

Introduction: "Facing Our Biggest Challenge Head-On"

"Let's let the cat out of the bag and talk frankly about the biggest challenge that keeps us from continually experiencing Holy Transformation. The answer is pretty simple – it's sin! What keeps us from becoming like Jesus is sin.

When I'm selfish, when I'm envious, when I'm lustful, when I demand my own way, and when I hurt other people, it's sin.

When I do the right things for the wrong reasons – to please people, to impress others, or to simply gain attention and affirmation for me – it's sin. The action may look good on the outside, but it's wrong and it's sin.

My flesh is in control, and I'm not experiencing the holy transformation God intended for me. Instead of the Spirit being in control, helping me live out my new identity in Christ, I've allowed my flesh to be controlled by the impulses of sin.

So the real question in morphing turns out to be: How do you deal with the problem of sin?"¹

How Do We Deal with the Problem of Sin?

Our Text:

Ephesians 4:7–10 (NASB)

⁷*But to each one of us, grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

⁸*Therefore it says,*

*"When He ascended on high,
He led captive a host of captives,
And He gave gifts to men."*

⁹*(Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into **the lower parts of the earth**? ¹⁰He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, **that He might fill all things.**)*

¹quote taken from The Miracle of Life Change- Page 72, Moody Press.

Key Words

- “He led captive a host of captives” Psalm 68:18
- “the lower parts of the earth”
 - Hades 1 Peter 3:18-19
 - Paradise 1 Peter 4:6
- “that He might fill all things” Revelation 5:9-13

SO WHAT?

The Implications for “Morphing”

- **Fact #1** - Christ is a conquering victor over sin, death, and Satan. The power to live a new life was made possible by His death and resurrection.
 - **Principle #1** - Life Change Always Begins with the Truth.
- **Fact #2** - We become “co-partakers” of Christ’s victory over sin, death, and Satan the moment we receive Christ as our personal Savior by faith.
 - **Principle #2** - Life Change Demands We Act on the Truth.

- **Fact #3** - Every believer is given a spiritual gift (supernatural enabling) at the moment of salvation for two reasons:
 - To remind us that “life-change” occurs on the basis of grace not self-effort.
 - To empower us as other-centered “agents of grace” who supply what others need to morph into the likeness of Christ.
- **Principle #3** - Life Change is Both a Gift and a Responsibility.

Conclusion:

(see 2 Corinthians 5:17)

*God wants to change your life . . .
. . . if you will let Him.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Briefly summarize what Jesus did between the time of His death and resurrection. Why is this important?
2. Why are spiritual gifts so central in God’s process of changing us into the image of Christ?
3. Have you ever asked Christ to forgive you of your sin based on His victory over sin, death, and Satan?
4. How are you currently allowing others to use their spiritual gifts to help you grow in Christ? How are you currently using your spiritual gifts to love and encourage others?