

Southern Adventist University
Knowledge Exchange

The Main Thing Devotional

Chaplain's Office

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Be Transformed

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"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

Be Transformed. Have you ever stopped to take notice of the pink, orange, and purple hues that transform the dark night sky into dawn? Or the yellow pigment beginning to stretch across the leaves on the trees when autumn moves a steamy summer out of the way?

Perhaps you are stepping into this new semester with enthusiasm, energy and joy - excited to discover God's will for your life in career, relationships, and so much more. Perhaps you are hesitantly moving into this semester with uncertainty and frustration because the future doesn't seem very clear. Perhaps you are moving into this semester with pain and sorrow stuffed down deep in a place in your heart you wouldn't dare reveal to anyone.

This world's society prompts us in our enthusiasm, uncertainty, or pain us to chase for pleasure, possessions, and status promising that we'll find what we are looking for. And we may, temporarily, find what we are looking for on a surface level. Paul, the author of Romans, urges us however, to look to Jesus and in Him we'll find everything we're looking for and so much more.

If you are looking to know the direction of your life - look to Jesus. If you are looking to know where to find belonging and friendship and relationship - look to Jesus. If you are looking to find healing - look to Jesus. If you are looking to see justice exercised on behalf of the oppressed - look to Jesus. If you are looking to discover the kind of joy that wells up within you like a never-ending fountain - look to Jesus.

The same Creator God who's handiwork can be seen transforming landscapes and nature all around us, is the same Creator God who wants to recreate and transform your life in every way - the way you think, feel, move, and live. This semester, may you be baptized by the Holy Spirit and transformed by the power of Jesus Christ. By making the Main Thing the main thing in your life, may you experience the abundant life promised to us by our loving Savior.

REFLECT

- The renewal of our minds leads us to see life differently and to ask: What does God want for me? Take some time today to consider and journal what God wants for you this semester.
- What areas of your life would you like God to transform in you this semester? Journal your reflections and offer these to God in prayer.

NEWS & RESOURCES

- Follow **@ministryandmissions** on Instagram for updates on events and programs as well as encouraging messages and [check out our website](#) for many new resources.
- Join us for **Vespers** (our campus family worship) this Friday at 7:30pm in the University Church with speaker and chaplain Joseph Khabbaz.
- **Ministry Expo** will take place immediately following Vespers - come find out how to get involved in leading a LifeGroup, serving our community, being involved in praise and worship, and much more!

- If you are feeling anxious or have recently experienced loss or grief, call 423.236.2782 to talk to a counselor on campus! (This is a free service for Southern students.)
- **Talk** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or have a desire to grow spiritually.

Blessings,

Anna Bennett / Associate Chaplain