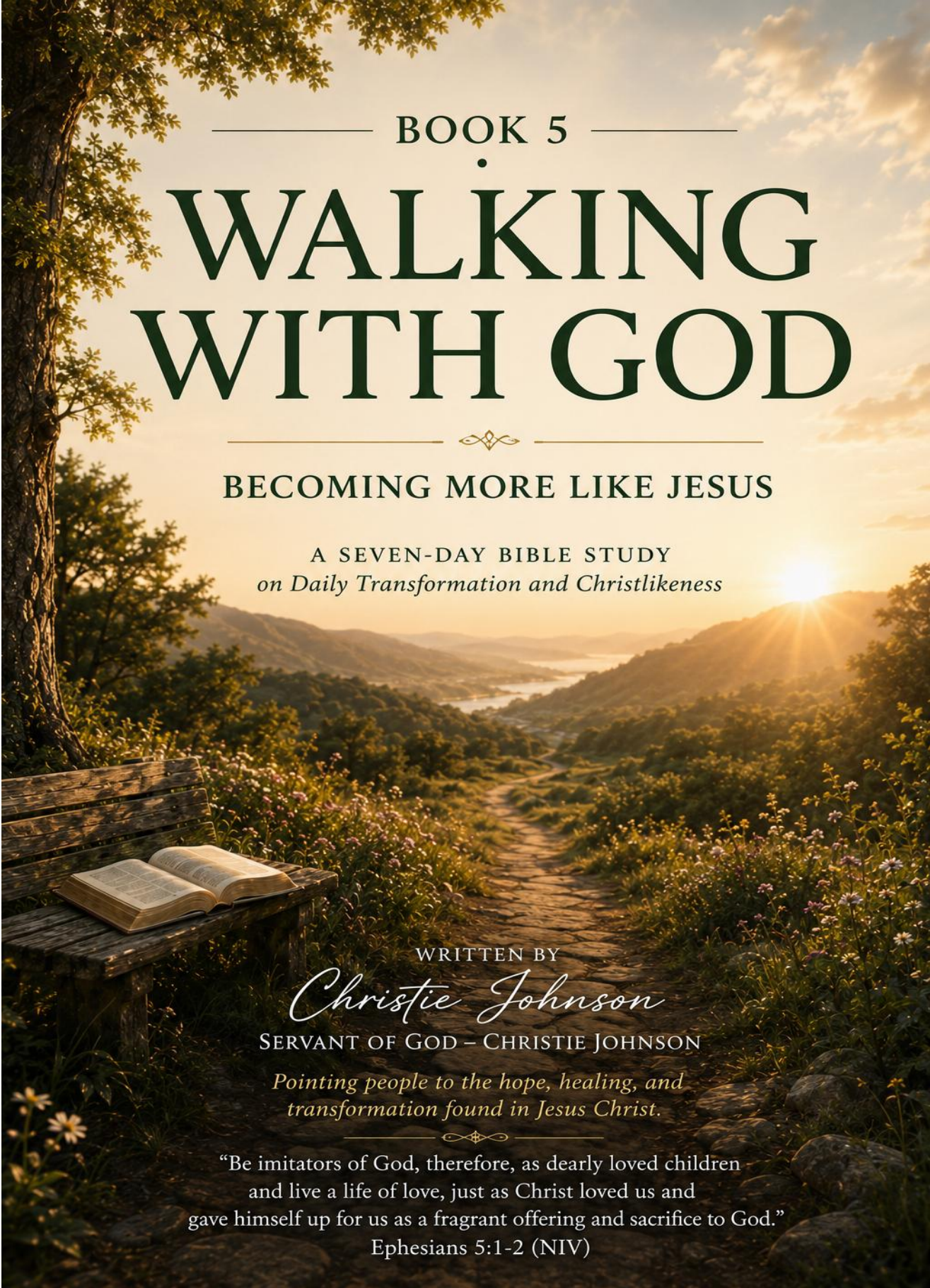




BOOK 5

WALKING WITH GOD

BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS

A SEVEN-DAY BIBLE STUDY
on Daily Transformation and Christlikeness

WRITTEN BY
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*Pointing people to the hope, healing, and
transformation found in Jesus Christ.*

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children
and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and
gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

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Scripture Notice

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation (NLT).

Ministry Disclaimer

This Bible study is intended to provide biblical encouragement, spiritual guidance, and discipleship rooted in God's Word.

