

Pastor Craig Groeschel shared an experience he had one Sunday after church. A man approached him and said, “Pastor the answer is yes!” “The answer is yes to what?”, replied Craig. The man then explained that the answer was “yes” to anything that Craig or the church needed. He explained that Jesus had done such an amazing work in his life and that the church had been such a blessing to him, he was ready and willing to give back in any way that he possible could. “So, Pastor”, he said, “the answer is yes.”

We are being transformed into the image of Christ, and one of the characteristics of someone who has truly experienced transformation is that they want to give back- not that we could ever pay Jesus back for what He has done for us, but we want to serve His church, His people, and others.

Healed = Serving

Luke 4:38-39 Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹ So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately after her healing, what does she do? She got up at once and began to wait on them. (NKJ “she arose and served them.”)

In this series we've been talking about being transformed into the image of Christ Jesus!

We are TRIUNE Beings. We Are BODY, SOUL and SPIRIT. At our salvation our Spirit man is 100% saved and our Soul, which is our mind, will, and emotions, launches off on this great journey of being transformed and changed.

2 Corinthians 3:18 says that we “are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

This is the biblical concept of “Sanctification”. At the point of salvation our Soul transformation begins.

We shared with you some Simple Transformational Life Steps, which were:

- Salvation (I'm receiving Jesus as my Savior today.)
- Be Filled with and walk in the Holy Spirit (Today I will ask Jesus to fill me with His Holy Spirit.)
- Pray - Communicate with God (This week I will spend at least Three Minutes talking to God.) If you don't know where to begin, start with “The Lord's Prayer” Matthew 6:9-13
- Read the Bible Five Minutes a day, instructions that lead to continuing transformation.
- Be equipped, encouraged and grow through fellowship with others and faithful church attendance.

Then each week we have been sharing with you things that you can choose to do to accelerate the transformation process in your life!

01-14-18 Transformational Life Groups

01-21-18 Transformation Celebration! - Identifying with Transformation through water baptism, which we will participate in today.

Today I want to encourage you to “Say Yes” to Transformation! Say yes to transformation, by saying yes to serving! It all seems to work together, just as you desire to give back and return to others after your Spirit transformation, salvation, serving is also one of the greatest ways that you can continue to be more and more like Jesus. Be transformed to be like Him!

Yes! More Like Servant Jesus

Jesus also told His disciples to look to Him as their ultimate example of serving.

Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” If Jesus, wasn't above serving others, certainly we're not above serving others either.

As Jesus walked the earth, He referred to himself as a servant and His followers continued to refer to Him that way.

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. (NIV)

Acts 3:26 When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.” (NIV)

Acts 4:27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. (NIV)

The Early Church Called Themselves Servants

Acts 4:29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. (NIV)

Acts 16:17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” (NIV)

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-- (NIV)

Ephesians 3:7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. (NIV)

Fellow Servants of Christ Jesus

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

Paul simply refers to himself and Timothy as **servants of Christ Jesus**.

The highest honor of the greatest apostle, was to be called a servant.

Paul makes no distinction whatsoever between himself, a veteran missionary and Apostle, and Timothy, a novice just beginning to preach. Paul refers to both of them as "servants".

The highest honor and privilege of any believer is to be a true servant of Christ Jesus.

Would the word servant be associated with you and your name, or would the idea of you being a servant to others cause people to smirk?

Next Life Transformation Step: Ask yourself this question, "How well am I serving others?"

You Feed Them

Matthew 14:13-21 When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." ¹⁶ Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." ¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. ¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.

This is one of the texts where we get our answer to discipleship: small groups. Jesus divided people into small groups in a comfortable setting so that they could be fed. He blessed and multiplied the five loaves and two fish, but He didn't feed the people, His disciples did.

Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

²⁰ *They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.*

²¹ *The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

Back to verse 16. *Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."*

Why would Jesus say, you feed them or "*You give them something to eat.*"? Was Jesus being lazy?

Was Jesus trying to push His work off on others? Of course not!

- Jesus wanted to use this opportunity as a teachable moment. When He told His disciples to feed them, they knew fully that this was not something they could do on their own. They needed the enabling power of God, they needed God's grace to do what He was asking them to do.
- **Jesus wanted them to experience the joy and fulfillment that comes from serving others.** This was also part of their transformation process. These were guys who would argue about who was the greatest and were constantly jockeying for position.
- **Jesus wanted them to understand the greatest places in the Kingdom of God are the positions of servitude.**
Matthew 20:26-28 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- **Jesus wanted to give them the key to a blessed life**

Jesus wanted to give them a lesson that he would demonstrate for them later when He washed their feet and told them that serving others was the key to a blessed life!

