



Mark Hanby Ministries P.O. Box 8093 Chattanooga,
TN 37414 E-Mail Address: juniorvp@aol.com
423-622-5180

TRANSITION GIVES BIRTH TO OUR PURPOSE

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. He has made everything beautiful in its time."

If God says everything works together for our good according to His purpose, then why is it so difficult for us to change in the seasons of life? Many of us respond to change as though something is wrong rather than seeing it as part of the beautiful process of maturing in God. Nature does not oppose change ... the vicious bear lies dormant throughout the winter months and is not at all embarrassed when he awakens in spring ... birds instinctively fly south for winter and never think it pointless to return and repeat the process ... the gloriously adorned autumn trees shed their leaves and lie dormant through winter only to start the progression to glory all over again ... even the caterpillar will crawl for months oblivious to any danger, yet intuitively know when to attach itself to a branch and hide. Nature has been divinely programmed and for Millenniums has not deviated one iota from God's creation plan!

Consider the lessons we can learn about transition and change just by observing the life of a caterpillar. The caterpillar is not hindered by the 'what if's' of life - neither fearing tomorrow nor living in past glory, but faithfully fulfills its destiny by accomplishing what it knows to do in its season ... and when its days are completed, emerges as an exquisite butterfly. Everything necessary for what the butterfly will become has taken

place during the metamorphosis but the transition process is not complete until after it breaks through the once protective layer of the cocoon.

The struggle of the butterfly to break through the confines of the cocoon is designed by nature to bring fluid into the shriveled wings and make them strong so it can fly. This struggle forces its wings to develop and it breaks out of the cocoon. Muscles are developed by adversity. People who fear confrontation and trials are only seeing their limitations and not God's possibilities! Sometimes we need to be between a rock and a hard place so we are forced to change and give birth to our destiny!

The transformation process was accomplished while the butterfly was hidden - yet the actual cocoon wall prevents its purpose from manifesting. What once was its protection and lifeline has outlived its usefulness and becomes a bondage that jeopardizes its future potential. The butterfly must break through the confines of the cocoon or it will never fly. The emerging from the cocoon is a vital step in the transition to glory - every thing else has been preparation! We likewise want to be set free of what hinders us from fulfilling God's call on our life. We cannot rush the process to completion nor can we eliminate it, but in His time and season we are destined to give birth to our purpose.

The wicked one desperately wants to eliminate this final stage of transition in us. He does not care about what is hidden - just don't let it manifest! The wicked one wants us so fearful of change that we never birth any fruit from our labors; never walk in the full potential of our purpose - afraid to do anything! If a butterfly remains in its cocoon it will never fly ... if Christ remained in the tomb He would never have birthed eternal life ... and if the man-child remains in the womb-the sons of promise will never manifest!

Everything God has created goes through transition easily and expectantly - except man. Creation responds to a preordained command and renders its faithfulness simply because it *is the season*. Nature experiences change as a normal part of life but we who actually have understanding of the importance of Process, have great difficulty allowing the transition to become a finished work - not

recognizing the significance of each season as an integral part in the process of maturing in God!

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory."

We need adversity and struggle to get out of our cocoons. There is conflict in overcoming. The struggle to move in heavenly places usually means an unveiling of some form of covering that has outlived its temporary purpose. Our struggles or challenges are part of the process that takes us from *glory to glory*. It is the little word 'to' in '*glory-to-glory*' that encompasses our whole Christian walk ... the breaking out of the glory that was originally for our good to step into more ... ultimately to become the same reflection of glory as seen in the mirror - the image of Christ!

Many fear and have no hope because they are unsure of what they should do to come into their purpose - not knowing God initiates the process of transformation and faithfully promises that in due season they shall birth their purpose. Our trial or process is not intended to be the 'end all' but rather the beginning of all God has determined for us. It is the goodness of God that motivates us to change. Therefore, we are not discouraged by our trials because we know God is using process to change us. If we force the wings of our faith to expand against the limitations of the moment, we not only build spiritual muscle, but we also become empowered to function in ministry. Breaking through what hinders us becomes pivotal for developing our ministry. God prepares and endows us for the struggle to overcome the opposition - giving wings to our purpose!

This Process is exemplified in the Old Testament with man having to press his way into the Tabernacle of God. If we ever want to see beyond the veil, we must 'press in' by forcing a way through the barrier of the womb of our flesh. Those of us who seek to know Him will break through our fear of the unknown or the fear of inadequacy to fly with the wings of Kingdom purpose. Unless we force our way past our comfort zone we are destined to remain the same. Yet once we break through, we behold His glory and experience another step in the process of being made into His image... moving in a new realm of His purpose.

We are individually being birthed into a different dimension of ministry and function by breaking through some personal walls that prevented us from fulfilling our prophetic purpose. Yet, it must also be collectively, as the many membered Body of Christ that we are birthed from the womb that has long outlived its temporary purpose. Paul described this birthing process as knowing that if ...

"Our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven ... For we who are in this tent, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed."

Struggling to be birthed through the veil of an antiquated system empowers us to expand our wings and enter another dimension of glory!

A pattern for transitional change in the Body is found in Ezekiel's vision. The first phase is father / son order, the *bone to its bone* relationships connecting the hearts of fathers and sons. It is the skeletal structure and foundation that allows the next phase of transition, the muscular and nervous system to function in the Body. It is crucial to have these two stages in operation for the Body to reproduce WHO HE IS in the earth. We continue in the process of transition until the saints are equipped...

"For the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man - to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

There are sons coming to birth yet there is no strength to bring them forth! The ministry father is responsible for diligently searching the heavens for the proceeding word that will give birth to his son's purpose. Yet unless the son is submitted in generational alignment through his ministry father, the muscle strength cannot develop since he has no connection in the Body - and therefore no ability to function in ministry. This is why everything that has been lying dormant within fathers and

sons is now on a trial for its life - it's time for spring-cleaning in the House of God!

For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

There has been a barrier through the Ages that could not be passed because it was not the time ... yet in this last day it is being penetrated by those birthed with a passion to expand their wings of faith. Like the butterfly, everything necessary for what the man-child will become has taken place during the transformation but the process is not complete until after it breaks through the once protective layer of religion or what is often called church. At the fullness of time, God gives the command ... and *"breath came into them, and they lived and stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army"* - the manifestation of the sons of promise!

It is impossible to come out of an old caterpillar system and expect to fly in a new dimension unless God changes us. Only God is able to give wings to our purpose so we can rise up as a new man and soar to heights of glory in Him. The transformation of the Body to the third, even the fourth generation is imperative for the formation of each phase that gives strength to birth the man-child. We are encouraged to press on until the glorious culmination manifests itself in the birth of the perfect, mature and complete man. *"For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God"* - the risen Christ!

"To everything there is a season..." God is challenging you to change - to break through your barriers and walk in the future He determined for you and for His Body!

Any questions or comments email rk-roth@juno.com