

## You were Created to Become like Christ

“God’s ultimate goal for your life on earth is not comfort, but character development. He wants you to grow up spiritually and become like Christ.” Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*

### I. THREE TOOLS GOD USES TO MAKE YOU LIKE JESUS

1. The first tool God uses to make you like Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_.  
*“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God’s way of making us well prepared at every point....” 2 Timothy 3:16,17 (TLB)*
2. The second tool God uses to make you like Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.  
*“...as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him.” 2 Corinthians 3:18 (LB)*
3. The third tool God uses to make you like Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.  
*“...we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God chose them to become like his Son....” Romans 8:28,29 (NLT)*

### II. THREE CHOICES THAT WILL HELP YOU BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS

1. You can choose \_\_\_\_\_.  
*“...there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes.” Ephesians 4:23 (NLT)*  
  
*“How can a young man keep his ways pure? By living according to Your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands. I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.” Psalm 119:9-11 (NIV)*
2. You can choose to \_\_\_\_\_ on God’s Spirit moment by moment.  
*“Take care to live in Me and let Me live in you. For a branch can’t produce fruit when severed from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from me.... I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in me and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit.” John 15:4,5 (LB)*
3. You can choose to \_\_\_\_\_ your circumstances the way Jesus would.

*“When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives don’t resent them as intruders but welcome them as friends. Realize that they come to test your faith and produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed and you become people of mature character, people of integrity, with no weak spots.”  
James 1:2-4 (Ph)*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

From Philippians 2:12,13, you discover that it is your responsibility to develop the salvation you have in Christ. With this in mind, we will consider more closely the tools God uses and the choices we make that will help us become more like Jesus.

1. Some people have thought that Paul’s reference to working out our salvation means that we have to earn our salvation. What does Ephesians 2:8-9 have to say about this?
2. “Working out” your salvation can be compared to a physical workout. Your workout is to develop what you already possess. In what ways is discipleship like a physical workout?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Paul says the Bible is “useful.” In what ways have you found the Bible “useful” in your life? What keeps the Bible from being more useful in your life?
4. Read Romans 8:28 and James 1:2-4. How has God used circumstances and trials in your life to bring growth and Christ-likeness?

## SERVE

One very important tool God uses to mature us is our circumstances. You cannot choose what is going to happen to you, but you can choose how you will respond.

1. How can your circumstances be opportunities for you to serve God and others? What circumstance have you experienced that God could use as an opportunity for you to serve others?
2. Pair up and get out the Purpose Driven Health Plan. Select one purpose in which you need to grow and write down one action step that you could take this week to grow in that purpose.

**SHARE**

Although none of us has achieved our goal of becoming completely like Christ, the good news for us is, God uses imperfect people to fulfill His purposes.

How are the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and circumstances all important in reaching people for Christ? Share how God is using these things to reach out to your friends and family.

**ADDITIONAL STUDY**

God created us to become like Christ. He has given us His Word, His Holy Spirit, and custom-made circumstances to help us grow. Let's look further at some verses that confirm the truths of this lesson and challenge us to take responsibility for our part in this process.

1. What truth do we learn about our responsibility in the process of spiritual growth in Ephesians 4:22-24?
2. How is our faith affected by the Word of God, according to Romans 10:17? What encouragement does Romans 8:11 give us in our spiritual growth?
3. What other good news do we see in 2 Corinthians 3:18 regarding God's work in us?

**PREPARATION FOR NEXT TIME**

1. Continue to follow the Reading Plan.
2. Read John 13:1-17. What lessons about servanthood can you learn from this moving example from the life of Jesus?
3. Read, reflect, and meditate on Philippians 2:3-4 this week.
4. Read Luke 17:7-10. What does this passage reveal about our relationship to the master?