

The Transforming Spirit

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 12 November 2017

Preacher: Chris Thornton

[0 : 00] Good morning, Watermark. Good morning. That's good. That's good. Okay, my name's Chris. For those of you who don't know me, and for those of you who do know me, my name is still Chris, although I am called by other things occasionally.

It's great to see you this morning. Just really excited as we're going on this series of looking in the Holy Spirit, and we're looking at what it means to have the Spirit of God, which is God's personal, life-giving presence, with us. Okay, so that's kind of what we're doing in this series. We're wanting to look at what it means to have the Spirit in and with us.

And as Watermark, we haven't talked a lot about the Spirit, and we want to just get into what the Bible says. And Graham, last week, he showed us that the Spirit is the creator Spirit who brings life to us, who creates. As you look outside, he creates the beauty outside, and he creates new life in bringing people from darkness and death to life in Jesus. And that's what we kind of looked a little bit at last week. And I don't know about you, about how you think about the Holy Spirit. But some of us relate to the Holy Spirit a bit like going to Ocean Park. He's there to give me this kind of emotional experience. And a Spirit-filled church is just one which has a great kind of atmosphere to it. Some of the rest of us relate to the Spirit a bit like I relate to my thyroid gland. I know it's there. I'm grateful that I have one. But I don't really have any kind of relationship with it. I don't really spend much time thinking about it. Okay? And you know, particularly when we start thinking about the Holy Spirit, his other name is the Holy Ghost. And that's a little bit spooky. And so it kind of freaks us out a little bit. And I don't know where we're somewhere in between those different camps, different of us. And yet, the Bible has a lot to say about the Spirit.

And today, I want us to think that we serve a Trinitarian God who is not just an it, but a key. The Spirit is part of the Trinity. And he wants us to experience the sweetness of his presence with us. I don't know how many of us, if we're honest, we're kind of sleepy, going through the motions, Christians. I don't know whether you always feel sometimes defeated.

You sometimes feel stuck where you are. Sometimes just wrapped up more in my career and my kids and the stuff that's happening in life than really passionate about Jesus.

[2 : 52] And honestly, I think often we get into this thing where, you know, you fall into the same habits again and again and again. And you feel like you're in this kind of hole which, no matter how hard you kind of climb, you just keep never trying to get out of it. You always seem to be stuck as a Christian. And as a church, I'm convinced that sometimes the lifelessness that we experience in our lives is caused not so much by our circumstances, but because we haven't learned to rely on the Holy Spirit in our lives, on God's personal presence with us.

And this morning, here's what I think the Spirit wants to do in each one of us. I don't know if you drive. And, you know, when you have those GPS systems and you're driving along and then you miss your turn because you got distracted. And the thing I love about those GPSs is they don't turn around and say to you, oh, you stupid idiot, why did you miss that turn? They don't do that. What they say is, they say very calmly, they say, recalculating, turn left in 300 meters, recalculating, turn right. And your journey may be a little bit longer, but it's always going to get you there. It's always going to get you there because it's always pointing you back to where you need to go. That's what the Spirit wants to do in our lives. The Spirit is always pointing us to Jesus, how beautiful Jesus. It says Jesus, the Spirit is to glorify Jesus. And the Spirit right today in your life wants to point to you and to say, recalculating, recalculating, so that your life comes back in line with where he wants to take you step by step to be more who he wants you to be. And the question is this morning, are you going to listen to him or are you going to ignore him? Because you know you can ignore your GPS. Sometimes that's a good idea, but no, not with the Spirit. And so I want to look at two passages this morning, which basically kind of they overlap.

And just to pull out some of the themes to show us what this really means to follow what the Spirit is doing. So if you have your bulletin with you, I'm just going to kind of run through a little bit some of these, some of what I think are two operating systems, okay? Two operating systems that Paul talks about here in these passages. One is called to be in the flesh and the other is called to be in the Spirit.

And then we'll look at how the Spirit kind of transforms us afterwards. But there are two operating systems in the human heart. And they are incompatible, just like iOS and Windows.

