



SERIES: FEBRUARY – James: Faith in Real Life

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Scripture: James 1:21-22

TITLE: Transform and Roll Out

Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:21-22, ESV

Some of you, as soon as you read the title of this Win the Day segment, you instantly thought that I was going to talk about Transformers. You knew that I was quoting the great Autobot leader, Optimus Prime. And, you're correct! I am gonna reference Transformers. I loved watching the cartoons as a kid. And by the way, no sane human being wanted to be a Decepticon. They were the bad guys and they always lost. Not to mention, "deception" is literally implied in their name. So every time I drive around town and see a car with a Decepticon decal, I want to have a conversation with that person.

Anyway, Romans 12:2 tells us, "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." James has said the same thing. Filthiness and rampant wickedness is what you expect from someone who rejects God and lives according to their own desires. As Christians, we can't conform to that standard. Even if we used to live that way, we can no longer live that way going forward. James literally implies the stripping off of dirty, filthy clothes. We cannot conform to the moral evils and standards of the world. We must put on Christ. We need transformation.

James goes on to say, "Receive with meekness the implanted word." Our hearts and minds need to be cleansed of this moral filthiness and wickedness. James says it's the implanted word that saves our souls, then, in verse 22, he says "doers and not hearers only of the word." There's no room for Christian Decepticons. There's no room for people who pay lip service to the truth but still practice all the moral evil that James says get rid of. A simple solution to this problem is to just tell people to start practicing what they preach. Right? But is that really what James says? I don't think so.

For James, the key to everything, the key to be transformed from being a slave to sin and this world is what takes place on the inside of a person. Again, he says, receive with meekness the implanted word. This ought to take us back to a parable that Jesus told about soil conditions. Jesus gave four soil conditions that pertain to how people receive the word of God. There's the beaten path—the birds of the air or demons quickly grab the seed from the path. Then there's the rock soil—it's shallow and has no roots so they turn their back on the Lord during times of adversity. Thirdly, we have the thorny soil—they care too much about the things of the world,

which snuffs out their growth in Christ. Finally, we come to the good soil—the meek soil. It receives the implanted word and bears fruit 30, 60 and 100-fold.

Meekness of heart is the key to your transformation. Meekness is about yielding and submitting to Christ in all things. It's about taking His yoke upon you and if, by God's grace, you become yoked to Christ, there's no way you could ever only be a "hearer" of the word and not a doer. The perfect love of Christ compels us. The Word cultivates our hearts to experience the love of Christ and the love of Christ empowers our obedience. Even when we struggle to yield to or trust Christ, His love wins us over and compels us to act. The key to your transformation, the key to becoming more than just a hearer of God's Word and to becoming a doer of the word, is your posture towards God's Word. Put on meekness and allow the love of Christ to lead you.