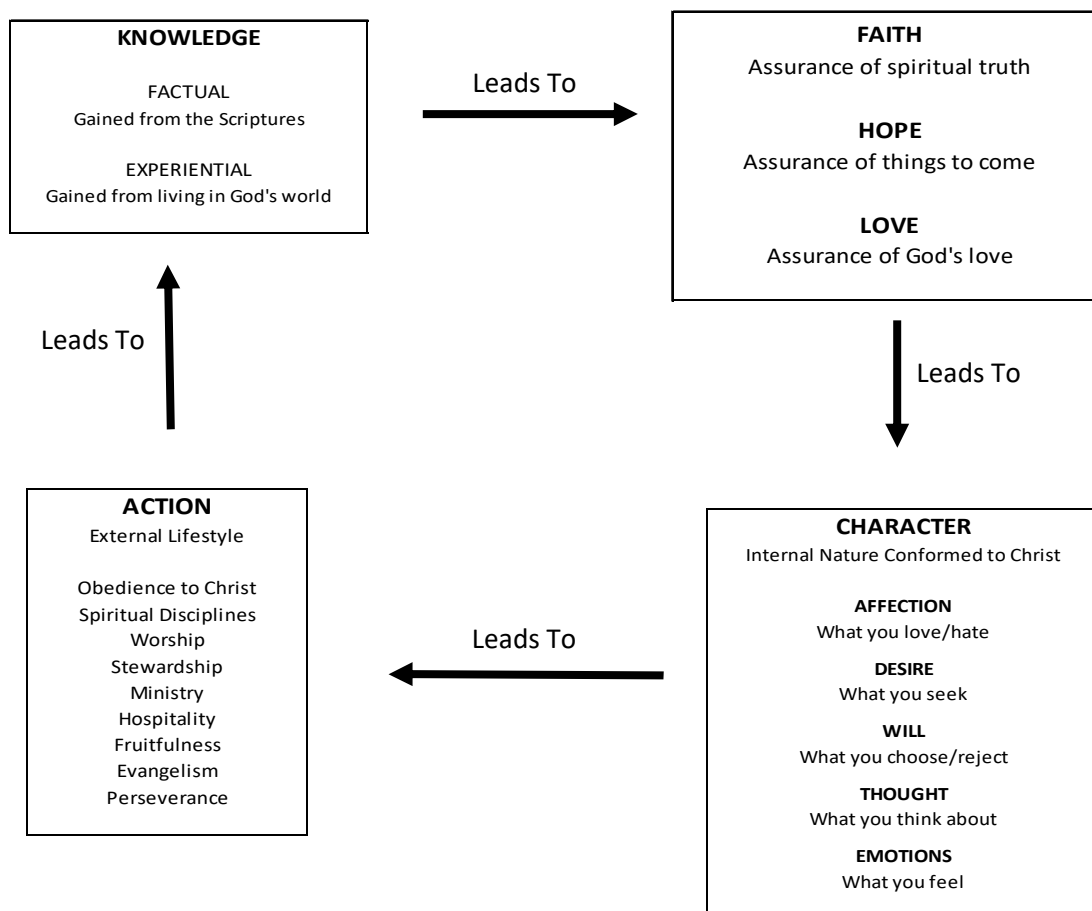


SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION PRINCIPLES

A Pathway to Christian Maturity*



KNOWLEDGE INCREASES FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

1. Biblical knowledge

Learning about who God is and what He has done gives me confidence. Learning about God's plan and promises for me gives me hope. Learning about God's love teaches me to love. Learning about myself reveals my need. Learning about salvation gives me peace.

- Read *Rom 10:17*. Explain how hearing develops faith.
- Read *Eph 1:13-14*. Explain how God's promise gives hope.
- Read *1John 2:9-11*. Explain what John is saying about love.
- *How has Scripture increased your faith? Explain*

2. Experiential knowledge

- Read *Ps 22:9-10*. Explain why David trusted? Who did David trust?
- Read *1Sam 17:32-37*. What had David's experience taught him?
- Read *John 14:11*. What was Jesus saying? Explain.
- Read *Matt 14:22-33*. Why did the disciples confess that Jesus was God's Son?
- *Explain how life experiences have shaped your faith. Be specific.*

FAITH TRANSFORMS CHARACTER

Faith: "Firm belief based upon confidence in the authority and veracity of another, rather than upon one's own knowledge, reason, or judgment" (Century Dictionary)

- Read [Gal 5:22-24](#). *Explain how this is a result of faith.*
- Read [Heb 11:1](#). *We believe what we don't see. How has this faith changed your life? Explain.*
- Read [Acts 15:8-9](#). *How does faith lead to cleansing of the heart?*
- Read [1John 3:2-3](#). *Purification is a process. What hindrances to the process are you experiencing?*
- Read [1Pet 1:20-23](#). *What evidence is there that you have been purified? Explain.*

