

## Faith Works Transformation

### **“Transform From Self-Centered to Others Centered”**

Greg Wendschlag      May 17, 2020

*“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves...”*  
2 Tim. 3:1-2

#### **What does it mean to be “self-centered”?**

1. Concerned solely or chiefly with one's own interests.
2. Concerned for others but not at the expense of their own desires.

#### **How do I know if I'm self-centered?**

- Do I tend to put my wants and needs before others?
- Do I have a hard time seeing from another's perspective?
- Do I manipulate to make sure a situation favors me?
- Do I surround myself with people that make me feel good and abandon them when I no longer feel like they contribute to my needs?
- Do I get angry when someone else gets what I want?
- Do I have a hard time rejoicing in the good fortune of someone else?
- Do I have an overly hard time letting someone else help or serve me?

#### **Expressions of a Self-Centered Culture**

- Individualism: "Others don't matter!"
- Secularism: "God doesn't matter!"
- Narcissism: "All that matters is Me!"

*“But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.”* Rom. 2:8

#### **How to be transformed from being self-centered to others-centered**

1. Invest in relationships.

*“Each member belongs to all the others...Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”* Rom. 12:5,10

*“From Him, the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Eph. 4:16*

Transformation step: I will change my weekly schedule to include intentional time to build and strengthen the relationships in my life.

2. Give away your life.

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10*

*“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me...” Acts 20:24*

Transformation step: I will look for opportunities to serve others in the church, community or neighborhood. I will ask myself daily, “What can I do for someone else today?”

3. Practice self-denial.

*“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.” Luke 9:23-24*

*“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around Him...” John 13:3-4*

Transformation step: I will think differently about my attitude. I realize my rights are not my number one concern. My confidence comes from God and not from other people, therefore I can bless others without strings attached.

*“Do nothing from selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves; each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil 2:3-11*