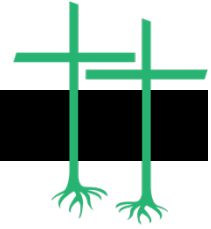


ROOTS TRANSFORMATION TEAM

Introduction to Inner Transformation



Week 1

Why do Christians sometimes produce bad fruit? How do we truly die to self and live in the power of the Holy Spirit? How do we effectively communicate the gospel to our fellow Christians? What role does the prophetic play in transformation, and how do we meaningfully interact with God while ministering?

☐ Transformation Teams Overview

- Our vision for the ministry
- Your role in this ministry
- How to use this handbook

☐ What's Your Foundation?

- Jerusalem is said to have been invaded some 40 times. Each time that it was destroyed, a new city was built on the remains and rubble. Today it's common in many parts of the city to dig through 60 feet or more of debris before reaching the original earth foundation.
- Often we build and rebuild our lives on the ruins of our past disasters. People attack us, and we rebuild. But before we know it, our foundations are nothing but unstable garbage and death.
- **Wise and foolish builders:**
 - **Luke 6:46–49** – “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷ As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”
 - Note the question Jesus asked in verse 46: “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”
 - Do you ever struggle to obey Jesus even though you consider Him to be your Lord?
 - **The wise builder “dug deep” to lay his foundation (v.48).**
 - Obedience requires more than conversion. It requires some digging.

