

Changed and Changing



2 Corinthians 3:4-18

As believers, we all want to progress spiritually, to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (*2 Peter 3:18*). We may look back and cringe at our earlier words and actions as believers. What *were* we thinking? We would never react that way now!

An athlete once remarked how much she had changed and improved, noting, “That (former) player doesn’t even exist now!”

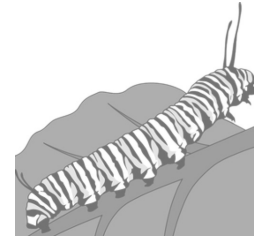
We can be encouraged that the person who made those mistakes was in the “caterpillar” stage and doesn’t even exist now! We are so different, by God’s grace!

May we live in the present and in the reality of truth—“speaking the truth in love . . . grow up into Him in all things” (*Ephesians 4:15*). May we enjoy the wonderful wings of “butterfly” flight and not focus on the “caterpillar” days—all was preparation! May we “be not conformed to this world” but be “transformed by the renewing of [our] mind” (*Romans 12:2*).

We also need to remember that others are going forward and changing. We may be offended or even horrified by a past remark which another person would never say now. We need to be longsuffering with others as well as ourselves, and to pray that they also may behold the glory of the Lord and be “changed into the same image from glory to glory. . . by the Spirit of the Lord” (*2 Cor. 3:18*).

May we behold Him with the eyes of faith and a heart of adoration, knowing that this life of contemplation is a life of gradual transformation. Recognizing that our thoughts and values are molded by those with whom we associate and by what we contemplate, may we “put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him” (*Colossians 3:10*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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