

# SHIFT TO THE INFINITE

Week #3 of a the 7-Week Series, "7 Habits of Highly Transformational People"

Jan. 27, 2021

Rev. Richard Rogers

## INTRODUCTION

**Rev. Richard Rogers:** Hello! I'm Richard Rogers, and I want to welcome you to Unity of Phoenix Spiritual Center! You know, each Wednesday night we want to give you a little bit of spiritual food that makes your week a little bit better. You know, life doesn't happen, sometimes, in big home runs; it happens in little base hits. You know, and every day – every week – we want to get a little bit better. We want to live a little happier. We want to be a little bit more blessed. We want to feel the presence of God a little bit more. We want to feel a little bit more loved. And so, every week, we want to give you spiritual food that makes a difference in your life.

So this week, I'm going to continue my seven-week series based on "The 7 Habits of Highly Transformational People." We are talking about how to transform your life.

Before I get any further, I want to join us with prayer, and then we're going to do our announcement.

## OPENING PRAYER

So let's just open this moment to the very presence and power of God. So we dedicate this service to God. That there is only one presence and one power at work in my life and at work in every detail of my life. That I live in the infinite goodness of God. And for this we give thanks. And so it is. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Okay! The only announcement I want to call your attention to this week is our "Circles of Joy" group. These are small groups that will be meeting through Zoom. We also have one through GoogleMeet, and that way it will be closed captioned ... so those of you that are hearing impaired can also join in! So this is an opportunity – even though we're practicing social distancing – we know that there's a power when people join together to spiritually support each other. And during this Lenten season, between now and Easter on April 4, we're going to be joining together in groups of celebrating the power of joy.

So if you're interested, go online or call the church office, and we will get you hooked up.

## SOLO

**Guest artist Rusty Ferracane sings, "The Impossible Dream"**

To dream the impossible dream  
To fight the unbeatable foe  
To bear the unbearable sorrow  
To run where the brave dare not go

To right the un-rightable wrong  
To love pure and chaste from afar  
To try when your arms are too weary  
To reach the unreachable star

This is my quest: to follow that star  
No matter how hopeless; no matter how far

To fight for the right, without question or pause  
To be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause

And I know if I'll only be true  
To this glorious quest  
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm  
When I'm laid to my rest

And the world would be better for this  
That one man, scorned and covered with scars  
Still strove, with his last ounce of courage  
To reach the unreachable star

## MESSAGE

**Rev. Richard Rogers:** Alright! So this week, we are focused on one of the aspects of “The 7 Habits of Highly Transformational People.” And I love this idea! I love really looking at what it takes to be a person who can transform their life. Because if you feel that you can't change anything – if you feel that you can't transform your life; if you can't live a better life – it's really hard not to feel like a victim. Like, if you're stuck in the same old rut day after day, year after year, it's just hard not to get depressed!

But if you feel like the power – that you have a power within you... That you can take any situation – no matter what's going on in your life – and that you can transform it to a greater level of good, it is so empowering! And that's what I want you to feel in your life! I want you to feel the power of being able to transform any situation in your life to a higher level of good!

I don't want you to feel stuck. I don't want you to feel limited. Because there are times in all of our lives where we have to go through things. Where we have to transform situations. And I want you to feel the power of God at work in your life is here to help you transform every limiting condition into a higher level of good. So that's what we're going to focus on.

First week we talked about the nature of transformation, and how we're all called to transform energy. And we talked about how, if a situation is in your life – if it's right in front of you – it is for you. It is yours to transform. And sometimes we feel victimized by that; but the reality is: if it's in your life, it's yours to call it higher.

And then last week we focused on the power of a vision. That if you're going to be transforming your life, that energy moves toward a vision. And so, as we hold a vision for our life, we move forward. That the most powerful thing we can do is have a greater vision – a greater possibility – for our life.

And this week we're going to focus on the Infinite. You know, people that transform their life don't get stuck in limitations. People that are committed to transforming their life and their world focus on the Infinite, not on the problem.