[5 : 52] They're not compatible. And you cannot try, and those two operating systems are the Spirit and the flesh. And you cannot try and have a little bit of Spirit and a little bit of flesh together. At any given moment, you will live under the rule of one or the other.

There's no hybrid. And so I want to talk about the flesh first, okay? Because in this passage in Romans 8, Paul says this about the flesh, verse 6 to 8.

He says, To set the mind on the flesh is death. It's hostile to God. It doesn't submit to God's law. It cannot please God.

It cannot please God. And you say, well, what is the flesh? Okay. We don't kind of go around talking about that very often. And the flesh is the self-reliant, self-centered, unrenewed part of every human which desires sin and craves to be filled with anything except Jesus.

It's this hole inside of every person which wants to be satisfied with self. You know, growing up, I watched this slightly weird comedy horror movie called Little Shop of Horrors.

[7 : 09] Has anyone seen that? Okay. Three people have been scarred. Okay. Well, the thing about this movie is it's about this guy called Seymour who gets this plant.

And one day this plant is starting to die. And then one day he pricks his finger and the blood goes down onto the plant. Suddenly the plant comes alive. And the plant then begins to say exactly what the flesh says.

Could I cue the song? Could I cue the song?

Could I cue the song? Could I cue the song? Could I cue the song? Could I cue the song? You didn't realize inside of you.

That is what the flesh says. And you know, in the movie, this plant provides him with money, success, and the girl he likes in return for blood.

[8 : 39] Okay? It's a little bit morbid. But it's a horror movie. But, so that's why you just don't watch it. But, it's not good. But once he starts feeding it, this plant's insatiable appetite, it can never have enough.

It can never have enough. And what happens, the plant grows bigger and bigger and just overtakes and takes over control. And that's what the flesh is like.

You get short-term pleasure for long-term destruction. And if you don't think that's what you have inside of you, well, Galatians 5, Paul gives a few little examples of what the flesh kind of looks like in practice.

And, you know, there's a few categories there. I'll just pick out one or two. He says, sexual immorality. He says, you know, you're traveling alone. You're in your hotel room. You're feeling a little bit lonely.

And then you notice there is a porn channel on there. And your flesh says, feed me. You know, you see that hot guy or that girl. And you take a glance. And suddenly, your flesh says, feed me.

[9 : 45] Take a second look. Take a third look. You're at a work function. And you start chatting with someone. And you begin to feel attracted to them. And you know it's not healthy.

And you know you shouldn't. But it feels good. And your flesh says, feed me. Feed me because I will satisfy you. I will fill you. I will give you pleasure. I'll give you comfort.

I'll give you what you really want. And it's not just in the area of sex. You know, it's in the relationship breakdown. He says, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy.

I mean, that's quite a list. He says, you know, your colleague says, I'll take this project. I know how to do it. Implying you don't know how to do it.

And you feel so patronized that your self-righteous anger builds up inside of you. And it says, feed me. Like, dwell on that offense. Just get a little bit angrier about all they've done.

[10 : 42] It's just not fair. Feed me. You know, someone's trying to push past you in the metaphorical queue at work. Someone's getting a job promotion when you think you deserve that

job promotion.

Someone else's kids are doing better than your kids. They're more obedient. More disciplined. And your flesh says, feed me that discontent.

I reached 40 last week. That's scary. Yeah, don't clap. That's... Thank you. But, you know, what happens is, you know, you compare to the people who are at the same peer level as you.

And you see how other people are more successful than you. And what happens, you begin to feel like... A little bit jealous. Anyone know what I'm talking about?

And my flesh says, feed me. Feed that discontent. Dwell on it. Dwell on how life is not fair. Or the regrets. Feed me. Maybe it's not that for you.

[11:49] Maybe it's substance abuse is another thing. He goes on to. He talks about drunkenness. And then he says, orgies and anything like these things. Which, I mean, that's like a whole category. You know, what is he saying?

He's saying craving pleasure through whatever means. Just another drink to ease the stress.

Forget your problems. Just another piece of chocolate cake and you'll feel better. Feed me. And what he says is, it leaves you guilty.

