

# TEN "MORE" POIGNANT WORDS YOU MUST KNOW

(Keywords that will give you the ability to see what is not evident to the average mind and will provide clarity to spiritual truths.)

*From the desk of Bishop R. E. Libby*

## WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

I am sharing with you important and poignant words that have helped me in my own walk with God. I have also used these helpful words and their rich meanings during the numerous counseling sessions I have held and in countless preaching experiences I have had. Let us study them together.

Some of these may not be impactful to you right now; but think of them as tools you will most likely employ at some point during your life's journey. I found many of them both intriguing and effective at capturing complex thoughts, difficult concepts and sometimes-evasive principles found in the scriptures.

Growing to understand these words has helped bring me clarity, and I pray the same for you. This is a gift that I hope you enjoy.

## PART II – TEN "MORE" POIGNANT WORDS YOU MUST KNOW

### 1. **ANGST**

#### DEFINITION

*English:* Strong worry and unhappiness, especially about personal problems.

**SYNONYMS:** Anxiety, fear, dread, apprehension, worry, foreboding, trepidation, malaise, distress, and uneasiness.

#### **SALIENT (Important) SCRIPTURES**

*1 Peter 5:7 (KJV)*

*"<sup>7</sup> Casting all your **care** upon him; for he careth for you."*

*1 Peter 5:7 (AMP)*

**"7** Casting all your **cares** [all your **anxieties**, all your **worries**, and all your **concerns**, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]."

## **DISCUSSION**

Do you find yourself in these negative places like having feelings of anxiety, dread, apprehension, fear, worry, and distress? In other words, are you having the feelings of "angst?" How many times have we gotten anxious in our lives over our jobs and over people that hurt us? Even family members can bring angst into our lives.

Do you find yourself in that place at times or even often? Many people live in the world of "angst." Hurts from the past that have not been dealt with – that have been damaging – can cause angst.

Have you ever had any of these feelings like angst or malaise? Look at those words. That is not what God calls you to. You can go "higher!" You can "soar" in Jesus regardless of your circumstance. We can soar in His presence even though there can be troubles. Jesus soars with you if you will allow Him to. He calls you. He tugs for you, but only you have the authority to go up or to go down in your emotions. Will you choose to remain in a state of "angst," or will you rest and become reposed instead? Calm yourself and trust Jesus.

Do you think Jesus was in "angst" when He was on the cross? He was hurting physically, hardly having a good time, but He still leaned as the Son of God. Therefore, He was not in "angst." He was in pain, but not in angst. What do you think about that when you see Him on the cross? Was He in angst or not?

## 2. REPOSE

### DEFINITIONS

*Hebrew:* a silence; a quiet waiting

*Greek:* a resting

*English:* The state of reposing or being at rest; rest; sleep. Peace; tranquility; calm. Dignified calmness, as of manner, composure.

**SYNONYMS:** Inactivity, stillness, ease, quietness, relaxing, and restoration.

### **SALIENT (Important) SCRIPTURES**

*Matthew 11:28-29 (KJV)*

<sup>28</sup> Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you **rest**.  
<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find **rest** unto your souls."

This is the R.E. Libby version of this verse,

"Come to me all you that are heavy, hurting, and without hope, and I will help you to **rest**...be **calm**, and be **quiet**. Take my harness. In other words let me control you, not you control me, and learn about me. Go deep in the Word and let the Word of God change you in every aspect of truth. Because, I am your master, but my heart is like a meek person, and I am gentle, and if you do this intentionally you shall have **tranquility**, **peace**, and **stillness** deep in your soul."

*Isaiah 28:12 (KJV)*

<sup>12</sup> To whom he said, This is the **rest** wherewith ye may cause the weary to **rest**; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear."

*Isaiah 28:12 (AMP)*

<sup>12</sup> He who said to them, "This is the place of **quiet**, give **rest** to the weary," And, "This is the **resting place**," yet they would not listen."

