

# *Fight the Good Fight*

*Bay Area Church of Christ  
Men's Retreat  
February 5, 2005*

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## *Fight the Good Fight*

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### **Romans 12:1-2**

**“Therefore, I urge you, brothers,  
in view of God's mercy,  
to offer your bodies as living sacrifices,  
holy and pleasing to God  
–this is your spiritual act of worship.  
Do not conform any longer  
to the pattern of this world, but  
be transformed by the renewing of your mind.  
Then you will be able to test and approve  
what God's will is  
–his good, pleasing and perfect will.”**

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## My Message

- Life Lesson #1...Real Life Application
- Life Lesson #2...The Transformation Process
- A Transformation Challenge

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## Life Lesson #1...Real Life Application

February 12, 1992



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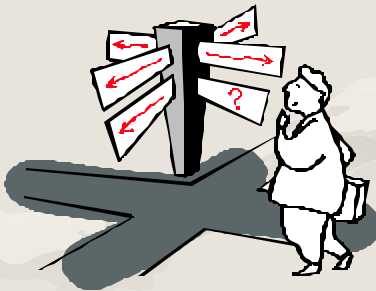
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## A state of confusion



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### **What happened?!!!!**

- **Attempted to work it out in isolation**
- **Lacked meaningful, spiritual relationships**
- **My pride prevented “heart” penetration**
- **I was unprepared for a spiritual battle**

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### **Ephesians 6:12**

**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,  
but against the rulers, against the authorities,  
against the powers of this dark world and  
against the spiritual forces of evil  
in the heavenly realms....**

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### **Ephesians 6:13**

**...Therefore put on the full armor of God,  
so that when the day of evil comes,  
you may be able to stand your ground,  
and after you have done everything,  
to stand.**

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**1Peter 5:8**

**“Be self-controlled and alert.  
Your enemy the devil  
prowls around like a roaring lion  
looking for someone to devour.”**

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**Satan’s Strategy**

- What’s his objective?** • He wants us to worship him.
- When does he attack?** • Likes to attack JUST before, and/or JUST after we have decided to fight the good fight. He looks for opportunities to render the enemy (us) ineffective in his/her outreach.
- How does he attack us?** • He patiently waits to blindside us. He deceptively appeals to our physical appetites, our desire for power or recognition, and self-preservation (life). He casts his prey into doubt or confusion. His intentions are deadly.

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### The Devil's Schemes / Tactics

- “When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.” Luke 4:13
- “Do not give the devil a foothold.” Eph 4:27
- “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” 1Pet 5:8

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### Lessons Learned

- Open up to at least one brother
- Opening up is freeing (counter-intuitive)
- Mark Hodges loved, listened, steered me back
- Be alert to the “noise” you allow in your life
- Satan won the battle, but NOT the war!!!!

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### How do we fight the good fight?

- Study God's word
- Obey God's word
- Pray, Pray, Pray
- Establish “one another” relationships
- Fix your eyes on Jesus

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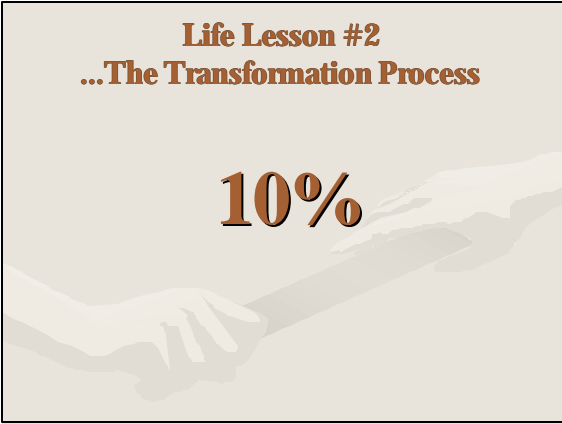
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**Life Lesson #2**  
**...The Transformation Process**

**10%**



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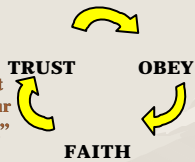
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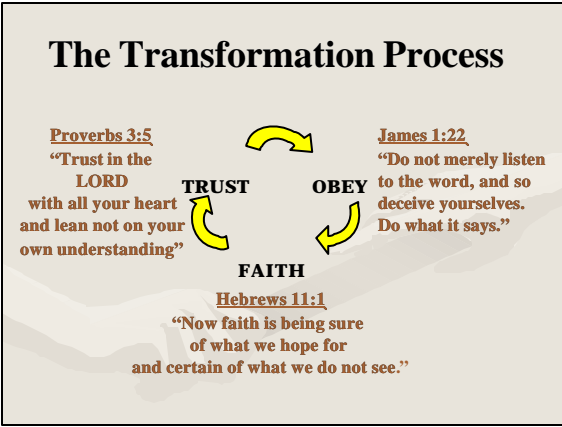
**The Transformation Process**

Proverbs 3:5  
"Trust in the  
LORD  
with all your heart  
and lean not on your  
own understanding"



James 1:22  
"Do not merely listen  
to the word, and so  
deceive yourselves.  
Do what it says."

Hebrews 11:1  
"Now faith is being sure  
of what we hope for  
and certain of what we do not see."