Ashamed. Insecure. Broken relationships. Stress. Lacking peace. Impatient. Does that describe anyone you know? Anything in this city?

And the thing is, the flesh is so deceitful. Because I actually don't think I'm that bad, really. I think I'm actually pretty good. Pretty okay.

Because, you know, I'm having an argument with my wife. And she's telling me all these things which are plainly unreasonable. But I hold my tongue. I'm disciplined. You know?

[12:51] I didn't give in to my anger. And do you know what the thought comes into my mind? It says, aren't I a holy, righteous individual? Aren't I good?

I'm not like other people around who would lose their tongue, who'd lose their temper. I'm not so emotional as those. I'm logical. And my self-reliant pride says, feed me.

Just make me feel a little bit better than everybody else. Do you see? You can do it through discipline or ill discipline. And it's not rational. It's driven by your desire.

Your desire for praise. Your desire for respect. Your desire for comfort. Your desire for success.

Your desire for me. That's what the flesh is all about. And Paul is saying every single human being after Adam and Eve is enslaved to the flesh.

It's a bit like this. The flesh is the one on the left. The one who looks like Jabba the Hutt. Okay. That's what we're all like.

[13:58] And that's why Paul says, the law, moral rules are powerless to stop it. Because they can't change the desires of your heart. You know?

I only think I'm okay because I've hired a great inner lawyer to defend myself. To stop me seeing the blind spots in my life.

To kind of get me off the hook and just blame everybody else. Because, you know, I have both an inner lawyer and an external lawyer. Because my wife is a lawyer as well. But we all have this.

And what Paul is saying, if you want to get real, you've got to fire your inner lawyer. Which justifies yourself and see the true state of what you're in. Because Paul says, when you think you can please God, keep his law, be okay by yourself, by your own self-effort.

But you're actually hostile to God, he says. You're at war with God. Until you realize your utter need for him, you're giving him the middle finger.

[15:05] And saying, I'm going to do life my way. That's the flesh. And he says it leads to death. Death in your relationships. Death in your separation from God eternally.

That's one operating system. But then Paul says, there's another operating system. Okay? You can choose whether it's iOS or Windows, depending on which one you like. He says, there is also life in the spirit.

Chapter 8, verse 1, he says this. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

You say, here's what you were like. You were like that guy on the leash. But Jesus on the cross, he defeated your sin and the flesh.

He condemned it. He gave it a death sentence. He broke the grip that it had on you. He died to set you free from all of the demands and the slavery to the flesh.

[16:16] To all of it saying, feed me. He died to set you free from that. Free from the guilt, the shame, the never being good enough to meet up to God's standard. He says there's freedom, no condemnation.

Condemnation. It's like this. He sets you free from trying in your own strength to fill that hole inside of you.

Instead, he says, if you are a Christian and the mark of being a Christian is the spirit of God comes to dwell in you. Which is why, verse 9, Paul says, you're not in the flesh, but in the spirit of the spirit of God dwells in you.

You've got a new master. You've got a new status. You don't owe the flesh anything. You're not enslaved to him anymore. You don't have to march according to his tune.

That's why, as a Christian, you can never say, I couldn't help it when I sinned. Because he says, no, I have set you free.

[17:18] I have set you free. You have a choice. Before, you had no choice. Now you can be free to resist the flesh. And you can be free, and you are free, and the spirit wants to help you to live free.

Now, what do I mean by that? I read an article on the BBC about orangutans. Okay. That have been held captive by trappers.

And they've been kept in cages. But then they were rescued. And they're brought back to a sanctuary where the goal was to help them to live as orangutans should live. Which is like swinging in the trees in the forest, in the jungle.

But these orangutans are so used to living in cages, they don't know how to live as orangutans. And so the purpose of the whole sanctuary was to help them, like take them out into the jungle, help them to learn how to swing from the trees, step by step, to help them to live as orangutans.

And it's a process. But that's what the spirit is doing in our lives. He's saying, I've set you free from that cage of slavery to begin to swing in the trees of who Jesus made you to be.

