

# FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

## Thorough and Dramatic Change May 29, 2018 Suzi Armstrong

Transformation is the operation of change in composition and structure. Characteristics and operation shift. Patterns of behavior and thinking change and become new. Expression, reputation and image become new. There is a new look, a new feel, and a new language that reflects new attitudes. When we are born again EVERYTHING becomes new – the old is gone. This is the transforming power of the gospel. Our composition changes – we now have Christ in us; the Spirit of Christ lives in us! This is radical and dramatic change! The Bible tells us that we now have the mind of Christ. Our thinking is new which changes our behavior and attitudes. Mindsets and belief structures become radically transformed and new. We become rooted in Christ and our lives are now hidden in Christ. We live and move and have our being in Him! Nothing remains the same. We now live by the Law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, set free from condemnation. Our identity is made new. The governing power inside of us is Holy Spirit. God's kingdom has now come in us – His rule and His reign. We have been endued with His power and authority in the name of Jesus. We can hear the voice of God and He fills our mouth with words to speak. This is a description of the radical and dramatic transformation of becoming a Christian where our lives were rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into the kingdom of light. We have been given everything needed to live a godly life! We have been made heirs and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. These are phenomenal truths – radical, comprehensive and complete – bringing total transformation.



### Psalm 24.1-2 NIV

<sup>1</sup> **The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it;**

<sup>2</sup> **for he founded it** on the seas  
and established it on the waters.

- God created the earth – it all belongs to Him, everything in it.
- And all who live in it.
- Detroit belongs to the Lord and all who live in it.
  - The streets belong to the Lord.
  - They are His and He is bringing radical transformation – changing composition and structure. What has been corrupted is being restored. Death structures are being unraveled and broken down. Structures of life are being instilled.

- How is this happening? Through the power of the Lord Almighty. He is not giving up what belongs to Him.
- He is releasing His heart and vision for this city, the people and the land, the structures and composition into us His sons and daughters.
- He is filling our mouths with words and language that bring healing, hope and restoration.
- God is releasing strategy and resources on how to enter the streets and engage the people. How to bring life-giving impact.

**Declaration over Detroit:**

**Romans 16.17-20** NIV reworded for Detroit

<sup>17</sup> **I urge you, Detroit, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the ways of the kingdom of God you have learned. Keep away from them.** <sup>18</sup> For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. <sup>19</sup> Everyone has heard about Detroit and the radical transformation that is taking place in you Detroit – for you even call yourself “the comeback city”; but **Detroit I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.**

<sup>20</sup> **The God of peace will soon crush Satan** under your feet.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you Detroit.**

- We speak the wisdom of God to this city. Wisdom to those leading in godly transformation.
- We declare that evil is being crushed, oppression and divisiveness shattered by the power of God.
- We speak grace, grace to you Detroit.

**Jonah 2.2** NIV reworded for Detroit

**In your distress Detroit, you called to the Lord, and he answered.** From deep in the realm of death Detroit called for help, and **God listened to your cry.**



**1 Corinthians 15.58** NIV reworded for Detroit

Therefore, **Detroit and those who live in this land, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,** because you know that the labor of the Lord is not in vain.

**2 Corinthians 1.20** NIV reworded for Detroit

For **no matter how many promises God has spoken to you, Detroit, they are “Yes”** in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

**Proverbs 3.5-6** NIV reworded for Detroit

<sup>5</sup> **Detroit, trust in the LORD** with all you are and hope to be and lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> **in all your ways Detroit, submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.**

**Proverbs 3.25-26** NIV reworded for Detroit

<sup>25</sup> **Detroit: have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,**  
<sup>26</sup> **for the LORD will be at your side**  
and will keep your foot from being snared.

**Psalm 68.32-35** NIV reworded for Detroit

<sup>32</sup> **Sing to God, Detroit,**  
**sing praise to the Lord,**  
<sup>33</sup> to him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens,  
who thunders with mighty voice.  
<sup>34</sup> **Proclaim the power of God,**  
**whose majesty is over you,**  
**whose power is in the heavens.**  
<sup>35</sup> You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary;  
**Almighty God gives power and strength to his people.**  
**Praise be to God!**



**Psalm 47.5-8** NIV reworded for Detroit

<sup>5</sup> **God has ascended amid your shouts of joy Detroit,**  
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.  
<sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
<sup>7</sup> For **God is the King of Detroit;**  
sing to him a psalm of praise.  
<sup>8</sup> **God reigns over Detroit;**  
**God is seated on his holy throne.**