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Introduction:

The vast majority of self-improvement books and seminars are designed to help you become a better caterpillar, but God wants you to reflect His beauty and to fly!

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The Caterpillar

**In a world filled with sweet scents and blue sky,
Lives the gentle, uplifting butterfly,
Whose metamorphosis has this truth to teach:
Our aspirations are within our reach.
For this fluttering flyer of soaring worth
Was at one time a creature that crawled the earth.**

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The Caterpillar

**When she climbed a plant and learned of the sky,
She looked down at the earth and wondered why
Her destiny was to live on the land.**

Something inside her did not understand.

'The sky is my home,' every part of her felt

'How could crawling be the lot I've been dealt?'

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The Caterpillar

**Keeping those thoughts safe,
where they could be found,
She slowly descended back to the ground.
When she found the right plant on which to rest,
She brilliantly wove a cocoon for her nest.
Inside the chrysalis, she went to sleep
Tucked in with those thoughts that she wanted to
keep...**

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The Caterpillar

**...One sunny day, the cocoon came unsealed.
Magically, a butterfly was revealed.
Seeing this miracle with my own eyes;
Of caterpillars becoming butterflies,
Bring real hope of the possibility
Of total transformation of me!**

**I
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The Caterpillar

**Like the caterpillar that crawls the Earth,
We are destined for a divine rebirth.**

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Text: Romans 12:1-10

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

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The background features a grayscale image of a person's profile on the left, looking towards the right. On the right side, a pair of hands is raised in a gesture of prayer or praise, with fingers spread. The overall tone is spiritual and contemplative.

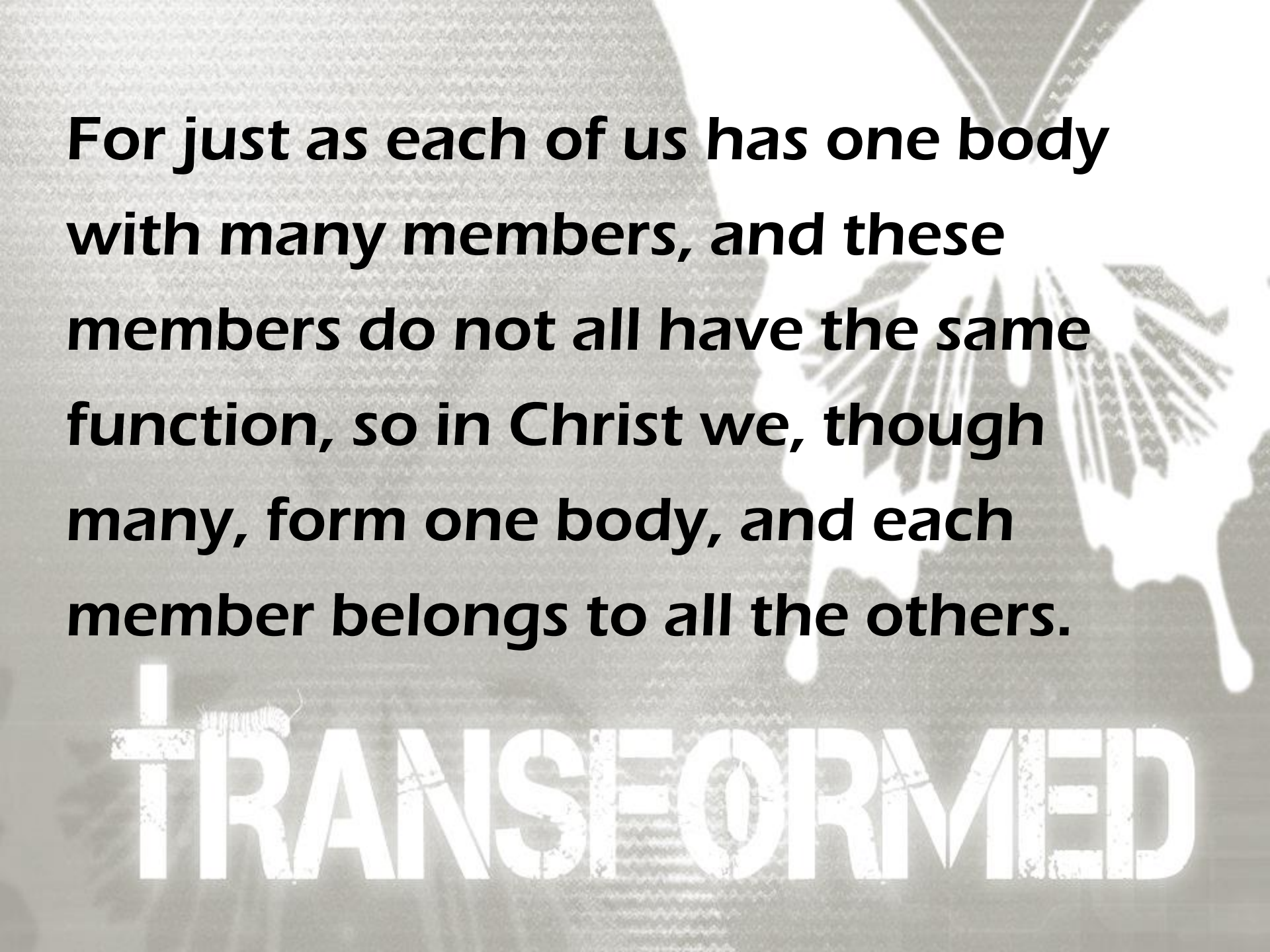
Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

