

BRAAM FAMILY

Go Beyond The Form Of This World

ROMANS 12:1-2



The highlight of these verses is: Do not be **CONFORMED** but be **TRANSFORMED**.

The prefixes and roots of the words: conformed and transformed have significant meanings.

CON signifies **WITH**, **TRANS** signifies **BEYOND** and **FORM** signifies **SHAPE**.

In other words this verse says: Do not be **WITH THE FORM (SHAPE)** of this world but be **BEYOND THE FORM (SHAPE)** of this world. Which simply means to not take the form (shape) of this world but live beyond it.

The world has its **FORM** and **SHAPE** which have derived from its **MINDSET** on how you must be, how you must behave, how you must speak, dress, live, marry, how you must fit in and so forth. Even as Christians, we were first born into this world which automatically aligned us **WITH THE FORM** of the world but when we become **BORN AGAIN**, we are called to go **BEYOND THE INITIAL FORM**. That can only be possible with the **RENEWAL OF THE MIND**. Renewing your mind gives you a shape and form that's beyond this world.

The renewal of the mind is a process, it is to progressively format the old mindset, and actively refilling it with new information of the Kingdom. This Kingdom information gives you a new form, which is the form of God. So as you renew your mind, you bring every thought and idea to align to that of Christ (see 2 Corinthians). When most people are born again, they fight to change their behaviour but end up going in circles. The reason why we end up going in circles is because our actions are directly linked to our mindset. Since it's the mind that influences one's actions, it would be wiser to renew the mind which will in turn adjust the behaviour to the new form. So for you to be successful when fighting a habit or wanting to change a behaviour, do it with a renewed mind.

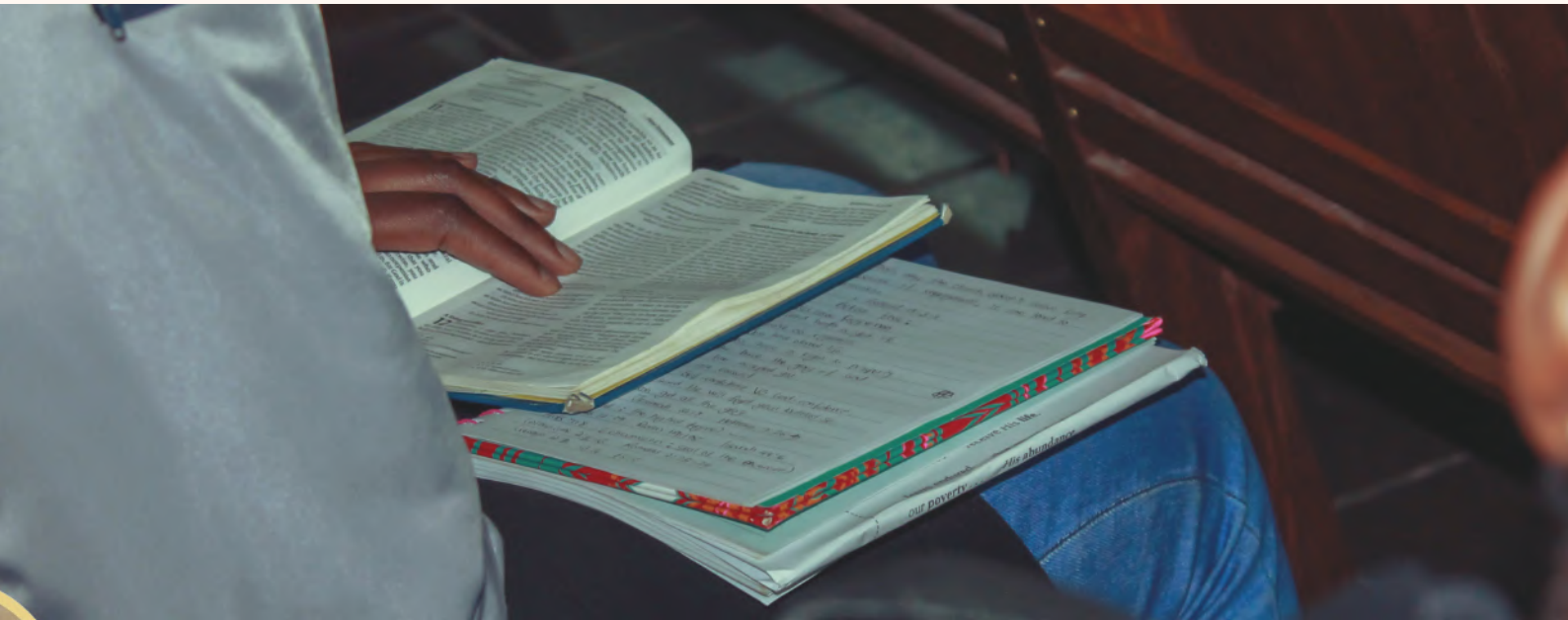
Being born again brings us into salvation, and salvation happens at 3 levels, and that's at the level of the **SPIRIT, SOUL** and **BODY**.

When you accept Christ, your spirit is recreated and made new (see 2 Corinthians 5:19). And because we carry His Spirit, we're able to accept His righteousness which allows us to live spiritually healthy in a corrupted body. His Spirit in us gives desires from Him and causes us to appreciate godliness.

He exposes us, and prompts our body to create and remain in an environment that facilitates the renewal of intelligence. "Indeed, those who live according to the flesh appreciate the things of the flesh, while those who live according to the spirit appreciate the things of the spirit." Romans 8: 5

Now everything that just happened with the salvation of the spirit stays in the past, meaning there is no more condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (see Romans 8:1). If you die today, your spirit goes straight into the presence of God because of the Spirit that's in you. However, the soul goes through the continuous process of salvation because of the presence of the **FLESH** (and its desires). The flesh and body are often used interchangeably because the flesh has a direct effect on the body. The flesh is the strong propensity in your soul to lead the body to sin.

The flesh resides in the soul but its works are directly seen in the body. The flesh refers to the animal nature of a man with all the cravings which incite to sin. It is the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God's ways. The flesh was created in man after the fall, and from that time humanity has been inclined to sin. So Satan pushed humanity to disobey God to trigger a good taste or appetite for sin.



“Don't blame God when you are tempted! God cannot be tempted by evil, and he doesn't use evil to tempt others. We are tempted by our own desires that drag us off and trap us. Our desires make us sin, and when sin is finished with us, it leaves us dead” James 1:13-15 CEV. These evil desires mentioned in this verse come from the flesh. Paul writes saying, “But in every part of me I discover something fighting against my mind, and it makes me a prisoner of sin that controls everything I do. What a miserable person I am. Who will rescue me from this body that is doomed to die?” Romans 7:23-24 CEV. When Paul mentions the body, he's referring to both the physical body and also the flesh, and he wants the salvation of the soul (to be freed from the flesh). The salvation of the soul is the continuous process of putting the flesh to death.

Now, this leads us to the third level of salvation which is the salvation of the body, which happens last. It will happen when the angel blows the trumpet, and our bodies will be glorified in a twinkling of an eye (see 1 Corinthians 15:52). That is why Paul also says “but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body” Romans 8:23 NKJV.

So first, it is the spirit that is made new, and as you walk with God, you put to death the desires of the flesh. And when the rapture happens, the body will be glorified. Now, because of the conflicting works that happen between the flesh and the spirit, Paul urges believers to offer their body as a living sacrifice. The flesh hasn't been removed yet, nor has the body been glorified. So as we wait for perfection, we live a life of subduing the flesh to the Spirit's will. When you offer your body as a living sacrifice, you dilute the power and influence of the flesh. That's how you go beyond the form and shape of this world.

Jesus Christ is the perfect example of what a living sacrifice looks like. He did not live to gratify the human desires but he lived to please the Father. And because He lived as a sacrifice He could say, “take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will” Mark 14:36 NKJV. We are called in our everyday lives to lay down our will (that how the flesh dies), and do the will of the Father. You need to disappear so that the interests of God take place.

A sacrifice has no more will than to fulfill the desire of the one who receives it, which is why as a living sacrifice we lose our will every day and make room for the will of God. Jesus carried his body for the execution of the will of God. You wear a body because there is a will of God attached to your body.

“Therefore, when Christ enters into the world, He says: “Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but (instead) you have prepared a body for me (to offer). Hebrews 10:5-7

Go BEYOND THE FORM of this world and become a LIVING SACRIFICE. Only then will you discern the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect. It's a renewed mind that knows the will of the Father, and it takes a life offered as a sacrifice to practice it.

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