

The letters 'JTLL' are rendered in a large, bold, green, sans-serif font. The 'J' is a simple hook. The 'T' has a thick vertical stem and a horizontal top bar. The 'L' has a thick vertical stem and a horizontal bottom bar. The second 'L' is similar but has a slightly different horizontal bar shape. The letters are spaced out across the width of the page.

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The JTLL serves as a scholarly forum for the refinement and dissemination of research pertaining to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary implications of transformative learning and its applications for leadership in diverse contexts.

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The JTLL espouses the essential idea that learning that transforms is best understood through Biblical descriptions and processes. The JTLL is thus committed to refinement and dissemination of research and applications from the platform of the Biblical worldview in every discipline engaged. The JTLL also is rooted in the idea that those engaging in transformative learning ought also to be well equipped and active in transformative leadership – the application of transformative learning principles in the processes of assisting and guiding other individuals and communities in their own transformative growth.

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EXPOSITORY COMMUNICATION AS PRIMARY TOOLS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Dr. Johnson C. Philip and Dr. Saneesh Cherian

Expository teaching, preaching, and counseling produces the kind of transformation that is not seen in other types of communication. Expository communication is rooted in exegesis, a comprehensive and detailed exploration of Scripture, where passages are examined in their context to extract their true meaning and application. The method of communication involves a thorough and careful unfolding of Scripture, where passages are examined in their historical and literary context, their theological significance explored, and their practical application made clear.

Expository communication (including preaching, teaching, and counseling) is tremendously valuable, primarily due to its steadfast adherence to the message as conveyed by the Holy Spirit. Unlike topical or thematic communication, which may selectively use Scripture to support a preconceived idea, expository communication is dedicated to unfolding the text as it is, allowing the Scripture itself to dictate the message. This approach ensures that the entire counsel of God is taught, including passages that might be overlooked or deemed less appealing in other teaching formats. By closely adhering to the scriptural text, expository teaching aligns with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who inspired the original writing of the Scriptures. This method respects the authority and sufficiency of the Bible, holding to the conviction that every word is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, as affirmed in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

The effectiveness of the expository approach is deeply rooted in its commitment to presenting the Bible in a way that is true to its original intent and rich in doctrinal depth. It involves a meticulous study of Scripture, considering the historical context, linguistic

nuances, and the overarching narrative of the Bible. This method not only provides a clear understanding of the text but also encourages believers to engage deeply with the Word, fostering spiritual growth and maturity.

Expository teaching is characterized by its systematic approach, often covering entire books of the Bible verse by verse, thereby offering a comprehensive understanding of God's Word. This style of teaching is particularly valuable in nurturing a congregation's ability to understand and interpret Scripture independently, equipping them with the tools to discern truth and apply it to their lives. By focusing on the message inspired by the Holy Spirit, expository preaching and teaching uphold the integrity of the Scripture, guiding believers in their journey of faith and ensuring that the church remains anchored to the unchanging truth of God's Word. Examination of several key passages from the Scripture underscores the importance of the approach.

ROMANS 12:2

Romans 12:2: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."

Romans 12:2 presents a profound insight into the transformative power of God's Word, particularly as it relates to the practice of expository communication. This verse calls for a radical shift in how believers interact with the world and perceive God's will, highlighting the role of the mind in spiritual transformation¹⁸. The key Greek term in this verse is "transformed," which is translated

¹⁸ Cranfield, C.E.B. *The Epistle to the Romans*. International Critical Commentary Series. 2nd vol. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1975-1979.

from the Greek word "μεταμορφουθε" (metamorphousthe). This word is the passive form of "metamorphoo," which means to change into another form, to transform, or to transfigure. This is the same word used to describe Jesus's transfiguration on the mountain, where His appearance was completely altered, gloriously revealing His divine nature.¹⁹ In the context of Romans 12:2, this transformation is not a physical change but a profound and fundamental change in character and perspective—a change from within.

The phrase "by the renewing of your mind" is crucial here. The Greek word for "renewing" is "ἀνακαίνωσις" (anakainosis), which implies a process of renovation or complete change for the better. This renovation of the mind is central to the Christian faith, suggesting that a believer's way of thinking should be continually reshaped and aligned with God's thoughts as revealed in Scripture. This is where expository preaching and teaching become instrumental. By systematically and thoroughly exploring the Scriptures, expository teaching exposes believers to the whole counsel of God, challenging and reshaping their thoughts and beliefs according to the truths of the Bible.

The latter part of the verse, "Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will," implies that this transformation of the mind equips believers to discern and embrace God's will. The words "test" and "approve" here suggest a discerning, thoughtful engagement with God's will, an engagement that is cultivated through a deep and nuanced understanding of Scripture. Expository teaching aids this process by breaking down complex scriptural concepts into understandable

¹⁹ Matthew 17:2.

segments, allowing believers to grasp the depth and breadth of God's will as revealed in the Bible and as a result, to be transformed.

Romans 12:2 stresses the importance of renewing the mind as the means to spiritual transformation, a process that is fostered and facilitated by expository communication. This method of communication does not merely inform the intellect; it seeks to transform the believer's way of thinking and, consequently, their way of living. By faithfully and meticulously expounding the Scriptures, expository preaching provides the tools for believers to understand and apply God's Word, leading to a transformative renewal of the mind that aligns them more closely with God's will and purpose. This alignment is not only about intellectual assent but involves a profound change in the believer's values, priorities, and actions, reflecting a life that is increasingly conformed to the image of Christ.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

2 Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 offers a compelling foundation for understanding the role of expository communication, particularly in the context of transforming the heart and equipping believers for every good work.²⁰ The key phrase in this passage is "God-breathed," translated from the Greek word "θεόπνευστος" (theopneustos). This term is a compound of "θεός" (theos), meaning God, and "πνέω"

²⁰ Knight, George W., III. *The Second Epistle to Timothy*. The New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1992.

(pneo), meaning to breathe or blow. *Theopneustos*, conveys the idea that Scripture is breathed out by God Himself, indicative of its divine origin and authority. This concept is crucial in expository education, as it establishes the Bible as the ultimate source of truth, not merely a collection of human writings. By recognizing the divine inspiration of Scripture, expository communication upholds the authority and inerrancy of the Bible as the foundation for all teaching and application.

Further, the passage describes the usefulness of Scripture in several key areas: teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Each of these elements plays a critical role in the transformative process:

Teaching – The Greek word for teaching here is "διδασκαλία" (didaskalia), which involves instruction or doctrine. Expository teaching delves into the doctrinal truths of the Bible, ensuring that believers are grounded in correct understanding and knowledge of God's Word.

Rebuking – Rebuking, or "ἐλεγχος" (elegchos) in Greek, involves the exposure of error or sin. Expository communication shines a light on wrong beliefs and behaviors, challenging believers to confront and turn away from them.

Correcting – The term "ἐπανόρθωσις" (epanorthosis) denotes setting things right or improvement. This aspect of Scripture's utility involves the rectification of mistakes and guiding believers back to the right path.

Training in Righteousness – Training, or "παιδεία" (paideia) in righteousness, is about nurturing and forming a character that

aligns with God's standards. It involves the holistic development of the believer in all aspects of life.

Finally, the purpose of Scripture is described as thoroughly equipping "the servant of God for every good work." The phrase "thoroughly equipped" translates from "ἐξαρτιζω" (exartizo), meaning to fully furnish or prepare. This comprehensive preparation emphasizes the role of Scripture in not only imparting knowledge but also in shaping character and enabling effective service.

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, expository communication and education emerge as essential tools for educators. This method allows for a deep, systematic exploration of Scripture, ensuring that every aspect of its divine wisdom is communicated and applied. By presenting the full counsel of God, expository communication facilitates a holistic transformation in the heart and mind of believers, equipping them to discern truth, correct errors, grow in righteousness, and be fully prepared for all that God designs them to do. This transformative process is not just about intellectual understanding but about a profound change in the life and character of the believer, aligning them more closely with God's will and purpose.

PSALM 119:130

Psalm 119:130: "The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."

Psalm 119:130 beautifully encapsulates the essence of expository communication and its role in transforming the heart.²¹

²¹ Ross, Allen P. *Psalms*. Kregel Exegetical Library, Volume 3, Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2011-2016.

This passage carries a profound message providing key principles of expository communication. The key phrase in this verse is "the unfolding of your words." In Hebrew, "unfolding" is translated from the word "פֶּתַח" (pethach), which means to open, unfold, or reveal. This term conveys the idea of opening up something that was previously closed or hidden. In the context of Scripture, it implies the revealing or explaining of God's word, which may not be immediately apparent or understandable to all. This unfolding or revealing is at the heart of expository preaching and teaching. It involves systematically breaking down the Scriptures, verse by verse, chapter by chapter, to reveal the deeper meanings and truths contained within.

The verse then states that this unfolding "gives light; it gives understanding to the simple." Light in the Bible often symbolizes knowledge, truth, and understanding. The Hebrew word for light here is "אֹר" (or), implying illumination and clarity. This metaphor of light is significant; just as physical light dispels darkness and allows one to see clearly, the light of God's Word dispels ignorance and misunderstanding, providing clarity and insight. The term "simple" in Hebrew is "פְּתָיִים" (petayim), which refers to those who are naive or lack discernment. Thus, the verse is saying that the Word of God provides clarity and understanding even to those who are not wise or learned by worldly standards.

This verse highlights the transformative power of expository communication. By carefully and thoroughly explaining Scripture, expository communication brings clarity and understanding to all listeners, regardless of their initial level of spiritual maturity or Biblical knowledge. This method of communication demystifies complex passages, makes connections between different parts of Scripture, and appropriately applies Biblical truths to everyday life. As the word of God is engaged, it enlightens the minds and hearts of

listeners, leading to a transformation in their understanding, attitudes, and behaviors. As the truths of Scripture are engaged, they illuminate the hearts and minds of believers, leading to a deeper understanding, spiritual growth, and transformation. This transformative process is essential for educators who seek to guide their learners into a deeper relationship with God and a more profound understanding of His will and ways.

PSALM 19:7-8

Psalm 19:7-8: "The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart."

Psalm 19:7-8 provides a profound insight into the nature and effect of God's Word, underscoring its central role in expository communication.²² These verses highlight the perfection, trustworthiness, righteousness, and joy-giving aspects of God's law, statutes, and precepts, illustrating how they are instrumental in transforming the heart.

"The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul." The term "law" here is translated from the Hebrew word "תּוֹרָה" (Torah), which refers not only to the legal aspects of the Mosaic Law but also to instruction or teaching provided by God. The description of the Torah as "perfect" (תָּמִים, tamim in Hebrew) suggests its completeness, flawlessness, and sufficiency in guiding believers. The effect of this perfection is the refreshing of the soul; it rejuvenates and restores, speaking to the deep needs of the human spirit. In expository communication, the communicator aims to unpack the

²² Ross, Allen P. *Psalms*. Kregel Exegetical Library, Volume 1, Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2011-2016.

fullness and richness of God's Word, demonstrating its relevance and power in addressing the complexities of human life.

"The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple." The word "statutes" refers to the decrees or specific instructions given by God. These statutes are described as "trustworthy" (אֱמוּנָה, *emunah* in Hebrew), denoting their reliability and faithfulness. These are a sure foundation upon which believers can build their lives. The result of engaging with these trustworthy statutes is that they make "wise the simple." The word "simple" here (פְּתִי, *peti* in Hebrew) can describe someone who is naive or lacks discernment. Through expository communication, these statutes are explained and applied, providing wisdom and discernment to all listeners, regardless of their level of understanding.

"The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart." The term "precepts" (פְּקֻדִים, *pikkudim* in Hebrew) denotes the specific commands or guidelines given by God. They are described as "right" (יָשָׁר, *yashar* in Hebrew), suggesting their moral correctness and alignment with God's character. This righteousness brings joy to the heart, indicating the deep emotional and spiritual satisfaction that comes from living in accordance with God's commands. Expository communication elucidates these precepts, helping believers understand and embrace the righteousness of God's ways, resulting in true joy and fulfillment.

Psalm 19:7-8 beautifully articulates the transformative impact of God's word, as revealed in the law, statutes, and precepts. These verses affirm the integral role of the expository approach in communicating these truths. By thoroughly and accurately presenting the perfection, trustworthiness, righteousness, and joy of God's word, expository communication becomes a powerful tool. It aids in the renewal of the mind, the cultivation of wisdom, the alignment of life with God's righteous standards, and the nurturing

of joy in the heart. This transformative process is essential for deepening the believer's relationship with God and fostering a life that reflects His will and character.

JOHN 17:17

John 17:17: "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

John 17:17, nestled within Jesus's high priestly prayer, describes the sanctifying power of God's word, highlighting its central role in communication and understanding, providing further value for the expository approach to education.²³

In this verse, Jesus prays to the Father, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." The key term here is "sanctify," which in Greek is "ἁγιάζω" (hagiazō). This word conveys the idea of consecration, setting apart, or making holy. The process of sanctification is essentially a transformation — a spiritual and moral change aligning a person more closely with God's holiness. Sanctification is not a mere moral improvement but a fundamental transformation of character and being, driven by the truth of God's word.

