

The Metamorphosis Life

By George Kirkpatrick

As we witness the grace and beauty of the butterfly as it flits from flower to flower receiving the nectar God has supplied for its food, we can truly see the butterfly is a wonderful miracle of God:

"For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" Romans 1:20

Paul relates the invisible things of God, or the things we cannot see or understand, are clearly seen and understood by the things that are made. God reveals the secrets of His creation through the things He created, so no one has an excuse for not understanding His eternal power and His divine nature. No one who views the wonder of a flower or a tree or any of God's creation can have any doubt that God exists. If there is a design, there must be a designer.

The butterfly comes forth by the process of metamorphosis. Through the metamorphosis of the butterfly, we can understand the metamorphosis of man through the overcoming process. To understand how this metamorphic process begins we again look at the butterfly. The adult butterfly lays an egg on a host plant. But what happens when the egg hatches? A beautiful butterfly does not come forth out of the egg - - - but instead an ugly worm.

It is unique in God's perfect plan, that the butterfly lays the egg on the plant the worm will feed on. The Monarch Butterfly feeds on the milkweed plant, so the adult monarch lays her egg on the milkweed plant.

The worm, at birth, begins to gorge itself, eating twice its weight each day. They do this for several days. The worm outgrows and sheds its skin four times in this process.

Then the worm goes into the pupa (Chrysalis) stage. In the pupa stage the worm goes into a rest period, where they secrete a silk like thread from their mouth to make a cocoon. The pupa encloses itself in this air tight, water tight, light proof and heat proof cocoon. The cocoon stage can be from 2 to 5 months. Then, at the proper time the cocoon opens, and out comes a beautiful butterfly that is mature in every way.

The worm is an earthbound creature. It has no way to raise itself from its earthly condition. Man, too, is an earthbound creature. Like the worm, man has no way to escape his earthbound condition except by and through the metamorphic process.

God created man from the earth. God informs us:

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7

The word **dust** is the Hebrew word APHAR and means *"loose, dry earth."* The proof of this is, if they took our body to a laboratory and broke it down, they would find the same elements in our body that is in the soil of the earth. So man, like the worm, comes from the earth, and is earth bound.

Spiritually speaking, when God created man, he was made in the larvae stage, but man also must shed this larvae stage and enter the pupa (*chrysalis*) stage of metamorphosis if he is to come to maturity. In order for the worm to enter the metamorphic process, it must enter into a state of rest. Man, too, must enter into this same state of rest if the metamorphic process is to be completed in his life. Paul wrote to the Hebrews:

"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as He said, As I have sworn in My wrath, if they shall enter into My rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world." Hebrews 4:1-3

Paul writes, *"Let us fear that we do not come short of the promise God made us of entering into His rest."* Only those who believe will enter into God's rest. What then must we believe? We must believe that the works in our lives were finished from the foundation of the world.

God knows the end from the beginning, and He has provided the way for man to overcome his sin nature from the foundation of the world. Man's sin nature has kept him enslaved in his earthbound condition from the beginning of the ages. There is no way out of this sin condition, except by the blood of Jesus Christ.

All religions except Christianity have no way out of their sin condition because they have rejected the blood of Jesus Christ. So man remains in his pupa stage until, through the miracle of complete salvation, God frees him from his cocoon so he can soar in the heavenlies. Jesus explains what keeps a man in his sin condition:

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." I John 2:16

It is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life that keeps man bound to the earth realm.

One of the mysteries of the ages is how the butterfly is freed from its cocoon. The cocoon is so tough that man cannot tear it with his hands. So how does this soft, gentle butterfly free itself from this hard cocoon? The butterfly has no teeth to chew its way out, nor does it have any other tools to break its cocoon. But in the proper, appointed time, when the butterfly is completely mature, the cocoon miraculously opens to free the butterfly. Beautiful and unharmed, the butterfly is ready to soar in the heavenlies. Only God with His miraculous wisdom and power could open the cocoon in its proper time.

Does God care for butterflies? He cares for all His creation, especially man, who He died for. God breaking the butterfly's weather, hardened cocoon reminds us of God tearing the veil in the temple at the crucifixion of Jesus. Historians tell us this veil was four inches thick, made of the finest, linen, and that two teams of horses attached at each corner could not tear this curtain. But God tore it from top to bottom to open the entrance to the Holy of Holies for whosoever will. There is only one way into the Holy of Holies, and Paul explained the way:

"By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say His flesh:" Hebrews 10:20

If we are to enter behind the torn veil into the Holy of Holies, it must be by and through His flesh. What does this mean? We must go on beyond our fleshly understanding and reasoning.

