accept the duality of Spirit and flesh.**

**Some also claim that the Spirit left Christ before he was crucified.**

# Transfigured from man to God?

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**He was with God in the beginning.**

**Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**

**In him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

**The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.**

**We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**John 1:1-4, 14**

**We are all pencils in the hand of God.**

**Mother Theresa**

**We must let God write His message with our lives.**

# Sacrificial Offering Prototype

**The activity of the priest in offering up the sacrifice**

**He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering,  
and it will be accepted on his behalf  
to make atonement for him.**

**Leviticus 1:4**

**Did God do this with Jesus?**

**At the transfiguration (Moses and Elijah and voice)?**

**At the baptism (dove and voice)?**

# **A Case of Non-Transfiguration**

**Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach,  
Meshach and Abednego, ...**

**He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter...**

**The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot  
that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers  
who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,  
and these three men... fell into the blazing furnace.**

**King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet... and said,  
"Look! I see four men walking around in the fire,  
unbound and unharmed,  
and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."**

**Daniel 3:19-25**

**The visitor is a representative of God and is not transformed  
This shows the power to withstand transfiguration by evil**

## Pertaining to Christ...

Who, being in **very nature** God,  
did not consider **equality** with God something to be  
grasped,  
but made himself nothing,  
taking the **very nature** of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to **death** —  
even death on a cross!

**Philipians 2:6-8**

# And Back to God Again!

**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

**Phil 2:9-11**

**The real, fundamental, transformation  
was from God to man,  
and then back!**



# **There was a full duality of God and Man!**

**There was full integration over the life of Jesus:  
From conception to grave.**

**The point is that through Christ God fully suffered for us!**

**Not that a real God could not suffer  
(as some would believe)  
But that the True God did!**

**Beyond all question,  
the mystery of godliness is great:**

**He appeared in a body,  
was vindicated by the Spirit,  
was seen by angels,  
was preached among the nations,  
was believed on in the world,  
was taken up in glory.**

**Transfiguration**

**1 Timothy 3:16**

**The physical attributes of Christ  
were a one-time use that fulfilled its purpose,  
like the first stage of a rocket  
delivering a payload into space.**

**Many things that are important to us  
are only the vehicles  
that carry something truly precious.**

**The body of Christ is like that –  
you can think of it as the vessel designated  
to deliver the unfailing love of God.**

**The human body is frail and not “God-like”;  
but it doesn’t matter  
because of the worth of His perfect, pure heart.**

**How does the rocket designer feel?  
good that the booster accomplished its mission,  
not sadness that it was destroyed.**

**We must not be “relic” collectors.**

**Which is the true gift --  
what is in the package  
or the love behind it?**

**Have you ever seen small children at Christmas playing  
with the box and the wrappings;  
leaving the contents ignored.**

**Vine and the branches (John 15) –**

**the purpose of the vine is to nourish us  
(by infusing us with love)**

**What is the value of the vine**

**compared to the nourishment that it provides?**

**What kind of container**

**could keep the full representation of the heart of God?**

**How could a mortal body house**

**the full representation of the Goodness of God?**

**The body of Christ was just the mechanism**

**to deliver God's love;**

**We see in the acts of that conduit**

**the deeper, more spiritual meaning**

**What do we revere?**

**When we enjoy the communion,  
perhaps we should not consider his body and blood  
something as sacred as the love  
that flowed through them.**

**Are we sure that we are paying our real tribute  
to the power of the love that flowed through them?**

**We must revere only what is of real value.**

**The Body is a vital, suffering part of God's Love –  
not just a symbol...**

**The communion is not a sacred transubstantiation,  
but something to help us remember the power of love.**

**We think mostly of the blood (life)  
because of its cleansing power;**

**but the body represents the feeling and suffering;**

**We need to transfer an understanding of the feelings  
that Christ felt in that body**

**The body of Christ converted God's love  
into something that we could see and feel.**

**This was a transfiguration of spirit  
into something physical that we can better understand.**



**We must let the true Radiance of God shine through  
the Body of Christ.**

**The Transfiguration of Jesus needs to occur regularly  
in our hearts.**

**The Communion is a part of that process;  
opening the veil between ourselves and God.**

# **What is the most Precious Substance? What could God use to draw us to Him?**

**What is the most precious substance that exists?**

**Could God have done something  
with gold or silver to show His love for us?**

**What is truly precious to us?**

**What can be more precious than Life?**

**What physical substance can exhibit Life  
more than that of blood?**

**We cannot transmute lead into gold,  
but we can change our hearts  
from stone (dead) to flesh (living)**

**And respond to the Greatest Gift that could be given.**

**Does not wisdom call out?**

**Does not understanding raise her voice?**

**The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works,  
before his deeds of old;**

**I was appointed from eternity,**

**from the beginning, before the world began.**

**When there were no oceans, I was given birth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water;**

**before the mountains were settled in place,**

**before the hills, I was given birth,**

**before he made the earth or its fields**

**or any of the dust of the world.**

**I was there when he set the heavens in place,**

**when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep**

**Proverbs 8:1, 22-27**

**when he established the clouds above  
and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,  
when he gave the sea its boundary  
so the waters would not overstep his command,  
and when he marked out  
the foundations of the earth.**

**Then I was the craftsman at his side.**

**I was filled with delight day after day,  
rejoicing always in his presence,  
rejoicing in his whole world  
and delighting in mankind.**

**Proverbs 8:28-31**

**"Now then, my sons, listen to me;  
blessed are those who keep my ways.**

**Listen to my instruction and be wise;  
do not ignore it.**

**Blessed is the man who listens to me,  
watching daily at my doors,  
waiting at my doorway.**

**For whoever finds me finds life  
and receives favor from the LORD.**

**But whoever fails to find me harms himself;  
all who hate me love death."**



**Proverbs 8:32-**

## Note the parallels (1)

**Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?**

**The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old;**

**I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.**

**I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep...**

**I was the craftsman at his side...**

**Proverbs 8:1, 22-23, 27, 30**

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**He was with God in the beginning.**

**Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**

**John 1:1-3**

## Note the parallels (2)

For whoever finds me  
finds **life**  
and receives favor  
from the LORD.

Proverbs 8:35

In him was **life**,  
and that **life**  
was the light of men.

The light shines  
in the darkness,  
but the darkness  
has not understood it.

John 1:4-5

# Quote

**Margaret Mead:**

**Never underestimate the ability  
of a small group of committed individuals  
to change the world.**

**Tracy Kidder:**

**Indeed, they are the only ones who ever have.**



# Christ is the Word Transformed into a Living Being<sup>13</sup>

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made;  
without him

nothing was made that has been made.

**The Word became flesh**

and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory,  
the glory of the One and Only,  
who came from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

John expressed  
his experience as  
a witness, just  
like Peter did

John 1:1-3, 14

The Son is the radiance of God's glory  
and the **exact representation** of his being,  
sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Hebrews 1:3

For since the creation of the world  
God's invisible qualities —  
his eternal power and divine nature —  
have been clearly seen,  
being understood from what has been made,  
so that men are without excuse.

Romans 1:20

He is the **image** of the invisible God,  
the firstborn over all creation.

Colossians 1:15

**For in Christ**

**all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,**  
**and you have been given fullness in Christ,**  
**who is the head over every power and authority.**

**In him you were also circumcised,**

**in the putting off of the sinful nature,**

**not with a circumcision done by the hands of men**

**but with the circumcision done by Christ,**

**having been buried with him in baptism**

**and raised with him through your faith**

**in the power of God,**

**who raised him from the dead.**

**Colossians 2:9-12**

## Transfiguration

- Introduction
- Basic Analysis
- Spiritual Meaning
- Sustainment
- **Practical Application**
- Summary

# We must Crave Transformation

**Giovanni/Spiderman  
(Peter Parker)**



**We must crave transformation**

**and its resulting acceptance by God...**

**Not just to make us “better”,**

**but to make us a part of something awesome**

**and awe-inspiring;**

**something far greater than ourselves.**

**We must carry Christ in our hearts**

**as Giovanni did his Spiderman shirt!**

**We are sinful creatures  
that want to be with God.**

**We must be changed  
to live forever with Him.**

**We will look at some examples of Transformation  
from the Bible.**

**King Saul**



# Saul was Transfigured

**Saul was chosen by God to be king (evidently because he was a head taller than anyone else). He was very humble in the beginning, but he still had to be transfigured.**

**The Spirit of the LORD will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and **you will be changed into a different person.****

**1 Samuel 10:6**

**As Saul turned to leave Samuel,  
**God changed Saul's heart****

**He was given a  
great opportunity**

**1 Samuel 10:9**

# But Saul could not stay Transfigured (1)

God changed Saul's heart for Good,  
but it changed back at some point.

I am grieved that I have made Saul king,  
because **he has turned away from me**  
and has not carried out my instructions.

1 Samuel 15:11

Now the Spirit of the LORD had **departed** from Saul,  
and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.

1 Samuel 16:14

## Saul could not stay Transfigured (2)

They danced and sang:

"Saul has slain his thousands,  
and David his tens of thousands."

The next day an **evil spirit from God**  
came **forcefully** upon Saul.

He was **prophesying** in his house,  
while David was playing the harp,  
as he usually did.

Saul **had a spear in his hand** and he hurled it,  
saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall."

But David **eluded** him twice.

1 Samuel 18:10-11

## Saul could not stay Transfigured (3)

Saul was afraid of David,

because **the LORD** was with David but **had left Saul**.

1 Samuel 18:12

But an **evil spirit from the LORD** came upon Saul

as he was sitting in his house

**with his spear in his hand.**

While David was playing the harp,

Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear,

but David **eluded** him

as Saul drove the spear into the wall.

That night David made good his **escape**.

1 Samuel 19:9-10

Is Saul consumed with war, paranoid, or just murderous in heart?

# Remember the Story of the Transfigured Man

The people had asked for a miraculous sign

"When an evil spirit comes out of a man,  
it goes through arid places seeking rest  
and does not find it.

Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.'

When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied,  
swept clean and put in order.

Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits  
more wicked than itself,  
and they go in and live there.

And **the final condition of that man  
is worse than the first.**

That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

**Matthew 12:43-45**

**[he]... knew enough scripture to be annoying,  
but not enough to be transformed.**

**Phillip Gulley**

# Remember the Story of the Transfigured Man 15

The people had asked for a miraculous sign

"When an evil spirit comes out of a man,  
it goes through arid places seeking rest  
and does not find it.

Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.'

When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied,  
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Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits  
more wicked than itself,  
and they go in and live there.

And **the final condition of that man  
is worse than the first.**

That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

**Matthew 12:43-45**

# We must work to fill our Transfigured Soul (1) 15

... you need someone to teach you  
the elementary truths of God's word all over again.

**You need milk, not solid food!**

**Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant,  
is not acquainted with  
the teaching about righteousness.**

**But solid food is for the mature,**  
who by constant use have trained themselves  
to distinguish good from evil.

**Hebrews 5:12-13**



# **We must work to fill our Transfigured Soul (2)** 15

**Like newborn babies,  
crave pure spiritual milk,  
so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,  
now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

**1 Peter 2:3-4**

He [Jesus] said to them,

“This is what I told you while I was still with you:

Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me  
in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the  
Psalms.”

Then He **opened their minds**

so they could understand the Scriptures.