So if you had to tell yourself the truth – occasionally, it's helpful to do that! *[Laughs]* If you had to tell yourself the truth, do you tend to focus more on the problem or the solution? You know, when you're awake in the middle of the night, are you focusing on what's wrong, or what the possibility could be? I think for most of us, we spend a little bit more time than we'd like to admit focusing on the problem. We get a little bit more freaked out than we like to admit. We tend to worry or be more anxious about the problem.

And what I want you to see is that: when you're focused on the problem, you're going to get upset. Because what we know spiritually is: whatever we focus our attention on is expanding in our life. That if you focus on the problem – if you stay focused on the problem – what happens is: your experience of

the problem, your awareness of the problem, is just magnifying. And if you move the focus of your attention off the problem and on to any possible solutions, it begins to open doors of possibility.

You know, one of the things that I think is so interesting is: our mind tends to do life from a very black-and-white proposition. That it's either going to be this, or it's going to be that. And one of the great tools that we have is that: when we're focusing on moving off of the problem and on to the solution, what I want you to think about is not coming up with just one answer for the solution. I want you to come up with three. I want you to come up with five. I want you to come up with 10 possible ways that you could solve any problem.

Because the moment that you get off this fixed mindset – *“Well, the only way I can get out of this situation is if I win the lottery.”* Right? Well, that's one! Right? It may not even be the most likely, but it's one! And if that one gets you off the problem and on to the solution, that's fabulous. But let's come up with five more! Let's come up with five other ways.

You know, one of the quotes that I like ... It says ... It's an African proverb. It says, *“If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.”* The other one I like is anonymous. It's not quoted to ... I mean, it's not given credit to anybody. It says, *“You either identify your problems or you give power and energy to the solution.”*

Now, sometimes in a spiritual community, we have people that don't even want to acknowledge there's a problem. Right? We have people in the world today [laughs], that don't want to acknowledge that there is a problem. [Laughs] That's not what I'm talking about!!! [Laughs] Please! Hear me! Hear me tonight! That's not what I'm talking about!!! I am not saying that we don't focus on any problems; that we just go to the highest spiritual realm, where all is good and all is touchy, feely, and all is fabulous. No!!! [Laughs] It's like: we have to acknowledge a problem to heal it! You can't heal what you can't see! If you're not willing to look at it...

Now, I'm not talking about that you lose your focus and dive all the way into the problem. But you need to be willing to acknowledge the problem so that you can open the door to the solution. That we're not teaching people to deny that there are things going on in the world. There are things going on in the world: there's problems! There are challenges! There are things that need to be healed and blessed and transformed! We're not talking about: let's pretend that they're not going on. No! We have to acknowledge that they're going on! Right?

But we also have to keep our eyesight higher than just the problem. To acknowledge the problem and then look up to see the greater possibilities for God! Einstein said it this way: *“We cannot solve a problem at the same level of thinking that created it.”* So we can't just focus on the problem; we also have to be willing to acknowledge the problem, and then look for a higher possibility. We actually have to look for a spiritual solution.

You know, in *The Golden Key*, Emmet Fox's amazing little booklet. It's like seven pages long. Unity has been publishing these booklets for decades. Right? Because it's so powerful! If you haven't read *The Golden Key* by Emmet Fox in a while, I want you to get a copy. Come get it at the church; we have copies all the time. Get it online. It's a simple, little, seven-page booklet. And over and over again, what he says is: if you focus solely on the problem, it's the problem. Because if you focus solely on the problem – and never lift your spiritual eyes to a greater possibility – it doesn't allow God to really work in your life.

So move the focus off the problem on to a higher level of possibility. It doesn't mean that you deny that there's a problem; you can still see that there's a problem. But you see a greater level of good.

When you came into Unity, or if you're new to Unity, I want you to think about the principle that has made the biggest difference in your life. You know, for me – and for most people – the Unity principle that has made the greatest difference in our lives is this idea that God is imminent.