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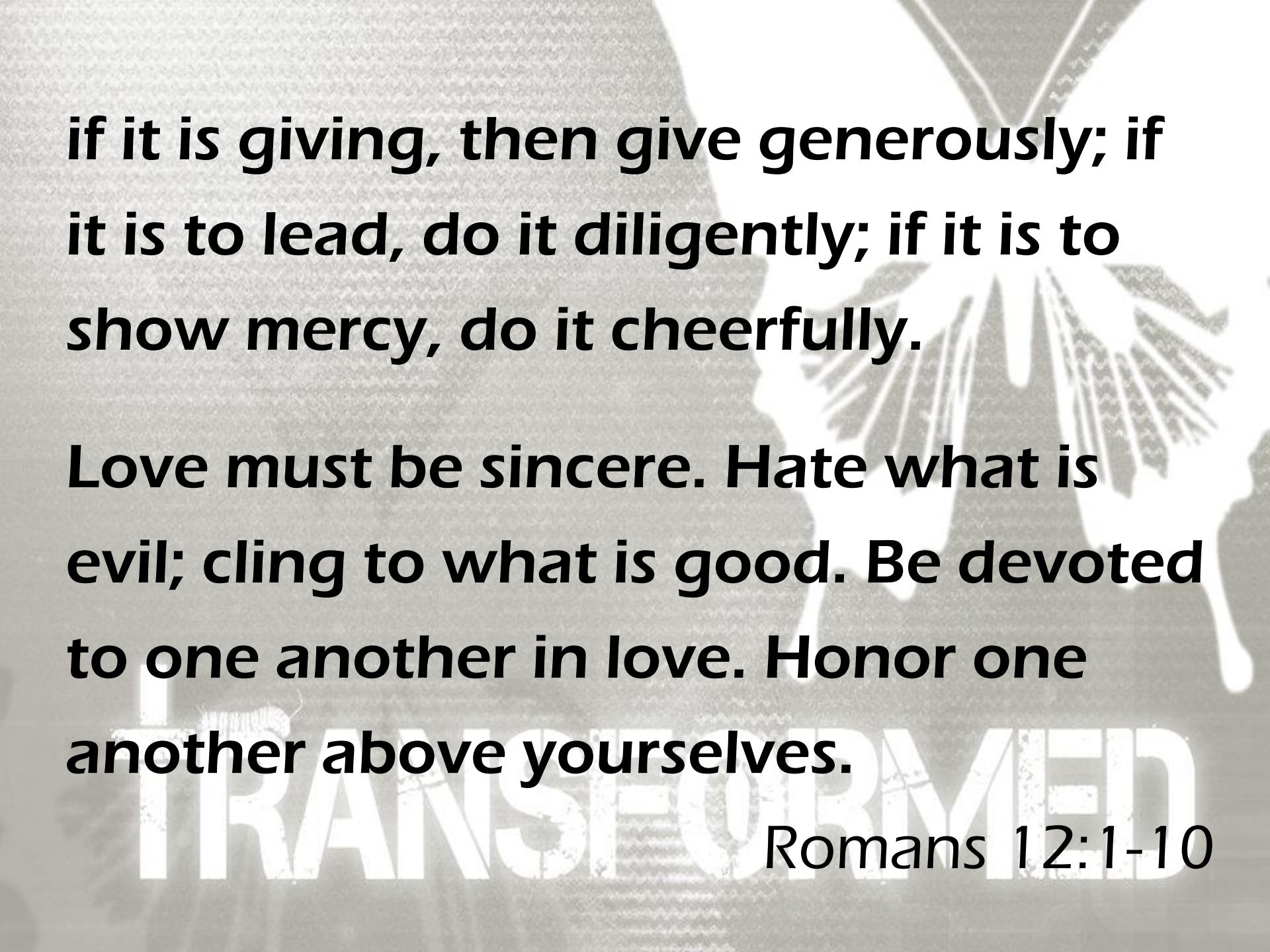


