



The Transforming Power of God's Holy Spirit

Inherent in the meaning of the word *transformation* is the idea of changing the form and shape of something. Without altering the makeup of the material, its shape is altered—transformed.

If we consider the *power of God's Holy Spirit* to transform us, using the above definition, we see ourselves remaining essentially who we are, but the shape of our lives becomes different. We remain ourselves, but the way we view life and the way we live life undergo change.

Our values shift. We see our reason for being alive taking on a new and more profound meaning. Our goals in life undergo subtle adjustments. We wake up in the mornings with a new and more positive slant on the way we go into the day. Our world view comes into sharper focus as we slowly but inevitably become aware that the whole world is our own back yard, and it is up to us to see that it is cared

for. Social issues and even politics come into our awareness with greater impetus and spiritual significance as we learn to use them as opportunities to raise our concern above our own self interest.

These *transformations* initiated within us by God's Holy Spirit can sometimes startle us and cause us to ask ourselves what is happening that we are now seeing so many things so differently.

On a different tangent, sometimes the change that occurs within us is mere confirmation of some-thing that God has put into our lives much earlier and until now has remained no more than an urge, but now becomes a cause that draws us into a commitment mode.

These changes that God's Spirit works in our lives have a direct bearing on how we feel about ourselves, a very important issue. If it is God who is affecting change within us we can be assured that it will be positive. We can and should check out its correctness by measuring it against the directive by Jesus: *Love God with your whole heart, mind and spirit, and love your neighbor as yourself*. If change in us passes that test we can let go of any anxiety over the change and celebrate it with thanksgiving for our upgraded way of living.

In that *transformation* we will come to appreciate the huge difference between true *joy* that has real depth and lasting power and always accompanies God's gifts, versus *happiness* that we can create on our own, but which has a limited life span, having to be reignited over and over again.

The trick is to recognize that *itch* that the onset of the Holy Spirit's activity creates and then be open to the offer to raise our life's experience to a new level. Although it may require our letting go of things we have considered as

vital to our well being, we can be assured that it will make our lives and the world better.

Prayer to memorize and use each morning for one week:

Holy One, mold me into a useful
and beautiful vessel,
then fill me to overflowing
with your overwhelming love.