He told them, “This is what is written:

The Christ will suffer

and rise from the dead on the third day,

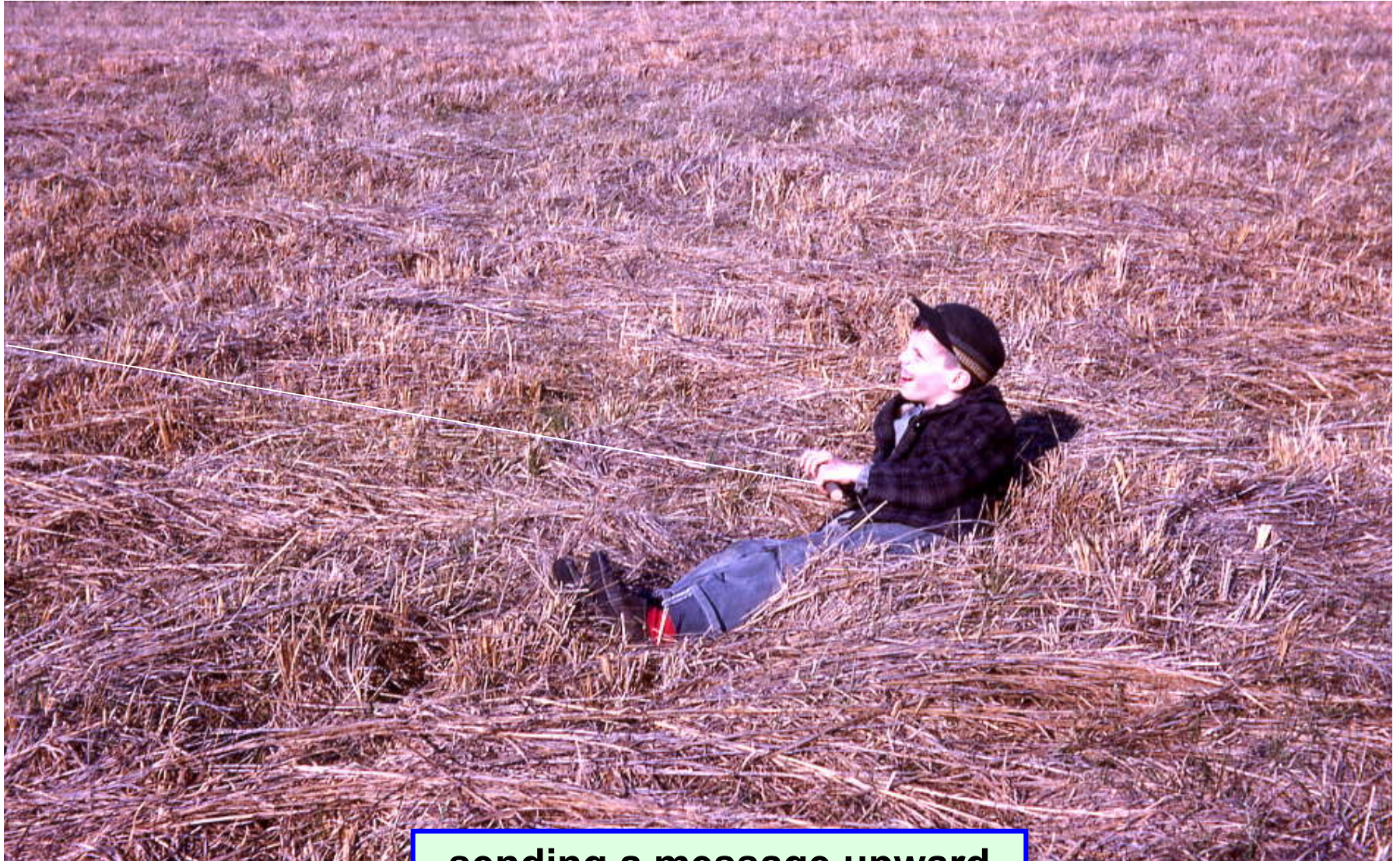
and repentance and forgiveness of sins

will be preached in his name to all nations,

beginning at Jerusalem...”

# Keeping the Kite in the Air

**Working with the kite means that we have to keep looking up**



**sending a message upward**

# Soaring on the Spirit of God

Have you ever watched a bird soar on a thermal?



# Soaring on the Spirit of God

Can we we keep soaring?

He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;

but those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.

They will **soar** on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

The Spirit is the wind beneath our wings

**Did you ever know that you're my hero,  
and everything I would like to be?  
I can fly higher than an eagle,  
'cause you are the wind beneath my wings.**

**Bette Midler**

## **Some of us find ourselves filling a bag with holes**

**You have planted much,  
but have harvested little.**

**You eat,  
but never have enough.**

**You drink,  
but never have your fill.**

**You put on clothes,  
but are not warm.**

**You earn wages,  
only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”**

**Haggai 1:6**

**Elijah said to her,**

**"Don't be afraid.**

**Go home and do as you have said.**

**But first make a small cake of bread for me**

**from what you have and bring it to me,**

**and then make something for yourself and your son.**

**For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:**

**'The jar of flour will not be used up**

**and the jug of oil will not run dry**

**until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.' "**

**1 Kings 17:6**



Now the cherubim were **standing** on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court.

Then the glory of the LORD rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple.

The cloud filled the temple, and **the court was full of the radiance of the glory of the LORD.**

The sound of the wings of the cherubim could be heard as far away as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks.

**Ezekiel 10:3-5**

# And He wants us to be full

**I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the full.**

**John 10:10**

**Do not put out the Spirit's fire;  
do not treat prophecies with contempt.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:19**

# Examples of Transfiguration

**King Saul -- Transfigured to be King,  
but let the power transfigure him away from God**

**Saul of Tarsus**

# Another Saul was Transfigured (1)

**Stephen was stoned at the feet of Saul.**

**And Saul was there, giving approval to his death.**

**On that day** a great persecution broke out  
against the church at Jerusalem,  
and **all except the apostles** were scattered  
throughout Judea and Samaria.

**Godly men buried Stephen  
and mourned deeply for him.**

**But Saul began to destroy the church.  
Going from house to house,  
he dragged off men and women  
and put them in prison.**

**Acts 8:1-3**

## Another Saul was Transfigured (2)

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out **murderous** threats against the Lord's disciples.

He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

**Acts 9:1-4**

**Religion is the shell that is left  
after the real thing has disappeared.**

**Doug Banister**

Then He **opened their minds**  
so they could understand the Scriptures.

**Luke 24:46**

If any of you lacks wisdom,  
he should ask God,  
who gives **generously** to all without finding fault,  
and it will be given to him.

**James 1:5**



# Some of us find ourselves filling a bag with holes

**You have planted much,  
but have harvested little.**

**You eat,  
but never have enough.**

**You drink,  
but never have your fill.**

**You put on clothes,  
but are not warm.**

**You earn wages,  
only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”**

**David's Pond  
David fighting fire with  
a leaky bucket**

**Haggai 1:6**

# God gives us the opportunity to Transform, and we must take advantage of it!

**It is impossible for those  
who have once been enlightened,  
who have tasted the heavenly gift,  
who have shared in the Holy Spirit,  
who have tasted the **goodness** of the word of God  
and the powers of the coming age,  
if they fall away,  
to be brought back to repentance,  
because to their loss  
they are **crucifying the Son of God all over again**  
and subjecting him to public disgrace.**

**Hebrews 6:4-6**

# Examples of Transfiguration

**King Saul -- Transfigured to be King,**

**but let the power transfigure him away from God**

**Saul of Tarsus -- Transfigured from persecutor to preacher**

# Another Saul was Transfigured

**Stephen was stoned at the feet of Saul.  
Saul began an intense program of church persecution.  
Saul took the battle to Damascus.  
But Christ stopped him on the way.**

## Another Saul was Transfigured (3)

**"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.**

**"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.**

**"Now get up and go into the city,  
and you will be told what you must do."**

**The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless;  
they heard the sound but did not see anyone.**

**Saul got up from the ground,  
but **when he opened his eyes he could see nothing.****

**So they led him by the hand into Damascus.**

**For three days he was blind,  
and did not eat or drink anything.**

**Acts 9:5-9**

# Another Saul was Transfigured (4)

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it.

Placing his hands on Saul, he said,

"Brother Saul, the Lord — Jesus,

who appeared to you on the road

as you were coming here —

has sent me so that you may see again

and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Immediately, something like **scales** fell from Saul's eyes,  
and he could see again.

He got up and was baptized,  
and after taking some food,  
he regained his strength.

There were Physical and  
Spiritual components of  
the Transfiguration

**Acts 9:17-19**

# Another Saul was Transfigured (5)

**Saul then became Paul**

**Are they servants of Christ?**

**(I am out of my mind to talk like this.)**

**I am more.**

**I have worked much harder,**

**been in prison more frequently,**

**been flogged more severely,**

**and been exposed to death again and again.**

**He has changed places:  
now he is the persecuted  
instead of the persecutor**

**2 Corinthians 11:23-24**

**Most of the New Testament shows that the  
Transfiguration Stuck!**

## Another Saul was Transfigured (6)

Five times I received from the Jews  
the forty lashes minus one.  
Three times I was beaten with rods,  
once I was stoned,  
three times I was shipwrecked,  
I spent a night and a day in the open sea,  
I have been constantly on the move.  
I have been in danger from rivers,  
in danger from bandits,  
in danger from my own countrymen,  
in danger from Gentiles;  
in danger in the city, in danger in the country,  
in danger at sea;  
and in danger from **false brothers**.

Which  
danger is  
the worst?

2 Corinthians 11:24-26



# Another Saul was Transfigured (7)

**I have labored and toiled  
and have often gone without sleep;  
I have known hunger and thirst  
and have often gone without food;  
I have been cold and naked.**

**More impact than the  
physical -- what happens  
to someone else**

**Besides everything else,  
I face daily the pressure of my concern  
for all the churches.**

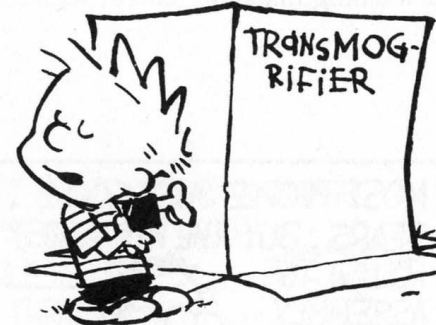
**2 Corinthians 11:27-28**

**He was Transfigured, and he stayed that way.  
This is tremendous evidence of the reality of Christ.**

# We must be Transfigured to change our Pattern <sup>16</sup>



YOU STEP INTO THIS CHAMBER, SET THE APPROPRIATE DIALS, AND IT TURNS YOU INTO WHATEVER YOU'D LIKE TO BE.



**What change or transfiguration is essential?**

# We have a sinful nature that must be changed 16

... and you have been given **fullness** in Christ,  
who is the head over every power and authority.

In him you were also circumcised,  
in the putting off of the **sinful nature**,  
not with a circumcision done by the hands of men  
but with the circumcision **done by Christ**,  
having been **buried** with him in baptism  
and **raised** with him through your faith  
in the power of God,  
who raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:10-12

Our sinful nature is more than individual acts of sin

# Our Sinful Nature Must be Changed (1)

Therefore, there is now **no condemnation**  
for those who are in Christ Jesus,  
because through Christ Jesus  
the law of the Spirit of life  
**set me free** from the law of sin and death.

For what the law was powerless to do  
in that it was weakened by the **sinful nature**,  
God did by sending his own Son  
in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.

And so he condemned sin in sinful man,  
in order that the righteous requirements of the law  
might be fully met in us,  
who do not live according to the **sinful nature**  
but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:1-4

# Our Sinful Nature Must be Changed (2)

Those who live according to the **sinful nature** have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God.

It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Those controlled by the **sinful nature** cannot please God.  
Romans 8:5-8

# Our Sinful Nature Must be Changed (3)

**You, however, are controlled  
not by the **sinful nature** but by the Spirit,  
if the Spirit of God lives in you.**

☒ **And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ,  
he does not belong to Christ.**

☒ **But if Christ is in you,  
your body is dead because of sin,  
yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.**

☒ **And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead  
is living in you,  
he who raised Christ from the dead  
will also give life to your mortal bodies  
through his Spirit,  
who lives in you.**

**Romans 8:9-11**

# Our Sinful Nature Must be Changed (4)

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation -  
but it is not to the **sinful nature**, to live according to it.

For if you live according to the **sinful nature**, you will die;  
but if by the Spirit

you put to death the misdeeds of the body,  
you will live,

because those who are led by the Spirit of God  
are sons of God.

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you  
a slave again to fear,  
but you received the Spirit of sonship.

And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Romans 8:12-15

# **It is a Tremendous Struggle (1)**

**We know that the law is spiritual;  
but I am unspiritual,  
sold as a slave to sin.**

**I do not understand what I do.**

**For what I want to do I do not do,  
but what I hate I do.**

**And if I do what I do not want to do,  
I agree that the law is good.**

**As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it,  
but it is sin living in me.**

**Romans 7:14-17**



## It is a Tremendous Struggle (2)

I know that nothing good lives in me,  
that is, in my **sinful nature**.

For I have the desire to do what is good,  
but I cannot carry it out.

For what I do is not the good I want to do;  
no, the evil I do not want to do —  
this I keep on doing.

Now if I do what I do not want to do,  
it is no longer I who do it,  
but it is sin living in me that does it.

**Romans 7:18-20**

## **It is a Tremendous Struggle (3)**

**So I find this law at work:**

**When I want to do good,  
evil is right there with me.**

**For in my inner being I delight in God's law;  
but I see another law at work  
in the members of my body,  
waging war against the law of my mind  
and making me a prisoner of the law of sin  
at work within my members.**

**What a wretched man I am!**

**Who will rescue me from this body of death?**

**Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law,  
but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.**

**Romans 7:21-25**

**Therefore, I urge you, brothers,  
in view of God's mercy,  
to offer your bodies as living sacrifices,  
holy and pleasing to God —  
this is your spiritual act of worship.**

**Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,  
but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind.**

**Then you will be able to test and approve  
what God's will is —  
his good, pleasing and perfect will.**

**Romans 12:1-2**

**Now the Lord is the Spirit,  
and where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is freedom.**

**And we,  
who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory,  
are being transformed into his likeness  
with ever-increasing glory,  
which comes from the Lord,  
who is the Spirit.**

**2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

**The increasing glory is an effect opposite  
to that of the instance referred to (Moses' fading glory).**

# **Our Sinful Nature Must be Changed**

**Our Sinful Nature is a fundamental weakness that runs completely through our being.**

**It is similar to a rotten floor that weakens and eventually falls through.**

**Only God can help us to overcome it.**

**Repentance must work to change the Core.**

**It must work from the inside out.**

**Can we really Change?**

**All love ...**

**casts the mind into the mold of the thing beloved...**

**Every approach unto God by ardent love and delight  
is **transfiguring**.**

**John Owen**

# Examples of Transfiguration

**King Saul -- Transfigured to be King,**

**but let the power transfigure him away from God**

**Saul of Tarsus -- Transfigured from persecutor to preacher**

**Abram and Sarai**

# Abram and Sarai were Transfigured (1)

When Abram was **ninety-nine years old**,  
the LORD appeared to him and said,  
"I am God Almighty;  
walk before me and be blameless..."