[18:32] He just died that you would bear all the fruit of the spirit in your life and look just like Jesus. What's the fruit of the spirit? Anyone help me?

Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Oh, you get stuck there. Faithfulness.

Gentleness. Self-control. Anyone want to be more loving? One person. Okay. Anyone want to have more joy in your life?

Okay, there's a few more now. That's good. Anyone want more peace in your life? Oh, even more. Okay. Anyone want more self-control in your life?

Yeah? Yeah? Do you realize that the cross and resurrection of Jesus guarantees that you will one day be perfectly loving, kind, generous, joy-filled, patient, self-controlled?

[19:42] It's guaranteed. Because Jesus has paid on the cross for that to happen. You know, Jesus has already bought your future for you.

Did you know that? He's already bought your future. That's why verse 11 says this. This is amazing. He says, The spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.

He who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his spirit who dwells in you. Now, what is he saying? He's saying, I will give life to this thing which is kind of corrupted by the flesh.

I'm going to give life to you that you have never experienced before. I'm going to lead you into the destiny of being like Jesus that he has waiting for you.

I'm going to completely renew you, every single part of you. And I'm going to start today. Will you let me? Will you let me?

[20:45] Or are you going to keep relying on yourself? Because I don't know about you. When you rely on yourself, how much of the fruit of the spirit do you really bear? I don't do a great job. And today he wants to say to you, recalculating.

Recalculating. And you say, that sounds really nice, but I keep falling. I've lost hope. And the spirit says, Christian, do you know who is inside of you?

Do you know who has taken up residency in your heart? He says, the spirit of God, the God who created the universe, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.

Now, I don't know if you, you're kind of like, oh, that's great. I mean, if we get hold of that, that is mind-blowing. Mind-blowing. Because we say things like, but you don't know what I've done.

You don't know what I'm addicted to. And God says, but Jesus was dead. Are you more far gone than death? Yet he raised him from the dead. Don't you think he can raise you?

[21 : 56] And you say, I've been trying to kick this habit for so long in my life, and I seem to be defeated. I don't see any hope of change. But Jesus was dead. Anything more hopeless than death?

But Jesus raised him. God raised him from the dead. And you say, but I don't really want to change. But Jesus was dead, and he raised him.

Do you think that he can't melt your icy, cold, stubborn heart, and set you on fire for him today if you ask him? Is not the God who created everything capable of doing that?

Do you know who is in you? You see, I realize in my own life, and I think many of us, we've placed God in this little box, which is just about as big as my own capability to do things.

And so I limit God to this kind of size. And no wonder, you know, it's kind of SIM card size God. Right? And, you know, sometimes you get a slightly bigger SIM card than others.

[22 : 59] But he's saying, no, don't you know who I am? And no wonder we live with a sense of powerlessness when we just rely on ourselves to change ourselves, and we don't realize that the Spirit of God lives in us to transform us.

Do we want to limit God to what I'm capable of? Or do we want to see his power transforming us? Right? There's a true story I know of a guy called Brennan.

He had a strong sexual addiction. He made all kinds of commitments to fight it. You know, he did everything he could. He memorized Bible verses. He got rid of his internet.

Instead of breaking free to his addiction, he actually got worse. You know, he's a part of real despair. Every time he seemed to gain a little bit of victory, he then slipped back down again.

Despair, defeat. But finally, he checked himself into like an intensive Christian kind of ministry. And eight months later, he comes out a completely changed man.

[24 : 06] His pastor goes up to him and said, what did you learn? And the guy said, I didn't learn anything new. I learned to rely on the Spirit's power.

That's what changed me. We can either live in the flesh or we can live in the Spirit.

But the flesh is going to lead you away from who God has created you to be. The Spirit is leading you into the destiny of where he wants to take you. He's going to drag you there if you allow him to make you who he wants you to be.

But how does he do that? How does he do that? Galatians 5 says, Walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

In verse 25, he says, If you live by the Spirit, which every Christian does, let us keep in step, in step with the Spirit.

[25 : 13] You know, there's this myth that we think, you know, we believe we can kind of walk by the Spirit in his power but not do anything. Okay? It's like sometimes you're kind of just going to wake up godly.