*Psalms 37:5 (KJV)*

<sup>5</sup> Commit thy way unto the LORD; **trust** also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass."

*Psalms 37:5 (AMP)*

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD;  
**Trust** in Him also and He will do it.”

## **DISCUSSION**

When I think of this word, repose, it sends me to a place of tranquility. It says to me to let go of anxiety and fear: it is the opposite of angst. We must be unbendable in trusting God and maintaining a state of repose in our life. We must be tender in our walk with God, but resolute in resisting the enemy. Worry and fear does not come from God, so let it go.

Isaiah 28:12 states, “...they would not listen.” This tells us so much about our lack of trusting. Does not this sound rather typical of our own selves when anxiety flows into our being? We are not trusting, and we worry without repose. We stay in a state of worry. Repose is not because He did something good and wonderful... It is because He is wonderful always!

Therefore, we can be in repose regardless of our situation whether bad or good because we can rise above it. We can be transcendent if we choose to be and have faith in what we believe about Jesus. To transcend means to rise above. By the way, our resurrection makes us to be transcendent when we are walking with Jesus.

He is right here. We should be trusting furiously! Make yourself trust. Be disciplined in your trust. Be purposeful and determined. Get tough about it! Do not be wishy washy. Be transcendent! Flow up! Do not fall! Be resolute to be trusting with joy!

Oh my friend, please read the book titled, “Foxes Book of Martyrs” and how those wonderful saints held on in faith. They were resolute, and those who were not lost their lives and their souls. It may be that in the end times we might have to go through something like they did. Will we be up to that? Are we going to run or trust? I have always had a desire to be martyred or persecuted. It does not look like it is going to happen, but I have always wanted to do it for Jesus’ sake. I find myself thinking about it that I may honor Him in some way like that.

We must become reposed, so our life is not filled with angst. Work on it. **Be intentional in trusting God.**

### 3. TRANSFORM

#### DEFINITIONS

*Greek:* To change into another form, to transform, to transfigure.

*English:* To undergo a change in form, appearance, or character; become transformed.

**SYNONYMS:** Alter, convert, mold, reconstruct, revolutionize, renew, transfigure, turn over a new leaf.

#### **SALIENT (Important) SCRIPTURES**

*2 Corinthians 3:18 (KJV)*

“<sup>18</sup> But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are **changed** into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

*2 Corinthians 3:18 (AMP)*

“<sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, *continually* seeing as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are *progressively* being **transformed** into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory, which comes from the Lord, [who is] the Spirit.”

*Romans 12:2 (KJV)*

“<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye **transformed** by the **renewing** of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

*Romans 12:2 (AMP)*

“<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be <sup>[a]</sup> **transformed** and progressively **changed** [as you **mature** spiritually] by the **renewing** of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].”

**(Does that mean we can be so God like that we can be perfect in His sight?)**

**Before we launch into the discussion, I want you to take a moment to really pause and then read this scripture again because it is so wonderful! Think about it! Now go read it again.**

## **DISCUSSION**

I have always loved the Amplified Version of the Bible. It is so helpful and allows the reader to get another perspective or viewpoint. For instance, in the verse Romans 12:2 it states, "do not be conformed..." What does the word "conformed" mean? In other words, do not do what everyone else does. For example, do not be conformed to their lifestyles, attitudes, and ungodliness. Reject it.

Always be loving, even if people are not loving to you. We should be loving and be conformed to Jesus. We should be loving regardless of how others treat us. Oftentimes Church members can tend to forget this. Throughout the New Testament, there were Christians that had difficulty with this, and they needed to be taught to be loving anyway.

It is very important for people in the Church to be careful to understand this. Not everyone will like you, but we should all be loving one to another regardless if we are loved back or not, because we are on a higher plane. Therefore, we can forgive them because they are on a lower plane!