I will **confirm my covenant** between me and you  
and will greatly increase your numbers."

**Genesis 17:1-3a**



## Abram and Sarai were Transfigured (2)

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,

"As for me, this is my covenant with you:

**You will be the father of many nations.**

No longer will you be called **Abram**;

your name will be **Abraham**,

for I have made you a father of many nations.

I will make you very fruitful;

I will make nations of you,

and kings will come from you.

**Genesis 17:3b-6**

**Part of the transfiguration is their name.**

# Abram and Sarai were Transfigured (3)

**I will establish my covenant  
as an everlasting covenant  
between me and you  
and your descendants after you  
for the generations to come,  
to be your God  
and the God of your descendants after you.**

**Genesis 17:7**

**This Transfiguration affects us all.**

# Abram and Sarai were Transfigured (4)

God also said to Abraham,

"As for Sarai your wife,

you are no longer to call her **Sarai**;

her name will be **Sarah**.

Not much change in letters,  
but a lot in meaning

I will bless her

and will surely give you a son by her.

I will bless her so that she will be

the mother of nations;

kings of peoples will come from her."

Genesis 17:15-16

# **Abram and Sarai were Transfigured (5)**

**Abraham fell facedown;**

**he laughed and said to himself,**

**"Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old?**

**Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"**

**And Abraham said to God,**

**"If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"**

**Genesis 17:17-18**

**Abraham resisted God's plan to some extent.**

**"Do I really have to go through this again?"**

# Abram and Sarai were Transfigured (6)

**Then God said,**

**"Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son,  
and you will call him Isaac.**

**I will establish my covenant with him  
as an **everlasting covenant**  
for his **descendants** after him.**

**Genesis 17:19**

# **We are Transfigured through Abraham (1)**

**What then shall we say that Abraham,  
our forefather, discovered in this matter?  
If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works,  
he had something to boast about —  
but not before God.**

**What does the Scripture say?**

**"Abraham believed God,  
and **it was credited to him as righteousness.**"**

**Romans 4:1-3**

# We are Transfigured through Abraham (2)

**Against all hope,**

**Abraham in hope believed**

**and so became the father of many nations,**

**just as it had been said to him,**

**"So shall your offspring be."**

**Without weakening in his faith,**

**he faced the fact that **his body****

**was as good as dead —**

**since he was about a hundred years old —**

**and that **Sarah's womb was also dead.****

**Transfiguration:  
from death to life!  
Christ is the  
ultimate example.**

**Romans 4:18-19**

# **We are Transfigured through Abraham (3)**

**Yet he did not waver** through unbelief  
regarding the promise of God,  
but was strengthened in his faith  
and gave glory to God,  
being fully persuaded that God had power to do  
what he had promised.

**This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."**

**Romans 4:20-22**

**He accepted the Transfiguration and its promise.**



# We are Transfigured through Abraham (4)

The words "it was credited to him"  
were written not for him alone,  
but **also for us**,  
to whom God will credit righteousness —  
for us who believe in him  
who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

He was delivered over to death **for our sins**  
and was raised to life **for our justification**.

**Romans 4:23-25**

**The Sinful Nature is beyond our control.**

**We struggle to master it.**

**Christ gives us the victory.**

**We can be transformed to ever-increasing glory.**

# **Our Sinful Nature Must be Changed**

**Our Sinful Nature is a fundamental weakness that runs completely through our being.**

**It is similar to a rotten floor that weakens and eventually falls through.**

**Only God can help us to overcome it.**

**Repentance must work to change the Core.**

**It must work from the inside out.**

**Can we really Change?**

# What does it take to change us?

"You looked, O king,  
and there before you stood a **large** statue —  
an **enormous, dazzling** statue,  
**awesome in appearance.**

The head of the statue was made of pure gold,  
its chest and arms of silver,  
its belly and thighs of bronze,  
its legs of iron,  
its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.

While you were watching,  
a rock was cut out,  
but not by human hands.

It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay  
and smashed them.

# What does it take to change us?

Then the iron, the clay, the bronze,  
the silver and the gold were broken to pieces  
at the same time and became **like chaff**  
on a threshing floor in the summer.

**The wind swept them away without leaving a trace.**

But the rock that struck the statue  
became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

**Daniel 2:35**

**We may be compared to this great statue,  
but God can tear us down and make us something special**

# **This will be a major operation**

**I have been crucified with Christ  
and I no longer live,  
but Christ lives in me.**

**The life I live in the body,  
I live by faith in the Son of God,  
who loved me and gave himself for me.**

**Galatians 2:20**

**But Christ is the Great Physician**

# We all have had our awkward stage...

**Don't we all worry about being liked?  
especially as we grow up.**

**I found that it was better  
to be liked for being the butterfly,  
than for being the caterpillar or the cocoon.**



# The Ugly Duckling

Became a beautiful swan!



Have you ever hoped for this to happen to you?



# The Ugly Duckling

**I have been waiting for this to happen to me for years.  
Now I am too old for it to mean anything.**

**But I have finally found satisfaction in knowing that  
while I may be an Ugly Duckling to the world,  
I can be a beautiful swan to God.**

**God doesn't care what I look like,  
but what I think like,  
and act like.**

**I can control that better than I can my looks,  
though I agree with Abraham Lincoln when he said  
that any man over 40 is responsible  
for the way that he looks.**

# The Ugly Duckling

**The theme of the Ugly Duckling is transformation; changing from that which is inferior or appears to be inferior to that which is superior.**

**Caution: We sometimes have a tendency to show people what a beautiful swan we have become.**

**The Transfiguration is not about us (and our own glory)!**

# The Ugly Duckling

**God can cause a great transformation in our lives.**

**He can change our night into day,  
simply by helping us to reproduce  
His Goodness in our own hearts.**

**Our life before Christ enters in is full of sin and ugly,  
very similar to the ugly duckling.**

**Christ can remove guilty feelings in our life,  
remove our sins,  
create in us a new heart and attitude,  
gives us purpose.**

**He cleanses us completely.**

**While being changed,  
we may feel like a shapeless mass.**

**Charles Swindoll**

**The ugly larva in its cocoon spends much time  
in almost unnoticeable growth and change.**

**But no matter how slow that growth may be,  
the moment comes when it passes through a crisis  
and emerges a beautiful butterfly.**

**Billy Graham**

# Examples of Transfiguration

**King Saul -- Transfigured to be King,**

**but let the power transfigure him away from God**

**Saul of Tarsus -- Transfigured from persecutor to preacher**

**Abram and Sarai -- Transfigured spiritually and physically: Abraham  
and Sarah**

**Naaman's leprosy --> Gehazi's leprosy**

# Naaman's Leprosy (1)

**Now Naaman was commander  
of the army of the king of Aram.**

**He was a great man in the sight of his master  
and highly regarded,**

**He was a good man**

**because through him the LORD  
had given victory to Aram.**

**He was a valiant soldier,  
but he had leprosy.**

**Likely some victories  
were over Israel**

**2 Kings 5:1**

**His maid, a captive from Israel,  
recommended that he visit a prophet from Israel.**

## **Naaman's Leprosy (2)**

**So Naaman went with his horses and chariots  
and stopped at the door of Elisha's house.**

**Elisha sent a messenger to say to him,  
"Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan,  
and your flesh will be restored  
and you will be cleansed."**

**2 Kings 5:9-10**

**Elisha did not even come out to show respect:  
this was a breach of protocol**

## Naaman's Leprosy (3)

But Naaman went away angry and said,  
"I thought that he would surely come out to me  
and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God,  
wave his hand over the spot  
and cure me of my leprosy.

No magic show

Are not Abana and Pharpar,  
the rivers of Damascus,  
**better** than any of the waters of Israel?  
Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?"

Nationalism!

So he turned and went off in a rage.

2 Kings 5:11-12



## Naaman's Leprosy (4)

Naaman's servants went to him and said,  
"My father,  
if the prophet had told you to do some great thing,  
would you not have done it?  
How much more, then, when he tells you,  
'Wash and be cleansed!'"

So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan  
seven times,  
as the man of God had told him,  
and his flesh was restored and became clean  
like that of a young boy.

Like a baby's behind

2 Kings 5:13-14

He listened to others: 1) his maid, 2) his servants

# Naaman's Offering

Then Naaman and all his attendants  
went back to the man of God.

He stood before him and said,

**"Now I know that there is no God in all the world  
except in Israel.**

He is now a believer!

Please accept now a gift from your servant."

The prophet answered,

"As surely as the LORD lives,  
whom I serve,

I will not accept a thing."

And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.

2 Kings 5:15-16

# Naaman's Spiritual Transfiguration

**"If you will not," said Naaman,  
"please let me, your servant,  
be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry,  
for your servant will never again make  
burnt offerings and sacrifices  
to any other god but the LORD.**

**Now he values  
this dirt above  
his own!**

**But may the LORD forgive your servant  
for this one thing:**

**When my master enters the temple of Rimmon  
to bow down and he is leaning on my arm  
and I bow there also —**

**This is  
his job**

**when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon,  
may the LORD forgive your servant for this."**

**"Go in peace," Elisha said.**

**OK!**

**2 Kings 5:17-19a**

# Gehazi's Greed

**After Naaman had traveled some distance,  
Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God,  
said to himself,**

**No cost to Elisha**

**"My master was too easy on Naaman,  
this Aramean,  
by not accepting from him what he brought.**

**As surely as the LORD lives,  
I will run after him and get something from him.**

**2 Kings 5:19b-20**

**Gehazi thought that as a foreigner and enemy,  
Naaman should pay.**

# Gehazi's Leprosy

... Elisha said to him,  
"Was not my spirit with you  
when the man got down from his chariot  
to meet you?

Gehazi should have known  
that God would know

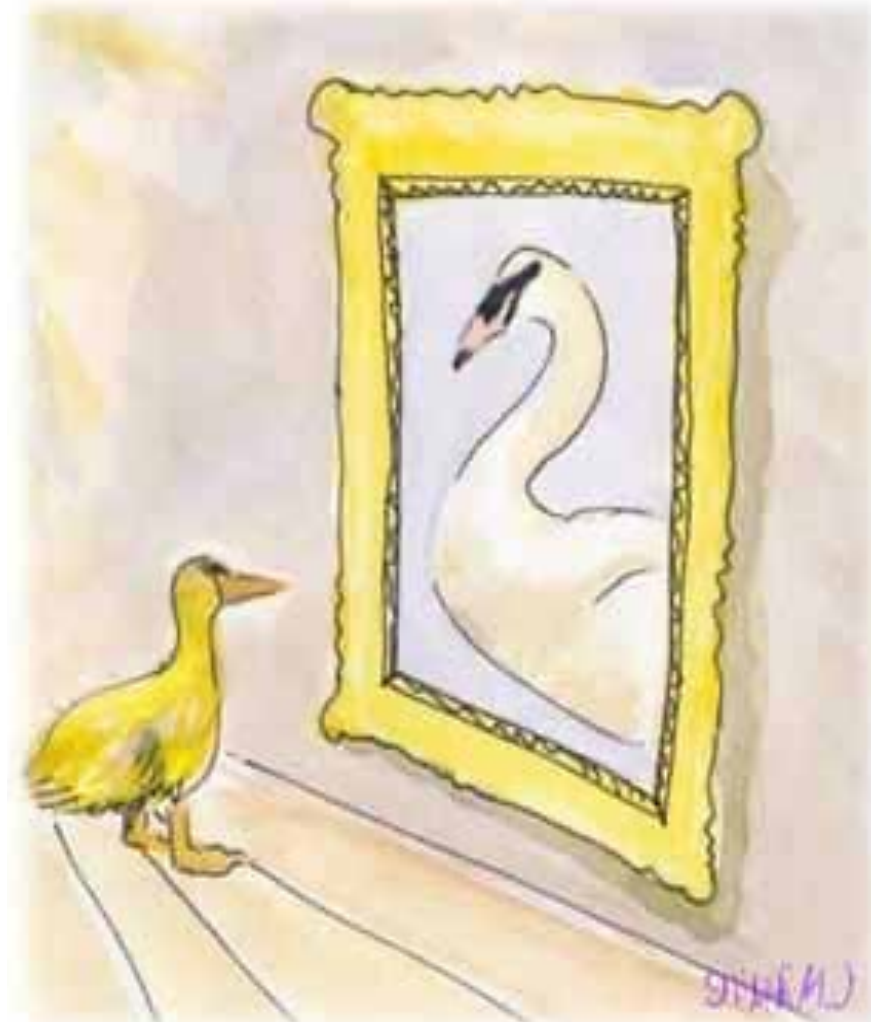
Is this the time to take money,  
or to accept clothes, olive groves, vineyards,  
flocks, herds, or menservants and maidservants?  
Naaman's leprosy will **cling** to you  
and to your descendants forever."

Then Gehazi went from Elisha's presence  
and he was leprous,  
as white as snow.

2 Kings 5:26-27

# The Ugly Duckling

Became a beautiful swan!



Have you ever hoped for this to happen to you?

