

YEARBOOK

Back in the day we had a sacred form of media that has slowly disappeared (or at least diminished in significance) over time. It was called a Yearbook. In its paper form, it would be distributed to all the children, and time and grace were allotted to exchange our copies so that others could write handwritten notes inside them. One of the popular phrases that people would write to one another was “Never change!” While this was a compliment to express how cool someone thought you were, it was naïve about the years before us.

The truth is, we were all going to change. And, if we haven't, that is a bad thing. From the time we are born, we are changing. If not, there is a big problem. Change, growth, and maturity are a part of healthy life. They are key indicators that you are moving along the right path.

Paul had much to say to the first-century Christians about this in a spiritual sense. To the church in Rome, he exhorted them to keep being transformed (growing) in order to live into the will of God. The alternative was to slowly let the world mold you into its way. Further discovery of scripture shows us that passivity and stagnation (opposite of growth) are bad for us (Rev. 3:14-21). Disciples are to be constantly growing.

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

How, then, do we grow? Paul explains to the Christians in Corinth that the transformation (growth) occurs by the presence of the Spirit in our lives.

2 Corinthians 3:17–18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

The questions we must ask ourselves are:

1. Am I open to growing and changing this year?
2. Is the image of Christ my transformation goal?
3. Am I allowing the Spirit to fill and transform me?

We are not supposed to stay the same. We should always want transformation for ourselves and for our spiritual family. It's almost time to sign life's 2024 yearbook and prepare for a new one. We should all be writing, “I hope you change this year.”

Eyes up!
Ryan