It is not intended to replace pastoral care, professional counseling, legal advice, or medical or mental health treatment. If you are facing circumstances that require professional assistance, please seek help from qualified professionals while continuing to trust the Lord for His wisdom, comfort, and strength.

A Personal Note

My prayer is that every page of this study points you to Jesus Christ rather than to me. Any wisdom shared here comes from God's Word and from His faithful work in my own life. May the Holy Spirit use these pages to encourage you, strengthen your faith, and help you grow into the person God created you to be.

"Pointing people to the hope, healing, and transformation found in Jesus Christ."

Contact

If this study has encouraged you and you would like additional Bible studies, personalized discipleship resources, or prayer, I would be honored to hear from you.

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Introduction

Welcome to the Walking with God Bible Study Series.

Whether you are opening the first book or joining somewhere along the journey, I am grateful God has brought you here. Perhaps you are carrying burdens that feel too heavy to bear. Maybe you are searching for healing, hope, freedom, purpose, or simply a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Whatever brought you here, know this: you are not here by accident. God, in His love and sovereignty, has led you to this moment.

Like many believers, I have walked through seasons of brokenness, rejection, grief, disappointment, and unanswered questions. Yet through every season, God remained faithful. Through His Word, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the encouragement of His people, He has continued transforming my heart into the likeness of Jesus Christ. That lifelong process of becoming more like Christ is called spiritual formation, and it is the foundation of this entire series.

These Bible studies are not about earning God's approval or becoming a better version of yourself. They are about learning to know Jesus more deeply, trusting Him more fully, and allowing Him to transform every area of your life through His Word.

About the Series

Each book in the Walking with God series builds upon the previous one, guiding you step by step through biblical truth and spiritual growth.

- **Book 1 – From Brokenness to Transformation** – Begin your journey by discovering Christ's healing, grace, forgiveness, and transforming work.
- **Book 2 – Living Worthy of His Call** – Learn your identity in Christ and live from God's approval instead of the approval of others.
- **Book 3 – Finding Freedom from Rejections** – Find security in Christ when facing rejection, criticism, misunderstanding, and disappointment.
- **Book 4 – God Uses Broken People** – Discover throughout Scripture that God delights in using ordinary, imperfect people for His glory.
- **Book 5 – Becoming More Like Jesus** – Grow in Christlike character as the Holy Spirit transforms your heart, mind, and daily walk.
- **Book 6 – When You Fall** – Learn how God's grace restores believers after failure and encourages them to keep walking faithfully with Him.

Although each study may be completed on its own, I encourage you to read them in order. Each book builds upon the biblical truths learned in the previous one, moving from healing and identity to spiritual maturity, faithful service, and perseverance. Together they present a journey of lifelong spiritual formation as God continually shapes His children into the image of Jesus Christ.

How to Use This Study

Each study contains seven daily lessons. Every day includes Scripture to read, biblical teaching, questions for personal reflection, prayer, and one practical step of faith to help you apply God's truth to everyday life.

I encourage you to keep a journal nearby. Write down the Scriptures that speak to your heart, the prayers you pray, what God teaches you, and the ways you see Him faithfully working in your life. Over time, those pages will become a testimony of His grace and faithfulness.

Above all, remember this:

- **This Bible study is about Jesus.**
- **His love that never fails.**
- **His grace never runs out.**
- **His truth that sets us free.**
- **His forgiveness makes us new.**
- **His presence that never leaves us.**
- **His power to transform broken lives for His glory.**

No matter where your journey begins today, God is not finished with you.

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

Philippians 1:6

Let's Begin

Open your Bible, quiet your heart before the Lord, and take your next step of faith as we walk with Jesus together.

How to Use This Bible Study

Set aside 15–20 minutes each day to be alone with God without distractions. Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to open your heart to His truth. Read each Scripture slowly, paying attention to what it teaches about God's character, His promises, and your response to Him.

As you move through each day, do not rush. Pause, reflect, write honestly in a journal, and spend time talking with God in prayer. The goal is not to finish another study but to allow God's Word to shape your heart and deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ. If one day speaks deeply to you, spend extra time there. Spiritual growth is not measured by how quickly you finish but by your willingness to obey what God reveals. Healing and spiritual formation are lifelong journeys, and God faithfully completes the work He begins.

