

Paradigm shift

A certain man had two sons, the younger son went to his father and demanded his share of inheritance due to him. His father divided his goods and gave the younger son his rightful portion. The younger son left and went to a far off country and spent all that he had on riotous living. Not many days after, a great famine arose in the land and having spent all that he had, he began to be in want. He went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; who he sent him to feed his swine. He became so hungry. He craved the food he gave to the swine and no one gave him anything.

When he came to himself, he said, "How many hired servants of my father's house have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!" I will arise and go to my father and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and I am no more worthy to be called your son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And when he went to his father while he was still far off his father saw him and had compassion, ran and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

And the son said to him, father, "I have sinned against heaven and thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." The father said to the servants, bring the best robe and put on him; put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet: and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat be merry, for this my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found." **Gen 15:11- 24 NLT**

It is said, the greatest journeys we ever travel, is the journeys of the mind. How we see the world changes when we discover who we are in God and the Identity he has placed on each one of us. God's reality of us supersedes our limited perceptions of ourselves. Firstly, from the story of the prodigal son, having spent all his inheritance recklessly, and finding himself in a beaten and broke place in life with no food; tending to swine and a distant away from the luxury of his former self, **He comes to himself**. His life then *Vis a Vie* his previous state, cause him to vacate the thought that his circumstance was permanent.

He changes his mind and journeys home to his father seeking only the status of a servant because of what he had done. He labels himself a failure and sinner. But as we see; Jesus likening this story to the kingdom of God, teaches us that it doesn't matter what we've done. The father still sees the prodigal son as his worthy son. This is apparent because of how he received him. In God's sight what we have gone through does not give us our identity- God does because he knew us before we were formed in our mother's womb.

God wants to cover us with a new robe, name and identity that is far more than what our past or people have labeled us. **In Luke 1:13 NLT**, the angel of the lord Gabrielle appears to Zachariah a priest who is very old and tells him he will bear a son with his wife Elizabeth and will call him John. Perceiving his age and that of his wife, he asks the angel of the lord how this thing will be considering his wife was advanced in years. The angel causes him to be mute because he did not believe in him, until that which he had said will come to pass. Elizabeth conceives and gives birth to a son and on the eighth day during circumcision, her neighbors and cousins come and name the child Zacharias after his father. His mother says not son but he shall be called John.

(Verse 61-64),-"And they said unto her, there is none of thy kindred that is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. And he asked for a writing table, and

wrote, saying, his name is John. And they marveled all. And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised the God.

Looking at this story, the cousins wanted to name the child according to the way they traditionally knew but God had other plans. He had named him John-meaning, 'God bestows favor.' Whatever people call you, pales to what God has called you. Your Identity lies with God not with man.

While Abram was still struggling to have one son, God called him father of many nations. When Samson's hair was cut in the middle of the night, his hair began to grow again- and recognizing who he was in God he asked for his strength back and God restored him one last time to fulfill his God given purpose. He ended up killing more philistines in his incapacitation, having recognized God and repented.

Isaac was blessed because everything he put his hand prospered.

When Jesus was being baptized, the heavens opened and God said this is my beloved son, whom I am well pleased. The enemy is always after our identity. When Jesus was being tempted, the devil challenged him if he was are really the son of God. The enemy seeks to destroy that which God has put in us or that which God has destined for us, this is self-evident when he questions the identity of Jesus. In **2 peter 1:4**- If you want to know who you are, don't look at your circumstances look at the promise. Looking at the lifecycle of the butterfly, we can glean what happens when we seek to change our thinking to new sets of thinking;

Caterpillar stage

This follows the egg stage. At this stage the caterpillar simply gluttonously eats to fuel future growth. It sheds its skin 4-5 times because of its growth.

This represents the knowledge consuming stage where you immerse yourself in the word of God, reading complementary literature and listening to the word. In doing so there's 'shedding' some old ideas and friendships- embracing new truths that will propel the mind to new heights

Chrysalis stage

This is an intriguing stage of the butterfly development which appears appalling. When it has fully grown and can eat no more, it dangles and from a branch and spins a protective cocoon so it can rest and digest the food it has been consuming. In this stage, everything appears unchanged from the outside but there is an intense transformation taking place on the inside as the previously dormant precursor cells gradually emerge and create a brand new being.

This stage represents the internalizing and rearranging of intended thought processes(as God intended) in isolation 'cocooning' as new thought process emerges and transforms a feeble looking being into a beautiful creation.

The butterfly stage

The butterfly is ready to emerge from chrysalis stage. What was just not possible for the caterpillar is now possible at this stage because it can fly. Its sphere of influence has just been enlarged to the whole world as opposed to the limited area it was used to as a caterpillar.

This stage means that all the consumption and internal transformation that has taken place can now be unveiled to the world. New Ideas in thought processes can now take 'flight' and transform others not just the individual.

What do you do when your circumstance contradicts the promise?

It takes 3-4 years for an apple tree to produce the fruit. You have to become the promise to produce the fruit. You have to believe what God says about you to manifest the promise he has set for your life.

Abram believed and it was so,

David did not fight Saul to be king, he had been anointed king though it took him 17 years he became king.

Elisha believed he would receive a double portion and it came to pass,

The woman with the issue of blood for 12 years believed if she could only touch the hem of Jesus's garment she would be well- it was so for her

It won't be long before the apple catches up with the apple tree. We have to condition ourselves to a new thought to achieve it. If you can think more you can become more. The apple tree does not have a soul but just because it is an apple tree, it will produce apples. Man from creation was blessed by God, though he was naked he was blessed. For that reason if you can think it, you can be it. If the process inside takes root you will begin to produce fruit.

Change is just one thought away.

In romans 12:2- Paul admonishes us not to conform to the things of this world but we should be transformed by the renewing of our mind. Money cannot change you, if you are greedy with little, you will be greedy with much.

Every one of us has the capacity to change. That capacity is innate in us all and can be activated by knowing who we are in God. If you can change, your world will change. If you can get it in your head, you can get it in your hand.

When the prodigal son came to himself-there was movement in first in his thoughts then he physically manifested that thought. Everything is created twice, first in the mind then physically. You allow the new to be birthed in your mind and your body will follow suit.

How do we transform?

1. Whatever we feed our mind transforms us; the books we read and what we allow ourselves to watch has the ability to transform who we are.
2. Our associations; it is said show me your friends and I will show you your future. The people we allow ourselves to be associated with determine where we end up. The bible is clear in **Amos 3:3-** how can two walk together unless they agree on the direction.

3. Who we believe in; whatever our choice of belief determines where we end up. If we believe and immerse ourselves in the word of God he is able to transform us because he is the architect of all human existence therefore he knows far much more than we do.