



Made New: God's Work in Us



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Jesus doesn't come into our life to make us better. He comes to make us brand new, to tear down the old and raise up a life that flies for His glory.

Main Scripture: **2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come*

Introduction:

Illustration: A caterpillar doesn't just "improve" it becomes completely new. In Jesus, we don't just get "cleaned up" we are transformed. Let's go through 4 stages of becoming new, just like a butterfly's transformation, showing how Jesus makes all things new.

1. The Caterpillar - We Start Small and Limited

Some people never breakout of this phase because they get comfortable living in "the dirt."

Romans 3:23 (ESV) *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

While this is true, living in sin consciousness instead of righteousness consciousness is a limitation of the mind that keeps us bound.

Psalms 139:13-14 (NLT) *You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!*

Ephesians 2:1 (NLT) *Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.*

Whether you are 7, 17, or 77, we all start needing a Savior. (A caterpillar looks nothing like a butterfly yet but the potential is there!)

David the Shepherd Boy (1 Samuel 16) - David started as the smallest, youngest in his family, a mere shepherd boy. Yet God saw a king inside him.

When the caterpillar is about to change, it will climb up a tree and affix itself to a branch and weave into a cocoon.

2. The Cocoon - A Time of Waiting and Changing

Sometimes we are more aware of our limitations than the DNA of God within us to break us out of what's holding us back. There are seasons when it feels like nothing is happening; like we are completely stuck. We feel like we are not moving the way we used to. However inside, God is working. Some even wish they could go back to the dirt because at least in that season, they were inching forward.

Isaiah 43:19 (ESV) *Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

There are always problems with our perception when God is doing something new. It's one of the tricks that the enemy uses to keep us held back.

Philippians 1:6 (NLT) *And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

Romans 12:2 (NLT) *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.*

In our phases of transformation, God calls us to seasons of hidden change. This is when we are growing in prayer, character and patience. In the cocoon, the caterpillar is becoming something entirely new but no one sees it yet.

Joseph in Prison (Genesis 39-41) - Joseph had a dream of greatness, but first endured betrayal and prison - his cocoon. During that time, God shaped his character for leadership.

The cocoon turns almost completely liquid before it starts to emerge as a butterfly. Trust in the process of change and don't pull yourself away from this season of preparation before it's time of full maturity. If you do, you'll never experience your potential.

3. The Butterfly Emerges - New Life in Christ

In Christ, we don't just get better we become brand new! Forgiven, free, and filled with purpose.

John 3:3 (ESV) *Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'*

Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT) *And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you.*

Titus 3:5 (ESV) *He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit*

New believers and long-time Christians both walk daily in this new life. The butterfly breaks out and is a totally different creature from what it was!

Saul Becoming Paul (Acts 9) - Saul was a persecutor of Christians, yet Jesus stopped him on the road to Damascus, gave him a new heart, and he became Paul - a missionary for the Gospel. (This shows radical transformation is possible at any age.)

4. The Butterfly Flies - Living Out the New Life

God's purpose isn't just that we become new but that we live new. We soar, we shine, we tell others!

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT) *So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us.*

Matthew 5:16 (ESV) *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

We are all called to soar, to share God's goodness, to walk in joy, to live with purpose. The butterfly doesn't just sit around, it flies from flower to flower, bringing life!

Peter After Pentecost (Acts 2) - Peter, once fearful and denying Christ, was filled with the Holy Spirit and preached boldly, bringing thousands to faith.

Once the butterfly spreads its wings and flies, it can create atmospheric movement that changes outcomes for many. (The Butterfly effect)

Conclusion: Jesus makes everything new. **Jesus doesn't come into our life to make us better. He comes to make us brand new, to tear down the old and raise up a life that flies for His glory.** Whether you are just starting (like a young caterpillar) or have been walking with Jesus for decades, the newness never ends.

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." **Revelation 21:5 (ESV)**

Quick Summary:

Stage	Focus	Scripture Highlights
Caterpillar	We start small and limited	Romans 3:23, Psalm 139:13-14, Ephesians 2:1
Cocoon	God works while we wait	Isaiah 43:19, Philippians 1:6, Romans 12:2
Butterfly Emerges	New life in Christ	John 3:3, Ezekiel 36:26, Titus 3:5
Butterfly Flies	Living out new life	2 Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 5:16, Ephesians 2:10