The phrase "by the truth; your word is truth" emphasizes the instrument of this sanctification. In Greek, "truth" is "ἀλήθεια" (alētheia), which signifies the reality as opposed to falsehood, the actual state of affairs, or things as they really are. Jesus is affirming that God's word is the embodiment of this truth. It's not just true in a factual sense, but it's the ultimate reality on which all other truths stand. In the context of expository education, this highlights the necessity of grounding all teaching and transformation in the truth

²³ Köstenberger, Andreas J. *John*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004.

of God's word. It is not merely about imparting knowledge or moral teachings but about leading believers into the deeper reality of God's kingdom and His righteousness.

Expository communication in teaching, preaching, and counseling contexts is a vital tool in this sanctifying process, as the truth of God's word penetrates deeply into the hearts and minds of believers, challenging preconceptions, transforming worldviews, and aligning lives with the truth of God's revelation. In practical terms, expository communication helps equip learners to discern truth from falsehood in the world around them and guides them in living out the truth in their daily lives. This approach to education ensures that the transformative power of God's word is not lost or diluted but is realized in the lives of believers.

John 17:17 highlights the vital role of truth — as revealed in God's Word — in the sanctification (transformation) of believers. This sanctification is at the heart of the believer's journey and is strengthened by expository communication — by the faithful and rigorous communication of Scripture. This is a transformative process leading to a deeper and more authentic life that is aligned with the truth of God's word and His will.

1 PETER 2:2

1 Peter 2:2: "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."

1 Peter 2:2 offers a compelling statement for understanding the role of God's word in the spiritual growth and transformation of believers, a concept that is central to the practice of expository

communication²⁴. The verse reads, "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation." The key phrase here is "crave pure spiritual milk." The Greek word translated as "crave" is "ἐπιποθέω" (epipothēō), which means to long for, desire greatly, or yearn for. This word conveys an intense desire, similar to the instinctive craving a newborn has for milk. The term "pure" (ἄδολος, adolos in Greek) means unadulterated or without deceit, emphasizing the purity and sincerity of the spiritual nourishment sought.

The figurative expression of milk here is significant. Just as milk is essential for the growth and development of a newborn, so is the "pure spiritual milk" – which represents the word of God – essential for the spiritual growth of a believer. This imagery highlights the basic, yet profound, nature of the nourishment that the word provides. It is foundational and life-sustaining, crucial for the growth and development of one's faith and understanding.

In the context of transformative education, this verse emphasizes the necessity of providing believers with this pure, unadulterated spiritual nourishment. Expository communication involves a deep, comprehensive exploration of Scripture, where the text is carefully studied and its meaning thoroughly expounded. This method ensures that learners receive the whole counsel of God, not just selected parts. It is about being nourished with the pure milk of God's word in a way that is crucial for the growth and maturity of believers, enabling them to "grow up in their salvation."

The phrase "grow up in your salvation" points to the progressive transformational nature of spiritual growth. The Greek word for "grow" here is "αὐξάνω" (auxanō), which means to increase,

²⁴ Davids, Peter H. *The First Epistle of Peter*. The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1990.

grow, or enlarge. It implies a continuous, ongoing process. Salvation is complemented by a journey of growth, maturation, and deepening understanding. Expository communication aids this process by providing a steady diet of in-depth Biblical teaching, which helps believers mature in their faith, understand deeper truths, and live out their salvation more fully.

1 Peter 2:2 beautifully illustrates the critical role of God's word in the spiritual growth and maturation of believers. It highlights the need for learners to deeply desire and engage with the pure, unadulterated teachings of Scripture. Expository communications serve as central tools for delivering this spiritual nourishment, ensuring that believers are not just fed but are growing, maturing, and deepening in their understanding and experience of salvation. This process of growth is vital for the transformation of the heart and the development of a robust, mature faith in Christ.

There are many other passages that denote the value of God's word for changed lives, including:

- Joshua 1:8 - "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."
- Psalm 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."
- Psalm 119:11 - "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
- James 1:22 - "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."
- Psalm 1:2-3 - "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree

planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever he does prospers."

- Ephesians 6:17 - "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."
- Matthew 4:4 - "Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
- Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."
- 2 Timothy 2:15 - "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."
- Proverbs 30:5 - "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."
- John 8:31-32 - "To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"
- Deuteronomy 6:6-7 - "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."
- Jeremiah 15:16 - "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty."

Each of the above verses underscores the transformative effect of God's word on a believer's life, emphasizing its power to guide, instruct, and bring deeper understanding of God's will and purpose. These passages are fertile ground for further examination of the

transformative nature of God's word. They illustrate, along with the passages examined in this particular study, that Biblical truth is communicated for transformation of the entire person through the renewing of the mind.