John 13:12-17 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

ILL: I have a lot of people say things to me over the years that were hurtful. But one of the greatest insults ever given to me was a statement made to me by a former Pastor. This former Pastor started coming to Believers and told me that God had sent him here to help me.

Over the course of time, it turns out that he really wasn't doing the task that he willingly volunteered to do, and he wasn't even really participating in the life of the church. That led to a necessary talk with him.

During the conversation, he told me what he would do and wouldn't do and then he said the hurtful thing. **He said, "Don't expect me to be one of your worker bees."**

You are probably saying, "That's it? That's what he said that bothered you?"

Yes, because he assumed that I saw the members of Believers Church as nothing more than worker bees, that I use, to make them do what I want them to do." There is nothing further from the truth!

I don't want you to be my worker bee! I'm not asking you to do things for me because I'm lazy and bossy. I'm following the example of Jesus and saying, "You feed them", so that you can experience the joy of serving others, live the blessed life, and continue to be transformed into the image of Christ.

And as a former Pastor, he of all people, should know the importance of leading people into this wonderful, continuing journey of transformation through serving.

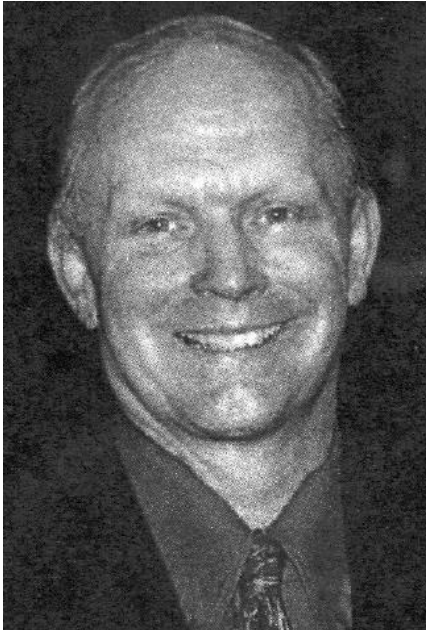
You serve, but not for me. You serve for Jesus and you serve for you.

ILL: Billy Godwin – Billy took a special interest in me and he began to spend more time with me to stir me up in the ways of God.

Not only did Billy encourage me in the ways of the Lord, but he also began to teach me how to love and minister to other people. One Saturday morning I was dressed and ready for a day at the beach!

I had worked all week long and was really looking forward to going. Before I could get out the door, the phone rang. It was Billy. He said, "Scott what are you doing today?" "I'm going to the Beach, why do you ask?", I answered. Billy replied, "Well I just felt like the Lord wanted me to go to the nursing home today and just love on those people in there." The nursing home? To love on old people at that? No way I wanted to go the nursing home!

Well this was my first experience with "Godwin" persuasion and the next thing I knew I was dressed and on my way to the nursing home, just to love on people. That was a life changing day for me.



I left there more exhilarated than I had ever been before. I experienced the joy that comes from loving and ministering to the needs of others. I felt the excitement of being used by God to do something that was beyond my own ability. This was the beginning of my ministry journey.

This was just the beginning; Billy spent more time with me (I got to experience his slow driving skills on more than one occasion). Sometimes he would take me with him on ministry trips to surrounding towns. Billy would preach and then let me come up to the altar with him and watch and learn, as he prayed for and ministered to the people.

Serving Others Transformed My World and It Will Transform Your Life Too! BUT "YES" must be the answer. You must say "Yes to Transformation"!

Next Life Transformation Step: Today I "SAY YES" to whatever Jesus wants me to do or my church needs me to do. It starts at the Welcome Center Today, SAY YES!

Life App Group and Family Devotional Application

1. Why would our transformation from death to life motivate us to serve Jesus and others?
2. How do you think serving will help you in your transformation process?
3. Would the word servant be associated with you and your name, or would the idea of you being a servant to others cause people to smirk?
4. In what ways and in what areas do you feel Jesus telling you to "SAY YES" to?