



# A Journey with Purpose

Finding God's Plan For Your Life



## You are Transformed by the Truth

- You were created to be like **CHRIST**



## Romans 8:29 (Message)

- 29) God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. **He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son.** The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.





## Colossians 1:15 (Message)

- 15) We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. **We look at this Son and see God's original purpose** in everything created.



## You are Transformed by the Truth

- You were created to be like **CHRIST**
- God's desire is for you to change your **LIFE**,  
your **HABITS**  
and your **CHARACTER**  
to become like Christ
- God's desire is for you to put on a **SPIRITUAL SELF**



## You are Transformed by the Truth

- This process of transforming yourself is called **DISCIPLESHIP**
- Discipleship is your **3rd PURPOSE**



## Ephesians 4:22-24 (Message)

- 22) Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything - and I do mean everything - connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then **take on an entirely new way of life** - a God-fashioned life,
- 23) **a life renewed from the inside**
- 24) and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces His character in you.



## God's Desire for You

- God's ultimate goal for you is not comfort, but **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**
- Life is **SUPPOSED** to be difficult
- You exist for **GOD'S PURPOSE**, not vice-versa





# You Can't Do It Yourself

- It is the job of God's **HOLY SPIRIT** to produce a Christ-like character in you
- You cannot reproduce the character of Christ by **YOURSELF**



## Philippians 2:13 (NIV)

- 13)** ...for it is **God who works in you** to will and to act according to his good purpose.



# God is at Work in Your Life

- Becoming like Christ is not about **IMITATION** - It's about **INHABITATION**



## Colossians 1:27 (Message)

- 27) God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out, regardless of their background, regardless of their religious standing. The mystery in a nutshell is just this: **Christ is in you**, therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. It's that simple. That is the substance of our Message.





# God is at Work in Your Life

- Becoming like Christ is not about **IMITATION** - It's about **INHABITATION**
- The power of God is released in your life the moment you take a **STEP OF FAITH**
- **OBEDIENCE** unlocks God's power



# God is at Work in Your Life

- God's **WORD** provides the Truth that you need to grow
- God's **PEOPLE** provide the support that you need to grow
- **CIRCUMSTANCES** provide the environment that you need to grow



# God is at Work in Your Life

- God is far more interested in building your **CHARACTER** than anything else
- God is far more interested in what you **ARE** than in what you **DO**



## Romans 12:2 (Message)

- 2) Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. **You'll be changed from the inside out.** Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, **God brings the best out of you**, develops well-formed maturity in you.





# God is at Work in Your Life

- God is far more interested in building your **CHARACTER** than anything else
- God is far more interested in what you **ARE** than in what you **DO**
- God wants you to **MATURE**



# DISCIPLESHIP

- Discipleship is the **PROCESS** of becoming like Christ
- Discipleship always begins with a **COMMITMENT**
- The **COMMITMENTS** that you make either develop you or destroy you



## Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)

- 12) Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,
- 13) for **it is God who works in you** to will and to act according to his good purpose.



## Spiritual Growth

- The first step to Spiritual Growth is to **CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK**
- The first part of changing the way you think is to **STOP THINKING SELF-CENTERED THOUGHTS**





## **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:20 (NIV)**

**20)** Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but **in your thinking be adults.**



## Spiritual Growth

- The first step to Spiritual Growth is to **CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK**
- The first part of changing the way you think is to **STOP THINKING SELF-CENTERED THOUGHTS**
- The second part of changing the way you think is to **START FOCUSING ON OTHERS** and not on yourself



## **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)**

- 11)** When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, **I put childish ways behind me.**



## Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV)

- 12) For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; **it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**
- 13) Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.





## John 8:31 (NASV)

- 31) Jesus said to those Jews that had believed him,  
**If you abide in my word**, then you are truly my  
disciples.



# Accept the Authority of the Bible

- **CULTURE** *“Everyone else is doing it”*
- **TRADITION** *“We’ve always done it this way”*
- **REASON** *“This seems like a logical way to do it”*
- **EMOTION** *“This feels like the right way”*



# Filling Your Mind with the Bible

## 1. RECEIVE it



## James 1:21 (Amplified)

- 21) ...In a humble spirit, **receive and welcome the Word** which implanted and rooted in your hearts contains the power to save your souls.



