

Changed into the image of Christ #3

We continue in our series about being changed into the image of Christ.

This change comes from God:

2 Cor. 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as ^[b]by the Spirit of the Lord.

Changed to have the mind of Christ:

Phil. 2:5

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Today, I want to focus on being CHANGED TO HAVE THE HEART OF CHRIST.

The heart of Christ was connected to the heart of the Father. Jesus came to live on this earth for 33 years...but His heart was with his Father in heaven.

If we want to be transformed into the image of Christ, then our hearts must be tied to the heart of the Father...we must have this bond, this relationship with God in heaven.

- Everything Jesus did was centered on His relationship with God.
- Jesus involved the Father in every aspect of His daily life.

I believe the best and possibly the only way that God will be able to change us and shape us into the image of Christ...is if we involve Him in every area of our lives.

- God should be our first thought in the morning and last thought at night.
- He should be the one we talk to the most throughout our day
- He should be our closest friend
- His word should be in our heart so that we can fight temptation

Today, I want to see how Jesus involved His Father in His daily life and how we need to follow His example so that we can be changed to have the heart of Christ.

I. JESUS STARTED HIS DAY IN PRAYER TO THE FATHER

Mark 1:35

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Jesus had just had a very busy day of helping and healing people. v. 33 says, “the whole city was gathered at the door”

This was after the sun had set on the Sabbath...He probably stayed up late caring for these people...but he still got up early and slipped out to spend time with His Father in prayer.

There's just something about the early morning...everything is peaceful...no cars, no phone calls, no texts...everyone and everything is still asleep...it's a perfect time to retreat and spend some time alone with our Father...connecting with Him through prayer.

Luke tells us that this was the **normal practice for Jesus** to start his day in prayer

Luke 5:15,16

the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. ¹⁶ So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

There is no doubt that Jesus lived a full and busy life. He traveled from city to city, teaching and healing and doing many good works.

But He always found time, especially in the early morning hours, to talk to His Father before He started his day.

Matt. 6:33

seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, (before all the cares/worries/appointments/responsibilities of life) We need to ask God to guide us, protect us, guard our hearts & minds.

John Bunyan

“He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day.”

When we first open our eyes...our first thought should be to thank God that we have another day.

Ps. 119:147

I rise before the dawning of the morning,
And cry for help;
I hope in Your word.

Ps. 88:13

But to You I have cried out, O Lord,
And in the morning my prayer comes before You.

Yes, we should be praying and involving God throughout our entire day...but we need to seek His righteousness first...and know that His goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives.

II. JESUS SOUGHT THE WILL OF THE FATHER

He sought the will of God by knowing the word of God.

Over and over in the NT we see Jesus say, “It is written”

In Matt. 4—temptation, 3 times Jesus said, “**It is written**”(quoted the OT)

In Matt. 5—sermon on the mount Jesus said, “**You have heard that it was said to those of old**” (6 times) every time quoting a passage from the OT

Jesus knew the scriptures...He had stored it in His heart, so that he might not sin—**Ps. 119:11**

You might say, “Of course, Jesus knew that scriptures...He was God”

Yes, he was fully God, but he was also FULLY MAN.

I believe that what Jesus knew about the scriptures He learned it just like me and you...of course, he had the ability to know it without learning...however

Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Jesus was one with the Father...but his human side had to learn and grow and mature...even in God's word.

As a young Jewish boy, Jesus would have read and memorized the scriptures.

Luke 4:16

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

Jesus knew that everything that was written in the OT was written about him.

Luke 18:31-33

Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. ³² For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. ³³ They will scourge *Him* and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

Reading, studying, meditating on God's word was a **daily part of the life of Jesus**.

Ezra 7:10

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do *it*, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

If we want to be shaped into the image of Christ...then we need to seek the word of God every day!!

We need to read it, study it, meditate upon it and live it out every day.

It needs to be our custom to open the pages of God's word and seek the will of the Father!!

"Study and learn in private the kind of person God wants you to be in public"

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/how-jesus-knew-the-word>

Daily Bible study will shape our hearts and our lives into the image of the Son of God.

Col. 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom,

Col. 3:17

And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
The only way that we are able to do all things by His authority is to let His word dwell in us richly!!

III. JESUS DID THE WORK OF THE FATHER

John 9:4,5

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

The life of Christ was filled with working for His Father.

Jesus had a mission in life...that mission was to show the love of God(through His works) and to give His life as a sacrifice for sin.

Jesus didn't come to earth to live a comfortable, easy life...he came to do the will of his Father.

John 6:38

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Jesus understood better than anyone...that this life is not about us but its about HIM!! It's not about pleasing SELF, it's about pleasing HIM.

John 8:29

The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”

Jesus always pleased his Father because he understood the purpose of his life!!

Yes, God wants us to enjoy life and live a full and rich life...but our one goal...our one purpose is to work for the Lord and live for the Lord and glorify the Lord!!

Jesus knew his mission and completed his mission...

That's why Jesus could say in...

John 17:4

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

When he was hanging on the cross he said...

John 19:30

“It is finished!”

Just as Jesus was sent into the world with a purpose, so are we.

- John 20:21 – "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."
- Ephesians 2:10 – We are "created in Christ Jesus unto good works."
- Colossians 3:23-24 – Whatever we do, we should work heartily "as to the Lord."

If we are going to be transformed into the image of Christ...then we need to be about our Father's business...we need to be working for Him and pleasing Him in everything we do!!

I want to encourage you to find a good work and do it!!

- Send a card to someone who is lonely
- Send a card to those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries
- Make a phone call or send a text to someone who may be sick or discouraged
- Go visit someone in the hospital or nursing home
- Pray for those on our sick list
- Give an encouraging word to someone at each church service

I love the story of an elderly Christian woman that was put into a nursing home.

Her mind was good but her body was unable to take care of herself.

Instead of being discouraged and upset, she said, **"I wonder what I can do for the Lord in this place?"**

She started knitting socks for several in the home. She put a note on those socks that said, **"no matter where your feet may take you, God is with you"**

She made socks for every person in that nursing home...and many of the workers wanted her to make socks for them and their family members.

Clothing giveaway—Ms. Carol DeBord knitted little angels, put in plastic bag with the church's business card. People were so excited to get these!

Here's the point, whatever we are doing in life...we always need to ask, **"I wonder what I can do for the Lord in this place?"**

Work, school, ballfield, nursing home, etc

1 Corinthians 15:58 – "Always abounding in the work of the Lord."

One of the few descriptions of the judgment day is given in Matt. 25...God doesn't ask about our prayer life, our study, our worship...those things are important...but this passage says, God will reward those that served others:

Matt. 25:34-36

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.

I want to hear God say to me...you did everything to be pleasing to Me... "well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joys of the Lord"

I want to live like Jesus lived
I want to think like Jesus thought
I want to have a heart like Jesus had

His heart was connected with his Father every day...and in every way.

- Jesus started his day with prayer
- Jesus continued his day with study and meditation of the scriptures
- Jesus came to the end of his day and could say, "I did everything to please my Father"....in everything I did, I glorified my Father in heaven"

This is how I want my days on this earth to look like!

I want to be connected with God...my heart connected with His heart.

I want Him to be involved and directing my day-to-day activities...and if I do that...He will mold me and shape me into the image of His Son!!