

## From Wood to Stone - Transformed in Christ

***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." — 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)***

In Yellowstone Park, my family visited the site of this petrified tree. This ancient tree has undergone an extraordinary transformation. Over centuries, exposed to the right conditions, wood becomes petrified—stone-like and solid, no longer fragile or decaying. Though its appearance may still resemble the original tree, its very nature has changed. What once was living wood, vulnerable to rot and wear, is now a durable fossil, preserved and transformed.

This transformation can serve as a powerful illustration of what happens in the life of someone who accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Petrified wood begins as ordinary timber, subject to decay and the elements. But when buried under layers of sediment and exposed to mineral-rich water, it slowly changes. Cell by cell, the organic material is replaced by minerals like quartz. Though



it looks like wood, it has become stone—preserved, strengthened, and made new.

Likewise, before Christ, our lives were subject to the decay of sin, vulnerability, and spiritual death. Ephesians 2:1 reminds us, ***"You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked."*** Without Christ, we are spiritually lifeless, wearing a mask of vitality but headed toward eternal separation from God.

But when we encounter the living water—Jesus Christ (John 4:14)—the transformation begins. Like mineral-rich water flowing through buried wood, the Holy Spirit begins to fill the believer, replacing old patterns, cleansing sin, and slowly reshaping the heart. Unlike petrification, which takes centuries, the spiritual rebirth begins in an instant of surrender and continues throughout a believer's life.

Romans 12:2 tells us, ***“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”*** Transformation in Christ is not a surface-level change. It’s not a behavior adjustment or a temporary fix—it is a deep, foundational change. The “wood” of our old self—our selfishness, fears, pride—is replaced by the solid “stone” of a new identity in Christ: forgiven, redeemed, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Petrified wood can no longer be destroyed by rot or eaten by insects. Similarly, the person who belongs to Jesus is no longer subject to the power of sin and death.



Romans 6:6 says, ***“Our old self was crucified with Him... so that “We would no longer be enslaved to sin.”***

The beauty of petrified wood lies in its preservation, strength, and new identity. The beauty of a life in Christ is even greater, a living testimony to the grace of God, a soul no longer dead in sin but alive forever.

Let us walk in this newness, allowing the Spirit to transform us continually. As 2 Corinthians 3:18 states, ***“We are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory.” From wood to stone, from death to life—this is the miracle of grace.***

**Grover Duling – CBC Executive Board Chairman\*\***

---

## Weekly Prayer Points

As we enter back-to-school season, let us remember our children, youth, and college students. Sports and band practices are starting, college students are moving to campus, and classrooms are being prepared. Release Time and after-school programs are being planned. Pray for all young people that their learning aligns with the truth of God's Word. Also, pray for teachers, homeschool parents, school staff, bus drivers, and coaches. Also, don't forget the lunch lady! In a world where violence often affects our schools and campuses, pray for peace and safety. After the Lord God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments, they were instructed to "***Impress them on your children***" (Deuteronomy 6:7 NIV). The Hebrew word used here implies sewing. In Brethren speak, we might say, "Quilt this truth into the very fabric of young lives." We would no longer be enslaved to sin.

### **Please pray for these congregations and pastors:**

- Brandts Church Congregation in St. Thomas, PA and pastor Roger Myers
- Brick congregation in Maysville, WV and pastor Randy Cosner

### **CBC Prayer Committee**