# Filling Your Mind with the Bible

1. RECEIVE it

2. READ it





## Deuteronomy 17:18-19 (NIV)

- 18) When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites.
- 19) It is to be with him, and **he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God** and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees



# Filling Your Mind with the Bible

1. RECEIVE it
2. READ it
3. RESEARCH it
4. REMEMBER it
5. REFLECT on it



## Matthew 7:24 (NIV)

- 24) Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and **puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.



## Resisting Change

- The Truth shall set you free...But, first it might **MAKE YOU MISERABLE**
- God's word exposes your motives, points out your faults, rebukes your sins and **EXPECTS YOU TO CHANGE**
- It's human nature to resist change, so applying God's word is **HARD WORK**



## Life is a “Series of Problems”

- God uses **PROBLEMS** to draw you closer to Him
- It's during suffering that you learn to **PRAY**
- Problems force you to **DEPEND ON GOD**





## **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:8-10 (Message)**

- 8) We don't want you in the dark, friends, about how hard it was when all this came down on us in Asia province. It was so bad we didn't think we were going to make it.
- 9) We felt like we'd been sent to death row, that it was all over for us. As it turned out, it was the best thing that could have happened. **Instead of trusting in our own strength or wits to get out of it, we were forced to trust God totally** - not a bad idea since he's the God who raises the dead!
- 10) And he did it, rescued us from certain doom. *And* he'll do it again, rescuing us as many times as we need rescuing.



# Trusting God

You'll never know that  
**GOD IS ALL YOU NEED...**

Until  
**GOD IS ALL YOU'VE GOT!**



## Romans 8:28-29 (NIV)

- 28) And we know that **in all things God works for the good of those who love him**, who have been called according to His purpose.
- 29) For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.



## Hebrews 12:2-3 (Message)

- 2) **Keep your eyes on *Jesus***, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed - that exhilarating finish with God - he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's *there*, in the place of honor, right alongside God.
- 3) When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. *That* will shoot adrenaline into your souls!



# Overcoming Temptations

1. Refuse to be DEMORALIZED





## Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)

- 15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been **tempted in every way**, just as we are - **yet was without sin.**



# Overcoming Temptations

1. Refuse to be **DEMORALIZED**
2. Recognize your **PATTERN** of temptation



## James 4:7 (NIV)

- 7) Submit yourselves, then, to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**



# Overcoming Temptations

1. Refuse to be **DEMORALIZED**
2. Recognize your **PATTERN** of temptation
3. **REQUEST** God's help



## **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:13 (Message)**

- 13)** No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that **God will never let you down**; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.





# Defeating Temptation

1. **REFOCUS** your attention



## Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

- 8) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - **think about such things.**



# Defeating Temptation

1. **REFOCUS** your attention
2. **REVEAL** your struggle to a Godly friend



## James 5:16 (Message)

- 16) Make this your common practice: **Confess your sins to each other** and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a **person living right with God** is something powerful to be reckoned with.



# Defeating Temptation

1. **REFOCUS** your attention
2. **REVEAL** your struggle to a Godly friend
3. **REPEL** your temptations
4. **REALIZE** your vulnerability





## **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:12 (Message)**

- 12)** Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. **Forget about self-confidence; it's useless.** Cultivate God-confidence.



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:18 (Message)**

- 18)** All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of His face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, **our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like Him.**



# Reasons God Develops Us Slowly

1. We are **SLOW LEARNERS**
2. We have a lot to **UNLEARN**
3. We are **AFRAID** to face the truth
4. Growth is **PAINFUL AND SCARY**
5. **HABITS** take time to develop



## **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:15 (Message)**

- 15)** Cultivate these things. **Immerse yourself in them.**  
The people will all see you mature right before their eyes!



**You Are Transformed by the Truth**

# **DISCIPLESHIP**

**is one of God's  
Purposes for You**