Also, we should be loving to the unsaved regardless if we are loved or not loved back. In fact, when people in the world are not loving to us or mock us or even if they reject us, love them more! When people reject our lifestyles, show your love no matter how much they reject you.

- Other words that define the word "transform" can be: altered, molded, and reconstruct. How about the word reconstruct? What do you think about it? That is what God does. He will reconstruct you into something else if you will allow him. But if you do not allow Him to reconstruct you from the world and from sin, then the enemy will take that as an opportunity for him because of the rejection of repentance and change.

We must be reconstructed over and over, because as we grow, we have to be reconstructed over and over. For example, when we are ten years old, we have to be reconstructed at fifteen years old. So, we have a basis for being born again,

but we have to be reconstructed over and over and over. We are born again, and then we have to be born again, and again, and again so that we can become more and more pure, holy, and mature. I do not mean to imply that you have been born again literally, but you have to continue to grow, almost like being born again, and again. In other words, we must continue renewing ourselves in Jesus. Jesus wants to reconstruct you, but the enemy wants to destroy you.

## 4. SURRENDER

### DEFINITIONS

*Greek:* To give over, give away, to submit, to hand over.

*Hebrew:* To present, to deliver up

*English:* To yield to the power, control, or possession of another. To give up completely or agree to forgo especially in favor of another.

**SYNONYMS:** Hand over, relinquishment, submission, yielding, to relinquish – letting go!

### **SALIENT (Important) SCRIPTURES**

*James 4:7 (KJV)*

<sup>7</sup> **Submit** yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

*James 4:7 (AMP)*

<sup>7</sup> So **submit** to [the authority of] God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him] and he will flee from you."

*Matthew 26:39 (KJV)*

"And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, **not as I will, but as thou wilt.**"

## DISCUSSION

What does it mean to submit or surrender? In many ways it is not pleasant to submit. It means something has authority over us. The world we live in is an unsubmitted world — arrogant, proud, and haughty. What does haughty mean?

Haughty in the *Merriam Webster Dictionary* means, “blatantly and disdainfully proud: having or showing an attitude of superiority and contempt for people or things perceived to be inferior.”

Have you ever seen people like that? People who are high and mighty, pretentious, uppity, and self-asserting? As children of God, we are called to humility, and these traits should not be in the lives of children of God. We should be humble before the Lord.

A stop sign tells us to submit, but often we go a little farther than we should. Oftentimes, crashes occur when people do not submit to a stop sign and think they can ignore it. So it is in the spiritual, God has stop signs in our spiritual life. When God says STOP, we have a choice to stop or go. If we submit, we can be safe in our spiritual life by allowing God to lead us.

When God says no, make it a no. When you know you are not doing right, there will be consequences. So, go when God says go, and stop when He says stop. Listen to His instructions in your heart.

God is saying to you, “Listen to the Spirit in your heart and be submissive and humble.” Often it takes new converts time to learn what we are talking about. When we become born again it takes a little time to learn to be submitted, and enjoy the comfort that submission brings. Submission is not just to be cruel or mean, it is intended to keep you safe.

Even Jesus in His flesh had to submit in His flesh knowing that He was both God and man, so as man He had to submit. He had to submit His fleshly will to God’s will. This is a crucial point, because we will all have temptations that will call us to do things we should not do, or we will have thoughts and attitudes that need to be brought into submission. God will not make us or force us, but He will convict us.

We must submit to His direction even when we do not want to – just like Jesus did when His flesh did not want to submit on the cross, but He submitted himself, anyway.

*Philippians 2:8 (KJV)* states, “<sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Don't you think that was hard to do? Do you think Jesus was happy to do it? I do not think He was happy about it, but He did submit. What do you think about that?

### **SALIENT (Important) SCRIPTURES**

## **5. SHED**

### **DEFINITION**

*English:* To pour forth. To emit and let fall, as tears. To impart or release; give or send forth. To cast off or let fall.