For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

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We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement;

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if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:1-10

Sometimes it helps to start at the beginning. After Jesus rose from the dead:

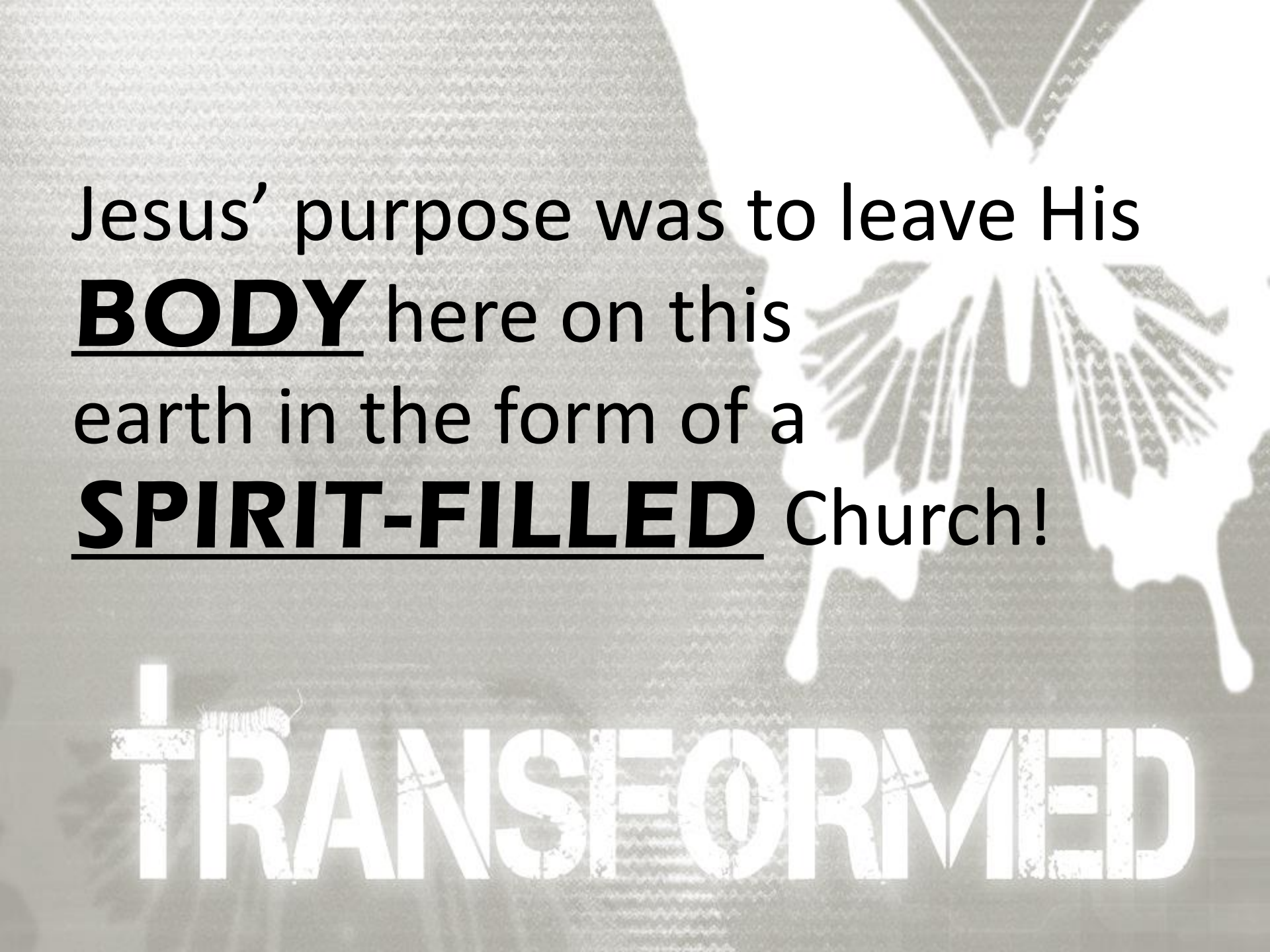
WHAT did He do?

WHY did He do **WHAT** He did?

WHO did Jesus do these things to, or for, or through?


