

God's Butterfly Stories

The Power of Jesus to Transform Lives

The Bible says so much about Jesus' power to transform lives. Let's examine God's butterfly stories by asking three questions.

- **Question #1: HOW DOES JESUS MAKE CHANGE POSSIBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE?**

Jesus makes real change possible by making a relationship with God possible.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2 (New International Version)

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God . . . 1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

The Great Exchange

- God treated Christ as if He were a sinner even though he was not.
- God treats believers as if they had only done the righteous deeds of the sinless Son of God.

- **Question #2: HOW SPECIFICALLY DOES JESUS MAKE A RADICAL CHANGE IN SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN FAR AWAY FROM GOD?**

The Holy Spirit who lives in every Christian's heart produces a fundamental change.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? 1 Corinthians 6:19a (NIV)

[God] . . . *has given us the Holy Spirit in our hearts . . .*
2 Corinthians 1:22 (Good News Translation)

(See also John 3:3-8)

For God . . . made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge . . . of Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6 (English Standard Version)

Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Heart = the control center of a person's life (See Proverbs 4:23)

Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. Galatians 6:15 (NIV)

How to Begin a Relationship with God and Receive the Holy Spirit

. . . I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:16 (NIV)

- Believe on Him.
- Receive eternal life.

Faith is always defined in the Bible as "belief that results in action."

- **Question #3: HOW DOES JESUS ENABLE HIS FOLLOWERS TO GRADUALLY CHANGE AND BECOME MORE AND MORE LIKE HIM?**

After that fundamental change of heart, the Holy Spirit enables believers to enter a process of gradual change.

And we . . . are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

"Transformed" = Greek, metamorphoo = English word, metamorphosis

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. Galatians 5:16 (New Living Translation)