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Becoming Like Jesus

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Becoming Like Jesus

When you made the decision to receive Jesus into your life, you began an exciting journey with Christ that will never end. God's ultimate plan is to change you into Christ's image! In order for Him to accomplish that, you will need to commit yourself to learning how to live for Christ.

Q. At this point in time, what excites you most about your life with Christ?

“And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose, because those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.” —Romans 8:28-30

Think of this process life-changing process as a journey. It is somewhat like participating in a marathon. Marathon runners prepare for the long haul. The Christian life is not a sprint—it is a commitment you make for all of your life.

At the beginning of a race, competitors always feel great and have lots of energy. However, as the race wears on, they can begin to feel tired ... even exhausted. Right now you are feeling excited and ready to live for God, but the pressures of daily life are going to make you tired and possibly even discouraged.

Good marathon runners take a lot of time to train. And training time definitely pays off in helping a runner to run a better race. In order for you to run your best race for Christ, you also need to spend time in training. It takes daily discipline to put God into our days. It takes commitment to learn how to live for Christ.

Jesus' Spirit living in you has begun to bring about this change, and He will continue His work throughout your life. Philippians 1:6 tells us, “For I am sure of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus”. And Philippians 2:13 encourages us with these words: “The one bringing forth in you both the desire and the effort—for the sake of his good pleasure—is God.”

Once a space shuttle launches, it is too late to abort the mission without the potential of grave danger. Now that you have “launched” your life with Christ, you need to be aware of the danger of aborting your mission. The lure of life’s pleasures will tug at you. Your own desires will crave to be fulfilled. You will get tired, or bored, or disillusioned. It is important to remember in these moments that you must not abort your “mission” with Christ. When you live for Christ and trust Him, you will experience joy, peace, love, confidence, hope, and contentment as only God can give it. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to overcome trials and temptations. We must obediently surrender our lives to the Holy Spirit, and allow Him to make us Christ-like.

Q. What types of things can potentially distract or discourage you from growing in your relationship with Christ?

Paul says,

“Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, freely give us all things?” —Romans 8:32

“For we are not like so many others, hucksters who peddle the word of God for profit, but we are speaking in Christ before God as persons of sincerity, as persons sent from God.” —2 Corinthians 2:17

In other words, our heavenly Father loves us so much that He delights in helping us to be all that He created us to be. If you live for Christ and trust Him, you will experience joy, peace, love, confidence, hope, and contentment as only God can give it.

A life that is like Christ is lived in obedience to Him based upon faith in His Word. You and I are totally unable to live the Christian life in our own strength. However, by faith in God’s promises, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to overcome trials and temptations. As we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ, He conforms us into his likeness.

Q. How do you feel about being conformed into the likeness of Christ?

“But, like the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in all of your conduct, for it is written, “You shall be holy, because I am holy.” —1 Peter 1:15-16

Nancy DeMoss writes, “True holiness starts on the inside—with our thoughts, attitudes, values, and motives—those innermost parts of our hearts that only God can see. It also affects our outward and visible behavior.”

Q. What does it mean to you that your life must be holy?

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.” —1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Q. What does this verse mean to you personally? How can you honor God with your body?

Since it is impossible for us to simply improve our sinful natures, we must obediently surrender our lives to the Holy Spirit, and allow Him to make us Christ-like. Many Christians are able to put on a good front, which appears Christ-like, while holding deep grudges and resentments inside. Christ’s love is totally different; it begins on the inside.

“For through the law I died to the law so that I may live to God. I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So the life I now live in the body, I live because of the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside God’s grace, because if righteousness could come through the law, then Christ died for nothing!” —Galatians 2:19-21

Q. Are there times when you find yourself 'faking' a true relationship with Christ? Why? How can you avoid this trap?

What does a Christ-centered life look like?

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” — Galatians 5:22-23

Q. What do these verses from Galatians say to you?

Application

Q. Which areas of your life have you already surrendered to control of Christ:

Q. What areas of your life do you still need to submit to God?