When Jesus came out of the tomb, He immediately began to **INSPIRE, ORGANIZE,** and **EMPOWER** His disciples to fulfill the Great Commission.

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Jesus' purpose was to leave His
BODY here on this
earth in the form of a
SPIRIT-FILLED Church!

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We can never be
everything God created us
to be until we experience
genuine personal

TRANSFORMATION!

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Genuine personal transformation
requires:

FAITH

(God can do anything).

SELF-HONESTY

(I am not yet all that God
created me to be).

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Genuine personal transformation
requires:

TRUST

(Everything God does and
allows in my life is for the
ultimate purpose of blessing
me, and blessing others).

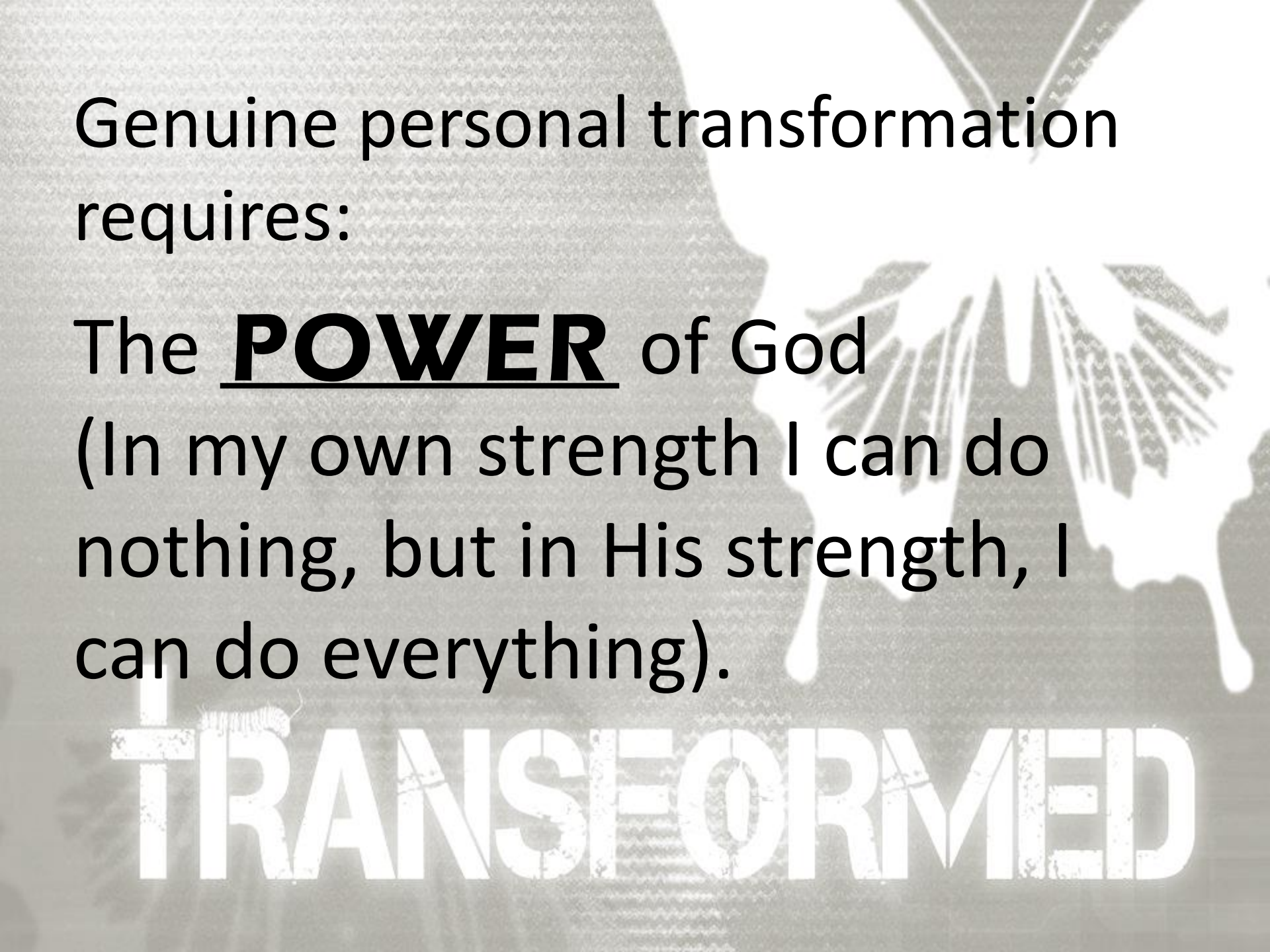
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Genuine personal transformation
requires:

OBEDIENCE

(Only when I trust God fully can
I obey Him completely).


