

Transforming Word Church

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VOLUME 1

Patience

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ~ Romans 8:18

I thought I had a decent amount of patience when it came to certain things...and then COVID-19 happened. I found myself counting down the days until the quarantine would be over. Around this time the state and local government were saying this would end the first week of April.

The longer the quarantine went on I found myself getting restless and counting down the days the (original) quarantine date would be up. I couldn't wait for things to go back to normal. But when the date kept being pushed back is when it hit me things won't be the way I want them to be.

I felt sad, hurt, upset, crushed and so many other emotions because everything I wanted to do and the plans, I had for the year seemed like it wasn't going to happen this year. And then I heard God say, "This is quiet time."

Once I heard that, I felt a peace like I didn't think I could have. I started to enjoy my quarantine and it no longer bothered me that the state, city/county wasn't open. God stopped me from being upset about my wants and desires for this time. Because it's not happening right now doesn't mean it won't happen.

We as people are **constantly** on the go and the only way God got our attention was to shut everything down. By doing this we had no choice but to focus on God. I never noticed how my mind could be in a million different places until this happened.

He wanted us to see we need to be present and us as people couldn't be present if we kept going in the direction we were going. Everything God does he does for our good even if it doesn't feel like it. God's got us.

-Kendra Hicks

Virtual Church Events

- **Daily Minute Devotion – on Facebook Live @ 12pm**
Sunday
- **Sunday School – on Zoom @ 9:30am**
- **Morning Service – on Facebook Live @ 10:30am**
Monday
- **Bible Study – on Zoom @ 7pm**
Wednesday
- **Prayer Meeting – on Zoom @ 7pm**

Carolyn's Pen

No More Shame

On one occasion I had an opportunity to minister in a Women's prison. While praying for and talking with several of the ladies, I encountered those who said they struggled with this "new life" I said they could have in Christ. They wondered if the past could be really gone and if they could truly live free from the shame of the things they had done.

I shared II Corinthians 5:17 with them. ***"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things are become new."*** "New creature" means one who has never lived or existed before. When we receive Christ, we receive a brand-new life, one that we have never experienced. God does not fix us up or make adjustments to our old life; He gives us new life, His life.

Every one of us was born into sin and death. We were completely alienated from the life of God. But Jesus came and bore the penalty for our sins and its consequences so we could rise up fresh and anew. Christ came to die so that we might live, it doesn't matter how we messed up, what we messed up, or who we messed up; Jesus died so we could be free from shame.

This passage of Scripture goes on to say, ***"Behold, all things are become new."*** "Behold" means to take a good, hard look at something, to give your full attention to it, to gaze intently. We are to gaze into the Word of God and meditate upon what Christ has done until the truth of the new creation becomes a reality in our lives. If we want to have a fruitful life in God, it's essential we come to the realization that we are no longer the old, guilty creature. That person passed away. He no longer exists. We have a brand-new life.

As I continued to share with one of the ladies in the prison, she began to understand and agree with me that she could be free. She hated the things she had done and wanted more than anything to walk free from the guilt that plagued her. Romans 5:20 says, ***"but where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."*** Grace is God's power toward you and me that brings us to wholeness



that is undeserved. Grace makes us right with God and puts us in a place where we can be free of all we have ever done. It's God's divine influence on our hearts influencing our lives until they become like His. It was grace working that day in the young lady's life when she said she no longer wanted to live like she had in the past.

In Christ, we can walk with our heads up, no more guilt, no more shame. It does not matter if others say they remember our past deeds. By the grace of God, we are no longer guilty. Our Father wants us to stand up in the glory that is His glory (John 17:22). People may want to question our right to walk in this manner, but it's not theirs to question (Romans 14:4). God did it. We are right because He gave us His righteousness.

We must learn to accept what God has done for us and accept ourselves as valuable and precious in His sight. When we begin to comprehend our old life has passed away, we discover we're created with purpose. We may have a dark and ugly past, but now we can get excited about a bright future.

When we receive Jesus, we discover a whole new world, a whole new road on which to walk. We have a new way of dealing with life. We can wake up every morning and say, "God this is a new day. I do not know how to live today, but you do, and I know that by your Spirit, you can lead and teach me." Take it one day at a time. When guilt tries to rear its ugly head, speak the word and declare that you are the redeemed. We can live unto God and be totally free from guilt and shame. We are new creatures!!!



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