**SYNONYMS:** Discard, take off, reject, let fall, throw away

*Hebrews 12:1 (KJV)*

“**12** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside** every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,”

*Hebrews 12:1 (AMP)*

“**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of <sup>[a]</sup>witnesses [who by faith have testified to the truth of God's absolute faithfulness], **stripping off** every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily *and* cleverly entangles us, let us run with endurance *and* active persistence the race that is set before us,”

### **DISCUSSION**

When I think of the word “shed”, I think of a spiritual word as it relates to my relationship and my discipleship with God. When God is dealing with me to go deeper or when I am prodded by God's love to be more than I am being, I feel that I am being called to “shed”.

What does that mean? When God is talking with me about this, He shows me that I need to do some changing. Letting go of things that I need to let go of or feelings or hurts that I need to let go of. I need to “shed” them. Let it go! When we get hurt, cheated, or wounded, we generally rush to react, and often then God calls us to “let go”, and forgive. Even though the hurt hurts, we need to “shed.” I must let go of the hurt whether the person asks for forgiveness or not.

When we come to a place when we need to “let go” or to “let fall” it means you have got to let go of something like an offense or anger – let it fall or shed. Let it go! Oftentimes we have problems in the arena of marriage relationships. Along the way someone is going to be hurt or become angry, and sometimes do great damage to the marriage because they do not “shed” the offense or “let go.” Even when you are not the perpetrator, you still must forgive. “Shed” the offense even if you are hurt. Go to God for help and keep the bond of love even though you may be hurting. Do not add to the problem and pray for them.

We must “shed” the hurts so that we can be free. All of us have been hurt; sometimes deeply. We need healing, and we need it desperately so that we can keep a right spirit. When you and I find ourselves wounded there is a temptation to become bitter or angry which is hurtful to ourselves, and we need healing. How do we do that? We forgive. We “let it go.” It is the only remedy.

Just like Jesus on the cross, He was deeply wounded but He did not hate. So, we must learn the art of “forgiveness.” Sometimes it is very difficult. Have you ever been very wounded? Even as I write right now, I am thinking of some hurts in own my life. I have been hurt terribly by some who should not have hurt me, and I must forgive them. I was so hurt, and they have never asked for forgiveness but that is on them and not me because I love them. Even though it took me a while I knew I had to forgive them because I wanted to move forward in the Lord. A bitter spirit can destroy a person if they do not fully forgive. It is very important.

Did you ever get to a place in God that you feel sort of not so “hot” in your spiritual walk or when you are just “blah?” I am sure anybody can relate to that, but that is when we need to use the word, “shed.” We need to use the word “shed” in the “blah” times and in the times when “we just aren’t really walking in the Spirit too well.” That can become problematic.

We must do one thing or another at that point. We can either flow away from God or flow to God. What do you think about that? We must choose to get moved in the Spirit and get into the Spirit in a deeper way. We must in some ways disciple ourselves and shake ourselves to get it all together. We must “pray through” or we will continue to drift. This is not good! I have been in those not so good places when we get wounded, weary, and we are alone. We have got to shake up ourselves, and “pray through!”

Did you ever try to lose weight? You must “shed.” You see a little love handle or more and your clothes are getting a little tight. You have two choices. You can “shed” pounds or gain more weight. Also, in the Spirit we can get a little weighed down by attitudes, wounds, etc. that sets us back from our walk. We can get weighed down by a lack of personal prayer. How about “small” sins will weigh us down such as, skipping church, which we need so desperately or being in the church but not really connecting with the Spirit? Have you ever just sort of “sat” there not really giving it your all or have you got an attitude about somebody you do not like? I hope not, but if so, you can deal with it. So let us “shed” the hurts, attitudes, wounds, sins, etc., pray through, repent, and go “higher.”

## 6. SEEK

### DEFINITION

*English:* Attempt to find (something). Attempt or desire to obtain or achieve something.