Most of us were raised in religious experiences where God was a distant God. That the power of God – God was up in the clouds or God was far away – and so most of us learned to pray loud. You know, because God’s getting older, and we had to learn to pray loud so that God – that far-away God that’s out there in heaven, someplace out there – we had to pray loud. And sometimes when we get a new chaplain into the ministry, and they’re learning to pray for somebody, we notice how loud they’re praying. It’s like as if volume will help their prayers become more powerful.

And it’s this idea – that most of us grew up with – was this idea that this is us, and God is somewhere else: heaven, the sky, the clouds. That we know who we are, and we don’t believe that God could be present in us.

But in Unity there’s this fundamental belief – and it’s actually our first believing – that we believe in God, and that we believe that God is imminent: God is within all of us! That each and every one of us was created in the image and likeness of God. And it changes our way of relating to the world when you actually begin to believe that God is in you. And it’s so powerful, when you’re facing a problem or a challenge in your life, to know that you’re not praying to a God out there to “save” you. But you’re actually connecting to the power of God within you to transform any problem.

And the same is true for good! If God is not out there – if God is imminent; if God is present in your life – then the definition of God -- God as good -- then God has to be present and imminent within you! That many times we have looked to a God “out there” to save us: to bring good in our life from outside of us, and to drop it in our laps. And what we know in Unity – what we teach over and over again – is that the power of God is within you! That all the good that seek, all the good that you desire – for every healing, for every miracle, for every level of abundance and blessings that you would like – is already fully present within you!

The good that I seek is already within me. Will you say that with me? *“The good that I seek is already within me.”* One more time: *“The good that I seek is already within me.”*

That, no matter what your situation is ... Like, transformative people have the belief – are willing to focus on the Infinite. But the Infinite is different when you believe that the Infinite – or the blessings of God – are “out there.” Because if you believe that the blessings of God are “out there,” then you have to go out and get them. So you have to go out and find the right job or find the right relationship. So we’re always creating from that mindset: from outside of ourselves.

What we teach over and over again is that it’s already within you! Not only is God within you, but all the goodness in the universe is already fully present in your life, and you don’t yet recognize it, to see that it’s already fully here. That every one of your desires – anything that you could ever imagine: greater health, wealth, love, blessings... The infinite energy of God is already fully present in your life, and we’re going to then be transformers of that energy: from the way the energy is showing up in our life now to the way that we want the energy to show up in our life. But it’s already fully present!

God in you – the infinite goodness of the universe – is already fully present within you and all around you. We’re not trying to go “get it” any more. Because the more we try to go get it, the more it actually removes us from the reality that it’s already within.

You know, *[laughs]* ... I’ve got to take a breath; I’m so excited!!! Right?

There’s a ... One of my favorite studies was reported in *Psychology Today*. And it’s a study that they did with kittens. And they took kittens and, from the time these kittens were born, a group of kittens only saw horizontal lines. They only saw horizontal lines. And another group of kittens only saw vertical lines. And they were raised in that total environment. That even the researchers, when they would come and deal with these kittens, always wore either vertical lines or horizontal lines. I had to make sure I was

saying it right! It was either vertical lines or horizontal lines. And so all these kittens ever saw was a vertical world or horizontal world.

And there was a point where they then moved the kittens out of that environment into a normal world. And they literally could not see what they – other than – a vertical or a horizontal world. They literally couldn't see it. Their minds had so completely adjusted to a vertical or a horizontal world, that they couldn't see a world where that wasn't true. So if it was horizontal, they could see it. If it was vertical, they could see it. But if it wasn't that, they couldn't see it.

And what I want you to see today is: in many, many ways, we are like those kittens. We can only see what we believe is out there. We can only see what we believe is fully present.

Barbara Corcoran – many of you have seen her on *Shark Tank* – said this: *“Finding an opportunity is just a matter of believing that it's there.”* And what if that's true? What if the infinite goodness of God is within you and all around you, but you only see it?

Jesus said it this way: *“The kingdom of heaven is all around us, and men see it not.”* The reality is – what I want you to see is – that all the good that you desire is already fully present in your life!

