

BFF429 Rebuilding the God Who Knows

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I'm well. How are you, brother?

Scott: I'm doing better. I was sick last time, but getting better. So, hey, we're good.

Steve: So this is going to be part two on rebuilding our understanding of God. Interesting that the word "theology," "theo" means God, "logi" means the study of God, and yet really, it's more of a philosophical approach to understanding God, like taking eternal things and trying to put them in a systematic form. In our studies we're looking at the scriptures alone.

We're trying to understand God for who He is and not who we think He is or who we've been influenced to believe He is. We're going right back to the source, right back to God, and we're going to ask God and His spirit to help us understand Him more today.

Let's pray: Father, we are glad to draw near to You knowing that when we draw near to You, You said You'd draw near to us. So wash us in the blood of Jesus afresh, fill us with Your Spirit afresh, and let Your word have power today as we contemplate it and read it. Let it find its way right down into our heart of hearts for an inner transformation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: I had a little bit extra time this morning and I was going over my notes and I decided to open up Bible Hub and delve into the original language, and what I found was very edifying. The verse that I was going to begin with was Romans 12:2, which talks about the transformation or renewal of our mind. In looking at it, I decided I really ought to read the first two verses of that chapter to understand the context.

"I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)

Now, I could easily do a couple podcasts on that one chunk of truth right there, but let's look at the phrase "to present" which is "to stand beside." The scripture says our spiritual worship is to stand beside God, and present our bodies as a living sacrifice.

I have a friend I was talking to recently and she said, "I open my arms in the morning and say, 'God, what would you have me do today?'" As a result, God is leading her in all kinds of opportunities for ministry and encouragement. I think she captures the essence of this verse.

Then I noticed that it's holy and acceptable to God, and holy means to separate ourselves from this present world and to come apart for God himself. It means to separate, to be close to God. This is our spiritual worship.

Now, the second half of that passage reads, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed."

Now, those two words are in juxtaposition. There are two different things going on here. So I looked at both of them, and it turns out that the word for "conformed," means to do with system...it's similar to the root word for systematic or to systematize, and it's an external. It's an outward shape or form, and it's put together by a couple different words. The application for us is don't be put into the mold that this present world is offering.

Then the word "transformed," which is really what I wanted to get to. Transformed is metamorphoo, metamorph-O-O, which you can see is the root for the word "metamorphosis," but as I dug into a little bit, "meta" means to be changed, and "morphoo" is in accord with an inner reality. It's from the inside.

Conform, is external conformity, whereas transformed is an internal change.

Morphoo, which is the second half of the word metamorphoo is found only one time in the Bible, and it's Galatians 4:19, when Paul, talking to the church at Galatia, says, "My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until [Christ is formed in you.](#)"

Paul is laboring for the Galatian believers to experience an inner transformation where Christ is formed in them.

The word "metamorphoo" (the combination of meta and Morphoo) is found four times in the New Testament, and the first two times are in the gospels, Matthew 17 and Mark 9.

Matthew 17, "After six days, Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves, and he was transfigured. He was [transformed](#) before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And, behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah talking with him."

It's powerful to be there on that mountain and see Jesus [transformed](#), metamorphoo, and transfigured. Right before them, they saw something inside of Him began to swell up, and next thing you know his face shone like the sun, but it came from inside. Christ was formed in Him because He was the Christ. He was meta-morphooed.

The same thing happens in Mark 9. In 2 Corinthians 3:18, "We all with unveiled face beholding the glory of the Lord are being transformed..." transfigured, metamorphooed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

Let's reconsider Romans 12:2, "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind." Be transfigured from inside. Experience a change by the renewal of your mind. This is what we're after. That's what we're doing is we're coming to God's word, and we're asking Him to transform us into the image of Christ, to have Christ formed in us, but we're only able to do it when we are marinating in the Scripture, when we let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, and we're abiding in His word, and letting His word have full reign in our hearts from within. Oh, isn't that rich?

Scott: That's huge. It's so easy to read that verse and just like, I've read it a lot of times. "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Yeah. I got it, but when you put that in the context of this is the same word as Jesus when he was transfigured, like, "OK, there's a lot going on here." That's supercharged.

Steve: Amen. I never saw that before. I never saw it to that degree. I just thought of transformed as changing my thinking.

Scott: Yep. It sounds like it's something I've got to do when...be transformed. "OK. I've got to be transformed. I've got to transform myself." You know? But, no, this is God within you doing His work. We can't do it. We can only yield to Him and present our body as a living sacrifice, and then He'll do it.

