

TO BE LIKE JESUS - PART TWO

HOW TO BE LIKE JESUS

In the previous part, we established the call to Christ-likeness ([Rom 8:29](#)). This part shows “*how*”, and the next part “*why*”, God is conforming us to His Son, Jesus Christ.

The “*how*” is actually very simple, and this is a very critical aspect of Christianity. God makes us like Jesus Christ by giving us the Holy Spirit ([Gal 4:6](#)). The Holy Spirit is the distinguishing factor between a believer and an unbeliever ([Rom 8:9, 14-16](#), [[John 1:12-13, 3:5-6](#)]), and it is through Him that we've been invited to participate in the Divine nature ([2 Peter 1:3-4](#)).

So in every regard, there is ONLY ONE WAY to be like Jesus Christ, and that is by the help of the Holy Spirit. Hence, becoming like Jesus Christ is NOT like a To-do checklist; it begins and ends with the Holy Spirit.

I mean even “*self-control*” is produced by the Holy Spirit ([Gal 5:22-23](#)); on our own, we can't truly control ourselves, nor please God, even if we wanted to ([Rom 7:15, 19, 8:6-8](#)). In fact, we can do absolutely NOTHING meaningful without Christ and His Spirit ([John 15:4-5, Matt 19:26](#)). Even our salvation did NOT ORIGINATE from our choice, but rather as a consequence of the Choice that God made beforehand ([Rom 8:29-30, 5:8-10, John 15:16, 6:44, 65](#)). So also our ability to love is as a result of God pouring His Love into us by His Spirit ([1 John 4:10,19, Rom 5:5](#)). Everything that is good traces its origin to God, not us ([James 1:17, Rom 7:18](#)). Therefore, the journey to Christ-likeness depends primarily on the Holy Spirit.

This is why Paul rebuked the Galatians for beginning in the Spirit but trying to continue by the flesh ([Gal 3:1-5](#)). Christ is formed in us only as we remain Spirit-led ([Gal 4:19](#), [Rom 8:9-10](#), [14](#)).

Naturally, we are like everyone else—born in the same weak flesh that is inclined to sin. Again, what sets the believer apart is the new birth by the Spirit ([John 1:11-13](#), [3:3-6](#)). This rebirth makes us akin to Jesus Christ, and children of God ([Titus 3:5](#)).

The Spiritual work of rebirth and sanctification is both instant and ongoing, touching the various aspects of our being. Our spirit and soul reap the instantaneous benefits of the rebirth, thus granting us immediate access to the Father in Heaven ([Eph 2:6](#), [Rom 8:16](#), [3 John 1:2 NKJV](#)). However, our flesh and sinful desires are progressively sanctified by the Holy Spirit, weaning us from the patterns of the world to which we were accustomed ([Rom 12:2](#), [2 Thess 2:13](#)).

It is in this sanctification process that there is a struggle and the tendency to retrogress to the ways of the flesh ([Gal 5:16-18](#), [1 Peter 2:11](#)). In the process of sanctification our assignment is twofold: SUBMIT to the Holy Spirit, and RESIST the evil desires of the flesh ([Gal 5:24-25](#)). It is when we do these that the Holy Spirit has the freedom to do the real work of transformation within us ([Phil 2:13](#)). In this path of SUBMISSION, OBEDIENCE, and SACRIFICE of self-will is where true holiness resides.

The problem is that most of us have had a skewed perspective on “holiness” often focused on outward appearances. Holiness is essential, after all without holiness no one would see God ([Heb 12:14](#)). Hence God gave us His Son and HOLY Spirit to truly make us holy ([John 17:17-19](#), [Heb 2:11](#), [10:10](#), [14](#)). The Holy Spirit is the administrator of the sanctification process, practically teaching

and guiding us to be Christ-like ([John 14:26](#), [[14:6](#), [16:12-14](#)], [1 John 2:27](#)).

Holiness isn't about rule-keeping, but rather about Spirit-following ([Rom 8:14](#), [Gal 5:18](#)). This is why Jesus and John the Baptist could look different outwardly, yet we can all agree that both of them were righteous and holy ([Matt 11:18-19](#), [Rom 14:4](#)). So holiness is NOT based on appearances.

To be “*holy*” is to be “*set apart*”, and ideally this is something God has to do. For instance, once the Tabernacle or Temple and their elements were made holy by God, they could no longer be treated as ordinary, like during the construction phase when the workers could freely touch and interact with them ([2 Sam 6:6-7](#), [1 Sam 6:19-20](#), [Dan 5:22-30](#)). In the same way, we can ONLY be truly MADE Holy by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit ([Heb 10:10](#), [14](#)). And our actions and lifestyle can truly be seen as holy if they have been inspired by the Holy Spirit ([Luke 1:74-75](#), [Acts 17:24-25](#), [John 4:24](#), [Col 1:9-12](#)).

So the key to being Christ-like is NOT in some roadmap of rules, but rather in **HUMBLE SURRENDER to the Holy Spirit** ([2 Cor 3:3](#)). We may not understand all the steps that the Holy Spirit would lead us through, some being rather uncomfortable and painful ([Luke 4:1-2](#), [14](#)), but the result would make us more like Jesus and pleasing to the Father.

Hope this blessed you, and I hope you stick around for part 3. Feel free to leave a remark or question in the comment section.

And if you haven't done so already, please 🙏 download the Free book “*Early Steps in Christianity*”, Link below 📖.

Thanks for the privilege of your time. God bless and Shalom!

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