Right? That's what I think some of us actually believe in practice. And Paul says it doesn't work like that. We need to walk in the Spirit. And walking requires effort.

It doesn't save us, but we have to walk in what God has given us. You know, in my life, I am a much better version of Chris Thornton because of my wife.

Okay? I lived in France for a year. I stayed with a couple there. The wife, at the end of the year, she sat me down and said, because she'd seen my eating habits, my domestic habits, and she said, you really need a wife.

And, you know, I don't know. Some of you may have a friend like this. But for me, you know, my wife has influenced, like, my eating habits, my dress sense, many things for the good.

[26 : 22] And she does it by pointing things out, sometimes gently, sometimes a little bit more strongly. You know, she shows me a better way of folding clothes in the drawer and how not to throw the towel on the bed, okay, when you've used it, and all kinds of things which are changing and transforming me.

Okay? I'm not the same person I was, which is good. But, you know, I know that her presence is so powerfully influencing me because when she goes away, when she goes away, everything falls apart, you know.

It's like, you know, I start eating just canned food, you know. You know, I put on the worst combination of clothes. I mean, it's terrible. And with the Spirit, when the Spirit moves in with us,

that's what He's doing.

He's about changing you increasingly to be like Jesus. But just as with my wife, His presence will influence me, but it's not kind of automatic.

I've got to actually listen to what my wife says and to act on it, right? I don't just pick it up by osmosis. Oh, the clothes were in the drawer. Okay? It doesn't just happen like that.

[27 : 47] Okay? And so, to keep in the step with the Spirit, the Spirit is speaking to us. He's convicting us. You know, the Spirit wants to say things like, you know, when you fight with your wife and you know you should have been back earlier and kept your promise that you'd been back earlier, but your pride doesn't want to admit that you were wrong, and that voice in the back of your head says, apologize.

Recalculating. It's the Spirit saying, turn, listen, repent, come back. You know, you're in the bar or the restaurant. The wine is flowing.

And you have that voice in you saying, hey, just, that's enough now. Don't have any more because you're losing it. Do you listen? The Spirit's just prodding you, pointing to you.

And you can listen or you can grieve the Spirit. You know, you can cause sorrow to the Holy Spirit. Did you know that? Because, I don't know, those of you who are married, in marriage, I have realized something.

That if you're not careful, it's very easy to learn how to tune out to your wife, your spouse's voice.

Okay? Very easy. You know, I heard the story of Paul Tripp who said, at one point, his wife asked him to get his ears checked because he never seemed to really hear what his wife was saying.

[29 : 16] And so he goes to get his ear checked and they're 100% fine. And then they realized that he'd built up a habit of just zoning out whenever his wife said something.

And you know, you know, it's like, you know, the husband's on the phone and the wife's trying to get his attention and says, hey, you know, I'm going out. It's like, oh, yeah, oh, okay.

And, you know, and she knows he hasn't heard anything. And so she says things like, the flat's on fire. And he's like, oh, okay, great, great. You know, there's a dinosaur here.

Great, great. Uh-huh. And that's often what we're like with the spirits. Some of us, the spirit has been saying to us, you need to place boundaries over your work life.

Or you need to stop obsessively worrying about your financial security, about your future. And we've gone, uh-huh, uh-huh. And we just carried on. You know, some of us, the spirit has been calling you saying, join a community group.

[30 : 23] And we've said, yeah, well, it's not quite the right time. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. And the problem is, if repeatedly, over a length of time, you keep saying, uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh, do you know what happens?

You begin to tune out of the spirit's voice and it gets fainter and fainter until the only voice you hear is the voice of the flesh. And when you hear the voice of the flesh, you just end up keeping on feeding it.

You become like this. You see, you're not in chain to it. You're not chained to it, but you become, you just start feeding it.

And so what happens is this. That's what happens in our lives. And no wonder we feel like defeated, miserable Christians sometimes who lack the joy because we've just been zoning out of the spirit and we've just been feeding the flesh in our lives.

