

Transformed by Grace

By Red Miller

We all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. - **2 Corinthians 3:18**

I recently read the following paragraph from a devotional. "The oceans offer up objects of astounding beauty — seashells and sea glass cast up on beaches — free for the taking. With sea glass, the sea is the sculptor. A bottle breaks, and the pieces are cast into the sea. Waves and tides tumble the shards; their sharp, rough edges are smoothed. At the same time, seawater reacts chemically with the glass, pitting and frosting the surface. The sea transforms the broken, discarded glass into colorful gems."

As I meditate on the transforming of the sea glass I am reminded of God's ability to transform our souls. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, God accepts our broken selves and begins to work in us. As we seek God's help and obey God's word, our rough edges, our sinful natures, are worn away. We become more like God, transformed into pure and perfect souls pleasing to God. As God transforms us into mature Christians, broken becomes beautiful.

As well as being transformed as individuals, we as the body of Christ, "the church" can also grow more and more like Christ. Christ forms us into a body—into a group of individuals who are united in their purpose and in their love for one another and for the Lord. Together we become as one. If an individual tumbles, the rest of the group is there to pick that person up. Just as the parts of the body function under the direction of the brain, so Christians are to work together under the command and authority of Jesus Christ.

"We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other." **Romans 12:5**

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy!