This weekend has taught me a lot about life through a variety of lessons – mostly through love. Sometimes what we think we know we, in fact, know very little about. That was a big lesson I learned. I was shown love on a completely different level this weekend. This was from family, friends and people that I had never even met in ways that I didn’t even know was possible. (Christ)ian love is the greatest thing we have been given.

The transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly had never really caught my eye before this weekend but it is the same type of transformation that we go through as Christians.

Paul said in I Corinthians 13:11a, “When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child.” This is the caterpillar stage of our lives. We live for ourselves. We speak and reason just as children except we are not innocent; rather, we are guilty through the sin placed in our hearts. The caterpillar is a very basic creature like we are at first. Not that pretty but still worthy to grace the face of the earth. For a long time I was caught in the caterpillar stage – aimlessly crawling through life with no real purpose.

But something happens to us. We begin to have a stirring inside of us that can’t be controlled. So we begin a transformation. Our souls, minds and hearts are captured by something much greater than ourselves. The caterpillar becomes a recluse and enters its cocoon to begin a change. In that same we, we begin a conversion. Ephesians 1:18 says, Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints. We’re offered a hope that can be found nowhere else – a hope that satisfies the deepest part of our soul; the longing that could never been quenched before.

In Isaiah chapter 40 verse 31 it says, “But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.” We are given wings to fly with just like the butterfly and the eagle. At the same time, we are renewed. We are given wings of hope to rise up and fly high for Christ Jesus who gave His life for each and every one of us. How awesome and powerful is He? We are “**reborn**—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.” John 1:13

Now it is up to us to decide what we are going to do with it. Butterflies can do one of two things – they can keep their wings closed and never leave the ground or they can spread their wings and fly high with the new life that they have been given. Like the butterfly, we are also given with two choices – we can stay lackluster and unmotivated to make a difference in this life OR we can put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:11) and go out into the world proclaiming the Truth that we has been given to us. We can allow the love of God and the Holy Spirit that has been poured into us to overflow into the cups of others that through our love lives may be won to Jesus. We have been given everything we need to face the sinful world that we live in – are you willing to spread your wings and accept the commission?

* I Corinthians 13:11b-12 - But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.
* II Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
* Matthew 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well

Amazing Grace

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!*