And you say, *“Richard, it can't be. It can't be! My life is not filled with infinite goodness. My life isn't filled with anything that I like. I don't like this, and I don't like this, and I don't want my relationship. And I don't like my job. And I don't like my body. Like, there's not an infinite level of good in my life!”* And it's like: yes; that's the problem! There is an infinite level of good in each and every life, because there is an infinite level of God in your life. And we want to be transformers of energy! We want to be transforming the world that we see into the world that could be! We want to be transforming lack into abundance! We want to be transforming ill health into radiant, physical life! We want to be transforming hatred and racism into love and compassion! We are here to be transformers of the world! And we have to know that it's already present.

One of Russell Conwell, over 100 years ago, had a speech called “Acres of Diamonds.” And that speech was so popular, he gave it thousands of times. It became the inspiration for the motto of Temple University. And, in fact, if you can go on Temple University's website, and you can read the “Acres of Diamonds.” It became a little book. And this little pamphlet talks about this speech, and how in this speech, he described individual after individual who left their situation. Because they saw the limitation of what they desired, and they felt like they had to sell what they had to go get more.

And he tells the story about a man whose land was covered in diamonds. He actually sold it to go look for diamonds! And it became one of the largest diamond mines in the world. He talked about another man from Pennsylvania who wanted to get rich. He wanted to go to California. Sold his property in Pennsylvania to go to California to search for gold. And when he sold his property, he knew that there was this stuff that would get into the water and the cattle would drink it. And it was natural gas. And it was one of the largest natural gas fields that they had discovered at the time. And that piece of property earned that man – that man who bought it later – millions and millions of dollars.

And the whole premise of this speech is that right where you are is all the good that you will ever desire. That the problem today is not that you're not surrounded by the infinite goodness of God. I know that was a double negative, so let me say it differently. The challenge before us today is that the infinite goodness of God is fully present and, yet, we don't see it. We don't recognize it.

Transformative people know that, right where they are, is everything they will ever need.

Transformative people take “what is” right in front of them, and they transform it into what they desire. See, it's too easy to complain about your life. It's too easy to be a victim of circumstances. It's too easy to say it shouldn't be this way. Highly transformative people take the infinite abundance of God that has

been placed right there – right where they are – and then they transform it to higher and higher levels of good.

The prophet Goethe said -- the philosopher Goethe – said this: *“Whatever you think can do or believe you can do, begin it. Because action has magic, grace and power in it.”* He went on to say, *“Magic is believing in yourself. If you can do that, you can make anything happen.”*

Like, this is it! Right? If you want to be a transformer of your life – if you want to be a transformer of your world – it really begins by recognizing that the infinite goodness of God is right here! It’s fully present right in your life. Right here!

Napoleon Hill says that you are less than a block away from everything that you desire. That he gives this challenge in one of his success writings, and says if you’re looking outside your block to succeed ... Now, he was talking about an urban environment where there were, you know, businesses and homes on every block. But he said if you’re looking outside your block for success, you have missed the point. You have gone too far. That the success that we desire is fully present right where we are. The health that we desire. The love we desire. Everything that we desire is fully present, because the Infinite – because God – is right where you are.

Today what I want you to see is that your homework is to recognize the Infinite is fully present, because you were created in the image and likeness of God. You are not separate from your Creator. And that every time we take a small action toward the good that we desire, it activates a higher level of transformation. That, when you act in faith – as you take baby steps toward the life that you desire – just take one step today. And take another step tomorrow. As you put action behind your belief, you actually are beginning to activate a higher level of spiritual energy that will bless you in incredible and in wonderful ways.

So what’s the desire you want? When you look at your life, what is the thing that is the most important for you to transform? What is the situation? Is it a prosperity need? Is it a healing need? Is it a relationship need? Do you want to feel happier? Do you want to feel more alive? What is your desire? What is that?