Anyone know what I'm talking about? And if there are some of you who've been doing this for such a long time that you need to know how dangerous it is, eternally dangerous.

[31 : 38] And if you hear his voice today, the book of Hebrews says, don't harden your heart. Listen to him. Repent. Turn back.

He's a gracious God who just says, recalculating. Come back to me and I will change and transform you. So you've got to listen to the spirit's voice.

But you've also got to do two other things, which are, you've got to starve the flesh and you've got to feed the spirit. Starve the flesh, feed the spirit. Romans 8, 13 says, if you live according to the flesh, you will die.

But if by the spirit, by the spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. The spirit's not going to wave a magic wand and just change you like this.

The Puritan John Owen said, be killing sin or it will be killing you. Be killing sin or it will be killing you. You know, there's a story of a man with two wolves and he used to bring them to town every

week and they used to fight each other and people would place bets on which wolf would win. [32 : 50] And every week, the owner of the wolves would guess correctly and he'd guess the winner every time. And after a while, this was going on, the people in the town said, like, how come you managed to guess correctly which wolf is going to win the fight?

And he said, it's easy. Whichever wolf I fed that week, that's the one that's going to win. And that's what it's like in your own life. You see, if you want to starve sin, you've got to take it seriously. Don't play with it. You know, you can say, well, it's only small. You know, if you have a little lion cub in your house and it looks cute and you keep feeding that thing, what does it grow up to be? A full-scale lion that will mold you. That's what sin is like. Get rid of the cub at the first thought. And you know, just because you think of thought doesn't mean it's sin.

It's how you react to that. And that determines whether you feed the flesh or you feed the spirit. So let me just think practically just a couple of things.

[34 : 00] What does this mean? What does this mean? I think some of you, the spirit wants to put his finger on an area in your life right now that you know you're feeding the flesh.

Do you know what it is? Do you know what it is? Maybe a small area. It may be the use of your phone. Do you know, it may be every time that notification ping goes off, the flesh says, feed me. And I've got to get it straight away like an addict. You know, feed my desire to feel important. Feed my desire to not feel like I'm missing out on anything.

Feed me. And the way that you starve the flesh is to work out a plan to go on a technology fast. Maybe once, one hour a day you say, I'm not going to look at this.

Maybe one day a week you say, maybe one week a year you say, I'm not going to do that. And if right inside of you you start feeling stressful at even that thought, then that's probably because you've got an addiction.

[35 : 14] And I know, like, we have work stuff and you've just got to be creative sometimes. But when I'm on my phone and my wife is trying to talk to me, and I'm on my phone all the time, how loved do you think she feels when your kids are trying to get your attention and you just want to send that one email and it's like, you could send it in ten minutes time but you've just got to get it out now.

And how loved do you think your kids will feel? And over time, every time I do that, if I continually do that, I am distancing myself from the people I love.

Now, if that is just in a simple thing like the phone, where I need to say, am I serious about changing? Just think there are many other things in our lives.

If you're impatient, stand in the longer queue at the checkout and you think, well, why should I do that? I'm like, don't you know how much time I have?

And he says, are you serious about killing your sin? Are you serious about it? Finally, you've got to starve the flesh but we also need to feed the spirit because you know, when my wife says to me things like, do you think you should be eating that last piece, that extra piece of chocolate cake?

[36 : 47] Do you know what my response is at that moment? It isn't, oh, thank you so much for saving me from gluttony. It's like, oh, but it's just one piece.

Now, why do I do that? Even though I know it's going to harm me in the long term, why do I do it? Because I'm not driven by rational thought, I'm driven by my desire. And so the only way to remove and defeat sin in your life is to fight desire with desire.

You know, because if you just try and starve yourself without filling that emptiness inside of you, you're going to be like somebody who's a chocoholic looking at a piece of chocolate cake saying, I mustn't eat it, I mustn't eat it, I mustn't eat it.

And what happens? That desire to eat it grows, right? Instead, you need to see something which is more beautiful, more desirable, more tasty.

And that is the way that you overcome your flesh. Here's a couple of things. Fight desire with desire. One person said, for every look at sin, take ten looks at Christ.

[38 : 03] Every look at sin, take ten looks at Christ. The Spirit wants to excite you about Jesus. I'm British, we don't do emotions, but the Spirit actually wants to give British people emotions and excitement about Jesus.

You know, that's why in a service, it's okay, like, raise your hands, clap, get excited about Jesus. You know, music is one of the things that captures your heart.

It can take truth from here down to here. So play worship music, sing on the MTR, softly, okay? But do whatever it takes, build habits where you are sowing a delight in Jesus.

Meditate on God's Word. Don't just read it. Think about it. Pray it. Reflect on it. Preach it to yourself every single day.

And you say, I don't have time. And he says, but you have time to meditate on what your boss said this morning. So you tell me you don't have time to meditate on who the King of Kings says about you? And this is what we need every morning to rehearse who Jesus is in our lives because we, if not feeding it, we're going to feed the flesh.

[39 : 22] This is what we need to say to ourselves. I've said this again, but we need to do it. I am a dearly loved, chosen child of the King of the Universe. The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in me.

I am more than a conqueror through Him who loved me. He has set me free from sin. I don't need to live under its power today. Though I mess up, I'm forgiven. I will not live under guilt and shame for there's no condemnation for me in Jesus.

Today the Spirit is leading me into the destiny Jesus has prepared for me. Every day you need to be preaching that to yourself because you'll be listening to the flesh otherwise.

Now, are you going to go, uh-huh, or are you actually going to go and do something about it?

Because if you want to be transformed by the Spirit, we need to take and sow to the Spirit and then we need to pray desperately, Spirit, I need you to fill me.

I need you to change me. I can't do this by myself. Change me. And do you know what I found?

When you get desperate for Jesus, He begins to change you from the inside out over time, step by step.

[40 : 40] And the thing is when I stop doing that because I cry, Jesus changed me and He starts working and I think, wow, I did that pretty well. You know, like change me. Help me not to get angry as I'm going into this meeting and I go in and I'm just so calm and then afterwards I think, wow, I'm pretty good at this.

And I stop relying on the Spirit and I rely on myself, on the flesh. Will we fall? Yes. It's a journey step by step.

But the Spirit is saying to you this morning, recalculating. Repent, get back up, enjoy my grace and you will grow like this.

It's not going to be just like that, it will be like this. But He has the power to change you. Do you believe that? Do you believe that? So let's just pray.

I think let's stand up. Just close your eyes for a minute.

[41 : 47] I think the Spirit is wanting to speak to some of you this morning. Some of you have just been saying uh-huh for a long time.

You've been wrapped up in so many other things. This morning is the morning where God wants to say to you, are you going to listen to my voice?

Some of you, you know that you felt defeated with certain habits in your life. And you feel like giving up.

You just kind of know I'm never going to change. And there may be some sins that you're going to have to battle daily, every day of your life. But the Spirit says, I have power to change you.

And this morning, God wants to say to you, I don't want that to be a thing in your head.

[42 : 46] I want you to actually experience that in your heart. And I just feel like there are some of you who just don't even know what it really means to walk with the Spirit.

What I'm going to ask you to do is something I don't think we've done before, actually. If you feel like you know there's an area in your life that you just need the Spirit to get hold of you and to change you, I'm just going to ask you, everyone to close your eyes.

I'm going to ask you to come down to the front. Don't be shy. Allow this to be a step where you're saying, yes, I want to follow you, God. I want to be changed by you. If the people from the prayer team can come down to the front, I just ask you to come down now.

If you're like, there's an area in my life I need you to work in, God. Don't be afraid of what other people are thinking. Just come down. Just make that a step between you and God.

As the music plays, we just want you to just come and experience the power of God to transform you. So just come down.

[44 : 02] Don't be afraid. Just ask God to work in your life. Just cry out to him, change me now.
Carry on singing.

It is, Father.

Father, Father, we just pray that you would fill us with your spirit.

We pray, Lord, where we're apathetic that you would awaken us, speak to us, change us, make us more like yourself. Help us desire to work with you.