# **The Ugly Duckling - Secret Identity?**

**When you think of it,  
most the Superheroes emphasize our need  
in satisfying the 'Ugly Duckling' syndrome by  
having a secret identity.**

**Superman had his Clark Kent, for example,  
who was looked down on because of his  
'mild mannered nature'  
and general look of weakness.**

**We must realize, though,  
that Superman lived by the same principles  
even when he was dressed as Clark Kent.**

**No matter what we look like to others,  
we must always follow the Way of God.**

# Christ as the Ugly Duckling

**In a way, Christ himself was an ugly duckling.**

**Even though he was God**

**he was born into the world as a tiny infant,  
needing the constant care of his parents.**

**He grew up as normally as possible,**

**so that in his own home town of Nazareth  
he could not be thought of as great.**

**Now at the name of Jesus every knee will bow.**



# Christ as the Ugly Duckling

**... Christ Jesus:**

**Who, being in very nature God,**

**did not consider equality with God**

**something to be grasped,**

**but made himself nothing,**

**taking the very nature of a servant,**

**being made in human likeness.**

**And being found in appearance as a man,**

**he humbled himself**

**and became obedient to death —**

**even death on a cross!**

**Philippians 2:5-8**

# Christ as the Ugly Duckling

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and **every tongue confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

☒ Philipians 2:9-

**But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised?  
With what kind of body will they come?"**

**How foolish!**

**What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.**

**When you sow,  
you do not plant the body that will be,  
but just a seed,  
perhaps of wheat or of something else.**

**But God gives it a body as he has determined,  
and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.**

**2 Corinthians 15:35-38**

# Transformation of the Body

**So will it be with the resurrection of the dead.**

**The body that is sown is perishable,**

**it is raised imperishable;**

**it is sown in dishonor,**

**it is raised in glory;**

**it is sown in weakness,**

**it is raised in power;**

**it is sown a natural body,**

**it is raised a spiritual body.**

**If there is a natural body,**

**there is also a spiritual body.**

**2 Corinthians 15:39-44**

**Does this just apply to the resurrection of the body?**

**So it is written:**

**"The first man Adam became a living being";  
the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.**

**The spiritual did not come first,  
but the natural,  
and after that the spiritual.**

**2 Corinthians 15:45**

**This could apply to our spiritual rebirth as well.**

# Transformation of the Body

The first man was of the dust of the earth,  
the second man from heaven.

As was the earthly man,  
so are those who are of the earth;  
and as is the man from heaven,  
so also are those who are of heaven.

And just as we have borne the likeness  
of the earthly man,  
so shall **we bear**  
**the likeness of the man from heaven.**

**2 Corinthians 15:47-49**

**We will be changed into the spiritual image of Christ.**

# The Final Transformation

**I declare to you, brothers,  
that flesh and blood cannot inherit  
the kingdom of God,  
nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.**

**Listen, I tell you a mystery:**

**We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed —  
in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye,  
at the last trumpet.**

**For the trumpet will sound,  
the dead will be raised imperishable,  
and we will be changed.**

**2 Corinthians 15:50-52**

**We must be changed to an imperishable nature.**

# The Imperishable Nature

For you have been **born again**,  
not of perishable seed,  
but of imperishable,  
through the living and enduring word of God.

For,

"All men are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of the Lord stands forever."

1 Peter 1:23-25

**We must be reborn, or reconfigured.**



**We can in fact only define a weed, ...  
in terms of the well-known definition of dirt -  
as matter out of place.**

**What we call a weed  
is in fact merely a plant growing  
where we do not want it.**

**E.J. Salisbury**

**We are transfigured by being in the presence of God;  
we are changed from a weed  
that would otherwise be cast into the fire.  
God gives us value.**

**Jesus told them another parable:**

**"The kingdom of heaven is like a man  
who sowed good seed in his field.**

**But while everyone was sleeping,  
his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat,  
and went away.**

**When the wheat sprouted and formed heads,  
then the weeds also appeared.**

**"The owner's servants came to him and said,  
'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field?  
Where then did the weeds come from?'**

**" 'An enemy did this,' he replied.**

**"The servants asked him,  
'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'  
" 'No,' he answered,  
'because while you are pulling the weeds,  
you may root up the wheat with them.**

**Let both grow together until the harvest.**

**At that time I will tell the harvesters:**

**First collect the weeds**

**and tie them in bundles to be burned;**

**then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' "**

**Matthew 13:28b-30**

**God's Grace makes us a flower instead of a weed.**

# Examples of Transfiguration

**King Saul -- Transfigured to be King,**

**but let the power transfigure him away from God**

**Saul of Tarsus -- Transfigured from persecutor to preacher**

**Abram and Sarai -- Transfigured spiritually and physically: Abraham and Sarah**

**Naaman's leprosy --> Gehazi's leprosy**

**The man healed at the pool of Bethsaida**

# The Man at the Pool (1)

Some time later,

Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie — the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him,

**"Do you want to get well?"**

John 5:1-6

**This man had been waiting for 38 years to be changed.**

## The Man at the Pool (2)

**"Sir," the invalid replied,  
"I have no one to help me into the pool  
when the water is stirred.  
While I am trying to get in,  
someone else goes down ahead of me."  
Then Jesus said to him,  
"Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."  
At once the man was cured;  
he picked up his mat and walked.**

**John 5:7-9**

**The stirred waters of the pool  
played no real part in this miracle.**

## **The Man at the Pool (3)**

**The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,  
and so the Jews said to the man  
who had been healed,**

**"It is the Sabbath;  
the law forbids you to carry your mat."**

**John 5:10**

**The man was Transfigured in body,  
and hopefully in spirit.**

**Those who watched, however, were not changed  
and demonstrated their lack of willingness to understand.**

## The Man at the Pool (4)

**But he replied,**

**"The man who made me well said to me,  
'Pick up your mat and walk.' "**

**So they asked him,**

**"Who is this fellow who told you  
to pick it up and walk?"**

**The man who was healed had no idea who it was,  
for Jesus had slipped away  
into the crowd that was there.**

**John 5:11-13**

**Transfiguration meant nothing to the Pharisees.**



## **The Man at the Pool (5)**

**Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him,  
"See, you are well again.  
Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."  
The man went away and told the Jews  
that it was Jesus who had made him well.**

**Jesus wanted to make sure  
that the Spiritual change was permanent.**

# Transformation of the Body

**The analogy of the seed that is planted  
and that produces something totally different!**

**It must change completely. [2 Corinthians 15]**

**This applies to the resurrection of the body  
as well as to changes needed in our hearts.**

**We will be changed into the spiritual image of Christ.**

**We must be changed to an imperishable  
(and pure nature) to enable us to live with God.**

# The Imperishable Nature

For you have been **born again**,  
not of perishable seed,  
but of imperishable,  
through the living and enduring word of God.

For,

"All men are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of the Lord stands forever."

1 Peter 1:23-25

**We must be reborn, or reconfigured.**

# The Story of Nicodemus

**Now there was a man of the Pharisees  
named Nicodemus,  
a member of the Jewish ruling council.**

**He came to Jesus at night and said,  
"Rabbi, we know you are a teacher  
who has come from God.**

**For no one could perform the miraculous signs  
you are doing  
if God were not with him."**

**John 3:1-2**

# Baptism is a form of Transfiguration

**In reply Jesus declared,**

**"I tell you the truth,**

**no one can see the kingdom of God  
unless he is born again."**

**"How can a man be born when he is old?"**

**Nicodemus asked.**

**"Surely he cannot enter a second time  
into his mother's womb to be born!"**

**John 3:3-4**

**Nicodemus could not understand how this would work.**

# **We are born again into this Transfiguration**

**Jesus answered,  
"I tell you the truth,  
no one can enter the kingdom of God  
unless he is born of water and the Spirit.**

**Flesh gives birth to flesh,  
but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**

**John 3:5-6**

**The water of baptism work with the Holy Spirit**

# The True Transfiguration is in the Spiritual Plane<sup>19</sup>

**You should not be surprised at my saying,  
'You must be born again.'**

**The wind blows wherever it pleases.**

**You hear its sound,  
but you cannot tell where it comes from  
or where it is going.**

**So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."**

**John 3:7-8**

**The change is not physically obvious**

# **Jesus has been trying to point to the Spiritual** 19

**"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.**

**"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus,**

**"and do you not understand these things?**

**I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know,**

**and we testify to what we have seen,**

**but still you people do not accept our testimony.**

**I have spoken to you of earthly things**

**and you do not believe;**

**how then will you believe**

**if I speak of heavenly things?**

**John 3:9-12**

**We have problems letting ourselves "see" it.**



# **Jesus' goal is to Transfigure (save) the World** 19

**"For God so loved the world  
that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish  
but have eternal life.**

**For God did not send his Son into the world  
to condemn the world,  
but to save the world through him.**

**John 3:16-17**

**We need the Transforming Power of God every instant --  
not just from crisis to crisis!**

**Real love is a permanently self-enlarging experience.**

**M. Scott Peck**

# Examples of Transfiguration

**King Saul -- Transfigured to be King,**

**but let the power transfigure him away from God**

**Saul of Tarsus -- Transfigured from persecutor to preacher**

**Abram and Sarai -- Transfigured spiritually and physically: Abraham and Sarah**

**Naaman's leprosy --> Gehazi's leprosy**

**The man healed at the pool of Bethsaida**

**Satan -- angel or roaring lion**

# Satan -- angel of light

For such men are **false apostles**,  
deceitful workmen,  
**masquerading** as apostles of Christ.

And no wonder,  
for Satan himself **masquerades**  
as **an angel of light**.

It is not surprising, then,  
if his servants **masquerade**  
as **servants of righteousness**.

Their end will be what their actions deserve.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

**Satan is transformed into an angel of light on occasion**

**Be sober, be vigilant;  
because your adversary the devil  
walks about like a roaring lion,  
seeking whom he may devour.**

**Resist him, steadfast in the faith,  
knowing that the same sufferings are experienced  
by your brotherhood in the world.**

**1 Peter 5:8-9**

**Satan show his true self as well.**

**We must be born again -- Spiritually!**

**This new birth will be eternal and imperishable.**

**Jesus introduced this theme to Nicodemus.**

**God sent His Son to enable the new birth (John 3:16)**

**Remember “The Touch of the Master’s Hand” –  
beautiful music from a broken down old violin.**

**We are God’s instrument if we will let Him play us.**

**We need the Transforming Power of God every instant --  
not just from crisis to crisis!**

**The new birth is the beginning of a new life,  
not just a single significant event.**

# Jesus' goal is to Transfigure (save) the World 20

**"For God so loved the world  
that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish  
but have eternal life.**

**For God did **not** send his Son into the world  
**to condemn the world,**  
but to save the world through him.**

**John 3:16-17**

**As ministers of Christ  
it must not be our purpose to criticize or condemn, either.**

# The New Birth Parallels Christ's Experience (1) <sup>20</sup>

**What shall we say, then?**

**Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?**

**By no means!**

**We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?**

**Or don't you know that all of us**

**who were baptized into Christ Jesus**

**were baptized **into his death**?**

**We were therefore **buried with him****

**through baptism into death in order that,**

**just as Christ was **raised from the dead****

**through the glory of the Father,**

**we too may **live a new life**.**

**Romans 6:1-4**



## The New Birth Parallels Christ's Experience (2) <sup>20</sup>

If we have been united with him like this in his **death**,  
we will certainly also be united with him  
in his **resurrection**.

For we know that **our old self was crucified with him**  
so that the body of sin might be done away with,  
that we should no longer be slaves to sin —  
because anyone who has died  
has been freed from sin.

Romans 6:5-7

**We are Transfigured into a new Life.**

# The New Birth Parallels Christ's Experience (3) <sup>20</sup>

Now if we died with Christ,  
we believe that we will also live with him.

For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead,  
**he cannot die again;**  
death no longer has mastery over him.

The death he died,  
he died to sin **once for all;**  
but the life he lives,  
he lives to God.

Romans 6:8-10

All men who were raised died again, but Christ has the  
power to conquer death completely.

# The New Birth Parallels Christ's Experience (4) <sup>20</sup>

In the same way,  
count yourselves dead to sin  
but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body  
so that you obey its evil desires.

Do not offer the parts of your body to sin,  
as instruments of wickedness,  
but rather **offer yourselves to God**,  
as those who have been **brought from death to life**;  
and **offer the parts of your body to him**  
**as instruments of righteousness.**

For sin shall not be your master,  
because you are not under law,  
but under grace.

Romans 6:11-14

# A Transfiguration is Essential

**We must be transformed  
in order  
to be allowed into the presence of God.**

**This metamorphosis is a total restructuring.**

**This breaking down and rebuilding takes an expert: God!**

I want to know Christ  
and the power of his resurrection  
and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings,  
**becoming like him in his death,**

and so, **somehow,**

Paul could not complete  
understand it himself

to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

**Philippians 3:11**

## A Transfiguration to Become Like Christ (2)

20

Not that I have already obtained all this,  
or have already been made perfect,  
but I **press on** to take hold of that  
for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Brothers,

I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.

But one thing I do:

**Forgetting what is behind**

and **straining toward what is ahead,**

I **press on** toward the goal

to win the prize for which God

has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14

**We must not be passive: we must pursue this aggressively!**

# A Transfiguration to Become Like Christ (3)

Join with others in following my example, brothers,  
and take note of those who live  
according to the **pattern** we gave you.

