

Transfiguration

[1] AND SIX days after this, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. [2] And His appearance underwent a change in their presence; and His face shone clear and bright like the sun, and His clothing became as white as light. Matthew 17:1-2

We are reading the famous story where Jesus was transfigured on Mount Hermon.

- The Lord directed me to these passages of scripture during some fasting this week. He said this is a word picture of how He transforms His love through us for relational evangelism.
- Jesus was transfigured to show us how to walk in the patience of love when He is working on us. Because some of us wrestle with the self-love of over critical ness and judgmental ness when it comes to releasing love back to others.
- This word “transfigured” comes from the Greek word “metamorphous. “This is where we get the word, “metamorphosis “, which means the complete change of a form or substance. Jesus went through a transfiguration to show us a powerful lesson on relational love. We will come back to that in a minute.
- This verse was written at a time and in an environment when some followers were turning away from Jesus. The Pharisees sought different ways to discredit Him because of the power He operated with during this time of writing. The Pharisees saw no value in the transformative love of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus takes only the three apostles, Peter, James, and John with Him up to the Mt. of transfiguration. He is going to show them something very powerful that He does not show the rest of the other nine apostles.
- On top of this Jesus chose to go onto Satan’s turfs to transfigure Himself and to proclaim His glory. This was a place for Baal worship.
- The word “Hermon” means “sacred or abrupt”, according to the land of the Bible ministries.
- Jesus chooses to transform and transfigure love through you right on Satan’s turf. And amongst people in your immediate life who like the Pharisees who don’t value this powerful transformative love in your life.

These are all significant ingredients to seeing the highest level of God’s wealth in our lives. For example, in vs 3 it goes onto say,

3] And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, who kept talking with Him. Moses body was there because he represents the raw absolute law of God or the truth of God. Elijah was there because he represents the prophetic word of God. This is the power of God moving through human flesh.

Jesus represents total grace and love.

- When you put all three of these figures together God seeks to transfigure or metamorphose all three of these figures in your attitude of crucified love. That’s growing in maturity by the fear of the Word, the Prophetic Word, and mercy by Jesus Christ. This is transfigured or transformative love.
- Crucified love is God’s absolute Word, His grace, and love and prophetic power operating through us in a transformative way sacrificial way.

God is asking you and me to seek His transformative metamorphosis love daily. This is the continuum of crucified love. This is God giving you every day more power and love to victoriously engage in human relationships.

And the mount of transfiguration is a visible manifestation of an inward growing He wants you and me to seek Him for.

It's our custom in the Apostolic Culture to treat getting the Holy Ghost and baptism in Jesus name as an event when it's supposed to be a lifestyle. It's supposed to be love growing and transformative transfigured way every day. We see Peter doing this in this verse 4.

4] Then Peter began to speak and said to Jesus, Lord, it is good and delightful that we are here; if You approve, I will put up three booths here--one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah.

Peter made this an exclusive event when Jesus is trying to show him a pattern of love that requires transformation. Where you walk with an attitude of humility knowing I am just as much in need of His transformative love today as the drug addict needs it. This changes your attitude of worship and praise.

The Apostles begin to change their attitudes when they developed the fear of the Lord in verse 5.

5] While he was still speaking, behold, a shining cloud composed of light overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, This is My Son, My Beloved, with Whom I am and have always been delighted. Listen to Him! [6] When the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were seized with alarm and struck with fear. [7] But Jesus came and touched them and said, Get up, and do not be afraid. [8] And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

- When you live in dependency in the fear of the Lord you see nobody but Jesus when you are being transfigured in His love.
- People won't detect pride and arrogance inside of your talents and gifts.
- You realize no matter how successful you are or how much people respect you that you have to keep crucified love in front of you every day.
- Vs 9- as they were going down the mountain, Jesus cautioned and commanded them, "Do not mention to anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead".
- In other words, after Jesus is dead and risen then you will understand how to seek Me for transfigured love.

Our Focus tonight is on the continuum of seeking and releasing transfigured love relationally to each other. Look at **2 Cor. 3:18**

2 Corinthians 3:18

I [18] and all of us, as with unveiled face, because we continued to behold in the Word of God as in a mirror the glory of the Lord.

Do you see this daily dependency in this verse?

We struggle with dependency because our flesh wants to associate living for God as fun. But when you are being transfigured it's not supposed to be fun, but glorious. Because we are to be changed as we demonstrate crucified love. The rest of the verse says we are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord Who is the Spirit.

I, for example, find myself being very hard on myself when it's time for God to correct me or when I fail people. Then I try to compensate by controlling relationships.

I was always taught when you receive the Holy Ghost you got all of God's love and to a degree this is true, but I struggle with allowing myself to grow in the maturity of His transfigured crucified love without being negative with myself. As

long as I can find something within myself to strive and earn the approval of men and my family then I felt good about myself. But to admit and come to the reality that I can never be a great father or pastor or Christian on my best days became very discouraging for me. Until this revelation of continuum crucified love hit me.