Ways to Memorize God's Word

- Read the verse aloud three times each morning.
- Write it on an index card and carry it with you.
- Place it somewhere you will see often.
- Pray the verse back to God throughout the day.
- Repeat the verse before going to sleep.

As God's Word fills your mind, the Holy Spirit uses it to renew your heart, strengthen your faith, and help you walk more closely with Jesus Christ.

Worship Playlist

How to Use Worship Music During This Study

Don't treat these songs as background entertainment. Instead, use them as another way to focus your heart on the Lord.

Before each day's lesson

Play one worship song and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart. Let the words remind you of God's love, faithfulness, and truth before you begin reading Scripture.

During your reflection

If a particular song speaks to your heart, pause the study for a few moments. Pray through the lyrics and allow God to reveal what He is teaching you.

During prayer

After completing each day's prayer, spend a few quiet minutes listening to one worship song. Instead of rushing to the next activity, remain in God's presence and allow His peace to settle over your heart.

Throughout the week

Choose one song that especially encourages you and listen to it several times during the week. As you memorize Scripture, allow the message of the song to reinforce the biblical truths you are learning.

End each study with worship

Before closing your Bible, thank God for what He has taught you that day. Worship is one of the greatest ways to respond to His goodness and continue the work of spiritual formation in your heart.

Prepare to Begin

These songs help quiet your heart and prepare you to surrender to the Lord as He continues His work of transforming your life.

- Holy Forever — Chris Tomlin
- I Speak Jesus — Charity Gayle
- Goodness of God — CeCe Winans

Days 1–2: Surrendering the Old Life and Renewing Your Mind

As you learn to put off your old self and allow God's Word to transform the way you think.

- Clean — Natalie Grant
- New Creation — Mac Powell
- Make Room — Community Music
- The Truth — Megan Woods
- Word of God Speak — MercyMe
- Give Me Jesus — UPPERROOM

Days 3–4: Becoming More Like Jesus

As the Holy Spirit produces His fruit in your life and teaches you to honor God through your words.

- Holy Spirit — Francesca Battistelli
- Refiner — Maverick City Music
- Abide — The Worship Initiative
- Touch of Heaven — Hillsong Worship
- Lord, I Need You — Matt Maher
- The Heart of Worship — Matt Redman

Days 5–7: Living a Life That Reflects Christ

As you walk in God's peace, love, and purpose, allowing every area of your life to reflect Jesus Christ.

The Jesus Way — Follow Christ's example.

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me — Depend on Christ's power for transformation.

Build My Life — Build your life on Jesus and live for His glory.

A final encouragement

Music has always been one of the ways God has spoken to my heart. During seasons of joy, grief, healing, and spiritual growth, He has often used worship songs to remind me of His promises and draw me closer to Him. My prayer is that as you listen, you will hear more than beautiful melodies—you will hear the voice of your Heavenly Father reminding you of His love, His truth, and His faithfulness as you continue walking with Jesus Christ.

Day 1 — Putting Off the Old Self

Theme

Following Jesus means leaving behind the person we once were so we can become the person God created us to be.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you ever expected God to change everything overnight, only to discover that transformation is a daily journey of surrender? Be encouraged Jesus is not asking you to become perfect today; He is inviting you to let Him continue changing your heart from the inside out.

Understanding God's Word

Ephesians 4:22–24 (NLT)

"Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy."

Understanding God's Word

Paul uses the picture of changing clothes to describe spiritual transformation. Before Christ, we wore the garments of the old life—fear, bitterness, pride, selfishness, guilt, shame, anger, unforgiveness, and worldly thinking. Those things often feel familiar because we have lived in them for so long. But when Jesus saves us, He gives us a new identity and calls us to put on the character of Christ.

Paul does not simply tell believers to stop living the old way. He tells them to replace the old life with something new. That is how biblical transformation works.

- God does not simply remove fear; He replaces it with peace.
- He does not simply remove bitterness; He replaces it with forgiveness.
- He does not simply remove shame; He replaces it with grace.
- He does not simply remove lies; He replaces them with truth.

This process continues throughout our lives as we daily surrender to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to make us more like Jesus.

Walking This Truth

One lesson God has been teaching me is that healing and transformation are connected. For years, I wanted God to simply take away my pain, but instead, He began changing how I responded to that pain. Rather than allowing my past to control my future, He taught me to trust Him one day at a time.

