

# How God Transforms Us

## 1. Seeing the Process

*To be sanctified is to have your faith simplified, clarified and deepened. You need God. You know God. You love God. You see life, God, yourself, others more truly. And to grow as a saint is to grow in actually loving people... You are becoming a better friend and family member. When you talk, your words communicate more good sense, more gravitas, more joy, more reality. You are learning to pray honestly, bringing who God really is to the reality of human need.*

*David Powlison, How Does Sanctification Work?*

### A biblical view of change and growth

Today: Seeing the Process  
Tuesday: Feeling the Heat  
Thursday: Hearing the Word  
Friday: Loving the Church

### Discuss: Is change really such a big concept in the Bible...?!

1 Corinthians 15:51-52  
Romans 8:29

*[Jesus Christ] gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:14)*

### Sanctification

**Positional** - *And by that will we **have been sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.* (Hebrews 10:10)

**Progressive** - *[We] **are being transformed** into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit* (2 Corinthians 3:18)

### Some problems with change....

**A man called Dave**...32 yr old Christian; overstretched at work; marriage under strain; spiritually struggling & missing small group; Flirting with female colleague; realises close to getting sexually involved.  
Talks to church friend Andy – sympathises over pressures; agrees it's difficult to get work / life balance

**Discuss:** how true to life is this picture? What problem with change might it reveal?

1. E \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ (not \_\_\_\_\_)

**More of Dave....** Dave talks to church elder, Brian – advised to flee temptation (1 Cor 6:18) and change job. Seems radical but that’s what Dave decides to do.

**Discuss:** what problem with change might this reveal?

2. B \_\_\_\_\_ our C \_\_\_\_\_ (when the real problem \_\_\_\_\_)

*“What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.” (Mark 7:20-23)*

**More of Dave...** 6 months later; same thing happens again; close to sexual involvement with a work colleague; Dave seeks out his pastor; advised to manage this spiritually: disciplined devotional life; small gp priority; time with wife; Dave is chastened and sets out to change

**Discuss:** what problem with change might this reveal?

3. S \_\_\_\_\_ for E \_\_\_\_\_ Change (when the real problem is \_\_\_\_\_)

*Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. (Matthew 23:25-6)*

No fruit stapling

4. M \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ (when what’s needed is a change in our \_\_\_\_\_)

*When we do not think about characteristic motivations, [a person’s] ‘relationship with God’ tends to be approached chiefly through outward disciplines: devotional life, church attendance, and the like. When we do address the motivational issues biblically, [a person’s] relationship with God becomes [an] issue we can get our hands on.*

*David Powlison, The Biblical Counselling Movement: History and Context*

## Further Reading

*How Does Sanctification Work?* by David Powlison (Crossway 2012)

*Real Change* by Andrew Nicholls and Helen Thorne (New Growth 2018)