



April 2012

**From the Desk of
Rev. Chuck**

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Dear Friends,

On the first day of spring I awoke to snow covered mountains and trees as my train to Salem, Oregon was slowly passing through all the little townships that dotted the landscape. When we came out of the mountains unto the valley floor lush green grass could be seen as far as the eye could look. What a transformation it was!

There is no place in all of creation that the mystery of transformation is not taking place. We see it as winter moves into spring, spring into summer, and summer into fall and fall into winter again.

As a young boy growing up on a farm, one of my favorite pass times was going to Chick's Pond to catch tadpoles. It always amazed me how much they looked like tiny bloated fish, then they would start to grow legs, then in the fullness of time they left the water to walk on the earth as frogs or toads.

The same mystery of transformation unfolds in the butterfly. The butterfly begins as an egg, then out of the egg comes a furry, multi-legged wiggly thing we call a caterpillar. Then all of a sudden the caterpillar spins a chrysalis, a cocoon, around its self. And from that chrysalis emerges a winged creature of great beauty.

But what about us? What about our transformation? We start off in life looking at ourselves as "just a human being." Then one day, we get an insight into ourselves which states, "I'm not just a human being. I'm a divine being too." It is here that we begin to see the Christ seed unfolding in our lives. I believe Paul glimpsed this very essence of our being when he wrote, "The Christ in you, your hope of glory."

During this time of nature's renewal and transformation let us remember that even though we inhabit a physical body we also have a spirit

within us that makes us spiritual beings as well. It is our birthright to be part of the transformation process of becoming Christed, to demonstrate our spiritual side as Jesus taught us to.

In Genesis we are told that we are made in the image and likeness of God, and in the New Testament we are told to let it shine, and Paul reminds us that we are new creatures in Christ.

So how do we start becoming a Christed being?

1. By making a conscious decision to surrender and commit yourself to the process of transformation. To becoming that new creature Paul called the Christ.

2. Next is allowing time to do what it needs to do and wait for it to do its holy work of transformation.

3. Be gentle with yourself as you move through the process of becoming because the timing is different for everyone and sometimes it may take weeks or months or years to reach a place of resolution with some of life's hardest questions. **Remember, the key to all transformation is found in the waiting.**

But as humans we don't like to wait. We want it to happen now. We have a concept that waiting means we're doing nothing. However, the waiting that is required is the type of waiting where there is deep introspection, where we do our prayer work and meditations.

Henry David Thoreau had the luxury of choosing to live part of his life at Walden Pond. He talked about this time when in February, 1857 he wrote: *You [may] think I am impoverishing myself by withdrawing from men, but in my solitude I have woven for myself a silken [chrysalis]. A nymph-like shell, [which in time helps me transform and] burst forth a more beautiful, perfect creature.*

May each of you experience the beautiful, perfect creature that you are as you transform into the *Christ in you, your hope of glory.*