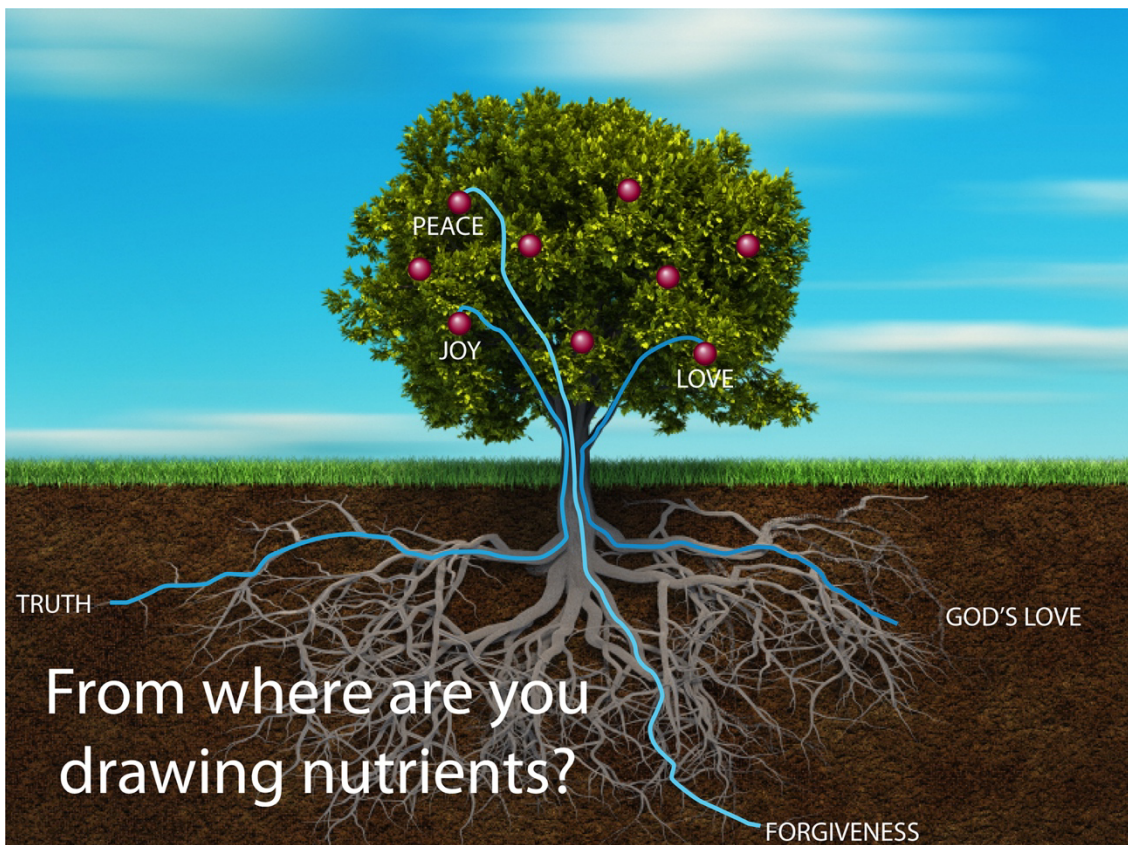
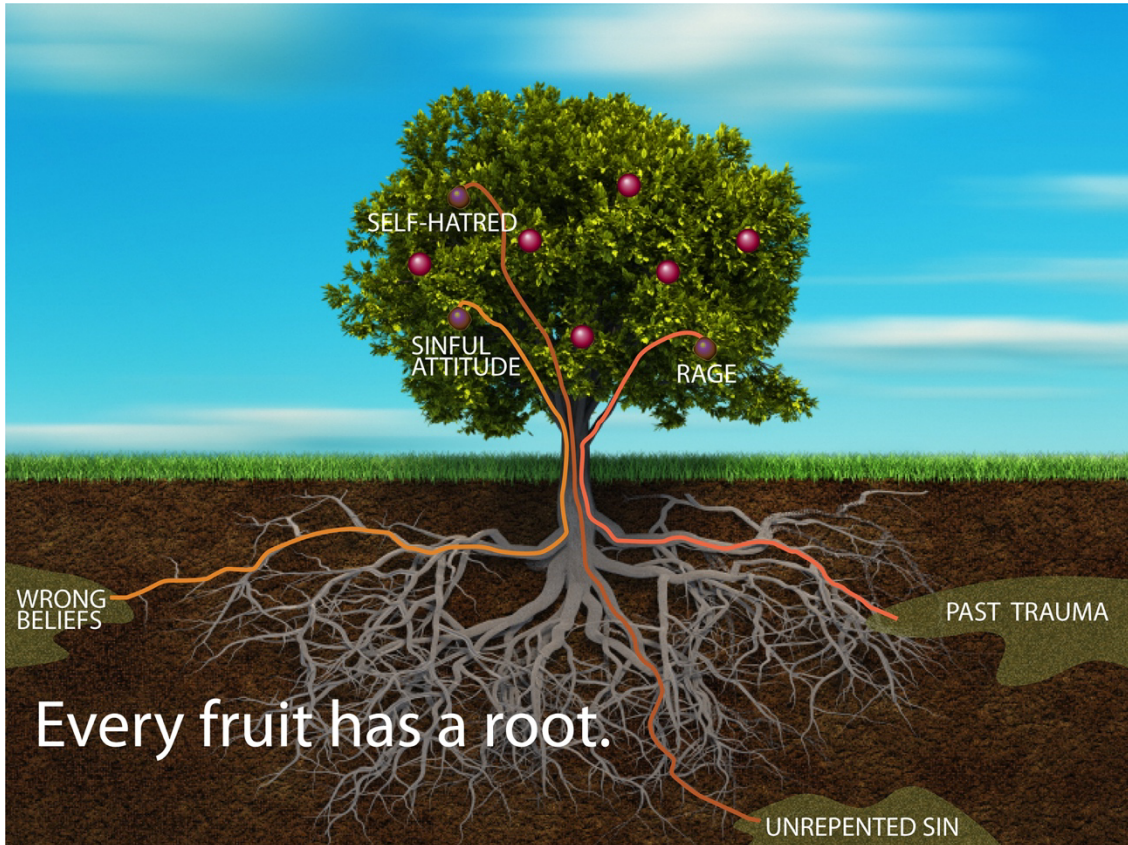
- Even if a house is founded on bedrock, any addition to that house will require additional digging to secure its own foundation on bedrock.
 - This is why we often discover new problems in our attitudes and behaviors as new relationships or roles come into our lives.

