

NAVIGATING TOWARD OUR DESTINY - Part IV Navigating Change

Text: II Corinthians 3:18

Key Word: Change

Key Thought: Change Is Essential

One thing everyone can expect in life is things will change. Change is not just inevitable it is essential for us to mature in our faith. Stagnancy is not an option in the kingdom of God even though we've all experienced it. So why does God allow it in our lives? It is because of the fact that we see stagnancy as something that will last forever. God allows it is a stage of growth to bring us to the next coordinates toward our destiny.

I'm sure that I'm like you that I never like the thought of change. It makes me uncomfortable. It often makes me question God because He doesn't always give us the answers up front. In fact, my experience tells me that He seldom lets me know what He is up to. Yet I can say with all honesty His purpose is to make me a better person even when I don't have a clue how that is going to happen. Great change seldom happens in our comfort zones.

I expect change to happen. I'm not there yet, and neither are you. We have reached our destination. Transformational change is the new normal for every Christian. We feel like we're being surrounded by a cocoon. That is exactly what it takes.

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

II Corinthians 3:18

This verse tells us an amazing truth. I want to simply explain we are travelling through a process that some scholars have termed "**already, not yet.**" God has begun the process of change in our lives that will take us on a journey that we will need to **Navigate Toward Our Destiny.**

We enter this stage with an unveiled face. Moses had to have his face veiled when he entered into the glory of God. Verse 13 tells us very clearly that we are not living in the time of Moses. We can stand before God without our faces covered. But we are not just looking toward God, we are "**beholding as in a glass**" (KJV) the glory of God. This means we are mirroring the image of God.

“The mirrors of the ancients were made of burnished metal, and they reflected images with great brilliancy and distinctness. And the meaning is, that the gospel reflected the glory of the Lord; it was, so to speak, the mirror—the polished, burnished substance in which the glory of the Lord shone, and where that glory was irradiated and reflected so that it might be seen by Christians. There was no veil over it; no obscurity; nothing to break its dazzling splendor, or to prevent its meeting the eye.”

Barnes' Notes
Electronic Database Copyright © 1997, 2003, 2005, 2006
by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved

As the sunlight would reflect upon these “mirrors” they would shine upon the faces of those who would be looking into the mirror. This doesn’t happen overnight but rather over time. The word “*transformed*” is from the Greek word “*metamorphoumeth*” which is a present passive verb which means we “*are being transformed.*”

"who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

Philippians 3:21

This change or metamorphosis can best be described by looking at the process it takes to become a butterfly. **There Are Essentially Four Stages to Consider.**

- I. THE EGG STAGE**
- II. CATERPILLAR STAGE**
- III. THE PUPA STAGE**
- IV. THE BUTTERFLY STAGE**

I. THE EGG STAGE

God has given us a wonderful example by considering the changes to become either a moth or a butterfly. I want to focus upon changes that take place in a Monarch Butterfly. The adult Monarch lays about 500 eggs. Each egg is laid one of the time on the back of a milkweed leaf. Only about one and 20 will make it to their adult life.

I. THE EGG STAGE (Contd.)

Every butterfly begins its life as an EGG. Female butterflies are very picky about where they lay their eggs! Each species of butterfly will only eat a single plant (or group of closely related plants) as caterpillars. This particular plant that a caterpillar must have is called the HOST PLANT for that species.

II. CATERPILLAR STAGE

There are actually five stages in the life of a caterpillar. This reminds me of the number of grace in the Bible that we all need as we are changing into the image God

A. First Instar Caterpillar

This is the stage when the. Caterpillar is very small. Their main exercise at this time is eating. Some species even begin by eating the egg shell which contains plenty of nutrients. It doesn't take very long for them to start eating the plant leaf that they were attached to.

B. Second Instar Caterpillar

This second instar caterpillar may look funny, but this is because it is beginning to molt! The skin around its head, referred to as a "head capsule" has already separated from the caterpillar. Their skin cannot grow with them! In order for a caterpillar to grow larger than the skin it had when it hatched, it must make a new, larger skin! The caterpillar does this by first growing a new skin underneath the outer skin. Then, when it is ready, it "sheds" the old skin, and the newer, larger skin underneath is exposed. This process is properly called MOLTING.

C. Third Instar Caterpillar

The third stage of the instar is basically the same as the second. It does would we like to do the most – that is eat until it skin can no longer contain it. It has to Molt again in order to continue its growth.

