

## TRANSFORMED! PT5 - Transformed by Embracing God's Will

Scripture used: Romans 8:28, Isaiah 40:28-31 (NLT)

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

### OVERVIEW

In Part 5 of our Transformed message we celebrate Mother's Day by hearing the personal testimony of Dr. Rhonda and look at the life choices of Mary, Jesus' Mom. Dr. Rhonda shared her growth process in accepting and following God's will for her personal exercise program. She initially challenged God's will and wanted to pout like a spoiled child. But as she begrudgingly surrendered something she loved deeply (a practice of running for 30 min each morning around a lake), and trusted God -- she came to discover that God was bringing about a dramatic and significant transformation within her life and body that she didn't even know she needed.

We also looked at the choices of Mary, Mother of Jesus. When the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce the impending birth of Jesus, Mary was confused but said, "Yes!" Giving birth to Jesus led to being homeless and giving birth in a stable, but Mary's answer was, "Yes!" Mary and her family quickly became refugees and hunted fugitives but her answer was still, "Yes!" When she stood at the foot of the cross, Mary felt the heartbreak of watching her Son die. When her Son rose from the dead, she enjoyed the resurrection and helped to found Jesus' church on earth. Each "yes" was the result of a series of choices she had to make. In each choice, Mary's attitude was to embrace God's will as revealed in each set of circumstances. She chose to obey and as a result, was transformed by God's love for her. In the same way God desires to transform us with his transformational love. How has He been speaking to you? What choices have you been making at each step?

### KEY POINTS

**The Big Idea: God transforms us when we embrace, trust, and submit to God's will.**

- 1) God wants to speak to us because He loves us and wants the best for us. - God can choose to communicate with each of us in different ways: with some, it is His voice (Mt 17:5), for others it may be in a vision or dream (Mt 1:20), through wise counsel (Prov 20:18), through His Word (Ps 119:105) or in other ways. In all cases we are reminded that if something we hear contradicts scripture, that cannot be God!
- 2) God does not spoil us but want us to grow by being obedient. - God desires the best for us and not to harm us. All things work together for good (Rom 8:28) has been proven true again and again. Dr. Rhonda found that by changing her exercise routine (stop running), God used her obedience (bike-riding instead) to strengthen her damaged knees and restore her freedom from knee pain.
- 3) God's plan should be closely examined and choices made. - Dr. Rhonda hated to give up her running routine and resented the loss. She challenged God's will but found she suffered great pain. She also tested His revealed will - was it consistent with scripture? Was this in line with other things God said in His word? After all, running was not a sin! Why did she have to quit? But by surrendering to God's will and making some creative choices in line with God's plan, she was transformed. Obedience helped her attitude and her pain.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - How do you typically hear from God? Do you test what you hear? How do you know whether the communication is really from God?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - When God communicates with us, we are faced with how we will respond. What is the hardest part of surrendering to God's revealed will in your opinion? How do you deal with the fact that sometimes God's plan is NOT what you want? If you surrendered and embraced God's plan, what happened? Was your life transformed? If so, how?
- 3) **DO** We must choose to look for God's love in our disappointments and see how God is using them to change our lives. This week, bring a recent disappointment you have experienced to God in prayer and tell Him you are choosing to embrace His will for your life in this matter. Ask Him to transform your heart, your attitude, and your choices to be in line with His will. Share with your group your choices and lean on them in faith.