Last week we talked about a vision. And this week what I want you to hear is: everything that you desire – everything that you need – is already fully present. Now, it may not be in a form that is helpful to you right now. It may not be in a form that’s useful. But that’s why we’re here to be transformers! We’re here to transform the grief and the sadness of the past into love and abundance and joy and health. We’re here to transform the anger and disappointment. We’re here to transform it into the life that we want to live. But all the energy that you will ever need is fully present in your life: it is right here!

I want you to take a deep breath. And I want you to move in and I want you to look at your life. Because sometimes when we say, *“I am prosperous”* or we say, *“I am whole,”* or we say, *“I am loved,”* we feel like that statement’s not true. Because we don’t always see the ramifications of that. But the reality is: as you claim any spiritual truth – any spiritual truth – it is already present in your life. It is already there. And as you claim it, you activate it. As you claim, you transform your life from the way it is today to the way that you vision it being.

You’ve been given the very power of God – you’ve been given the energy of God – to transform your life. Don’t be afraid to transform your life! Be bold! Be courageous! Transform your life into the greatest level of joy and peace and abundance and love. Make your life a masterpiece! Because to fully give glory to God, your life should be outstanding.

Let’s take that into our time of meditation.

## **MEDITATION**

I want you to take a deep breath. And I want you to feel the energy of God that is within you and all around you. And I want you to call all that energy: I want you to call it to you. I want you to allow that energy to begin to move in your life. That we don't want any "stuck" places. We don't want any places where that energy is crystalized. We want that energy to be moving, and moving in ways: moving into your vision; moving into your desires; moving into your greatest possibility.

So we're going to begin to see the energy of God all around us. God is in me and all around me. The activity of God is moving in my life as never before. And I am opening the door to a greater and greater level of good.

Take another deep breath, and feel with absolute confidence the transformation of your life. That love is now being established. That good is now being established in greater ways than ever before. That peace and wholeness and joy is now being established. That the energy is already right there; change it! Transform it! Take it higher! Whatever your level of abundance is, take it higher! Whatever your level of love is, take it higher! Whatever your level of health is, take it higher! That we are here to claim the kingdom of heaven. We are here to claim the abundance of God.

Today allow every good thing – every blessing – room in your life. That every limitation, every painful moment and experience, every place of unforgiveness, every place of disappointment, we transform it. We take it higher. We allow the old, stale energy in our life to be lifted higher than it's every been before. That the fullness of God is right here, right now, and we claim it! The kingdom of heaven is right here, right now, and we claim it! There is only one presence and one power in my life: God the good, and I claim it! Only abundance, only love, only joy fills my life! I am not here for yesterday's news; I am here for the glory of God. In the name and through the power of the Living Christ, it is done. Amen.

## **COLLECTION**

Alright, this is the time of giving of our gifts and tithes. And, you now, during this time, your support means the world to us! This is a time for us to really gather in everything that we are called to do to truly make a spiritual difference in our community and the lives of people just like you. So I'm going to thank you for your support!

Our love offering blessing is: *"Divine love, through me, blesses and multiplies all that I have, all that I give, and all that I receive."* Let's say that together: *"Divine love, through me, blesses and multiplies all that I have, all that I give, and all that I receive."* In the name and through the power of the Living Christ, we give these gifts. And we know that these gifts come back to us 10-, 100-, 1000-fold. For as we give, so shall we receive. And so it is. Amen.

## **CLOSING**

Alright; God bless you, friend! I see you having a great week! I see you being spiritually blessed, and I know that your life is just going to get better and better and better.

Let's close by affirming together our Prayer for Protection:

The light of God surrounds me;  
The love of God enfolds me;  
The power of God protects us;  
And the presence of God watches over us.  
Wherever we are, God is.

God bless you! Have a great week!

Let there be peace on earth  
and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth;  
the peace that was meant to be.

With God as Creator,  
family all are we.  
Let us walk with each other  
in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me;  
let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take,  
Let this be my joyous vow:

To take each moment  
and live each moment  
in peace eternally!

Let there be peace on earth  
and let it begin with me!

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