



Chaos Navigation

Spiritual Exercise

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him. ²¹ 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, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. Matthew 4:18-22

¹² 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; ¹³ 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

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.

¹⁵ For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel:

“ In returning and rest you shall be saved;
In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.”
But you would not,

¹⁶ And you said, “No, for we will flee on horses” —
Therefore you shall flee!

And, “We will ride on swift *horses*” —
Therefore those who pursue you shall be swift!

¹⁷ One thousand *shall flee* at the threat of one,
At the threat of five you shall flee,
Till you are left as a pole on top of a mountain
And as a banner on a hill.

¹⁸ Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you;
And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you.
For the LORD *is* a God of justice;
Blessed *are* all those who wait for Him.

¹⁹ For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem;
You shall weep no more.
He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry;
When He hears it, He will answer you.

²⁰ And *though* the Lord gives you
The bread of adversity and the water of affliction,
Yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore,
But your eyes shall see your teachers.

²¹ Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,
“ This *is* the way, walk in it,”
Whenever you turn to the right hand
Or whenever you turn to the left.

Isaiah 30:15-21

As He did with the nation of Israel, God waits for us to come to the end of our ways and return to Him. He is then gracious, exalted and merciful. Moreover, though He may give – yes, give – us adversity and affliction, He returns us to His promises and direction.

Chaos Navigation (continued)

For since the beginning of the world
Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear,
Nor has the eye seen any God besides You,
Who acts for the one who waits for Him.

Isaiah 64:4

God is not waiting on us to act – as most seem to think. He is waiting on us to wait for Him so He can act on our behalf. Amazing! He is like no other god, including those we bow down to in the world as we look for better ways to accomplish His will.

A man's heart plans his way,
But the LORD directs his steps.

Proverbs 16:9

I use to think that planning my way was okay, because God would then direct my steps. I wanted to own the plan. Then I discovered that even my way is not the best way.

O LORD, I know the way of man *is* not in himself;
It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

Jeremiah 10:23

How awesome and liberating it is to know that the LORD has taken responsibility for both the way and the steps!! It's a good thing, too, because the work is way above my pay grade. Why would I think differently? Am I that arrogant? Consider the way of transformation:

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Do I really think that I can transform myself into the image of Christ? Of course not... when I really think about it. The trouble is: I don't. I just go off trying to do it the best way I know how. And I find myself beholding another "well known" author and his program for improving my walk with Christ. It's sad, really.

But, as with Israel, He waits patiently for me to run myself up a pole and turn to Him for help. Then, with grace and mercy, the Holy Spirit begins the work that only He can do – His way – for His glory.

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

Included 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
And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. Romans 8:28
2. Praise Him for His faithfulness

Chaos Navigation (continued)

Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator. 1 Peter 4:19

3. Come to terms with the ending of the old status quo; grieve if necessary

Do not remember the former things,
Nor consider the things of old. Isaiah 43:18

4. Recognize this is as much about your transformation as it is about your impending assignment

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18

5. Stay focused on Him; distractions are your enemies

But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. Luke 9:62

6. Choose daily to surrender, sacrifice and submit

Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. Luke 9:23

7. Exercise your faith

⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him,
And delivers them.

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good;
Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!

⁹ Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints!
There is no want to those who fear Him.

¹⁰ The young lions lack and suffer hunger;
But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good *thing*.

¹¹ Come, you children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

¹² Who *is* the man *who* desires life,
And loves *many* days, that he may see good?

¹³ Keep your tongue from evil,
And your lips from speaking deceit.

¹⁴ Depart from evil and do good;
Seek peace and pursue it.

¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous,
And His ears *are open* to their cry.

¹⁶ The face of the LORD *is* against those who do evil,
To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

¹⁷ *The righteous* cry out, and the LORD hears,
And delivers them out of all their troubles.

¹⁸ The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart,
And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous,
But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Psalm 34:7-19

Also, much of Psalm 37

8. Get more relational with the Lord (remember the PAPA prayer)

Chaos Navigation (continued)

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

9. Go with others

¹ Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*

For brethren to dwell together in unity!

² *It is* like the precious oil upon the head,

Running down on the beard,

The beard of Aaron,

Running down on the edge of his garments.

³ *It is* like the dew of Hermon,

Descending upon the mountains of Zion;

For there the LORD commanded the blessing—

Life forevermore.

Psalm 133

Also, 1 Corinthians 12

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

Psalm 37

Isaiah 58

Who *is* wise?

Let him understand these things.

Who *is* prudent?

Let him know them.

For the ways of the LORD *are* right;

The righteous walk in them,

But transgressors stumble in them.

Hosea 14:9

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²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet,
And let all your ways be established.

²⁷ Do not turn to the right or the left;
Remove your foot from evil.

Proverbs 4:26-27

⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

⁷ For He *is* our God,
And we *are* the people of His pasture,
And the sheep of His hand.

Today, if you will hear His voice:

⁸ "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion,
As *in* the day of trial in the wilderness,

⁹ When your fathers tested Me;
They tried Me, though they saw My work.

¹⁰ For forty years I was grieved with *that* generation,
And said, 'It *is* a people who go astray in their hearts,
And they do not know My ways.'

¹¹ So I swore in My wrath,
'They shall not enter My rest.' "

Psalms 95:6-11

⁷ Answer me speedily, O LORD;
My spirit fails!

Do not hide Your face from me,
Lest I be like those who go down into the pit.

⁸ Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning,
For in You do I trust;
Cause me to know the way in which I should walk,
For I lift up my soul to You.

⁹ Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies;
In You I take shelter.

¹⁰ Teach me to do Your will,
For You *are* my God;
Your Spirit *is* good.

Lead me in the land of uprightness.

Psalms 143:7-10

¹² Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' ¹³ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation *is* Your people." ¹⁴ And He said, "My Presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest."

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.

Chaos Navigation (continued)

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.

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.