**SYNONYMS:** Explore, pursue, chase, inquire, quest, search, look for, seek, ask, beg, request, inquire, to go after, chase down

### **SALIENT (Important) SCRIPTURES**

*1 Chronicles 16:11 (KJV)*

“**Seek** the LORD and his strength, **seek** his face continually.”

*Psalms 63:2 (KJV)*

"O God, thou art my God; early will I **seek** thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is."

*Matthew 7:7 (KJV)*

"Ask, and it shall be given you; **seek**, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

*Isaiah 55:6 (KJV)*

"<sup>6</sup> **Seek** ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"

*Isaiah 55:6 (AMP)*

"<sup>6</sup> **Seek** the LORD while He may be found; Call on Him [for salvation] while He is near."

*Proverbs 24:14 (KJV)*

"So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off."

## **DISCUSSION**

These are very important Scriptures and tells us the need for seeking. I think there are many times that we send up praise, but we do not seek, meaning we go up in praise, but without seeking we just go "back down." Seeking means to move forward to change, to find God in a deeper way. Hungering for more depth in our relationship with God by seeking.

When we praise it is very powerful and needful, but if we only praise, we will not find change as much as we could. How many times have we praised, but we did not seek, so therefore "we did not change?" When it is time to seek, that is the time to dig in, let go, and allow God to show you what needs to be changed within you, and within me.

We can praise but not seek, and it will not make a difference in our experience. We must have both seeking and praise. Not just one or the other, but both. This point is very valid. As I think about it, I am getting more stirred up about this point of "seeking."

Isaiah 55:6 in the King James Version states, "**Seek** ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"

This is an admonition for seeking. It seems to me in that verse that there may be times when you cannot get to Him or you are not seeking Him. This is one of the first verses in the Bible that I memorized. It motivates me. There are obviously times that God urges us to seek Him — not just praise Him, but also to seek Him.

This is an admonition for moving forward, hungering, and making progress, versus praising. Do you see the difference? Praise is beautiful and powerful, but different from seeking. Seeking will give you depth. It will cause you – if you let it – to go deeper, and then, go deeper. Praise is great, but seeking will bring you to deeper depths that will stabilize you. The deeper you go, the more stabilized you become.

It bothers me at times when I see people being very “high” in their praise, but shallow in their seeking. That means you can become very high but very easily fall down because there is no depth. Just like a tree whose roots are growing shallow in the ground, it will not be able to withstand the storms. Even tall trees will not stand if their roots do not go deep. Take the bamboo tree for example, it gets pretty tall, but its roots do not go very deep. The Oak tree also gets very tall, but its roots grow deep. The Oak tree will withstand storms much better.

## 7. RELINQUISH

### DEFINITION

*English:* To renounce or surrender. To give up, put aside. To let go; release.

**SYNONYMS:** Abandon, forgo, renounce, vacate, cast, quit, withdraw, discard, drop, resign, sacrifice, shed, cast off, retire from.

### **SALIENT (Important) SCRIPTURES**

*Ephesians 4:32 (KJV)*

“<sup>32</sup> And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath **forgiven** you.”

*Ephesians 4:32 Amplified Bible (AMP)*

<sup>32</sup> Be kind *and* helpful to one another, tender-hearted [compassionate, understanding], **forgiving** one another [readily and freely], just as God in Christ also **forgave** <sup>[a]</sup>you."

**(Is not that beautiful. Do not forget what he paid, so that you and I can have that.)**

*Colossians 3:13 (AMP)*

<sup>13</sup> bearing graciously with one another, and willingly **forgiving** each other if one has a cause for complaint against another; just as the Lord has **forgiven** you, so should you **forgive**."

*1 John 1:9 (KJV)*

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

## **DISCUSSION**

In life, you will be hurt. People will hurt you accidentally, and sometimes people will even hurt you intentionally. There will also be people who will be delighted to hurt you! Sometimes it may be a minor offense, and sometimes it could even be a very painful and deep wound like the breaking up of a home. Are you willing to forgive and "relinquish" the hurt?