For, as I have often told you before  
and now say again even with tears,  
many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

Their destiny is destruction,  
their god is their stomach,  
and their glory is in their shame.

We must get out of the  
rut of our old pattern.

Their mind is on earthly things.

Philippians 3:17-19

We are Transfigured into a new Pattern.

**But our citizenship is in heaven.**

**And we eagerly await a Savior from there,  
the Lord Jesus Christ,**

**who,**

**by the power that enables him**

**to bring **everything** under his control,  
will **transform our lowly bodies****

**so that they will be like his glorious body.**

**Philippians 3:20-21**

**That New Pattern is the Essential Nature of Christ.**



# The Potter (1)

**This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:  
"Go down to the potter's house,  
and there I will give you my message."**

**So I went down to the potter's house,  
and I saw him working at the wheel.**

**But the pot he was shaping from the clay  
was marred in his hands;  
so the potter formed it into another pot,  
shaping it as seemed best to him.**

**Jeremiah 18:1-4**

**We have all "created" with PlayDoh**

Then the word of the LORD came to me:

"O house of Israel,  
can I not do with **you** as this potter does?"  
declares the LORD.

"Like clay in the hand of the potter,  
so are **you** in my hand, O house of Israel.

Jeremiah 18:5-6

**We are clay in the hands of the Master Potter.**

**There is no remedy for love  
but to love more.**

**Henry David Thoreau**

**What national leaders underwent a major transfiguration (repentance)? Such that God responded?**

**David; humbled himself after the adultery with Bathsheba; Psalm 51; God forgave**

**Ahab; 1 Kings 21:27ff; tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, fasted, and went around meekly (after Naboth's death)**

**Rehoboam; 2 Chronicles 12:6, v12; when Shishak king of Egypt attacked**

**Manasseh; 2 Chronicles 33:12ff; king of Assyria put a hook in his nose**

**Nebuchadnezzar; Daniel 4; dream, ate grass like an animal**

# Examples of Transfiguration

**King Saul -- Transfigured to be King,**

**but let the power transfigure him away from God**

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**The man healed at the pool of Bethsaida**

**Satan -- angel or roaring lion**

**Legion -- from crazy man to model citizen**

# The Transfiguration of Legion (1)

**They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes,  
which is across the lake from Galilee.**

**When Jesus stepped ashore,  
he was met by a demon-possessed man  
from the town.**

**A loner, but he comes to meet Jesus**

**For a long time this man had not worn clothes  
or lived in a house,  
but had lived in the tombs.**

**People did not want to get near him**

**Luke 8:26-27**

# The Transfiguration of Legion (2)

When he saw Jesus,  
he cried out and fell at his feet,  
shouting at the top of his voice,

"What do you want with me, Jesus,  
Son of the Most High God?  
I beg you, don't torture me!"

He appears to desire  
to be changed

For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit  
to come out of the man.

Like Samson, he  
could not be bound

Many times it had seized him,  
and though he was chained hand and foot  
and kept under guard,  
he had broken his chains  
and had been driven by the demon  
into solitary places.

banishment

Luke 8:28-30

# The Transfiguration of Legion (3)

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied,

because many demons had gone into him.

And they begged him repeatedly

not to order them to go into the Abyss.

about 2000,  
Mk 5:13

A **large** herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside.

The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them,

and he gave them **permission**.

Interesting: they  
ask for a favor

When the demons came out of the man,

they went into the pigs,

and the herd rushed down the steep bank

into the lake and was drowned.

Luke 8:31-33



# The Transfiguration of Legion (4)

When those tending the pigs saw what had happened,  
they ran off and reported this  
in the town and countryside,  
and the people went out to see what had happened.

When they came to Jesus,  
they found the man  
from whom the demons had gone out,  
sitting at Jesus' feet,  
dressed and in his right mind;  
and they were **afraid**.

Luke 8:34-35

Legion was transformed in number and character

# The Transfiguration of Legion (5)

Those who had seen it  
told the people how the demon-possessed man  
had been cured.

Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes  
asked Jesus to leave them,  
because they were **overcome with fear**.

So he got into the boat and left.

They were afraid either way!

Luke 8:36-37

These people saw the awesome power to change for Good,  
and they did not want it!

Jesus did not stay where he was not wanted.

Sometimes we cannot stand change or success!

# The Transfiguration of Legion (6)

The man from whom the demons had gone out  
**begged** to go with him,

but Jesus sent him away, saying,

"Return home and tell **Would they open their door to him?**  
how much God has done for you."

So the man went away **Somehow he got the job done**  
and told **all over town**  
how much Jesus had done for him.

**Luke 8:38-39**

**Legion is transformed from an anti-social being  
into a preacher!**

**We must be born again -- Spiritually!**

**This new birth will be eternal and imperishable.**

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**The New Birth parallels Christ's Experience.**

**We must be totally broken apart and rebuilt by God.**

**We are Transfigured to become like Christ.**

**God is the Potter and we are the clay.**

**We need the Transforming Power of God every instant --  
not just from crisis to crisis!**

**The new birth is the beginning of a new life,  
not just a single significant event.**

# The Temple (1)

**Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple  
and that God's Spirit lives in you?**

**If anyone destroys God's temple,  
God will destroy him;  
for God's temple is sacred,  
and you are that temple.**

**What a privilege  
that God wants to  
live in us!**

**1 Corinthians 3:17**

**We must prepare our lives as a temple to worship God.  
This means every day, every minute, every instant!**

## The Temple (2)

Some of his disciples were remarking  
about how the temple was adorned  
with beautiful stones  
and with gifts dedicated to God.

But Jesus said,

"As for what you see here,  
the time will come

when not one stone will be left on another;  
every one of them will be thrown down."

The temple was torn  
down and rebuilt twice

Luke 21:5-6

Sometimes we must be torn down and reconstructed,  
but this must occur **from within**.

## **The Temple (3)**

**Jesus answered them,  
"Destroy this temple,  
and I will raise it again in three days."**

**The Jews replied,  
"It has taken forty-six years to build this temple,  
and you are going to raise it in three days?"**

**But the temple he had spoken of was his body.**

**After he was raised from the dead,  
his disciples recalled what he had said.**

**Then they believed the Scripture  
and the words that Jesus had spoken.**

**Luke 21:5-6**

**Jesus Himself suffered this.**

**"But they refused to pay attention;  
stubbornly they turned their backs  
and stopped up their ears.**

**Using flint to  
strike a spark**

**They made their hearts as hard as flint  
and would not listen to the law  
or to the words that the LORD Almighty  
had sent by his Spirit  
through the earlier prophets.**

**So the LORD Almighty was very angry.**

**Ezekiel 11:19-20**

**This is like hardening of the arteries**



# From Stone to Flesh (1)

I will give them an undivided **heart**  
and put a **new spirit** in them;  
I will remove from them their **heart of stone**  
and give them a **heart of flesh**.

Then they will follow my decrees  
and be careful to keep my laws.

**They will be my people,**  
**and I will be their God.**

**Ezekiel 11:19-20**

**This is a serious Transfiguration.**

## From Stone to Flesh (2)

I will sprinkle clean water on you,  
and you will be **clean**;

I will cleanse you from all your impurities  
and from all your idols.

I will give you a **new heart**  
and put a **new spirit** in you;

I will remove from you your **heart of stone**  
and give you **a heart of flesh**.

And I will put my Spirit in you  
and move you to follow my decrees  
and be careful to keep my laws.

You will live in the land I gave your forefathers;

**you will be my people,**  
**and I will be your God.**

# The Pattern or Imprint of the Spirit

**You show that you are a letter from Christ,  
the result of our ministry,  
written not with ink  
but with the Spirit of the living God,  
not on tablets of **stone**  
but on tablets of human **hearts**.**

**2 Corinthians 3:3**

**Nothing takes the taste out of peanut butter  
quite like unrequited love.**

**Charles M. Schulz**

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**Leaders of Nations -- God responded**

# The Transfiguration of Ahab (1)

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite:

"Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel,  
**who rules in Samaria.**

He is now in Naboth's vineyard,  
where he has gone to take possession of it.

Say to him, 'This is what the LORD says:

Have **you** not murdered a man  
and seized his property?'

He let it happen

Then say to him, 'This is what the LORD says:

In the place where dogs licked up Naboth's blood,  
dogs will lick up your blood —yes, yours!' "

1 King 21:17-19

# The Transfiguration of Ahab (2)

**(There was never a man like Ahab,  
who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD,  
urged on by Jezebel his wife.  
He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols,  
like the Amorites the LORD drove out before Israel.)**

**When Ahab heard these words,  
he tore his clothes,  
put on sackcloth  
and fasted.**

**He responded**

**He lay in sackcloth  
and went around meekly.**

**1 King 21:25-27**

# The Transfiguration of Ahab (3)

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite:

**"Have you noticed** how Ahab  
has humbled himself before me?

Like noticing Job

Because he has **humbled** himself,  
I will not bring this disaster in his day,  
but I will bring it on his house  
in the days of his son."

1 King 21:28-29

Did Ahab stay Transfigured?



# The Transfiguration of Rehoboam (1)

Then the prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam and to the leaders of Judah who had assembled in Jerusalem for fear of Shishak, and he said to them,

"This is what the LORD says,  
'You have abandoned me;  
therefore, I now abandon you to Shishak.' "

The leaders of Israel and the king **humbled** themselves and said,

"The LORD is just."

Humility -- asking nothing in return

1 Chronicles 12:5-6

## The Transfiguration of Rehoboam (2)

When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves,  
this word of the LORD came to Shemaiah:

"Since they have **humbled** themselves,

I will not destroy them

but will soon give them deliverance.

My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem  
through Shishak.

They will, however,

become subject to him,

so that they may **learn the difference**

between serving me

and serving the kings of other lands."

1 Chronicles 12-8

# The Transfiguration of Rehoboam (3)

When Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem,  
he carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD  
and the treasures of the royal palace.

He took everything,  
including the gold shields Solomon had made.

Because Rehoboam **humbled** himself,  
the LORD's anger turned from him,  
and he was not totally destroyed.

Indeed, there was **some good** in Judah.

A spark!

1 Chronicles 12:9, 12

One generation: from the richest nation,  
Rehoboam lost 10 tribes and all the gold!

Did Rehoboam stay Transfigured?

# The Transfiguration of Manasseh (1)

**Manasseh... did evil in the eyes of the LORD,  
following the detestable practices of the nations  
the LORD had driven out before the Israelites...**

**He bowed down to all the starry hosts  
and worshiped them.**

**He sacrificed his sons in the fire  
in the Valley of Ben Hinnom,  
practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft,  
and consulted mediums and spiritists.**

**He worshipped  
everything but God**

**He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD,  
provoking him to anger.**

**1 Chronicles 33:1ff**

## The Transfiguration of Manasseh (2)

The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people,  
but they paid no attention.

So the LORD brought against them  
the army commanders of the king of Assyria,  
who took Manasseh prisoner,  
put a hook in his nose, scars!  
bound him with bronze shackles  
and took him to Babylon.

In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God  
and **humbled** himself **greatly**  
before the God of his fathers.

1 Chronicles 33:10-12

# The Transfiguration of Manasseh (3)

And when he prayed to him,  
the LORD was **moved** by his entreaty  
and listened to his plea;  
so he brought him back to Jerusalem  
and to his kingdom.

Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.

1 Chronicles 33:13

Did Manasseh stay Transfigured?

## **Remember David's sin with Bathsheba?**

- He tried to cover his sin**
- He had others killed**
- His son died**
- He humbled himself on the floor**

# The Transfiguration of David (2)

**Then David said to Nathan,  
"I have sinned against the LORD."**

**Nathan replied,  
"The LORD has taken away your sin.  
You are not going to die.**

**But because by doing this you have made  
the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt,  
the son born to you will die."**

**2 Samuel 12:13-14**

**David was forgiven,  
but there were still consequences of Sin to deal with**



## The Transfiguration of David (3)

After Nathan had gone home,  
the LORD struck the child  
that Uriah's wife had borne to David,  
and he became ill.

David pleaded with God for the child.  
He fasted and went into his house  
**and spent the nights lying on the ground.**

The elders of his household stood beside him  
to get him up from the ground,  
but he refused,  
and he would not eat any food with them.

**2 Samuel 12:15-17**

**Did David stay Transfigured?**

# A New Heart (1)

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your **unfailing love**;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.

**Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.

He accounted his sin  
against man as sin  
against God

**Against you, you only, have I sinned**  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are proved right when you speak  
and justified when you judge.

**Psalm 51:1-4**

## A New Heart (2)

Surely you desire truth in the **inner** parts;  
you teach me wisdom in the **inmost** place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
**wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have **crushed** rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.

