

Day 1
Read Romans 12:1-13

Focus: Romans 12:2 *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Holiness Changes

When my stepdaughter Alisha was younger, she was a filthy mess. She liked playing outside, climbing trees, even catching bugs. She loved making messes with glue and paint. She never cared how she looked. Her little body could be plastered with dirt, marker, half worn-off tattoo stickers, and even leftover chocolate. Her clothes were ripped and stained. And she wouldn't wash her hair, let alone style it! No force inside of her could get her into the tub, no matter how bad she smelled. She only cleaned up when she was forced to by some power outside of herself—like her dad making her.

Today Alisha is 15, and you wouldn't know she is the same person. She showers daily (sometimes twice!). She loves styling her squeaky-clean blond hair, taking care of her skin, and making her face look beautiful. And her clothes are perfect!

What happened? Did we force her to change? Nope, the change came from the inside—Alisha's heart, attitudes, and habits changed. It didn't happen all at once. The transformation took time.

Romans 12:2 talks about a spiritual transformation in our lives. Before we're Christians, we don't care much about sin and God and what our hearts are like. But when we meet Jesus, a change, or transformation, starts. We begin to be more *like* Jesus, and think and act less like the world. Pretty soon, no one would recognize us as the same person we were before.

Alisha's transformation started with a change of attitude and desires. That led to a change of actions and appearance. Likewise, as God transforms us, our attitudes and desires change—we start *wanting* to be spiritually beautiful and holy. And our actions help us get there, as we go to church, read our Bibles, pray, and start to think like Christ.

Are you in the process of transforming?

*-Jeanette Littleton
Nazarene*