

## **Being Transformed**

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Hopeful Harry - Today we need to think about being transformed.

Obstacle Bob - You mean we have to climb a telephone pole?

Hopeful Harry - What are you talking about?

Obstacle Bob - That's where they have those transformers - at the top of telephone poles.

Hopeful Harry - That's not the kind of transformation I'm talking about.

Trouble Trudy - I know what you're talking about. That's what I did at Christmas time with my grandchildren.

Hopeful Harry - You got closer to God over the holidays?

Trouble Trudy - No, I got them Christmas presents - a warrior transformer, a car transformer, and a dinosaur transformer.

Hopeful Harry - That's not the kind of transforming I had in mind.

Trouble Trudy - So what kind of transforming are you talking about?

Hopeful Harry - It's the kind where God transforms the church - you know, we make changes.

Obstacle Bob - Change? What do you mean change? Since when have you heard of our church making a change?

Hopeful Harry - Don't you want our church to grow?

Obstacle Bob - Yes, I want the church to grow. I just don't want a bunch of new people here.

Hopeful Harry - Why not?

Obstacle Bob - It's hard enough for me to just remember the names of my grandchildren. How am I going to remember the names of a lot of new people?

Trouble Trudy - I suppose it would be all right if new people came to the church - as long as they are exactly like me.

Hopeful Harry - What do you mean?

Trouble Trudy - They need to be like me - quiet, mature, and humble.

Hopeful Harry - Shouldn't we be open to new people and new ideas?

Trouble Trudy - I guess we should be open to new ideas. Just don't ask me to sing any of those new songs.

Hopeful Harry - I suppose you don't like hip-hop?

Trouble Trudy - What? Well, I don't think we should be jumping and hopping in church.

Hopeful Harry - No, I mean Christian hip-hop music - you know, rap! And what about praise choruses?

Obstacle Bob - I believe in only singing what they sang back there in the days of Paul and Silas.

Hopeful Harry - What is that?

Obstacle Bob - Acts 16:25 tells us that Paul and Silas sang hymns. It doesn't say anything about praise choruses or hip-hoppalong music.

Hopeful Harry - I think Transformation is more about changing our hearts and minds, anyway.

Trouble Trudy - You mean I have to change my attitudes?

Hopeful Harry - Yes! And maybe try to follow the teachings of the Bible every day. God wants to transform our hearts.

Trouble Trudy - Now, this sounds difficult. Maybe it would be easier for me to learn that new kind of praise music.

Hopeful Harry - It might sound difficult, but all we have to do is get closer to God.

Obstacle Bob - All right, I will be open to transformation. Just don't ask me to do any hip-hopping.