



Transformed

Transformed

by the
Spirit's
Power?

or

by the
Believer's
Choices?



Transformed: by Power or by Choices?

Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Rom. 12:2

OPTIMISONS

Transformed: by Power or by Choices?

Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Rom. 12:2

Option “A”

Process of inward transformation by which the Spirit’s power causes the believer to discern the will of God

Option “B”

Process of knowing more of Christ in the Word and conforming to Him through obedience to the Word

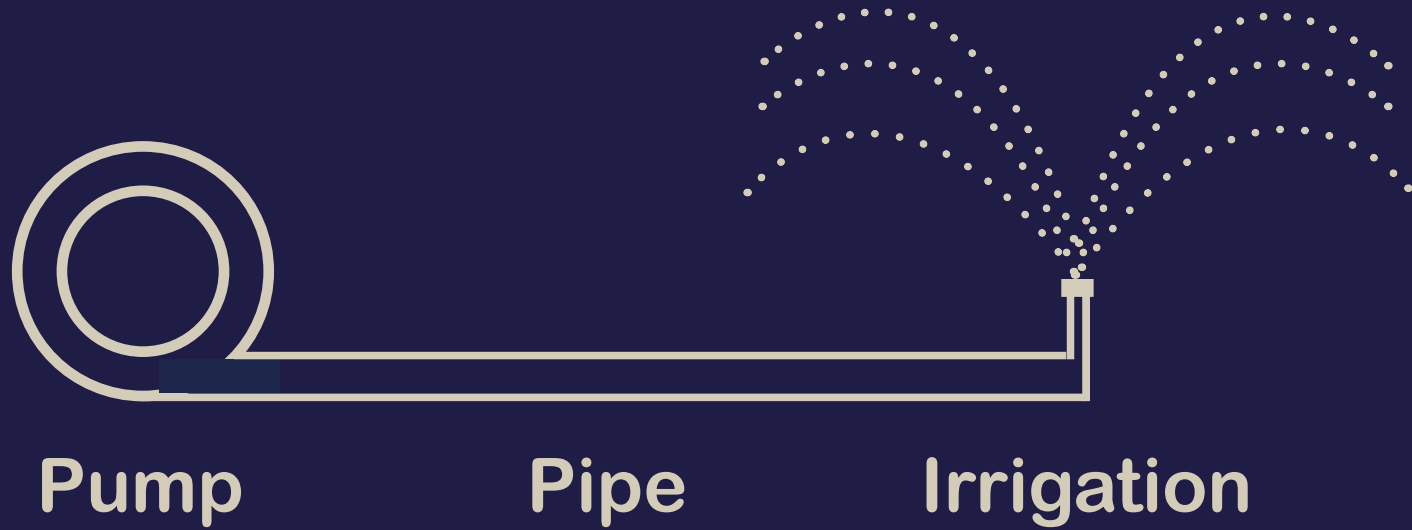
First Essential Reason

Mainstream Thinking in the Church

**We are empowered by the Holy Spirit
to obey and to live the Christian life,
not so in the Old Testament times.**

Radio Bible Teacher

Pump-Causes-Irrigation Example



Spirit-Causes-Obedience Thinking



**“Caused to Obey”:
Fulfilled or to Be Fulfilled?**

I will put My Spirit within you and
cause you to walk in My statutes,
and you will be careful to observe
My ordinances.

Ezek. 36:27

Causing the Believer to Obey

Fulfillment of Ezek. 36:27

	<i>Already</i>	<i>Not Yet</i>
Amillennial	Fulfilled	
Premillennial	Partially Fulfilled	Fully Fulfilled
Premillennial		Fulfilled

**“Caused to Obey”:
Fulfilled or to Be Fulfilled?**

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Ezek. 36:27

Option “A”

Fulfilled presently and the Spirit causes obedience

Option “B”

Fulfillment awaits the future kingdom with Israel

Christian Walk: Empowered or Not Empowered?

You **will receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

Acts 1:8



Textual Considerations

Two Promises of Acts 1

4-5 **Gathering them together**, He commanded them...to wait for what the Father had promised...**you will be baptized** with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

**1st
Promise**

(Transition)

6 **So when they had come together**, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

(Transition)

7-8 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My **witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

**2nd
Promise**



Christian Walk: Empowered or Not Empowered?

