

Women in the Church Newsletter

Transformed to pursue the glory of God in our daily lives

-Becoming What We Behold-



Transformed by Susan Hunt

Chapter 2: *Transformed*

The new year begins with our study taking us to 1 Peter 2-3.

What better way to start 2020 than to be reminded of our identity in Christ. We are a chosen people, being built up into a spiritual house: a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. We have been called by God to live life in community. Although we're all different like pieces of jigsaw puzzle, He places us together to form a beautiful picture.

One aspect of our identity in Christ is being free to submit. Now before you close your mind completely to that thought, think of submission as an active obedience from the heart to the good Father's will. Submission is a work of God's grace. In this chapter we will look at how Christ is our reference point of submission.

Join us as we encourage one another to entrust ourselves to our Faithful Creator.

Prayer for 2020

Father, open our spiritual eyes to see Jesus more and more. Sharpen our vision and give us deeper clarity in our lives. May we see what You are doing and reflect on what You've already done. When we grow weary, send us reminders that You are at work—always!

Sister Group Projects

Beginning this month, *Apron Strings* will be providing small tokens (Kleenex, socks, lap quilts, etc...) and a visit for the folks at Pulaski Rehab every 3rd Sunday.

The *Lanterns* have been meeting monthly to pray for the church as well as praying for a different elder and their family each time. They also have been providing goodie bags to those dealing with major health issues.

Testimony Corner: *Debbie Kelley*

The following testimony of the goodness of our Lord comes from my journal. The place where I meet with our Lord, sit at His feet and pour out my heart. It is a private place but, for now I open the door of my "closet" for you to come in and sit at His feet with me. I pray that you will be blessed by sitting with me.

Friday, Dec. 20, 2019

20 degrees and clear as a bell

As I sit here these few days before Christmas, I find my spirit is low, it has been for two or three days. I can't really put my finger on the reason but I run to you, Lord Jesus. Help me figure it out or move on with joy.

If it's a sin, point it out so I can turn from it.

If it's a 'woman mood' help me kick it and leave it in the dust'.

If it's your voice calling me to listen to you, help me hear distinctly what you are saying to me.

I don't know what to do but, "my eyes are on you" ..no matter if it is all three "ifs".

(I was "stumbling through John 7, trying to find answers. I found these words, "If anyone is thirsty, come to me and drink. Then I was led to other scriptures that began to refresh my soul)

*"May He come down like rain
upon the new mown grass,
like showers that water the earth"Ps. 72:6*

*He is as the light of the morning
when the sun rises
A morning without clouds
When the tender grass springs out of the earth
Through sunshine after the rain!....II Sam.23:4*

*"So let us know, let us press on to
know the Lord
his going forth is as sure as the dawn
and He will come to us like the rain
Like the spring rain
watering the earth"Hosea 6:3*

*If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink
He who believes in me, as the scripture said,"from his innermost being will flow rivers
of living water"-this He spoke of the Spirit...John 7:37-38*

*"Let him come and keep on coming, let him drink and keep on drinking"
And so....I come to the living waters. Please wash over me.*

I lay down all my burdens, whatever they may be and wait. There are so many sick, or broken, or have lost loved ones. Thank you that you are the all sufficient one,....not me. Help me, use me to do what you call me to do and to trust you to move in the rest of us, to love one another as you have loved us. We are not alone, you will never leave or forsake us and you have given us each other.

So as I reflect back on what has caused my "low spirit", I still can't "put my finger" on one thing...It's all 3!!! Pressing me down. And so I lay on the ground, wiped out by these three, wishing for "unconscienceness" so I won't have to "think" about it anymore. Before I know it my "low spirit" has turned into a monster that is irritable toward those I love and full of self pity.

It's at that moment of desperation that the only thing I can lift is my eyes...."My eyes are on You.".....waiting.

Suddenly, by your Word, where my eyes are fixed...A glorious splash of water, Living Water, drenches my parched soul and I rise to see the Savior standing over me with a bucket of water, saying..."rise up, come to Me and keep on coming, drink and keep on drinking...I am the water of life. Oh Lamb of God, I come!

Thank you, Lord in these quiet moments with your Word, You have refreshed my soul."

The door is closed now to my secret place and along with it, the end of my struggle that day. He refreshed my soul and gave me a song. Did my circumstance change? Nope. Were all the things that were broken, sick or lost fixed in that moment? Nope. But something changed in my heart. I realized(again) that Jesus cares more about these things than I do. Only He has the power to work in those situations and He is. That "all things work together for good" verse rings true in my heart. And I rest on Him. "Yoked with Him". There I find rest.

I pray, that as we face this New Year of, who knows what, we will sit at His feet and keep our eyes on Him. That we will drink and keep on drinking, come and keep on coming to the water of life, Jesus, the lover of our souls.