



A Costly Suntan

By Rev. Charles Svoboda

INTRODUCTION: Folks have been in love with sun-tanning for a while in America - a desire to experience a fast color change. For a per hour price, tanning solons offer an even faster tan. Some operators claimed that one minute's exposure to the sun-lamps equals one hour in the sun. Dermatologists have been calling these tanning solon ventures dangerous; saying that overexposure to ultraviolet light can lead to skin cancer. The craze for a color change is on with white people striving to become brown, while brown people many times buy products to lighten their skin tones. We also now have a spray on tan in colors that come in aerosol bottles. There are many today who desire such a fast color change.

The Bible records instances of color change in the lives of individuals, changes that were costly. The changes didn't bring on cancer, they brought contentment. The cost? It cost the individuals a separated stand. They closeted themselves with God, while others ridiculed them, taunted them, and even in one case stoned one whose life was wholly given to God - Acts 7:58. This year could be a year of our Lord's coming to claim HIS own. Let's take on HIS color change. It is available, it takes patience, waiting on God, walking with God, and serving Him. People will begin to say, "I see something different in you." Yes, they will see a spiritual suntan.

Note what the Bible  says about three individuals who had undergone a color change:

MOSES:  **He was transformed.**

"And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him." -Exodus 34:29

Transformed means to have one's outward appearance changed. This was a welcome transformation for the good. Moses who was made of the dust of the ground (Gen. 2:7) was covered with humility, he was covered with Christ - Romans 13:14.

Someone said, "Stay low to glow." Moses did. He came down aglow with God.

We need those times alone with God, every day, to experience that wonder in the eyes of those who see us and say, "There is something different about you."

STEPHEN:  **He was translated.**

"And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel." - Acts 6:15 "And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." -Acts 7:60

Translated means to be removed like Enoch in Hebrews 11:15 who was translated (promoted to Glory) that he should not see death. Stephen did see death, his spirit was translated, carried over into the presence of God. He found himself absent from the body and present with the Lord.

You can readily see that a spiritual suntan is costly, not in the sense of dollars, but in complete devotion to God, which could result in one's life being taken by the permissive will of God.

A spiritual suntan cannot be attained by a 30 minute exposure in God's Word. This is the day of fast suntans and fast food via the micro-wave oven. Not so with a spiritual suntan. Someone aptly put it this way:

"Holiness is not a snapshot - it is a time exposure."

JESUS:  **He was transfigured.**

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light." -Matthew 17:1, 2

Transfigured means a change in form.

The Lord is able to bring about a change in any person's life, in any circumstance of life - see Luke 18:27 - Jer. 32:27 - Daniel 2:21. Let Him change you first through salvation. (2 Cor. 5:17) and then He can make changes along life's pathway for you.

Let's go for that spiritual suntan.



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