

The background features a dark blue gradient with faint, light blue circular patterns and a scale. The scale is a large arc on the left side, with numbers ranging from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. There are also several smaller circles and dashed lines scattered across the background.

PURSUING SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

**MID WEEK INSTRUCTION
REID TEMPLE AME CHURCH
PASTOR WASHINGTON**

The background features a gradient from dark purple at the top to dark blue at the bottom, overlaid with a field of small white stars. On the right side, there are several technical diagrams, including circular gauges with numerical scales (0, 90, 180, 270) and arrows, and circular flow diagrams with arrows indicating direction.

**Are you up
for the Challenge?**

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF SPIRITUAL?

ROMAN'S 7:14; 12:1; 12:11

- Does spiritual growth seem like an impossible amount of work?
- What does it mean to be spiritual ?
- Do you have a clear picture of the kind of life you would like if you were to be more spiritual?



TRANSFORMATION

ROMANS 12:1-2

THEFORE, URGE YOU, BROTHERS, IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY TO OFFER YOUR BODIES AS LIVING SACRIFICES, HOLY AND
THEREFORE, 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. 2 DO NOT
CONFORM ANY LONGER TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE

CORE VALUES OF SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

- Spiritual transformation is essential, not optional for Christ followers – Romans 8:7-11
- Spiritual transformation is a process not an event.

CORE VALUES FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION (CONT.)

- Spiritual transformation is God's work, but requires our participation.
- Spiritual transformation involves those practices, experiences, and relationships that help me live intimately with Christ and walk as if Christ were in my place.

CORE VALUES FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION (CONT.)

- Spiritual transformation is not a compartmentalized pursuit, God is not interested in my spiritual life; God is interested in my life – all of it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.
- Spiritual transformation can happen in every moment. It is not restricted to certain times or practices.

CORE VALUES FOR SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

- Spiritual transformation is not individualistic, but takes place in community and finds expression in serving others. It is ultimately gauged by an increased capacity to love God and people. Superficial or external checklists cannot measure it.

CORE VALUES FOR SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

- Spiritual transformation is not impeded by a persons' background, temperament, life situation, or season of life. It is available right now to all who desire it.
- Spiritual transformation and the means of pursuing it will vary from one individual to another. Fully devoted followers are handcrafted, not mass produced.



FAST, SAFE,
LASTING RELIEF
from: Heartburn,
Indigestion, Gas,
Upset or Sour
Stomach, due
to excessive acidity

Rolaid's

STOMACH "ACID BALANCER"

15¢

HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF?

- Years ago a television commercial for antacid asked, “How do you spell relief? Their hope was that you spell it the same way they spelled their product name.
- God asks a similar question. How do you spell spirituality? God requires you to have the same perspective as He does. Whatever answer you give will define the path you walk.

HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF?

- Answer the question well and you will be a fruitful follower of Christ. Answer it poorly and you will spend wasted years in pursuit of useless even harmful activities.

TRUE RELIGION VS TRUE SPIRITUALITY



WHAT IS TRUE SPIRITUALITY?

- You can attend church regularly, be well known in the church, not be concerned with the poor, have little tolerance for those within and without the church, judge others harshly and never be transformed.
- No one in the church will be surprised by this behavior. No one will call an emergency meeting of the board to consider the strange case of confronting the fact that you are not changing.

WHAT IS TRUE SPIRITUALITY?

- No one really expects you to change, so no one is surprised when there is no transformation, The church expects you to attend service, read the Bible affirm the right beliefs, give money, do church work but not be transformed day to day, month to month, decade to decade.

HOW SPIRITUALITY IS WRONGLY UNDERSTOOD

- Many people are repelled by the way Christians who are unfeeling, stiff, unapproachable, boringly lifeless, obsessive, and dissatisfied?
- Yet such Christians are everywhere and what they are missing is the wholesome liveliness springing from a balanced vitality within the freedom of God's loving rule.

HOW SPIRITUALITY IS WRONGLY UNDERSTOOD

- Spirituality wrongly understood or pursued is a major source of human misery and rebellion against God. When people are not being authentically transformed —when they are not becoming more loving, joyful, Christlike persons—they often settle for what; might be called, “pseudo-transformation.”

PSUEDO- SPIRITUALITY OR TRANSFORMATION

- -Thinking spiritual maturity is not simply about how much biblical or theological information we have acquired
- Thinking we should rigidly immerse ourselves in a host of spiritual practices or disciplines that will prove how spiritual we are;

PSUEDO- SPIRITUALITY OR TRANSFORMATION

- Finding ourselves looking down on people who are not working at their spiritual lives as hard as we are—so all of our efforts end up making us more judgmental and competitive rather than more loving
- Focus solely on outward behavior making them the litmus test of godliness, while ignoring deeper—and more destructive—sins of the heart.

THE RIGHT UNDERSTANDING OF SPIRITUAL LIFE?

- Scripture speaks with brilliant clarity. “Whosoever claimed to live in him must live as Jesus did..“ (1John 2:26) to pursue spiritual life means simply this: To know Jesus more intimately and to live as if Jesus were in your place.
- It is to order your life in such a way that you stay connected to Christ, think as Jesus thought, speak as Christ spoke and walk as he walked.

THE RIGHT UNDERSTANDING OF SPIRITUAL LIFE?

- When someone asks you how your spiritual life is going, the real question is ,“are you becoming more loving toward God and people. Regardless of anything else you measure, how you stand up against this will reveal your true spiritual stature.

DOING LIFE IN JESUS NAME

- The Apostle Paul put it like this: “whatsoever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus . (Col. 3:17)
- What so ever is comprehensive so Paul adds, whether in word or deed and do it all in the name of Jesus. Your spiritual life is simply your whole life and every detail of it from God’s perspectives.

DOING LIFE IN JESUS NAME

- What makes you think that God is absent from your everyday life? All of our everyday stuff can be filled with God's presence. You can do what you are doing right now as Jesus would do it in your place.



SPIRITUAL EXERCISE FOR THIS WEEK (COL. 3:17)

- Memorize **Colossians 3:17** “and whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

FOCUS ON JESUS PRESENCE WITH YOU

- Keep it simple, ask for Jesus help or His guidance and share your heart with him.
- Read **Matthew 23:1-28**

FOCUS ON JESUS PRESENCE WITH YOU

- Verse 3 – 5. What specific behaviors does Jesus confront?
- Verse 11 – 12 according to the following words of Jesus, what must be at the heart of any concept of spirituality?



REFLECTION CHALLENGE

- Shopping
- Watching TV
- Doing household tasks
- Reading the paper or emails
- Going to sleep

REFLECTION CHALLENGE

- Think about what it would mean for you to live as if Jesus were in your place. How would you do each of the following activities in Jesus name.
- Waking up
- Greeting those you see first in the morning
- Eating
- Driving

TAKE AWAY

- What are the main points of this lesson?
- How has this lesson impacted your personally?
- Be prepared to share next week.