D. Fourth Instar Caterpillar

This fourth instar caterpillar is the same species as the previous three, but at this stage its image begins to change. Its shape becomes longer like that of a snake and it keeps on eating.

E. Fifth Instar Caterpillar

Once more, the caterpillar eats, grows, and molts. This final caterpillar stage, after a total of four molts, is referred to as a FIFTH INSTAR were a major change is about to happen.

III. THE PUPA STAGE

The fifth instar caterpillar is ready to pupate. This caterpillar has already spun a silk "girdle" which attaches it to the stem of the plant.. The fifth instar eats, grows, and becomes too big for its skin. This final caterpillar instar will molt one more time, but the result of this molt is quite different. When the caterpillar molts for the fifth and final time, the new skin underneath forms the outer shell of the **CHRYsalis**.

The chrysalis (generically is referred to as a pupa), is not a "resting" stage as many people think. Quite to the contrary, a lot is happening to the pupa! The body of the caterpillar is transforming into an adult butterfly! Wings are fully formed (the beginnings of the wings were actually forming underneath the caterpillar's skin before its last molt) in the chrysalis. Antennae are formed and the chewing mouthparts of the caterpillar are transformed into the sucking mouthparts of the butterfly.

After approximately 10 to 14 days as a chrysalis, the butterfly is ready to emerge. I'm not surprised that the children of Israel were told on the 10th day of the first month to take a lamb into their home until the 14th day (Exodus 12). It was at that time at twilight they were to ***"be prepared for a journey."*** They were to talk their outer garment in so they wouldn't trip on it and they were to put sandals on their feet and the staff in their hand.

When the butterfly emerges from its chrysalis, its wings are small and wet, and the butterfly cannot yet fly. The butterfly must pump fluids from its abdomen through the veins in its wings, which causes the wings to expand to their full size. Next, the wings must dry and the butterfly must exercise flight muscles before it can fly.

IV. THE BUTTERFLY STAGE

NOW comes another part that his soul essential for our continual growth. The main job of an adult butterfly's life is to **reproduce**. After a female butterfly mates, she searches for the proper host plant to lay her eggs, and the cycle begins again.

Butterflies and moths go through the same stages in their metamorphosis with one difference. Many moths form a cocoon instead of a chrysalis. Moths form cocoons by first spinning a silken "house" around them. Once the cocoon is finished, the moth caterpillar molts for the last time, and forms a pupa inside the cocoon.

Butterflies DO NOT form cocoons! However, not all moths form cocoons, either! Some moth species pupate underground instead. These caterpillars burrow into the soil or leaf litter, molt to form their pupa, and remain underground until the moth emerges. The newly emerged moth will then crawl out from underground, crawl up onto a surface from which they can hang, and will then expand their wings in preparation for flight

We have been birthed by the Spirit of God in order to grow. Bible says that we are

supposed to grow from glory to glory or from brightness to brightness. We are born into His image and therefore we should display God's image not ours. Our old image needs to be shed and left behind during our stages of growth. We are never to try to fit back into the part that has been molted.

Let your spiritual antennas grow. It's time to feast on the manna from heaven. It's time for God's Spirit within you to burst out as you spread your wings and don't forget to eat. Why? Because we are on a journey and need to Navigate Toward our Destiny. It's interesting that it takes 2-3 generations to make it from Mexico to Canada but only one generation to make it from Canada to Mexico.

Which stage of life in your spiritual metamorphosis would you say you are presently going through?

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X7)\Sermons.2017\Navigating Toward our Destiny/Genesis 28-33.wpd

Date: May 21/17

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Change My Heart - C

NAVIGATING TOWARD OUR DESTINY - Part IV
Navigating Change

Text: II Corinthians 3:18

Key Word: Change

Key Thought: Change Is Essential for Growth

*"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,
are being transformed into the same image from one degree of
glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."*

II Corinthians 3:18

The word **“transformed”** is from the Greek word **“metamorfoumeth”** which is a present passive verb which means we **“are being transformed.”**

*"who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by
the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."*

Philippians 3:21

There Are Essentially Four Stages to Consider.

I. THE EGG STAGE

II. CATERPILLAR STAGE

- A. First Instar Caterpillar
- B. Second Instar Caterpillar
- C. Third Instar Caterpillar
- D. Fourth Instar Caterpillar
- E. Fifth Instar Caterpillar

III. THE PUPA STAGE

IV. THE BUTTERFLY STAGE