Remember the taste of  
peanut butter in the quote

**Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**Psalm 51:6-10**

## A New Heart (3)

**Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore** to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to **sustain** me.

kite

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will turn back to you.**

**O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.**

**Psalm 51:11-13, 15**

# A New Heart (4)

**You do not delight in sacrifice,  
or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

**The sacrifices of God are a **broken** spirit;  
a **broken** and contrite heart,  
O God,  
you will not despise.**

**We must be broken  
down and rebuilt from  
the ground up**

**Psalm 51:16-17**

**"Come now, let us reason together,"  
says the LORD.**

**"Though your sins are like **scarlet**,  
they shall be as **white** as snow;  
though they are **red** as crimson,  
they shall be like wool.**

**Isaiah 1:18**

**David also knew that God could make this change**

**We are transfigured from red to white.**

# Transformation Through the New Birth

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**The new birth is the beginning of a new life,  
not just a single significant event.**

**"Blessed are they  
whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered.**

**Blessed is the man  
whose sin the Lord will never count against him."  
Romans 4:7-8**

**What does the Scripture say?**

**"Abraham believed God,  
and it was credited to him as righteousness."**

**Romans 4:3**

**Our sins are Transfigured so that they do not "stick".**



**He who covers his sins will not prosper,  
But whoever confesses and forsakes them  
will have mercy.**

**Happy is the man who is always reverent,  
But he who **hardens his heart** will fall into calamity.  
Proverbs 28:13-14**

**We cannot hide or cover our sins -- only God can.**

**Change your thoughts  
and you change your world.**

**Norman Vincent Peale**

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**The lame men -- jumping for joy**

# The Lame Men (1)

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer — at three in the afternoon.

Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called **Beautiful**, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.

When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.

Peter looked straight at him, as did John.

Then Peter said, "Look at us!"

So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

Imagine those who didn't like this "ugliness" at their "Beautiful" Gate

Acts 3:1-5

## The Lame Men (2)

Then Peter said,

"Silver or gold I do not have,  
but what I have I give you.

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

Taking him by the right hand,  
he helped him up,

He needed help

and instantly the man's feet and ankles  
became strong.

He felt the power

He **jumped** to his feet and began to walk.

Acts 3:6-7

## The Lame Men (3)

Then he went with them into the temple courts,  
walking and **jumping**, and praising God.

Did some feel that he was a disturbance?

When all the people saw him walking and praising God,  
they recognized him as the same man  
who used to sit begging  
at the temple gate called Beautiful,  
and they were filled with wonder and amazement  
at what had happened to him.

Acts 3:8-10

His sense of balance was also transfigured

## The Lame Man (4)

In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet,  
who was lame from birth and had never walked.

He listened to Paul as he was speaking.

Paul looked directly at him,  
saw that he had faith to be healed  
and called out,  
"Stand up on your feet!"

At that, the man **jumped** up and began to walk.

Acts 14:8-10

The physical transfiguration led to  
a transfiguration of the heart

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**God can transfigure our heart from stone to flesh.**

**God can clean our heart until it is white as snow.**

**God must change us from within -- through and through**

**We need the Transforming Power of God every instant!**



# Cleansed by the Blood of Christ (1)

**When Christ came as high priest  
of the good things that are already here,  
he went through the greater  
and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made,  
that is to say, not a part of this creation.**

**He did not enter by means  
of the **blood** of goats and calves;  
but he entered the Most Holy Place  
once for all by his own **blood**,  
having obtained eternal redemption.**

**Hebrews 9:11-12**

**Cleansing is a form of Transfiguration.**

## Cleansed by the Blood of Christ (2)

The blood of goats and bulls  
and the ashes of a heifer

sprinkled on those who are ceremonially **unclean**  
sanctify them so that they are outwardly **clean**.

How much more, then, will the **blood** of Christ,  
who through the eternal Spirit offered himself  
unblemished to God,

**cleanse our consciences**

from acts that lead to death,

so that we may serve the living God!

Hebrews 9:13-14

**In the case of a will,  
it is necessary to prove the death  
of the one who made it,  
because a will is in force only  
when somebody has died;  
it never takes effect  
while the one who made it is living.**

**This is why even the first covenant  
was not put into effect without **blood**.**

**Hebrews 9:16-18**

# Cleansed by the Blood of Christ (4)

When Moses had proclaimed  
every commandment of the law  
to all the people,  
he took the **blood** of calves,  
together with water,  
scarlet wool  
and branches of hyssop,  
and sprinkled the scroll and all the people.

He said,

"This is the **blood** of the covenant,  
which God has commanded you to keep."

Hebrews 9:19-20

In the same way,  
he sprinkled with the blood  
both the tabernacle  
and everything used in its ceremonies.

In fact, the law requires that  
**nearly** everything be **cleansed** with **blood**,  
and without the shedding of **blood**  
there is no forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:21-22

# Cleansed by the Blood of Christ (6)

**But when the kindness and love  
of God our Savior appeared,  
he saved us,  
not because of righteous things we had done,  
but because of his mercy.**

**He saved us  
through the **washing** of **rebirth** and **renewal**  
by the Holy Spirit,  
whom he **poured** out on us generously  
through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
so that, having been justified by his grace,  
we might become heirs  
having the hope of eternal life.**

**Titus 3:4-7**

... this water symbolizes baptism  
that now saves you also —

**not the removal of dirt from the body**

**but the pledge of a good conscience  
toward God.**

**1 Peter 3:21**

**We must be cleaned completely through and through!  
Not just on the surface!**

# More than physical cleansing



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**We cannot accomplish this cleaning by ourselves!**



# False Cleansing (1)

**"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,  
you hypocrites!**

**You clean the outside of the cup and dish,  
but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.**

**Blind Pharisee!**

**First clean the inside of the cup and dish,  
and then the outside also will be clean.**

**Matthew 23:25-26**

## False Cleansing (2)

**"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,  
you hypocrites!**

**You are like whitewashed tombs,  
which look beautiful on the outside  
but on the inside are full of dead men's bones  
and everything unclean.**

**In the same way,  
on the outside you appear to people as righteous  
but on the inside you are full  
of hypocrisy and wickedness.**

**Matthew 23:25-26**

**I would rather be ashes than dust.**

**Mitch Silver**

**Like saying that we would rather burn out than rust out.**

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**The lame men -- jumping for joy**

**The disciples -- tongues of flames**

# Tongues of Flame (1)

When the day of Pentecost came,  
they were all together in one place.

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind  
came from heaven  
and filled the whole house  
where they were sitting.

What were they expecting?

They saw what seemed to be **tongues of fire**  
that separated and came to rest on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit  
and began to speak in other tongues  
as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:1-4

## **Tongues of Flame (2)**

**Now there were staying in Jerusalem  
God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.**

**When they heard this sound,  
a crowd came together in bewilderment,  
because each one heard them  
speaking in his own language.**

**Utterly amazed, they asked:**

**"Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?  
Then how is it that each of us hears them  
in his own native language?"**

**Acts 2:5-9**

**The people saw the transfiguration  
as the apostles came to life.**

# Tongues of Flame (3)

**Amazed and perplexed,  
they asked one another,  
"What does this mean?"**

**Some, however,  
made fun of them and said,  
"They have had too much wine."**

**Acts 2:12-13**

**The church grew,  
which showed that the transfiguration stuck.**

# A Dramatic Change

**We sometimes forget that there was no conversion of any of Jesus' followers until after Pentecost.**

**We wistfully look back and wish we could have known Jesus in the flesh during his Palestinian ministry.**

**Yet three minutes after Pentecost, the followers of Christ knew Him more intimately than they had during the three years of walking with Him in His earthly, incarnate ministry.**

**Lloyd Ogilvie**



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**We need the Transforming Power of God every instant!**

# We require more than physical cleansing

... this water symbolizes baptism  
that now saves you also —

**not the removal of dirt from the body**

**but the pledge of a good conscience  
toward God.**

**1 Peter 3:21**

**We must be cleaned completely through and through!  
Not just on the surface!**

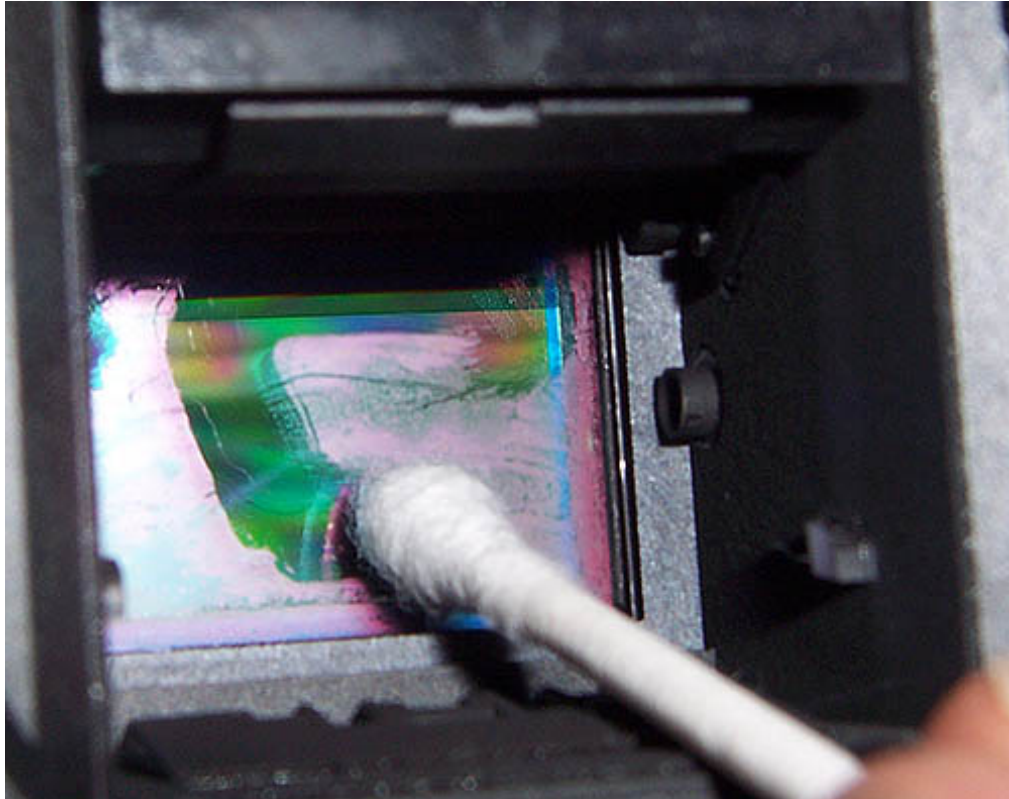
**A significant effort is made in the semiconductor  
industry to create extremely pure substances.**

**But impurities cannot be completely kept out.**

- water vapor is everywhere
- gases permeate through neoprene seals
- hydrogen can actually permeate through metals

# We may have to look very hard at ourselves

24



**The way you look at an object can reveal contaminants that are not normally seen under other conditions (PDE):**

- 1) Bright light**
- 2) Oblique angle**
- 3) Other wavelength (infrared, etc)**

# True Cleansing (1)

**It was just before the Passover Feast.**

**Jesus knew that the time had come for him  
to leave this world and go to the Father.**

**Having loved his own who were in the world,  
he now showed them the **full extent of his love.****

**John 13:1**

## **True Cleansing (2)**

**The evening meal was being served,  
and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot,  
son of Simon,  
to betray Jesus.**

**Jesus knew that the Father had put all things  
under his power,  
and that he had come from God  
and was returning to God;  
so he got up from the meal,  
took off his outer clothing,  
and wrapped a towel around his waist.**

**John 13:2-4**

## True Cleansing (3)

**After that,  
he poured water into a basin  
and began to wash his disciples' feet,  
drying them with the towel  
that was wrapped around him.**

**He came to Simon Peter,  
who said to him,**

**He served them as master**

**"Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"**

**Jesus replied,**

**"You do not realize now what I am doing,  
but later you will understand."**

**John 13:5-7**

# True Cleansing (4)

"No," said Peter,  
"you shall never wash my **feet**."

Jesus answered,

How long would this cleaning last?

"Unless I wash you,  
you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied,  
"not just my feet

Peter had a  
change of heart

but my **hands** and my **head** as well!"

John 13:8-9

**Jesus answered,**

**"A person who has had a bath  
needs only to wash his feet;  
his whole body is clean.**

**And you are clean, though not every one of you."**

**For he knew who was going to betray him,  
and that was why he said not every one was clean.**

**John 13:10-11**



## True Cleansing (6)

When he had finished washing their feet,  
he put on his clothes and returned to his place.  
"Do you understand what I have done for you?"  
he asked them.

Depth: we must be clean  
all of the way through!

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,'  
and rightly so, for that is what I am.

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher,  
have washed your feet,  
you also should wash one another's feet.

I have set you an example  
that you should do as I have done for you.

John 13:12-15

He changed them on the outside,  
and that changed them on the inside.

**I delight greatly in the LORD;  
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**For he has clothed me with **garments of salvation**  
and arrayed me in a **robe of righteousness**,  
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**

**Isaiah 61:10**

**Look at Jesus and the parable of the man who did not  
have his wedding garment.**

**Matthew 22:11ff**

# White Robes (1)

**After this I looked and there before me  
was a great multitude that no one could count,  
from every nation, tribe, people and language,  
standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.**

**They were wearing **white robes**  
and were holding palm branches in their hands.**

**And they cried out in a loud voice:  
"Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb."**

**Revelation 7:9-10**

## **White Robes (2)**

**All the angels were standing around the throne  
and around the elders and the four living creatures.**

**They fell down on their faces before the throne  
and worshiped God, saying:**

**"Amen!**

**Praise and glory**

**and wisdom and thanks and honor**

**and power and strength**

**be to our God for ever and ever.**

**Amen!"**

**Revelation 7:11-12**

## White Robes (3)

Then one of the elders asked me,

"These in **white robes** —

who are they, and where did they come from?"