In Ephesians 4:32 the word of God teaches us that we should be forgiving of one another just as God for Christ's sake has forgiven us. That can be very dicey, and in this world, people can be very cruel and hurtful. People will wound you throughout your life, and there is no way around it. So, the issue is not "will you be hurt?" You will be hurt! So therefore, we need copious grace and forgiveness for those that hurt us. It is an ugly world on this planet.

I remember as a kid, when I was in about the 4<sup>th</sup> grade or maybe a little younger, I had a group of buddies that I liked to play with. Another kid joined our "gang" and, he was a little older than us. He wanted to be the "top guy." He turned all my friends against me for no apparent reason just so he could be the "top guy." He would get those kids and gather around my house chanting, "Anti Libby! Anti Libby! Anti Libby!"

It was terrible for my young life. I will never forget it. After a few days and parents getting involved, it broke up, and suddenly everything was as it was. To this day, after around close to "60" years ago, I can still bring it to my memory easily. I have healed, but I still remember it. I can conjure up the experience, and as I am conjuring it still has a level of pain or maybe negative feelings. That is why it is called "hurt". Life hurts.

The issue is how are you going to handle it? Are you going to come out "better" or "bitter?" In our baser elements we generally go to bitter. Even in our adult life, it can be very cruel. So, how do we deal with the cruelty of other people? There is only one deep way of dealing with those kinds of hurts. Oftentimes, people try to retaliate and seek revenge. That is not a good way to heal in the situation and will bring on additional pain. There is only one way, and that is the Jesus way.

Forgive as if it never happened, even though the person who hurt you may still be hurting you, but you elevate yourself higher in the grace that God has given you and grow through the experience. Let Jesus wrap himself around you and bring sweet healing to your being. "Relinquish" and let Jesus wrap His loving arms around you, and He will bring a sweet, sweet healing balm that will calm you, and take you higher to Him if you don't get "bitter".

Seek Him when you are hurting and "go up". Bitterness is your enemy! It will destroy you. If you do not forgive, you will become a bitter person. However, if you do forgive, you will become a "better" person. Isn't that the Jesus way? You will become a Jesus person. What do you want to become?

We hurt Jesus when we sin and when we reject him. That is what sin is: a rejection of Jesus. You are not only hurting yourself when you sin, but you are also hurting Jesus. Look at what all He did to help you and me not be sinful, and for all that He gave us, and yet we continue to sin. What a gracious God! We should lift Him up higher and higher.

However, when we come to Him with a repentant, sorrowful heart, and ask for forgiveness, He is always willing to forgive us and is tender and merciful toward us. He “relinquishes” our sins and “lets them go.” That brings me to a thought let us also be very tender in these kinds of things. Know what Jesus had to pay to save you willingly. What he went through for you... Do not ever forget it, because you will need it along life’s path. Keep it close to your heart. You will need it!

## 8. METAMORPHOSIS

### DEFINITION

*English:* 1. **a:** change of physical form, structure, or substance especially by supernatural means **b:** a striking alteration in appearance, character, or circumstances **2:** a typically marked and abrupt developmental change in the form or structure of an animal (such as a butterfly or a frog) occurring subsequent to birth or hatching

**SYNONYMS:** Conversion, transfiguration, and transformation, changeover

### **SALIENT (Important) SCRIPTURES**

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)*

“<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are **become new**.”

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMP)*

“<sup>17</sup> Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], *he is a **new creature** [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit];* the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, **new things** have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life]. “

*Philippians 1:6 (KJV)*

“<sup>6</sup> Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a **good work** in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

*Philippians 1:6 (AMP)*

“<sup>6</sup> I am convinced *and* confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] **perfect and complete** it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return].”