The church system teaches Jesus is going to return in the flesh. But they forget the words of Jesus on the cross, when He said "It is finished." Jesus finished what the Father had given Him to do in the flesh realm. Paul gives us insight how we are to know Christ:

"Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more." II Corinthians 5:16

We must go beyond our fleshly understanding of Christ and His Word if we are to be freed from our cocoon condition. Paul wrote of this veil in his second letter to the Corinthians:

"And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away." II Corinthians 3:13-16

The glory God wants to reveal to His people was revealed in Moses. As Paul related, their minds have been blinded until this day. What have their minds been blinded to? Their minds have been blinded to the reading of the Old Testament. Their minds have been blinded because they only have a carnal (*fleshly*) understanding of God's Word. They have no Spiritual insight to both the Old and the New Testaments.

If man is to overcome his cocoon state, then he must go beyond the veil. Paul stated when the people turn to the Lord, the Lord will take away the veil. What did he mean? Paul said we are to turn back to the Lord with our whole heart and seek Him with our whole being.

Paul tells us this veil will be done away in Christ. Christ, the anointing, is the Holy Spirit. When we begin to seek the Holy Spirit anointing for our understanding of the Word, only then will we enter the Holy of Holies and go behind the veil of His flesh and seek Him where He is, or seek him as Christ Jesus, the risen, glorified Christ.

We must go beyond the veil of our fleshly understanding if we are to enter into His Kingdom Age because His Kingdom Age is behind the veil. This is where we can come into the presence of God. It is behind the veil God meets with man between the cherubims.

When Adam sinned in the garden, he became trapped in his cocoon condition. God clothed him in the skin of a beast to show man's fallen condition having digressed to a beast nature. Adam had no way to free himself from his sin condition, because until Jesus died, there was no forgiveness for sin. Adam and all who remain in their sin condition will die in their cocoon state.

But God has a better hope for all mankind, and this is the overcoming process. Man will stay in his cocoon condition until he overcomes his beast nature. The overcoming process is the maturing process. Like the butterfly, man will not be released from his cocoon condition until he is completely mature. Then he will be set free to soar in the heavenlies, the Spiritual realm of God.

We must come to the realization that man is a Spiritual creation that fell from His Spiritual condition because of Adam's sin, and that it is God's whole desire to restore mankind to his original condition so He can once again walk and talk with His creation in the cool of the day.

In order for God to complete His complete plan of salvation for man, he must keep him in his cocoon condition until man overcomes his beast nature, so he can release him from his death condition.

As long as mankind remains in their ignorance of God's plan for them, they continue to try to please God by the works of the flesh.

So how does man overcome and come out of his cocoon condition? Also what are God's promises to the overcomer?

Paul showed us how to begin this overcoming process:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:2

The word **transformed** is the Greek word METAMORPHOO. It is where we get the word metamorphosis which means *"to change into another form."*

The metamorphic process begins to take place when there is a renewing of the mind. How do we renew our mind? It is by reading and applying the Word of God to our lives. And as the Word renews our mind, our thinking changes, our life changes, and we begin to overcome all the things that have held us in our prison house, the cocoon state.

Many today believe they are born again, but let's check the words of Jesus as to what it means to be born again:

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

Nicodemus saith unto Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." John 3:3-5

By Jesus' words, we know those who are not born again cannot see the Kingdom of God.

How many in the church system today, and even those who believe they are born again, can see the Kingdom of God?

Jesus continues, *"If we are not born of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter into the kingdom of God."* As stated before, the Kingdom of God is behind the veil in the Holy of Holies or in the presence of God. Jesus goes on to explain:

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3:6

We have all been born of the flesh, but have we truly been born of the Spirit? If we have changed from flesh to Spirit, when did this change take place? You may say, when the Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, but the Spirit came as cloven tongues of fire to cleanse us, and make us ready to discover by God's Word, what we must do to become acceptable in the sight of God. The Holy Spirit must be allowed to cleanse our vessel, so we can enter again into God's presence. God will not receive us as long as we remain in our beast (flesh) nature. Paul explained this to the church at Corinth:

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." I Corinthians 15:50

If we are to inherit the Kingdom of God, then we must become heirs. In order to become heirs, we must be adopted. Paul explained the adoption process to the church at Rome:

"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." Romans 8:23

Those who have received the first fruits of the Spirit are groaning while they wait for the adoption and the redemption of the body. So how can we know with certainty that we are born again and ready to see and enter into the Kingdom of God? Jesus tells us:

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." John 3:8

So when we are born of the Spirit (*born again*), we will become as the wind, and will blow where it listeth. Just as the wind has no ties to the earth, those who will be born again will have broken all the ties they have to the earth and will soar in the heavenlies wherever God directs. This will be when God breaks our cocoon existence in the flesh, and will set us free from our sin bondage in the flesh. Today God's creation is crying out as Paul:

"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Romans 7:24

We need to learn the lesson of the butterfly. Just as the butterfly is freed to go where God desires and feed upon that which God supplies, those who are freed from their cocoon existence will be free to fly in the heavenlies, as the wind of God, and feed upon God's supply. They will have been freed from the precepts and doctrines of men to partake of the hidden manna of God.