I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said,

"These are they who have come out  
of the great tribulation;

they have **washed** their robes

and **made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

Revelation 7:13-14

**White from blood - spiritual colors!**

## White Robes (4)

**Therefore,**

**"they are before the throne of God  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne  
will spread his tent over them.**

**Never again will they hunger;  
never again will they thirst.**

**No sweeping,  
No cleaning!**

**The sun will not beat upon them,  
nor any scorching heat.**

**For the Lamb at the center of the throne  
will be their shepherd;  
he will lead them to springs of living water.**

**And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."**

**Revelation 7:15-17**

# A Tree and Its Fruit (1)

**"Watch out for false prophets.  
They come to you in sheep's clothing,  
but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.  
By their fruit you will recognize them.**

**Do people pick grapes from thornbushes,  
or figs from thistles?**

**Likewise every good tree bears good fruit,  
but a bad tree bears bad fruit.**

**A good tree cannot bear bad fruit,  
and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.**

**Every tree that does not bear good fruit  
is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

**Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.**

**Depth: we  
must be  
clean all  
of the way  
through!**

**Matthew 7:15-20**

## **A Tree and Its Fruit (2)**

**"Not everyone who says to me,  
'Lord, Lord,'  
will enter the kingdom of heaven,  
but only he who does the will of my Father  
who is in heaven.**

**Many will say to me on that day,  
'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name,  
and in your name drive out demons  
and perform many miracles?'**

**Then I will tell them plainly,  
'I never knew you.  
Away from me, you evildoers!'**

**Matthew 7:21-23**

**The Transfiguration must go deeper than the surface.**



**There is no exercise better for the heart  
than reaching down and lifting people up.**

**John Andrew Holmes, Jr.**

**You stoop down to make me great.**

**Psalm 18:35b**

**This is the essence of what Christ did for us!**

# Examples of Transfiguration

**King Saul -- Transfigured to be King,**

**but let the power transfigure him away from God**

**Saul of Tarsus -- Transfigured from persecutor to preacher**

**Abram and Sarai -- Transfigured spiritually and physically: Abraham and Sarah**

**Naaman's leprosy --> Gehazi's leprosy**

**The man healed at the pool of Bethesda**

**Satan -- angel or roaring lion**

**Legion -- from crazy man to model citizen**

**Leaders of Nations -- God responded**

**The lame men -- jumping for joy**

**The disciples -- tongues of flames**

**The family of Jesus -- from skeptics to believers**

# The Family of Jesus (1)

How did his brothers feel about his celebrity?

After this, Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take his life.

But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, Jesus' brothers said to him,

"You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples **may see** the miracles you do.

No one who wants to become a **public figure** acts in secret.

Since you are doing these things, **show yourself** to the world."

The brothers were issuing a challenge

For **even his own brothers did not believe in him.**

John 7:1-5

## The Family of Jesus (2)

**Then after three years,**

**I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days.**

**I saw none of the other apostles —**

**only James, the Lord's brother.**

**I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.**

**Galatians 1:18-20**

**James the brother of Jesus became a believer and a pillar of the church (Galatians 2:9).**

**The author of Jude was likely the Lord's brother.**

# Transformation Through the New Birth

**We must be born again -- Spiritually!**

**This new birth will be eternal and imperishable.**

**God sent His Son to enable the new birth (John 3:16).**

**The New Birth parallels Christ's Experience.**

**We must be totally broken apart and rebuilt by God.**

**We are Transfigured to become like Christ.**

**God is the Potter and we are the clay.**

**God chooses to live in us -- we are His temple.**

**God can transfigure our heart from stone to flesh.**

**God can clean our heart until it is white as snow.**

**God must change us from within -- through and through.**

**The Blood of Christ cleanses us from our sins.**

**We need the Transforming Power of God every instant!**

# We must aim high

**Keep your eye on the kite!**

Since, then, you have been **raised** with Christ,  
set your **hearts** on things above,  
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

**Set your minds on things above,  
not on earthly things.**

**Colossians 3:1-2**

**We must change the way our mind works.**

# Our life will be hidden in Christ

For you died,  
and your life is now **hidden** with Christ in God.

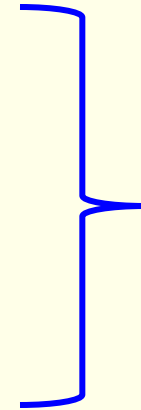
When Christ, who is your life, **appears**,  
then you also will **appear** with him in glory.

**Colossians 3:3-4**

**We will emerge or appear transfigured by His glory.**

# We have a part in the Transfiguration (1)

**Put to death**, therefore,  
whatever belongs to your earthly nature:  
sexual immorality,  
impurity,  
lust,  
evil desires and  
greed, which is idolatry.



**Take off!**

Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

You used to walk in these ways,  
in the life you once lived.

**Colossians 3:3-7**

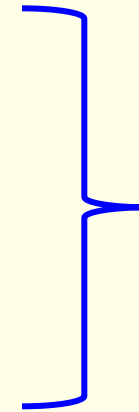
**Jesus said that we must pluck out the eye that offends  
US.**



# We have a part in the Transfiguration (2)

But now you must rid yourselves  
of all such things as these:

anger,  
rage,  
malice,  
slander, and  
filthy language from your lips.



Take off!

Do not lie to each other,  
since you have **taken off your old self** with its practices  
and have **put on the new self**,  
which is being **renewed** in knowledge  
in the **image** of its Creator.

Colossians 3:7-10

We will put on the image of God as a garment.

# **In one way we are indistinguishable**

**In Christ no one is more worthy (or unworthy) than anyone else**

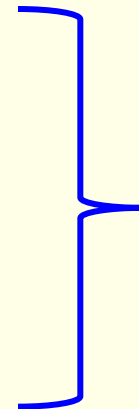
**Here there is no Greek or Jew,  
circumcised or uncircumcised,  
barbarian, Scythian,  
slave or free,  
but Christ is all,  
and is in all.**

**Colossians 3:11**

**...though we are still individual souls.**

# We Clothe ourselves with Goodness

Therefore, as God's chosen people,  
holy and dearly loved,  
clothe yourselves with  
compassion,  
kindness,  
humility,  
gentleness and  
patience.



Put on!

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances  
you may have against one another.  
Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Layers of clothing,  
with an overcoat  
of Love

And over all these virtues **put on love**,  
which **binds** them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:11-14

# **We become a New Creation**

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,  
he is a new creation;  
the old has gone,  
the new has come!**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

**Our re-clothing (transfiguration) is a continual process.**

# We must Shift our Horizon

Return to the beginning of this passage

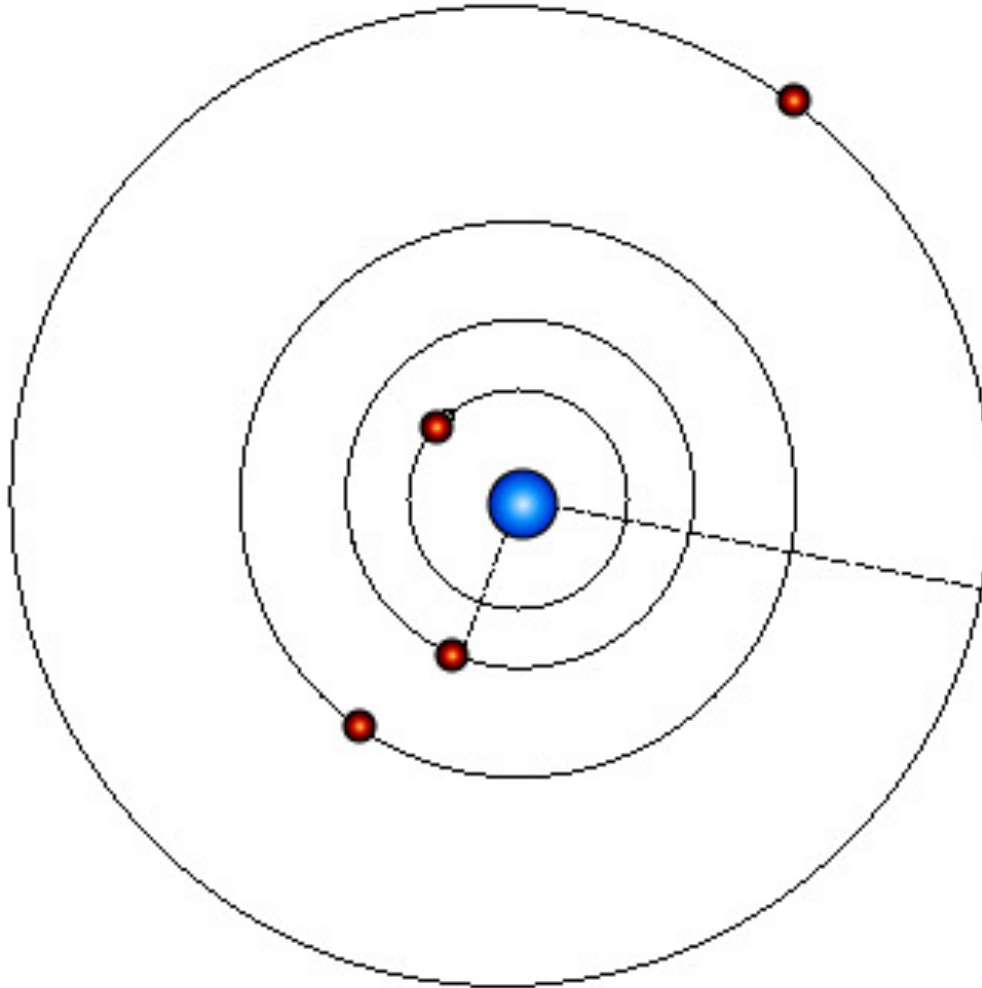
**Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,  
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**Set your minds on things above,  
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**Colossians 3:1-2**

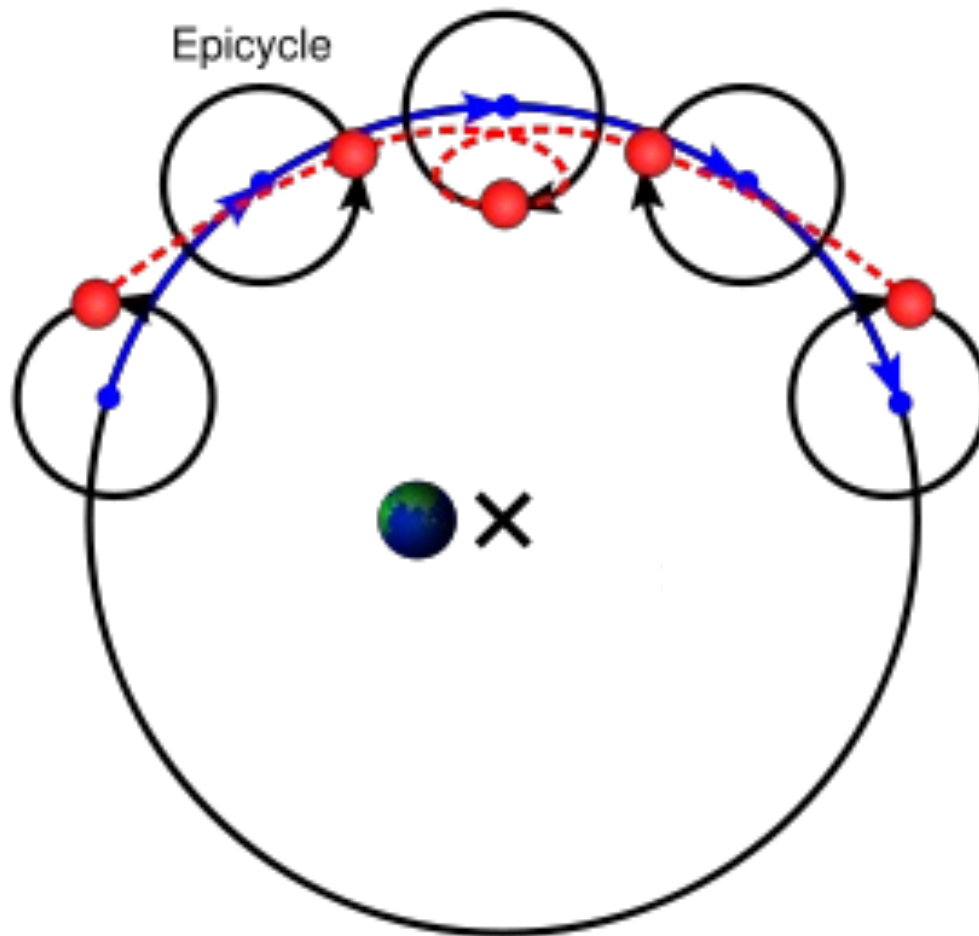
**We must change the way our mind works.**