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Genuine personal transformation
requires:

The **POWER** of God
(In my own strength I can do
nothing, but in His strength, I
can do everything).

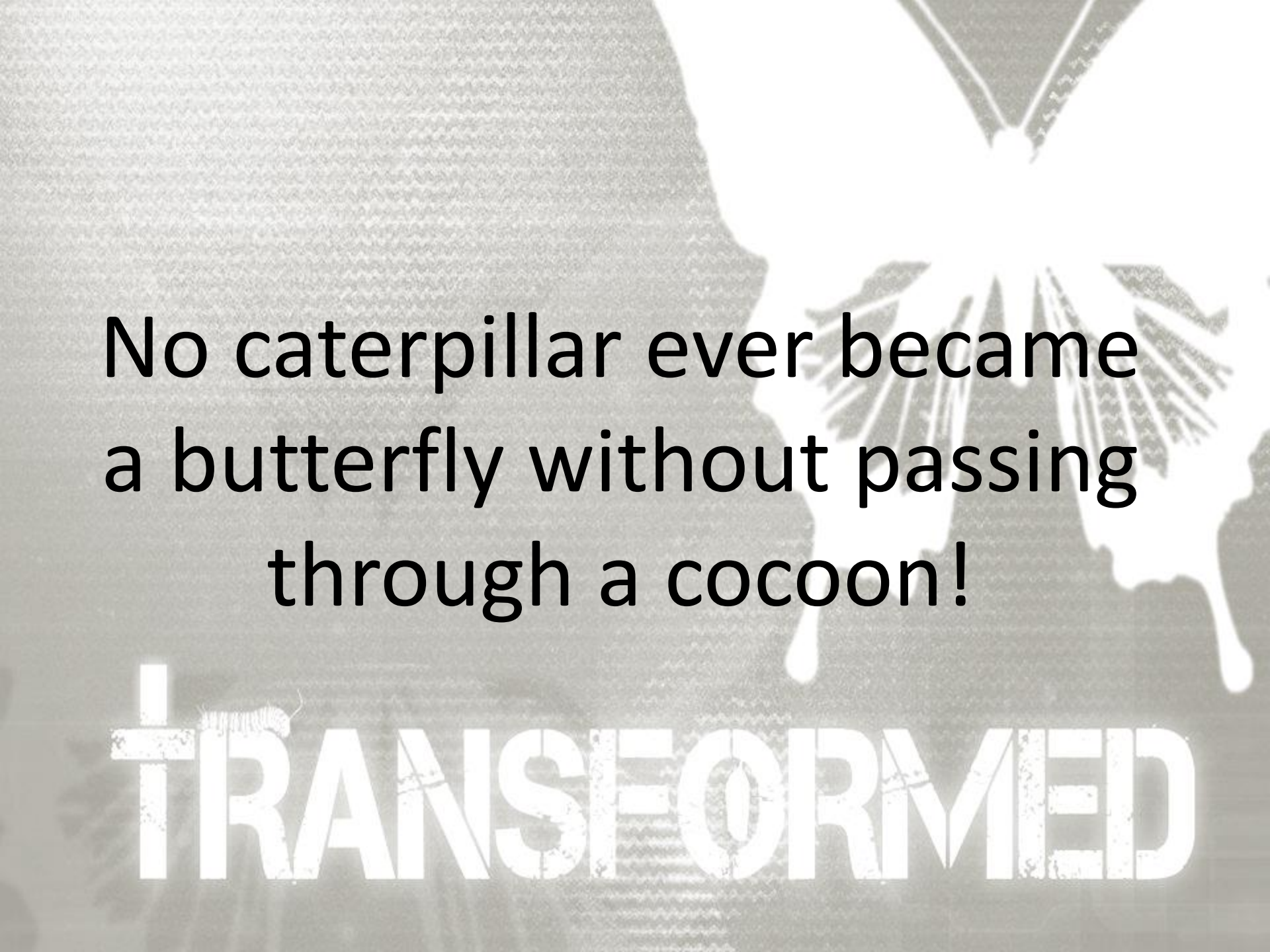
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Genuine personal transformation
requires:

The **LOVE** and
SUPPORT of a community
of Spirit-filled believers.

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No caterpillar ever became
a butterfly without passing
through a cocoon!

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Conclusion:

The cocoon of the Jerusalem Church was an Upper Room where the disciples stayed and prayed!

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