Steve: Amen. We stand beside God. We present ourselves to Him and then we are transformed by the renewing of our mind. So with our mind today, let's look at some scriptures.

Our subject today is God knows. God knows us. I'm going to tie it to my personal experience. I struggled to believe that God really loved me. I had no trouble believing He loved Scott. I had no trouble believing He loved my wife, my kids, most of my Christian friends. I loved them. Why wouldn't I? Why wouldn't God love them?

Yet my faulty thinking would reason, "Yeah, but I know things about me that nobody else knows, and if you really knew me..." because we practice putting our best foot forward to others. We don't air out our dirty laundry. I reasoned that if God really knew me, how could He love me?

It's funny, but a lot of my breakthroughs happened when I was able to acknowledge and articulate what I was feeling because I never had done that before. I had never taken the time to actually think this through. As soon as I was able to verbalize and understand my condition, I thought "I know now why I have trouble believing in God, His love, is because I know stuff about me that nobody else knows."

As soon as I understood my issue, the Holy Spirit said, "You need to go read Psalm 139 again." Instead of just smiling because I had read it tons of times, I did it again and I took my time. So I'm going to read this now, Psalm 139 in five chunks.

"O, Jehovah, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up. You discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Jehovah, You know it altogether. You hem me in behind and before, and lay Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is high. I cannot attain it. Where shall I go from Your Spirit?"

The second chunk. "Or where shall I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there. If I make my bed in a sheol, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell on the outermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me and Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me and the light about me be night,' Even the darkness is not dark to You for the light for night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with You."

So the first chunk informs us that He knows us. He knows us before we even know ourselves, and He's with us everywhere. There's nowhere we can flee from His present. He's omnipresent.

Now the third chunk. "You formed my inward parts. You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, wonderful all Your works. My soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

"Your eyes saw my unformed substance. In Your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me when as yet there was none of them. He made me from the beginning. How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with You."

Then he closes the Psalm with this wonderful prayer. "Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there be any way of pain in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Now I don't know of any other portion of Scripture that magnifies the fact that we are known completely. There's not a piece of us that is not known. We were formed by God in our mother's womb. We were knit together under His watchful eye and by His spirit. We don't have any thoughts that escape Him.

All of our thoughts are discerned from afar. There is nowhere we can go where God isn't present because God is God, and He is everywhere, and He has good thoughts towards us. How precious to me are your thoughts. He thinks about us. We are fully known. We are fully loved, and there's nothing hidden.

The fact that we have to confess things to God, when you think about it, is more for our benefit because He knows everything that we've done. All we are is simply agreeing with Him. We sinned. He says, "Yeah, I know that, and, "I'm really sorry," and He knows these things. It's just a matter of us aligning with Him and acknowledging what He already knows and keeping the air clear between us.

This is God. He knows us thoroughly and completely, and that understanding is transformative. At our men's group at church, we've talked about this many times, we don't study stuff. We don't go through books. We don't go through books of the Bible. We simply share our stories and open our hearts and and walk together through life. Many men have observed it's so refreshing to be known and still be loved and to be accepted. To recognize that those things that we think are our own little sins and find out we all have the same ones.

To be known and to be open and to be real with each other, this is what we're getting into when we're talking about being real and open with God. Soon after I read Psalm 139, God brought the song to mind from the Gaithers called "The One Who Knows Me Best Loves Me Most," and I drank it in. All right. Your turn.

Scott: Well, I don't have any other passages that explain that any better. I mean, maybe creation, but that doesn't explain it better. I'm constantly blessed, I guess, by

how God can know every intimate thought of mine and still love me. Like you said, it's hard to accept that sometimes.

Steve: It is. There's no getting around it. See if I can...I'm not going to sing this song, but do you happen to know that Gaither song I referred to?

Scott: I think I've heard it. I'm not intimately acquainted with the Gaither stuff, but yeah.

Steve: Here's the words. "I am loved. I am loved. I can risk loving you. For the one Who knows me best loves me most." There it is.

Scott: Yeah. "The one who knows me best loves me most," that phrase captures it so succinctly, and the fact that that's true is amazing.

Steve: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. He didn't die for us when we had our life cleaned up and our act together. He died for us when we were a mess, and he knew we were a mess, but he still died for us because he loves us completely.