So those who claim to be born again must pass the test set forth by Jesus' own words. First, they must be able to see the Kingdom of God - - - and secondly, they must have become like the wind, free from all earthly ties.

If they are still dealing with their fleshly nature, then they are not born again, but are still overcoming in their cocoon condition. The apostle Paul knew about this metamorphic change:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed," I Corinthians 15:51

The word sleep means *"to die"* and the word changed means *"to exchange one thing for another, to be transformed."*

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." I Corinthians 15:52

This change will happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. This change will happen at the last trumpet. When is the last trumpet?

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever." Revelation 11:15

The last trumpet will be at the beginning of the millennium. This is when we will rule and reign with Christ Jesus forever. This is the time when those who, in ages past, have died knowing Christ will be resurrected, and receive their new bodies, and we who are alive and remain will be caught up into the clouds (*the glory of God*), to be with the Lord forever, I Thessalonians 4:17. This is when God's trumpet will blow, and those who have been held captive by their sin nature, and have struggled to be overcomers will be set free. The sentence of death will have been disannulled, and mankind will be delivered from their body of death. Paul explained this when he wrote:

"For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, death is swallowed up in victory." I Corinthians 15:53-54

This is when our corruptible body (*a body that will rot*) will be changed to an eternal body - - - not a body of flesh and blood as we have now, but a body of flesh and bones, the same body Jesus had after His resurrection, Luke 24:39.

This mortal body (*a body apt to die*) shall put on immortality, (*a body that will not die*). This will be our metamorphic body, our changed body which has changed from flesh to Spirit. When this metamorphic change comes, then death will be swallowed up in victory. Paul stated the last enemy of man - - - death - - - will be destroyed, *I Corinthians 15:26*.

When the trumpet blows and man is released from his cocoon state he will, then and only then, be born again. This is when we will be born of the Spirit. There is no eternal life in the flesh. Only the Spirit is eternal. As Paul related:

"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." I Corinthians 15:49

The image of the earthy is our fleshly body. The image of the heavenly is our Spiritual body.

When we are released from our cocoon state, then we will be as Jesus explained, *"as the wind."* We will become a new creation and will be able to see the Kingdom that came within and without observation. The Kingdom came within, without observation in our cocoon state as we struggled to overcome the flesh nature.

When the fleshly scales that have blinded us Spiritually have been removed, then we can see and understand the mysteries God has hidden in His Word from the foundation of the world. The beloved John informed us:

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." I John 3:9

Those who claim to be born again today are still committing sin. When they are truly born again in the Spirit, they will not commit sin because it will no longer be their nature to sin.

When God blows the trumpet and our cocoon breaks, then we will understand the words of Paul:

"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Ephesians 4:24

To the Colossians Paul explains:

"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him." Colossians 3:10

God is Spirit, and when we are changed into the image (*likeness*) of Him that created us, we will have our Spiritual body. When our vile, mortal bodies are

changed, we will be renewed in knowledge. Then we will understand all things, and again return to our created condition. As Paul wrote to the Philippians:

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5

When we put on the new man, we will have the mind of Christ. Again as Paul wrote to the Romans:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:2

Those who are overcoming in their cocoon condition are being transformed by having their minds renewed by and through the study of God's Word. These are those who desire to raise above their earth bound condition, and break the bonds of death. Their total desire is to be God's rulers and reigners when this age is over. These are the overcomers.

Jesus makes eight promises to those who overcome in their cocoon state:

1 ". . .To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." Revelation 2:7

2 ". . .He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." Revelation 2:11

3 ". . .To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." Revelation 2:17

4 ". . . He that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:" Revelation 2:26

5 "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life." Revelation 3:5a

6 "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and He shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is New Jerusalem . . ." Revelation 3:12

7 "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." Revelation 3:21

8 "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son." Revelation 21:7

God is about to set His golden trumpet to His mouth. We need to ask ourselves,

Are we ready to come out of our cocoon state to be born again, to be born of the Spirit? Are we ready to deal with the flesh nature to do the greater works God has for those who love him? Are we ready to be a friend of God and do whatever He commands us? Has our mind been transformed?

God is about to fulfill the words of Isaiah:

"To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified." Isaiah 61:3

Are we mourning for God's people and the condition of the church? Are we mourning for our corrupt government officials? God has promised those who mourn in Zion will be given beauty for ashes and the oil of joy for mourning. We will put on our garments of praise, because the Spirit has lifted our heaviness. Then we will be called Trees of Righteousness, the eternal planting of the Lord - - - not for our glory, but for His.

God's change is eminent. We need to prepare ourselves for this metamorphic change so we can soar in the heavenlies and again come into the presence of God.