



## Chaos Navigation

### Spiritual Exercise

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him. <sup>21</sup> Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. Matthew 4:18-22

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. Philippians 2:12-13

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luke 12:32

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

He cannot do a work through me until He has done a work in me.

Unknown

### Prayer

#### Introduction

As we learned last week, the normal Christian life includes suffering, sacrifice, tribulation, testing and affliction. Likewise, every transformation includes a period of chaos. This is a natural component (a relief in itself) of God's work in transforming us into His Son's image. It is encouraging to know that it has value.

But what is it that persuades us to go where so many fear to tread? There are many good reasons:

1. He has called us.
2. We desire to obey His call.
3. We know there must be more to life than "this".
4. We are eager to see what's on the other side.
5. He has promised to go with us.

In this lesson, we will explore the ways God would have us navigate the chaos – to His and our advantage.

#### Definition

Navigate (verb): To plan, record, and control the course and position of (a ship or aircraft); to follow a planned course on, across, or through (e.g., navigate a stream); to make one's way. [www.thefreedictionary.com](http://www.thefreedictionary.com)

Follow (*akoloutheō*): to follow one who precedes, join him as his attendant, accompany him; to join one as a disciple, become or be his disciple (i.e., side with his party). *Blue Letter Bible Outline of Biblical Usage*

# Chaos Navigation (continued)

## Searching Out the Matter

*(All Scripture references, but those noted, are NKJV; Thomas Nelson, Inc.; footnotes excluded)*

### The Ways of God

God is trying to do something in us – transformation. He is trying to give us something – His Kingdom. And, He is trying to do something through us – make disciples. There are a few ways for Him to do what He intends – Satan’s way, the world’s way, our way, or His way.

It is safe to assume that the God of this universe, the One who is King, will insist on doing it His way. We can also safely assume that His way is the best way for everyone involved. Lastly, it is important to recognize that His way is higher – more intelligent and more virtuous – than we can think or imagine.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:9

So, as we consider the chaos that lies ahead, let’s spend some time searching out the matter of His way.

Isaiah 30:15-21

Isaiah 64:4

Proverbs 16:9

Jeremiah 10:23

2 Corinthians 3:18

### Some Initial Thoughts on Transformation

- Transformation is getting our heart and head around a change God has made in our life.
- Change comes in a moment, transformation takes time.
- Someone once said, “Transformation is going through hell, but believing God is in it.”
- Transformation provides opportunity to prove what we believe in our heart.
- Transformation is a process God uses to move us from glory to glory.
- Other terms include tribulation, sanctification, salvation, transition, metamorphosis, chaos.

### Our Burnt House Adventure

You can find our testimony to God’s amazing sovereignty, love and orchestration in the Marketplace Ministry Training resources.

### Keys to Patiently Persevering Through the Chaos

1. Intentionally recognize the sovereignty of God – that all He allows works to our good (Romans 8:28).
2. Praise Him for His faithfulness (1 Peter 4:19).
3. Come to terms with the ending of the old status quo; grieve if necessary (Isaiah 43:18).
4. Recognize this is as much about your transformation as it is about your impending assignment (2 Corinthians 3:18).
5. Stay focused on Him; distractions are your enemies (Luke 9:62).
6. Choose daily to surrender, sacrifice and submit (Luke 9:23).
7. Exercise your faith (Psalm 34:7-19; Psalm 37).
8. Get more relational with the Lord – remember the PAPA prayer (Hebrews 4:16).
9. Go with others (Psalm 133; 1 Corinthians 12).

## Chaos Navigation (continued)

10. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10).

### **Don't waste the pain!**

For those bound for more glory, there is no getting around the chaos. It is part of the normal Christian life. So, let's not wait the pain. Take full advantage by knowing, and accepting, the ways of God in the transformation process.

- The journey of transformation is a formation process to prepare you for a divine assignment.
- God uses the chaos of transformation to work His way, truth and life into us; and...
- To work out hooks, habits and hang-ups that will interfere with our glorifying Him and enjoying His presence.
- The measure of success in a divine journey is a divine measure – namely, obedience – it may look like failure to the world.
- Transformation will take as long as it takes for the preparation to be completed (Jesus – 18 years, Paul – 14 years).
- Transformation is relational; transcending every level of relationship – marriage, family, fellowship, etc.
- God talks more to us in the depths of the transformation than on the mountaintops of revelation and anointing.
- Rapid, repetitive transformation is the norm in the last days – like the birth pangs of a woman in labor.

### **Supplemental Verses**

Psalms 37

Isaiah 58

Hosea 14:9

Proverbs 4:26-27

Psalms 95:6-11

Psalms 143:7-10

Exodus 33:12-14

### **Assignment**

1. Review your notes and the Scripture passages from this week's module. Share the ones that are most meaningful to someone you are discipling.
2. What are your convictions and fears about transformation and the chaos that may come? Share these with someone you can trust to pray for you. For any fears you have, remember, "Behind every fear is a lie. Deal with the lie, and the fear will fly."
3. Consider your past seasons of transformation and chaos. Was God with you? What did He do to prepare you for this season? Let faith arise.
4. As we continue this section on "Sacrificing for His Plan", consider your propensity to take control when things start going wrong. What motivates this response? Invite the Lord to deal with this and give you grace to surrender it to Him.

# Chaos Navigation (continued)

## Devotion

### **You Were Made to Fly**

by Os Hillman

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised" (Job 1:21).

Can a caterpillar fly? If you said, "No," you would be partially correct. Actually, a caterpillar can fly, but it must have a transformation first.

The butterfly begins life as a caterpillar, a wormlike larva that spins a cocoon for itself. For weeks, the larva remains hidden within the cocoon as it undergoes metamorphosis. When it's time for the butterfly to emerge, it must struggle and fight its way out of the cocoon. We might be tempted to help this process by tearing open the cocoon - but that's the worst thing we could do. The struggle makes it strong and enables it to fly. Butterflies need adversity to become what God intended them to be. So do we.

The Book of Job is the story of a wealthy and successful community leader named Job. He was a successful and righteous businessman with huge holdings of livestock and real estate. One day Satan came before God and asked him, "Where have you come from?" Satan replied, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

God said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? He is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." Notice that God pointed Job out to Satan! God gave Satan permission to put Job through a trial of adversity. Job's herds were stolen, his servants were murdered, and all of Job's children were killed by a sudden tornado.

Through his trial of adversity, he grows in strength, wisdom and faith. His entire perspective on God is transformed by his suffering. He was even accused of sin by his closest friends.

We must get beyond the immature notion that God is interested only in making us healthy, wealthy and happy. More than anything, He wants us to be like Christ. And the road to becoming like Christ often leads through the wilderness of adversity.

In order for the butterfly to fly, there must be a transformation process that is often developed through adversity.