Jesus wants us to tie in obedience to His Word, and His Prophetic Word and mercy on the mount of our transfiguration of love as an attitude of faith in His grace. But with a continual hope, He is the one transfiguring us and we cannot change one thing about ourselves on our own that measures up to His crucified love.

The Hebrew writer explains this very well in chapter 6:

Hebrews 6:1-3

1] THEREFORE LET us go on and get past the elementary stage in the teachings and doctrine of Christ (the Messiah), advancing steadily toward the completeness and perfection that belong to spiritual maturity.

Focus on your transformative relationship between you and Jesus along with the saints and those you are winning to God. Let us not again be laying the foundation of repentance and abandonment of dead works (dead formalism) and of the faith by which you turned to God, [2] with teachings about purifying, the laying on of hands, the resurrection from the dead, and eternal judgment and punishment. These are all matters of which you should have been fully aware long, long ago. [3] If indeed God permits, we will now proceed to advanced teaching.

Let us advance steadily towards the completion and perfection that belongs to spiritual maturity. This is transfigured or crucified love in action.

He's saying, place this as a high priority in daily living. Look how Paul teaches us what this looks like in **1 Cor. 10:**

1 Corinthians 10:12-14

12] Therefore let anyone who thinks he stands who feels sure that he has a steadfast mind and is standing firm, take heed lest he fall into sin.

In other words watch your pride level every day. Lest you fall because you didn't take crucified love seriously.

13] For no temptation (no trial regarded as enticing to sin), no matter how it comes or where it leads has overtaken you and laid hold on you that is not common to man that is, no temptation or trial has come to you that is beyond human resistance and that is not adjusted and adapted and belonging to human experience, and such as man can bear.

God's grace, when we call on it, through praise and worship and prayer empowers us to fight through temptations to experience transformative love.

Why because the rest of the verse says, 'but God is faithful to His Word'. I will say it again, God is faithful to His Word. That's where we place our faith in while struggling to be transfigured. We make way too many excuses for the reoccurring weaknesses and sins of the flesh we fight every day. The rest of the verse says, '**and to His compassionate nature, and He can be trusted not to let you be tempted and tried and assayed beyond your ability and strength of resistance and power to endure, but with the temptation He will always also provide the way out (the means of escape to a landing place), that you may be capable and strong and powerful to bear up under it patiently**'. This is transfigured love in action. Growing your love for both God and others. You see you must past this next level of temptations you are facing in order to love others relationally as Jesus loved. Or selfishness will take over. Look at vs. 14.

14] Therefore, my dearly beloved, shun (keep clear away from, avoid by flight if need be) any sort of idolatry (of loving or venerating anything more than God).

The apostle Paul tells us transfigured crucified love is a continuum in **1 Corinthians 13:9-13**.

[9] For our knowledge is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect), and our prophecy (our teaching) is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect). [10] But when the complete and perfect (total) comes, (that's Jesus in me working in me) the incomplete and imperfect will vanish away (become antiquated, void, and superseded). 11] When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; now that I have become a man, I am done with childish ways and have put them aside. This is the continuum of growing in transfigured love. 12] For now we are looking in a mirror that gives only a dim (blurred) reflection of reality as in a riddle or enigma.

We have to fight through old paradigms and a sin nature that seeks to sabotage and defile our love for God.

But then when perfection comes we shall see in reality and face to face!

This is transfigured crucified love. This generally happens when I cannot get myself out of a situation. Or when I feel I failed people I love. Or when people bring unwanted pain in my life. Or when God is stretching me beyond what I can control.

Then His pursuing love seeks to get in front of me face to face through the channel of praise and worship.

Now I know in part (imperfectly), but then I shall know and understand fully and clearly, even in the same manner as I have been fully and clearly known and understood by God. **[13] And so faith, hope, love abide faith--conviction and belief respecting man's relation to God and divine things; hope--joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation; love--true affection for God and man, growing out of God's love for and in us, these three; but the greatest of these is love. Wow! Bingo here is your crucified transfigured love.**

God uses the life of Kind David to help us release the miraculous in our lives:

Some scholars say David was born as an illegitimate child according to **Psalms 69** and **Psalms 51**. The word stranger in **Psalms 69:8** comes from the Hebrew root word, "Muzar" which means "Bastard".

Then David became King, the Tabernacle of Moses was at Kiriath-jearim (**2 Samuel 6**). It had been originally set up at Shiloh but after the Philistines destroyed Shiloh and temporarily captured the Ark of the Covenant (**1 Samuel 4:1, 1 Samuel 6:1-2, 1 Samuel 7:1**), the Tabernacle was moved Kiriath-jearim.

The Tabernacle contained the Ark of the Covenant on which the presence of God rested inside the Holy of Holies, a place only the High Priest could enter.

It was where the congregation gathered and where the priests performed the sacrifices on behalf of Israel. Illegitimate children were forbidden (**Deuteronomy 23:2**). Such was the mindset towards David.