Last night on our Bible study/Zoom call with some friends of mine that we've been meeting for several years now, one of the guys shared that he'd heard a man say, , "When God put a calling on your life, He factored in your stupidity."

It was refreshing to put it that way. We know God called us to X, but He knows us and He knows what we're capable of. He knows what we're thinking. He knows how He wired us. He knows what He put into us. He factored that all in and we're all set.

So it was kind of funny when he first said it. We were a little shocked. It didn't sound very spiritual, but the more we chewed on it, "Yeah, that's what we would call our stupidity," but God just says, "Maybe not stupidity. That's the way I made you," and I like you the way you are.

When I was in the slough of despond, I called it my nadir. How's that for a nice expression? It was my lowest point, and I sent out an email to a bunch of guys. I think you may have gotten it. I said, "I'm in the worst spot I've ever been, and I need help," and I wished I hadn't sent it about 10 minutes later, but I sent it out anyway. This was on a Sunday and they began praying.

Tuesday, I was in my kitchen and I was reading a book and I thought, "I could make some improvements to this," and as I was making notes, the next thing you know, I sensed that Jesus was standing right behind me.

Steve: At that point, I was so low, I was thinking I needed to have a personality transplant and reinvent myself. I needed to do something because obviously I'm in danger of losing my family, my ministry, my wife, my kids, everything, and God just said one sentence to me, which you don't need to know it because anybody I've ever told to me, told this sentence never got what I got. It was for me.

In that one sentence, He made me know that He liked me just the way I was, that He had made me just the way I was, and I just stood there with this goofy grin on my face, and I began to heal because I realized God not only knows me, God made me this way. This is who I am. I still had to do a lot of dying. I had to do a lot of metamorphoo, being transformed. I had to do a lot of rethinking.

I still had a lot of work to do, but, boy, knowing that it was God that knew me and made me and loved me and formed me, and He had a calling on my life, and He'd factored in everything that was transformative to me.

So let's pray. Father, thank You for transforming Jesus. Thank You for transforming us, and You are transforming us into the same image as Jesus from one degree of glory to another. Thank You that Your word transforms us.

I pray that this knowledge that we are known and loved will seep right down into the very recesses of our heart and bear really good fruit and work its way up into our thinking so we are metamorphosed today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.

More on Metamorphoo

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present¹** your bodies as a **living² sacrifice³**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **divinely reasonable⁴ priestly service⁵**. Do not be **conformed⁶** to this world, but be **transformed⁷** by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)

¹Present SG3936 παρίστημι paristémi: to stand close beside, to present
Romans 6:13, 16, 19, 2 Timothy 4:17 "the Lord **stood with me** and strengthened me."

From SG3844 παρά, "close-beside, intimate nearness" and
SG2476 hístēmi, "to stand." "To Him Who is able to keep you from stumbling and **to make you stand** blameless before the presence of His glory." (Jude 24)
Eph. 6:11, 13-14, 1 Pet. 5:12
"Abraham was still **standing before** Jehovah." (Genesis 18:22 LXX) interceding for Lot

²Living SG2198 ζάω zao, to live

³Sacrifice SG2378 θυσίαν thusia, a sacrifice. 15x of 29x in Hebrews, all edifying

"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a **sacrifice of praise** to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such **sacrifices** God is pleased." (Hebrews 13:15-16) (thank offering, Leviticus 7:13)

⁴**Divinely reasonable** SG3050 λογικός logikos logical

⁵**Priestly service** SG2999 λατρεία latreia, “sacred/priestly service”

From SG3000 latreúō – to serve God/divine worship, “Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an **acceptable worship** with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.” (Heb 12:28–29)

⁶**Conformed** SG4964 συσχηματίζω suschématizō conformed, fashioned, shape (external)

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope completely on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As children of obedience, not **fashioning** yourselves according to the passions of your former ignorance, but as He Who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” (1 Peter 1:13–16)

⁷**Transformed**, SG3339 μεταμορφώω, metamorphoō transform, transfigure, change (internal)

From SG3326 μετά, "change after being with" and

SG3445 morphōō, "changing form in keeping with inner reality" – properly, transformed after being with; transfigured. “My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is **formed** in you!” (Galatians 4:19)

⁷**Transformed/transfigured**, SG3339 μεταμορφώω, is used 3 other times in the NT.

“After six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And He was **transfigured** before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him.” (Matthew 17:1–3, also Mark 9:2–4)

“We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord Who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)