



APPNOTES

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Series: Witness: The Miracles of Jesus

Acts 3:19 I saw photos on social media recently of an owl made of motorcycle parts with the front fenders used as wings. It was so neat! I admire the skill and imagination of the person who made it. He took parts that were useless as a vehicle, shined them up, and now it has great value. Our lives are like that. This world of sin and pain have worn us down, left us tarnished and unusable. So the world would say, but God sees us differently. He sees the beautiful artwork and He is already working to transform us. Today's verse says we need to repent. It's not a word we use much; it's simply a word that means we turn from what we were and cling to who God is and let Him transform us into what He always intended for us to be.

Colossians 3:9-10 Spring is coming! Although we've been blessed with a relatively mild winter, by March we all want to see trees budding and daffodils blooming and feel the warm sun on our faces. The stores are always a season ahead, so they've been selling crop pants and T-shirts for a month now. Soon enough it will be time to put away the turtlenecks and fuzzy socks and pull out the summer clothes. The concept of putting off one garment and putting on another is the idea that is presented in this verse from Colossians. We are told to put off our old self, like putting off the heavy winter coat, and to put on the new self, which is being renewed every day as we learn more about God. Draw near to God and be renewed.

2 Corinthians 3:18 Have you heard of Medusa, from Greek mythology? She's the one with snakes for hair, and anyone who looks at her is turned to stone. No one can be transformed just by looking at someone. Right? It actually happened in Scripture. Moses went up to the mountain and saw God's glory, and he was so transformed that when he came back down, the people were scared to look at him, so he wore a veil. Looking at the glory of God changed him. That's still true today. We don't have to wear a veil, and when God transforms us we have a beauty that draws people in. Nevertheless, when we see God, in the pages of Scripture, in our prayers, or as He works in the lives of people, we are transformed. People see and want to know what has changed. Don't be afraid to tell them!

Titus 3:5 Someone told me once that you should buy new white shirts every season. Replace last summer's white T-shirt. When winter rolls around, replace the white turtleneck. I like buying clothes, I won't lie, but those situations feel like a waste. The shirt is still good, just a bit dingy. That's where those special, oxygenated laundry soaps come in. They take what looks dingy and make them new again. They give an old shirt new life. Jesus does the same for us. He washes us clean from our sin. We didn't do anything to earn it, but He does it because He has mercy on us, sinful as we are and unable to save ourselves. He accomplished when He died on the cross, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God. It is the new life we've been waiting for!

1 Peter 1:22-23 When I was a kid, our family had a rule that you had to take a little bit of everything on the table and eat what was on your plate. I learned quickly that it was better to serve myself a little, or dad would give me a lot. I'd follow the rules and eat the peas, but dad couldn't make me love them. There's a lot in this life we can do, but one thing we can't do is fabricate love where it doesn't exist. When we accept that Jesus Christ has died for our sins, the Holy Spirit of God comes to live inside of us, and He gives us the power to love people. We can love our family and friends better, but we can also love people we might not otherwise think about. He transforms us so we can love others.

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