CHARACTER PRODUCES ACTION

"A virtuous life is the result of hearing God's word, believing God's word, and obeying God's word" (biblicalstudyguide.org)

- Read [Lk 8:15](#). *Why is perseverance necessary?*
- Read [Matt 12:33-35](#). *How would others describe your fruit? How do you?*
- Read [2Cor 8:1-5](#). *How would you describe the character of the Macedonians?*
- Read [2Kings 23:1-3](#). *How would you describe the character of Josiah? Explain.*

ACTION PROMOTES KNOWLEDGE

"There are some things, especially in the depths of the religious life, which can only be understood by being experienced" (C.H. Spurgeon)

- Read [Ps 119:100](#). *Describe your experience as to how actions cause learning?*
- Read [John 14:21](#). *What does this verse say? What does it mean?*
- Read [Ps 34:8](#). *What have you learned about God by 'tasting'? Explain.*

* Adapted from [An Infinite Journey](#), by Andrew M. Davis

APPENDIX

KNOWLEDGE INCREASES FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

Biblical knowledge

Read [Rom 10:17](#). *Explain how hearing develops faith.*

The verse is specific in that it speaks of hearing the word of Christ, not just any word. From His word we learn who He is and that we can trust Him no matter what the circumstances. Our faith is based on the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done.

Read [Eph 1:13-14](#). *Explain how God's promise gives hope.*

Our hope of an inheritance in heaven is based on God's promise as explained in the scriptures and with the Holy Spirit given to us as a pledge that nothing will prevent us from realizing God's promise.

Read [1John 2:9-11](#). *Explain what John is saying about love.*

Those who's eyes have been opened show love while those who are in the dark do not. Hatred is an indication that the person remains blinded to the Light and cannot see where he is going.

Experiential knowledge

Read [Ps 22:9-10](#). *Explain why David trusted? Who did David trust?*

David is remembering how he was in God's care even from the beginning when just an infant. He gives God credit for his birth and maternal care when he was most vulnerable. He learned trust from his mother's care but understands that ultimately it was God that he learned to trust. He is remembering this while in the midst of despair as can be seen in the rest of the Psalm but reminds himself that God will not desert him in his difficulty.

Read [1Sam 17:32-37](#). *What had David's experience taught him?*

David explains to Saul that his boldness is explained by God's provision in the past that enabled him to protect the flock from the lion and the bear. This boldness is based on the understanding of David that God would also enable him to dispatch the Philistine giant. Past experience with God enables present confidence in God.

Read [John 14:11](#). *What was Jesus saying? Explain.*

The disciples were having trouble understanding the relationship between Jesus and the Father. Jesus reminded them of the miraculous works that He performed demonstrating His divinity and oneness with the Father. He and the Father are of the same essence.

Read [Matt 14:22-33](#). *Why did the disciples confess that Jesus was God's Son?*

What the disciples saw was mind blowing! No human can walk on water yet Jesus did just that. He even enabled Peter to do the same. What other explanation could there be but that Jesus was the Son of God.

FAITH TRANSFORMS CHARACTER

Read Gal 5:22-24. *Explain how this is a result of faith.*

Faith involves trusting God and His direction for our lives and submitting to the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. As we yield ourselves in faith His character is lived out in us.

Read Acts 15:8-9. *How does faith lead to cleansing of the heart?*

We are cleansed from sin by the blood of Christ (1John 1:7) when by faith we confess our sin and repent trusting in the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf (1John 1:9). Cleansing frees us from the guilt and defilement of sin and we are accepted by God as purified. Cleansing occurs at the time of salvation and then throughout our life as we find ourselves in sin and ask God's forgiveness trusting in His cleansing. It should be noted that Paul urges us to cleanse ourselves of defilement which must be understood to mean that we are to respond to the ongoing prompting of the Holy Spirit to confess those sins that we are made aware of so as to be cleansed (2Cor 7:1).

CHARACTER PRODUCES ACTION

Read Lk 8:15. *Why is perseverance necessary?*

Perseverance is necessary because we will spend the rest of our life struggling against our sinful nature. We have to maintain godly practices and behavior through constant discipline. Otherwise we will fall into sin and its consequences.

Read 2Cor 8:1-5. *How would you describe the character of the Macedonians?*

Godly character which manifested itself in joy and generosity as they were obedient to the will of God in sacrificially supporting the saints in Jerusalem.

Read 2Kings 23:1-3. *How would you describe the character of Josiah? Explain.*

Josiah humbled himself in deciding to be obedient to the covenant written in the Word of God. He was choosing to be faithful to the covenant and live according to God's commands.

ACTION PROMOTES KNOWLEDGE

Read John 14:21. *What does this verse say? What does it mean?*

Love of Jesus is demonstrated by obedience to His commands. Those who love Jesus will be loved by the Father and loved by Jesus. In addition Jesus will disclose Himself to them.