*Philippians 1:6 Living Bible (TLB)*

“<sup>6</sup> And I am sure that God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you **grow** in his grace until his task within you is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns.”

## **DISCUSSION**

Metamorphosis is when something changes and develops but is still the same thing. To describe the word Metamorphosis, we can begin by paralleling “spiritual metamorphosis” to that of a butterfly. Butterflies go through four states of metamorphosis; eggs, larvae, pupa, and finally an adult butterfly.

Just as the butterfly changes and develops, we are called to change and expand in spiritual growth, maturity, for the rest of our spiritual life. The first stage in our new birth experience is just the beginning. That process can never stop until Jesus returns. So, we are stretching, growing, morphing, throughout our spiritual life until our death.

When the apostle Paul was born again, he started his trek i.e. “spiritual metamorphosis” for four years moving and not hardly doing anything, just growing, learning, and morphing until Jesus released him into his ministry when he reached full spiritual maturity.

We know very little of Paul’s experiences during those four years of “morphing”. He needed that time to develop his knowledge and to grow, and to assimilate all that He was going to suffer, which was abundant. Can you imagine? Cool dude! Wasn’t he?

In our “spiritual metamorphosis” we are also going to have some ups and downs just as Paul did. He understood that there would be, but he was prepared, and we should be prepared as well. Learning to suffer, and how to rejoice in the vicissitudes (the ups and downs of life) is part of “metamorphosis”. We should not be surprised at bumps in the road that we did not expect. Some not so bad, and some very difficult.

People that hurt us are opportunities for more growth. How so? Because when you are hurt, it is an opportunity to “lean” on Jesus more and more which forces us lovingly to seek the presence of God for comfort. If we did not have those

experiences, we would flatline i.e. we would not grow and even go backwards. We need Him to cause us to need Him. That is what trials are about.

In this era and in this day, generally, life is kind of cushy, but if you live long enough to see the mark of the beast, we will really need to know what we are talking about [concerning growth and metamorphosis]. I am so hoping to get in on that action before I leave this world.

Isn't that encouraging to know that if we continue allowing God to develop us and grow us that one day, we will reach full "spiritual metamorphosis?" We can do this. It has its difficulties, but we can do it. It will be glorious when we get to the end.

## 9. MALLEABLE

### DEFINITION

*English:* Able to be hammered or pressed permanently out of shape without breaking or cracking. Easily influenced, pliable.

**SYNONYMS:** Adaptable, flexible, workable, compliant, moldable, submissive, yielding.

### **SALIENT (Important) SCRIPTURES**

*Isaiah 64:8 (KJV)*

<sup>8</sup>But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the **clay**, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

### DISCUSSION

What a cool word? So much flexibility in that word, and yet not broken. Do you see that in that word "malleable?" When you look at the apostle Paul, he was very malleable. He had tremendous flexibility in his situations so that he could be malleable rather than stiff and unbending. He was the opposite in his convictions, but he was malleable in his circumstances without being broken.

I think we need to have that. We need to be stiff in our convictions, but malleable and flexible to go through circumstances and changes in life. When Paul was shipwrecked, stranded on an Island, and then bitten by a viper, he did not break. He was malleable. He allowed God to work on him and mold him. He was stiff in his convictions, but he was flexible in his life, i.e. the circumstances that he had to go through. He went through all those circumstances, but he remained firm in his convictions never wavering. He was not wishy-washy! The people thought he was a “god”, but he rejected that. He was true to his convictions.

We need malleability in our own world. For instance, we have moved into this area of “shelter-in-place” during the Covid-19 pandemic and “safer at home.” We needed to be flexible. We had to make ourselves malleable to adjust to the changes that we had to make such as working at home, doing school at home, and attending church online versus in a church building, and it was difficult and it is still difficult, but we adapted to our circumstance. We were “malleable”. You must be malleable to adjust. Strong in your convictions but malleable in your circumstances.

