

“The Tempo of Transformation”
For the Pastor’s Column of the *Shoreview Press*

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Do you believe God can change your life? God might be doing that right now! Jesus, the mighty miracle worker, chose, at times, to use a gradual process in accomplishing his purposes in the lives of those he ministered to. Jesus can work a miracle in your life too—if you’re willing to cooperate.

A man found a cocoon of the emperor moth and took it home to watch it emerge. One day a small opening appeared, and for several hours the moth struggled but couldn’t seem to force its body past a certain point.

Deciding something was wrong, the man took scissors and snipped the remaining bit of cocoon. The moth emerged easily, its body large and swollen, the wings small and shriveled.

The man expected that in a few hours the wings would spread out in their natural beauty, but they did not. Instead of developing into a creature free to fly, the moth spent its life dragging around a swollen body and shriveled wings.

You see, the constricting cocoon and the struggle necessary to pass through the tiny opening are God’s way of forcing fluid from the body into the wings. What was intended to be a “merciful” snip was, in reality, a tragic cruelty. *Sometimes the struggle is exactly what we need ... because in the process, we change.*

Mark 8:22–26 records a healing that Jesus performed through a gradual process.

They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Can you see anything?” And the man looked up and said, “I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.” Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Then he sent him away to his home, saying, “Do not even go into the village.” (NRSV)

When the tempo of transformation God is using in your life frustrates you, remember—sometimes *patience is necessary* because *certain things need to change*. The blind man’s transformation took a little patience, because certain things needed to change. Jesus changed the man’s environment. Jesus also changed his circumstances.

When the tempo of transformation God is using in your life frustrates you, remember also—that sometimes a *process is necessary* because *we need to change*. By the very process he used, Jesus not only met the man’s need, but also changed his life.

Just like the emperor moth, God wants to bring about a metamorphosis in your life. Jesus is asking you, “Will you let me perfect you, no matter how long it takes?” In the lives of those who cooperate, God makes all things beautiful in His time.

Join us at Church of the Living Hope and watch it happen in your life!

Pastor Debbie