After he became king, David made what was certainly a controversial decision. He decided to move the Ark of the Covenant from the Tabernacle of Moses to a tent set up in Jerusalem — called the Tabernacle of David (**see also 1 Chronicles 16**).

King David was a man of "one thing" (**Ps. 27:4**). Around 1000 BC, as an outflow of his heart, this despised and rejected shepherd boy commanded that the Ark of the Covenant be brought up on the shoulders of the Levites amidst the sound of songs and musical instruments to his new capital, Jerusalem. There he had it placed in a tent and appointed 288 prophetic singers and 4,000 musicians to minister before the Lord, "to make petition, to give thanks and to praise the

Lord" day and night (**1 Chr. 15:1–17:27**). This was unlike anything that had been done in Israel's history, but it was God's plan for Israel.

Although the Tabernacle was replaced by a temple, the Davidic order of worship was embraced and reinstated by seven subsequent leaders in the history of Israel and Judah. Each time this order of worship was reintroduced, spiritual breakthrough, deliverance, and military victory followed.

Remember now, David is doing this all from a horrible past of rejection and family hate. **Psalm 69:7-8** says, **[7] Because for Your sake I have borne taunt and reproach; confusion and shame have covered my face. [8] I have become a stranger to my brethren, and an alien to my mother's children.**

Solomon instructed that worship in the temple should be in accordance with the Davidic order (**2 Chr. 8:14–15**). Jehoshaphat defeated Moab and Ammon by setting singers up in accordance with the Davidic order: singers at the front of the army singing the Great Hallel. Jehoshaphat reinstated Davidic worship in the temple (**2 Chr. 20:20–22, 28**). Joash (**2 Chr. 23:1–24:27**).

Hezekiah cleansed and reconsecrated the temple and reinstated the Davidic order of worship (**2 Chr. 29:1–36; 30:21**). Josiah reinstated Davidic worship (**2 Chr. 35:1–27**).

Ezra and Nehemiah, returning from Babylon, reinstated Davidic worship (**Ezra 3:10; Neh. 12:28–47**).

God sets up his throne for all Gentiles to follow after David's pattern of crucified love. We too must practice the tabernacle of David in order to confront our past and hostile sin nature every day.

David is teaching you and I transfigured love by using his shamed past as his motivation for building the tabernacle of David.

This kind of worship is tied into crucified love because David understands fully I will never ever be able to be legitimate in man's eyes or God's eyes.

Unless I find a way to approach Him that provokes Him to extend grace to me because of my illegitimate past.

David is showing us how to overcome pride and lust and anger and unforgiveness through the tabernacle of David.

God circumvented His own laws to honor a shepherd boy with a past full of baggage.

Psalm 85:9-13 AMPC

[9] Surely His salvation is near to those who reverently and worshipfully fear Him, and is ready to be appropriated that the manifest presence of God, His glory may tabernacle and abide in our land. [10] Mercy and loving-kindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. [11] Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. [12] Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. [13] Righteousness shall go before Him and shall make His footsteps a way in which to walk.

We like David must practice starting tonight how to make the illegitimate past of Gods judgment and his mercy through worship and intercession kiss one another.

That's why **Song of Songs 1:2** says,

[2] Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! She cries. Then, realizing that Solomon has arrived and has heard her speech, she turns to him and adds for your love is better than wine!

This is where judgment and mercy kiss each other through your reaching out to God in faith to give him a sacrifice of praise.

God promised through prophecies for the Gentiles in Acts 15 and Amos he would raise up the ruins of the tabernacle of David through the Gentiles.

This is our only hope in facing the hostilities of a prideful and seducing flesh that seeks comfort and control of our lives.

Samuel 7:8-17 AMPC

[8] So now say this to My servant David, Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be prince over My people Israel. [9] And I was with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like that of the great men of the earth. [10] And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and be moved no more. And wicked men shall afflict them no more, as formerly [11] And as from the time that I appointed judges over My people Israel; and I will cause you to rest from all your enemies. Also the Lord declares to you that He will make for you a house: [12] And when your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will set up after you your offspring who shall be born to you, and I will establish his kingdom. [13] He shall build a house for My Name and My Presence, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. [14] I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. When he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men. [15] But My mercy and loving-kindness shall not depart from him, as I took them from Saul, whom I took away from before you. [16] And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before you; your throne shall be established forever. [17] In accordance with all these words and all this vision Nathan spoke to David.

God responds to lion's den worship, to Paul and Silas worship, to Jehoshaphat worship. God responds to Abraham worship when he sees no sight of having any children. God responds to syrophoenician worship. Because it all kisses the threat of judgement.

1. It produces a maturity of love while facing crucified love.
2. When our love comes from the tabernacle of David we are transfigured into crucified love.
3. It produces change in us.
4. It produces change in others.
5. It produces an atmosphere for the miraculous.
6. David did things no other human could do through the tabernacle of David.
7. His life became transfigured and transformed literally seeing Jesus in crucified love in ***Psalms 22*** and ***Psalms 69***.
8. What would happen tonight if we began practicing the tabernacle of David around here right now?

This is where David got his joy from to live a crucified life.

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