God is our potter; He molds us and shapes us into what He wants us to be. Sometimes these changes are difficult and painful, but if we allow God to work on us, just like Paul did, we will become what He wants us to be in order to fulfil the purpose that He has for our lives.

## 10. IMPERVIOUS

### DEFINITION

*English:* Not permitting penetration or passage. Incapable of being influenced, persuaded, or affected.

**SYNONYMS:** Immune, inaccessible, Resistant, unaffected, unmoved.

### **SALIENT (Important) SCRIPTURES**

*Psalms 125:1 (NASB)*

“Those who trust in the LORD Are as Mount Zion, which **cannot be moved** but abides forever.”

*Proverbs 10:30 (KJV)*

“The righteous will **never be shaken**, But the wicked will not dwell in the land.”

*1 Peter 5:9 (KJV)*

“<sup>9</sup> Whom **resist steadfast** in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

*1 Peter 5:9 (AMP)*

“<sup>9</sup> But **resist** him, be firm in *your* faith [against his attack—rooted, established, immovable], knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being experienced by your brothers and sisters throughout the world. [You do not suffer alone.]”

*Ephesians 6:13 (KJV)*

“<sup>13</sup> Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand**.”

*Ephesians 6:13 (KJV)*

“<sup>13</sup> Therefore, put on the complete armor of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] **resist and stand your ground** in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], **to stand firm** [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious].”

## **DISCUSSION**

How many people have I pastored or have come into the church but did not stay, that could have given all their heart to God but just could not and/or did not? They were weak. These people were not impervious. They did not resist the enemy and be committed so they became pervious. If you want to be a great saint, you must be impervious to the enemy. You must be impervious to the tricks and wounds of the devil.

Satan has tricks and he wants to trip us up. He uses tricks like feeling things are not going good, why is God not doing what I asked Him to do, why is God doing things to my family and I asked Him to fix it and He hasn't, why am I having this trial or temptation, and it doesn't seem to be fair. We have thoughts of giving up. All of us have felt that way before, but the mature saint just knows that your trial

is developing you. Trials are not to discourage you. They are to deepen you. Those trials cause us to go deeper.

Why? Because we need to go deeper. If we do not, that will cause us to fail and give up. What do I mean by going deeper? When we go deeper, we can become stronger and become impervious to Satan's tricks. God is not ignoring you, but He is challenging you to get more depth. We do not like it, but the mature Saints understand and appreciate what God is doing.

Why do people go to the gym? I have asked myself this so many times...why would I want to do this – because it hurts? By this time, I probably never will because it hurts. I wanted to because I wanted to be stronger. However, I did not care as much as I should have. I just did not want to pay the price.

When we want to get deeper, we must surrender. We must pay the price. Just like the analogy of going to the gym, I always was okay when I went into the gym, but I did not like what they wanted me to do. However, if I wanted to go deeper, I had to surrender so that I could become more fit. I had a price to pay. If I do not pay the price, I will fail. I will not get stronger and fit. If I do it, I will get stronger and fit. What do I want to do? Is it worth it?

In the Spiritual...will you pay the price? There are consequences when we do not pay the price, and there are rewards if we do. We must decide, what do we want the most? It is not fun, but the results are worth it! We will become what we really want to be. When we become stronger, we will become equipped to become "impervious" to Satan's tricks.

How did the apostle Paul deal with his trials? He did not cry; he did not complain. He knew that whatever he went through it was making him stronger. When the apostle Paul was in jail, he did not cry. Paul, along with Silas rejoiced. They were going to die, but they were joyful knowing they may die. They did not care. If God allowed it to happen...no big deal. It is amazing. How do we respond to our trials?

Be impervious. How many people have I tried to help but they were not impervious? They were weak. They had no fortitude, determination, or grit. They were just weak.

When we get under the anointing, we become impervious to the enemy. We will be able to withstand, and resist his attacks.

We will not be shaken.