■ **Good Fruit and Bad Fruit**

- **Matthew 7:17–19** – Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
 - **Problem:** Why is it, then, that after we’ve been transformed into new creations—after “I no longer live but Christ lives in me” and we are therefore now “good trees”—somehow we still manage to produce the occasional “bad fruit”?
 - The problem isn’t the tree because the new tree—the new creation—is like Jesus. The tree is good.



- **Consider how we often try to deal with bad fruit:**
 - **Picking it off**
 - “I’ll never do that again!”
 - “I promise, that’s the last time.”
 - “I’m working on it.”
 - **Hiding it**
 - “I hope no one notices.”
 - “I can control this when my family isn’t around.”
 - “I’m so ashamed. No one can know about this.”
 - **Rearranging the branches (changing structures in our lives)**
 - “I’d be a better person if it weren’t for the people at my work. I think I need a new job.”
 - “It’s stress. I just need a vacation... and a new car... and a better house... and a new outfit... and...”
 - “It wouldn’t be so hard to be a decent person if my spouse was a better person. I think I need a divorce.”
- **If the tree is good and can’t produce bad fruit, then the bad fruit must be coming from somewhere outside the tree. What is the tree drawing life from?**



❑ We generally avoid the popular term “inner healing.” Inner Transformation is ongoing “death and rebirth.”

- John Loren Sandford, one of the pioneers of the “inner healing” movement, never liked the term.
 - He argued that “*inner healing* is a misnomer. Healing suggests fixing something that is broken, whereas God has no intention of ‘fixing’ our soul. That would be like putting a new patch on an old garment, whereas God has but one answer for sin: death. ‘The soul who sins will die’ (Ezekiel 18:4).” (Sandford, *A Comprehensive Guide to Deliverance and Inner Healing*, pg. 53)
- We’re not “fixing something that’s broken.” We’re crucifying it.
 - **Galatians 5:24** – Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
 - **Romans 8:5–10** – Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.
⁹You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.
- Inner transformation is about being made into something brand new.
 - **Ephesians 4:22–24** – You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
 - Problems come when we live according to our “old self” and not the “new self.”

- **The Process of Crucifixion**
 - “A third reason we do not always do as Jesus says is that we have not fully died to ourselves.” (pg. 51)
- **Renewing the Mind**
 - “Included in transformation is the process of sanctification, in which inner healing plays a role. Sanctification is not striving to be holier than everyone else. It is the process by which the Holy Spirit brings us more and more to death on the cross and to new life in Jesus. ‘Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what God’s will is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.’”
- **John and Paula Sanford’s Four Scriptural Laws:**
 - God’s word discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart (Hebrews 4:12–13).
 - God’s commands and wisdom are for our good, and they help expose both accidental sins and willful sins (Psalm 19:7–14).
 - Essentially every “transformation” issue fits into one of these four categories:
 - **Honoring Parents**
 - **Deuteronomy 5:16** – Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you . . .
 - Paul reaffirms this command and its promise within the New Covenant in Ephesians 6:1-3.
 - **Judging Others**
 - **Matthew 7:1-2** – Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
 - “But when we judge others with impure hearts—with blame, condemnation, anger, envy, jealousy or rancor—then God’s immutable laws are activated. Our judgment will be meted back to us, and life will not go well with us.” (pg. 57)
 - **Sowing and Reaping**
 - **Galatians 6:7** – Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
 - “The longer a sin goes unrepented, the greater the reaping will be.” (pg. 57-58)
 - **Hosea 8:7** – They sow the wind, and they reap the whirlwind.

- **Becoming What We Judge in Others**
 - **Romans 2:1** – You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.
 - Since God's word does not return void (Isaiah 55:11), if you're not presently guilty of the same thing (or the same sort of thing), you soon will be.

MINISTRY TOOLS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS LESSON:

- ❑ **MINISTRY TOOL 3:** Real Repentance
- ❑ **MINISTRY TOOL 4:** Hearing God and Prophetic Ministry