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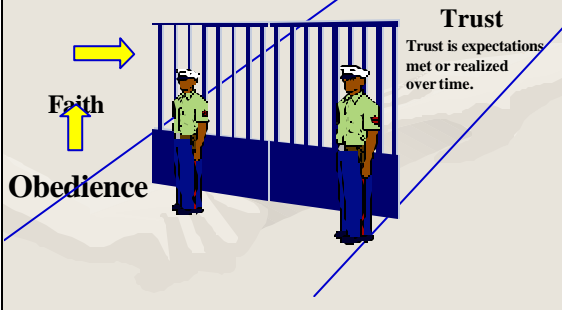
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**The Transformation Process**



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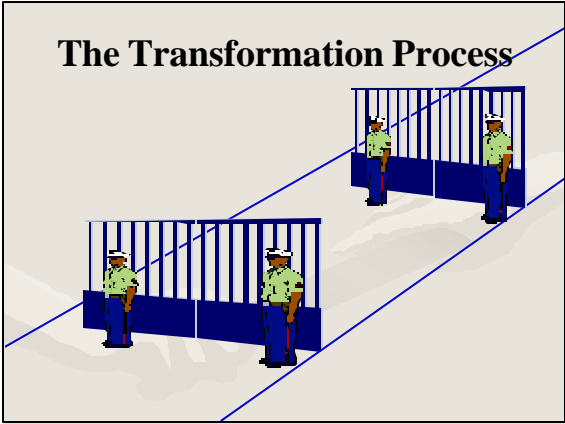
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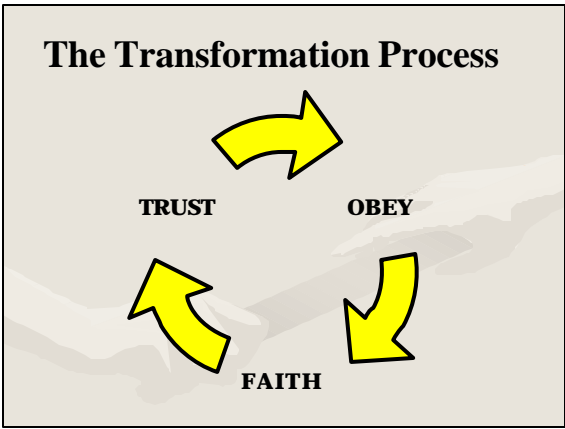
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### The Transformation Process

- Gal 3:22 = **Prisoner to sin**
- 2 Cor 1:22 = **An object of God's wrath**
- Eph 2:1 = **Dead in my transgressions and sins**

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## Ephesians 2:1-2

**“As for you,  
you were dead in your transgressions and sins,  
in which you used to live when you  
followed the ways of this world  
and  
the ruler of the kingdom of the air,  
the spirit who is now at work  
in those who are disobedient.”**

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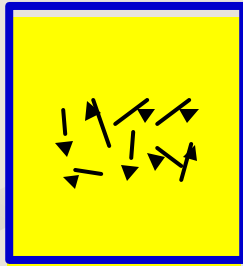
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## The Transformation Process

- Acts 2:38 = ...And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
- 2 Cor 1:22 = ... a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come



“Thank you...Jesus”

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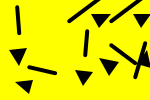
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## The Transformation Process

Dead in our sins



Spirit- filled



“Thank you...Jesus”

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### What was Jesus' purpose?

- For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Luke 19:10
- He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 1John 3:8

**The Good Fight!!!**

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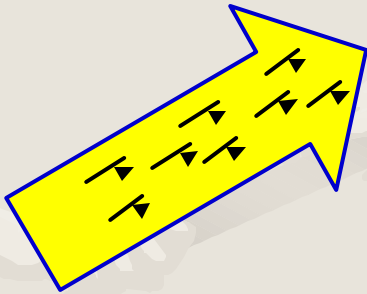
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### The Transformation Process



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### Romans 12

- ...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.
- Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

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## Romans 12

- **Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.**
- **Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.**

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## Align yourself the purpose

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

John 14:5-7

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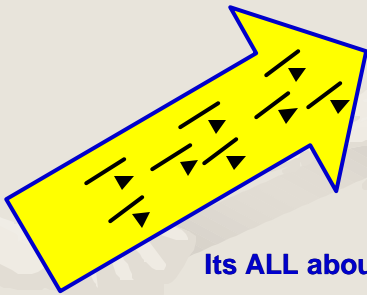
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## The Transformation Process



**Its ALL about Him!!!**

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### **Lessons Learned**

- **Get in alignment with Him**
- **It is about Him and NOT me**
- **Obey, obey, obey (counter-intuitive)**
- **Expect resistance from people “closest to you”**

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### **How do we fight the good fight?**

- **Study God’s word**
- **Obey God’s word**
- **Pray, Pray, Pray**
- **Establish “one another” relationships**
- **Fix your eyes on Jesus**

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### **The Transformation Challenge**



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**Romans 12:1-2**

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers,  
in view of God's mercy,  
to offer your bodies as living sacrifices,  
holy and pleasing to God  
–this is your spiritual act of worship.  
Do not conform any longer to the  
pattern of this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.  
Then you will be able to test  
and approve what God's will is  
–his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

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**How can we fight the good fight?**

- **Be most obedient**
- **Extinguish “self-centeredness”**
- **Confess your sins**

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**1 John 1:8-10**

“If we claim to be without sin,  
we deceive ourselves  
and the truth is not in us.  
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.  
If we claim we have not sinned,  
we make him out to be a liar  
and his word has no place in our lives.”

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**1 John 1:5-7**

**“...God is light;  
in him there is no darkness at all.  
If we claim to have fellowship with him  
yet walk in the darkness,  
we lie and do not live by the truth.  
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus, his Son,  
purifies us from all sin.”**

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*I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith.*

*2 Timothy 4:7*

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