

Concord Community Church

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Subject: Allowing the Holy Spirit to Transform Our Negative Tendencies (*Into Positive Qualities God Can Use*) **in 2026.**

“And we all... are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Christian transformation is **not self-improvement**, but **Spirit-empowered change**. God does not merely remove our weaknesses—He *redeems* them and reshapes them for His purpose.

1. Understand the Nature of True Transformation

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Key Truth:

- The Holy Spirit works **from the inside out**
- Transformation is **progressive**, not instant (Philippians 1:6)
- God uses our surrendered weaknesses as raw material for grace

👉 *We don't overcome by willpower, but by yielded power.*

2. Begin with Honest Self-Examination (in God's Presence)

“Search me, O God, and know my heart.” (Psalm 139:23–24)

Why This Matters: The Spirit reveals what **needs healing**, not to condemn us, but to restore us (John 16:8).

Practical Response:

- Ask the Spirit to expose patterns: anger, fear, pride, impatience, insecurity
- Name them honestly before God (1 John 1:7–9)
- Take responsibility without self-hatred

👉 *What we hide cannot be healed; what we surrender can be transformed.*

3. Yield Control Daily to the Holy Spirit

“Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” (*Galatians 5:16*)

The Shift: Transformation happens when we move from:

- **Self-control → Spirit-control & Reaction → Submission**

Practical Steps:

- Begin each day with intentional surrender
“Holy Spirit, I give You my words, thoughts, attitudes, and reactions.”
- Pause before responding—invite the Spirit into that moment
- Practice obedience even when emotions resist

👉 *The Spirit does not force change; He responds to surrender.*

4. Replace, Don’t Just Resist (Biblical Principle)

“Put off... be renewed... put on.” (*Ephesians 4:22–24*) God’s method is **replacement**, not mere restraint.

Examples of Divine Exchange:

Negative Tendency	Spirit-Formed Quality
Anger	Godly boldness & justice
Fear	Faith and discernment
Pride	Confidence rooted in Christ
Impatience	Perseverance
Control	Trust and leadership
Passivity	Meekness with strength

👉 *The Holy Spirit redirects tendencies rather than erasing personality.*

5. Renew the Mind with God’s Truth

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (*Romans 12:2*)

Why the Mind Matters

- Negative tendencies are often fed by **wrong beliefs**
- The Spirit uses **Scripture** to reshape thought patterns (*John 17:17*)

Practical Disciplines:

- Replace lies with God’s Word
- Speak Scripture aloud in moments of weakness

- Meditate slowly, not hurriedly (Psalm 1:2–3)

👉 *The Spirit renews us through truth we consistently receive.*

6. Allow the Spirit to Use Your Weaknesses

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Important Insight: God often transforms:

- Sensitivity → compassion Brokenness → empathy
- Zeal → righteous passion Past wounds → ministry

👉 *Your weakness surrendered becomes someone else’s blessing.*

7. Walk in Community & Accountability

“Walk in the light... and the blood of Jesus cleanses us.” (1 John 1:7)

God’s Design: The Holy Spirit often uses:

- Godly relationships
- Correction and encouragement
- Spiritual leadership and fellowship

👉 *Isolation feeds old patterns; community strengthens transformation.*

8. Trust the Fruit-Bearing Process

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...” (Galatians 5:22–23)

Fruit grows: 1. Gradually 2. Naturally 3. From abiding, not striving (John 15:4–5)

👉 *Our role is to abide; the Spirit’s role is to produce fruit.*

A Prayer of Surrender and Transformation

TRIUNE GOD,

I yield my weaknesses, habits, and tendencies to You.

Where I react in the flesh, teach me to respond in the Spirit.

Transform what hinders me into what honours You.

Shape me into an instrument fit for Your purpose.

I trust Your process and Your power.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.