You **will receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

Option “A”

All believers receive empowerment (v. 8) when they receive the gift of the Spirit (v. 5)

Option “B”

All believers receive the gift of the Spirit (v. 5), but only the “Witnesses” received power (v. 8)

Spirit's Leading: Directing or Influencing?

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the Law.

Gal. 5:16-18

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#1



Leading the Believer

Sphere of Existence

Choice

Sphere

Result

**Walk
according to
Flesh**



Ways of World



**Deeds
of the
Flesh**

**Walk
according to
Spirit**



Ways of God



**Fruit
of the
Spirit**

Spirit's Leading: Directing or Influencing?

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Gal. 5:16-18

Option "A"

Believers look to God for direction in various ways [A still, small voice; etc.].

Option "B"

Each believer must make deliberate choices to walk, being influenced by one of two forces: the flesh or the Spirit.

Spirit's Filling: Controlling or Influencing?

I L L U S #2

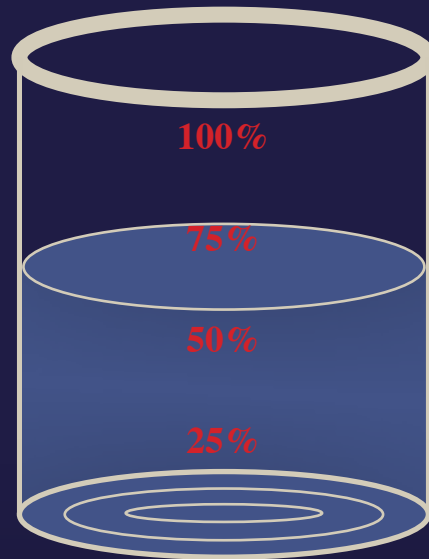
Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be **filled with the Spirit.**

Eph. 5:15-18



Controlling the Believer

Wrong Concepts



Spirit's Filling: Controlling or Influencing?

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be **filled with the Spirit**.

Eph. 5:15-18

Option "A"

Seemingly lacking the Spirit's presence and power, believers pray for the Spirit's filling.

Option "B"

Filling is the result of allowing the Spirit to influence the believer in walking obediently in light of God's Word.

Second Essential Reason

Mainstream View

“Transformation” in the New Testament

Matt. 17:2 “*He was transfigured* before them”

Mark 9:2 “*He was transfigured* before them”

Rom. 12:2 “*Be transformed* by the renewing
of your mind”

2 Cor. 3:18 “*Being transformed* into the same image”



Beholding Christ in a Mirror

2 Cor. 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Option “A”

The Spirit’s power causes the believer to be conformed to Christ

Option “B”

Constantly beholding Christ transforms the believer so that he is more and more conformed to Christ

Observation
2 Cor. 3:17-18

In this passage the Spirit is not the [Holy Spirit] but is identified with the ascended, glorified Lord. The Christian's preoccupation with his exalted Lord will mean that he will be more and more conformed to the image of Christ.

George Ladd
A Theology of the New Testament
p. 518



Beholding the Law of Liberty

Jam. 1:22, 25

But prove [be] yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For...one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed [content] in what he does.



Renewing Use in New Testament

ανακαινωω (vb—to renew)

2 Cor. 4:16 “Inner man is being renewed day by day”

Col. 3:10 “New man who is being renewed to a true knowledge”

ανακαιωσις (n—renewal)

Rom. 12:2 “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind”

Tit. 3:5 “He saved us . . . by . . . renewing of the Holy Spirit”

ανανεωω (vb—to renew)

Eph. 4:23 “Be renewed in the spirit [small ‘s’] of your mind”

Blueprint for the Christian Life

All Scripture is inspired by God and **profitable for** teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **so that** the man of God may be **adequate** [complete and ready], **equipped** [fully outfitted] **for every good work.**

2 Tim. 3:16-17



Understanding Transformation in Romans 12:2

Grammatical Layout

Do **not** be **conformed**
to this world
but
be **transformed**
by the renewing
of your mind
so that
you may **prove** what the **will of God** is
good
acceptable
and
perfect

To Prove or Proving Examples in New Testament

Rom. 12:2 “So that you may **prove** what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect”

Eph. 5:8, 10 “Walk as children of Light...trying to learn [**proving**] what is pleasing [acceptable] to the Lord”

Jam. 1:3 “Knowing that the testing [**proving**] of your faith produces endurance”

Jam. 1:12 “Blessed [content] is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been **approved**, he will receive the crown of life”

Transformed by Choices!



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