# We must be careful of preconceived ideas (1) 25



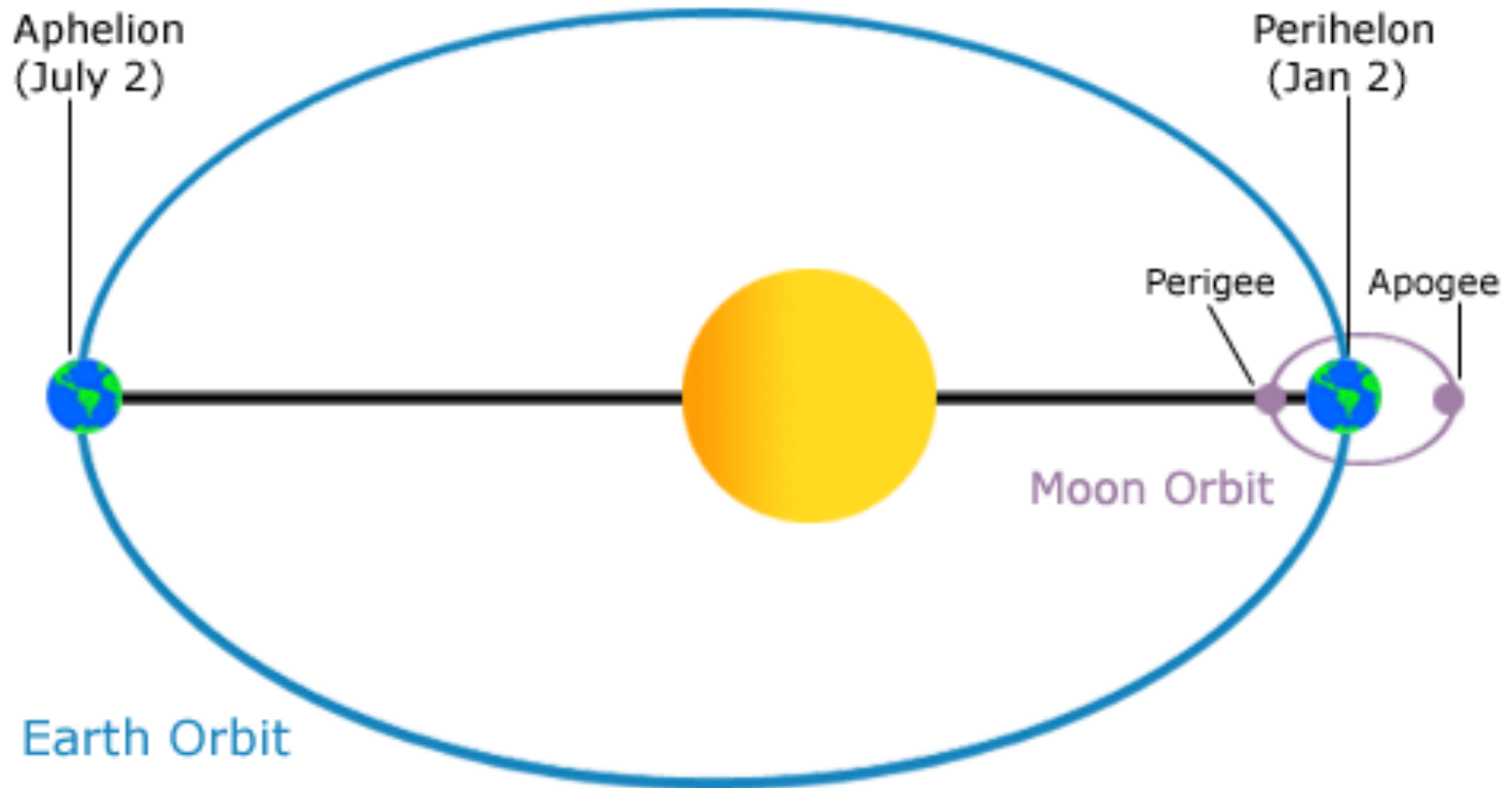
**Based on the idea of perfect geometric figures, man decided that the orbits of the planets were pure circles.**

# We must be careful of preconceived ideas (2) 25



**The data didn't fit the theory,  
so more pure circles were added.**

# We must be careful of preconceived ideas (3) 25



**Better to let the truth surface as it is --  
the planets orbit in ellipses (elongated circles).**



# Do we do the same thing with Scripture and God?<sup>25</sup>

**Do we let our mind suggest --  
that since God is Perfect Love,  
that he has to forgive us no matter what we do?**

**We have a great capacity to out-think ourselves!**

# Man can pervert the greatest principles!

**Consider: This country was founded on the idea of freedom**

**A pure and perfect idea!**

**And yet it maintained the evil of **slavery**  
(for those not worthy)**

**How could the fathers of the country  
have so badly missed their own point!**

# We must Transfigure our Minds

Do not conform any longer  
to the **pattern** of this world,  
but be **transformed**  
by the **renewing** of your mind.

This must be a  
continual effort

Romans 12:2

This links to the previous class on Patterns

# **We must begin to think like God**

**We may have to shift our perspective, or point of view.**

**To understand how something works,  
we have to think like the engineer who created it.**

**We must try to understand what God wants!**

**We must make sure that we don't miss the point!**

**May the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

**Psalm 19:14**

**Find out what is pleasing to the Lord.**

**Ephesians 5:10**

**We must always be in search of what is pleasing to God**

# The Sign of the Transfiguration (1)

**A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly,  
nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.**

**No, a man is a Jew if he is one **inwardly**;  
and circumcision is circumcision **of the heart**,  
by the **Spirit**,  
not by the **written code**.**

**Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.**

**Romans 8:28-29**

**Of what value is a mark that cannot be seen?**

# The Sign of the Transfiguration (2)

**And you also were included in Christ  
when you heard the word of truth,  
the gospel of your salvation.**

**Having believed, you were **marked** in him with a **seal**,  
the promised Holy Spirit,  
who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance  
until the redemption of those  
who are God's possession —  
to the praise of his glory.**

**Ephesians 1:13-14**

**The indwelling of the Spirit is an inner mark**

# The Sign of the Transfiguration (4)

**Then I looked,  
and there before me was the Lamb,  
standing on Mount Zion,  
and with him 144,000 who had his **name**  
and his Father's **name written** on their foreheads.**

**Revelation 14:1**

**Would you wear the mark of God on your forehead?**



# The Sign of the Transfiguration (3)

**I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.**

**Galatians 6:17**

**Sometimes there are external marks as well**

**What the caterpillar calls the end of the world,  
the master calls the butterfly.**

**Richard Bach**

# Examples of Transfiguration

**King Saul -- Transfigured to be King,**

**but let the power transfigure him away from God**

**Saul of Tarsus -- Transfigured from persecutor to preacher**

**Abram and Sarai -- Transfigured spiritually and physically: Abraham and Sarah**

**Naaman's leprosy --> Gehazi's leprosy**

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**Leaders of Nations -- God responded**

**The lame men -- jumping for joy**

**The family of Jesus -- from skeptics to believers**

**The explosion growth of the church -- changing the world**

**Peter replied,**

**"Repent and be baptized,  
every one of you,**

**in the name of Jesus Christ**

**for the forgiveness of your sins.**

**And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**The promise is for you and your children**

**and for all who are far off —**

**for all whom the Lord our God will call."**

**Acts 2:38-39**

**With many other words he warned them;  
and he pleaded with them,  
"Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."**

**Those who accepted his message were baptized,  
and about **three thousand were added**  
to their number that day.**

**Acts 2:38-41**

**The church had a phenomenal start on Pentecost!**

**All over the world** this gospel is  
bearing fruit and growing,  
just as it has been doing among you  
since the day you heard it  
and understood God's grace in all its truth.  
Colossians 1:6

**The church grew throughout the entire world.**

**There was a vast transfiguration of many  
(at least 10,000) of the Jews,  
within 5 weeks of the crucifixion;  
willing to give up their social institutions.**

**Since that time,  
millions have encountered the risen Christ**

**Lee Strobel**

**Of all of the Transfigurations,  
this is the most permanent.**

**Each one of us must be a part of this Transformation.**

**We must be born again -- Spiritually!**

**This new birth will be eternal and imperishable.**

**God sent His Son to enable the new birth (John 3:16).**

**The New Birth parallels Christ's Experience.**

**We must be totally broken apart and rebuilt by God.**

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**God must change us from within -- through and through.**

**The Blood of Christ cleanses us from our sins.**

**We need the Transforming Power of God every instant!**



**The kite is like the soul –  
everybody wants to fly.**

**From Touched by an Angel,  
The Spirit of Liberty Moon**

# Created to Soar (1)

**You and I were also created to soar.**

**We were not meant for the cages  
that we and others have built...**

**The Savior gave His life on the cross  
to release us from the bondage of fear and worry,  
from our negative thinking about our potential,  
and from our limited vision of the power  
He has to help us soar  
to new heights of **abundant** living.**

**Lloyd Ogilvie**

**I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the full.**

**John 10:10b**

**The alula is a small projection on the forward edge of the wing of birds.**

**It is actually one of the bird's digits, and is typically covered with three to five small feathers.**

**This functions in the same way as the slats on the wing of an aircraft, allowing the wing to achieve a higher than normal angle of attack – and thus lift – without resulting in a stall.**



**We too have spiritual power-flow regulators  
to help us soar.**

**Misused,  
they can distort the flow and cause turbulence,  
stalling,  
and even a plunge downward.**

**Learning how to use our spiritual alulas  
is one of the secrets of allowing the Lord  
to control our lives  
so we can soar to new effectiveness.**

**Lloyd Ogilvie**

**I compare the control factor of our imagination and will  
to the alula feathers of the eagle's wings.**

**The lifting currents of Christ's spirit  
are available to all,  
if only we would allow Him  
to teach us how to use them to soar.**

**Lloyd Ogilvie**

**We're going to be...**

**somebody's wind [to keep the kite up].**

**From Touched by an Angel,  
The Spirit of Liberty Moon**

# Transfiguration is about Change

**Change can be a heroic theme --  
check out some of your favorite heart-warming movies!**

**Many are about changes of the heart,  
and the emotion that we get  
when we see or experience it.**

**It is difficult to expect real change in people.**

# **We are Transformed from enemies to heirs (1) <sup>26</sup>**

**At one time we too were foolish, disobedient,  
deceived and enslaved by all kinds  
of passions and pleasures.**

**We lived in malice and envy,  
being hated and hating one another.**

**Titus 3:3**

**This environment is hell on earth!**



## **We are Transformed from enemies to heirs (2)** 26

**But when the kindness and love  
of God our Savior appeared,  
he saved us,  
not because of righteous things we had done,  
but because of his mercy.**

**He saved us through the **washing of rebirth and renewal**  
by the Holy Spirit,  
whom he **poured out on us generously**  
through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
so that, having been justified by his grace,  
we might become **heirs** having the hope of eternal life.**

**Titus 3:4-7**

# We are being built into a building (1)

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens,  
but fellow citizens with God's people  
and members of God's household,  
built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets,  
with Christ Jesus himself as the chief **cornerstone**.

In him the whole **building** is **joined together**  
and rises to become a holy **temple** in the Lord.

And in him you too are being **built together**  
to become a **dwelling** in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

Our bodies are individually temples of the Lord.  
Collectively we are even more so.

## We are being built into a building (2)

As you come to him, the **living Stone** —  
rejected by men but chosen by God  
and precious to him —

you also, like **living stones**,  
are being built into a **spiritual house**  
to be a holy priesthood,  
offering spiritual sacrifices  
acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

A spiritual city

1 Peter 2:4-5

A living building is capable of expanding to meet all needs.

# **We are being built into a building (3)**

**Him who overcomes**

**I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.**

**Never again will he leave it.**

**I will write on him the name of my God**

**and the name of the city of my God,**

**the new Jerusalem,**

**which is coming down out of heaven from my God;**

**and I will also write on him my new name.**

**Revelation 3:12**

**The entire universe will be Transfigured**

# We are being built into a building (4)

I was startled by a vision  
of what a Christian is meant to be –  
the **post-resurrection home** of the risen Christ.  
Lloyd Ogilvie

Together we are the body of Christ on earth.

# Glory will be revealed in us

I consider that our present sufferings  
are **not worth comparing**  
with the glory that will be revealed in us.

**Romans 8:18**

**Transfiguration: that which is hidden will be revealed.**

# John the Baptist had this radiance

**John was a lamp that burned and gave light,  
and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.**

**John 5:5**

# We must not quench it

**Never be lacking in zeal,  
but keep your spiritual fervor,  
serving the Lord.**

**Romans 12:11**

**RSV: Be **aglow** with the Spirit**



# Jesus is the light of the world

**While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.**

**John 9:5**

**The torch has been passed on to us!**

# His Spirit must continue in us

**God is love.**

**Whoever lives in love lives in God,  
and God in him.**

**1 John 4:16b**

**He must enter our changed heart!**

# **We must be willing to be re-molded in His Image**<sup>26</sup>

**I'm afraid of change...**

**and I'm afraid of not changing.**

**character of Adrian Monk**

**We must not be afraid to be Transfigured!**

# We must be re-made to resonate with God



**“Let Goodness Ring” inside our heart.**

**We must be feel the overpowering vibrations  
from the great sacrifice of Christ**

26

**And we must shine  
with the victory of His resurrection!**

**We must be transfigured in His Glory!**

# Final Encouragement

26  
26

**The story of the Duck church**