Even today, there are moments when old thoughts try to return, but the difference is that I no longer have to believe them. Instead of agreeing with fear, I choose God's promises. Instead of believing I am unwanted, I remember I am chosen. Instead of believing I am broken beyond repair, I remember God is still restoring me. Instead of letting my past determine my future, I let God's Word shape who I am becoming. **This has not always**

been easy, and some days I have had to surrender the same struggle again and again. But every surrender has allowed Jesus to transform another part of my heart.

Reflect with God

Take a few quiet moments with the Lord.

Ask yourself:

- What attitudes or habits from my old life am I still carrying?
- What wounds continue to influence how I think or respond?
- What lies have I believed about myself that God wants to replace with His truth?
- What area of my life is God asking me to surrender today?

Today's Prayer

Father,

Thank You for loving me enough not to leave me where I am. Thank You for saving me and beginning the work of transforming my life.

Show me the attitudes, habits, fears, and thoughts that no longer belong in my life. Help me surrender them to You instead of holding onto what is familiar.

Renew my heart, my mind, and my spirit.

Teach me to see myself the way You see me—not through my past, my failures, or my wounds, but through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Help me become more like Jesus every single day.

Thank You for never giving up on me.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Today's Challenge

Don't allow your old way of thinking to become stronger than God's transforming truth.

Today:

- Ask God to reveal one attitude, habit, or way of thinking that belongs to your old life.
- Write it in your journal.
- Beside it, write one biblical truth that God wants to replace it with.
- Read **Ephesians 4:22–24** aloud, asking the Holy Spirit to renew your mind.
- Throughout the day, whenever that old thought returns, intentionally replace it with God's truth.

Remember, transformation happens one surrendered step at a time. As you choose God's truth over your old way of thinking, He is faithfully making you more like Jesus Christ.

Scripture to Memorize

Ephesians 4:22–24 (NLT)

"Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life... Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy."

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ means surrendering daily to the transforming work of Jesus. Transformation is not measured by how perfect you become, but by how willing you are to let Him change your heart. The goal is not simply better behavior; the goal is becoming more like Christ. Ask Yourself Today: **What area of my old life is God asking me to surrender so He can continue making me more like Jesus?**

Today's Truth. God is continually transforming me into the likeness of Jesus Christ, one surrendered step at a time.

Today's Step of Faith. Today I will surrender one area of my old life to Jesus and trust Him to begin transforming it.

Tomorrow We'll Discover. Tomorrow we will learn how God renews our minds and transforms the way we think, because lasting change always begins with renewed thinking.

Today's Takeaway Following Jesus is more than believing in Him—it is allowing Him to change us every day. God does not expect instant perfection; He asks for daily surrender. Little by little, He replaces fear with faith, shame with grace, lies with truth, and brokenness with His restoring love.

Day 2 — Renewing Your Mind

Theme

God transforms our lives by renewing our minds with the truth of His Word.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you ever believed thoughts about yourself that God never said? Be encouraged—the same God who transforms your heart also renews your mind, replacing old lies with the truth of His Word so your life can reflect Jesus Christ.

Opening Scripture

Romans 12:2

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Understanding God's Word

When **Paul** wrote **Romans 12**, he had already spent eleven chapters explaining God's incredible grace through Jesus Christ. Now he begins explaining how believers are to live because of that grace. His message is simple but life-changing: don't allow the world to shape your thinking—allow God to do it.

The world constantly tells us what success looks like, where our worth comes from, and how we should respond when we are hurt. It encourages pride instead of humility, revenge instead of forgiveness, comparison instead of contentment, and self-reliance instead of dependence on God. If we are not careful, those messages slowly become the foundation of our thinking.

Paul tells us there is another way.

He says God transforms us by changing the way we think.

The word transform describes an inward change that eventually becomes visible on the outside. God doesn't begin by changing our circumstances. He begins by changing our hearts and our minds. As our thinking changes, our attitudes change. As our attitudes change, our actions begin to change. Eventually, our lives become a reflection of Jesus Christ.

This renewing of the mind is not something that happens once and is finished. It is a daily process. Every time we open God's Word, spend time in prayer, meditate on His promises, or choose to believe His truth over our feelings, the Holy Spirit is shaping us into the likeness of Christ.

Another verse that beautifully supports this truth is **Philippians 4:8**. Paul encourages believers to intentionally fill their minds with things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and worthy of praise. What we choose to think about eventually shapes the people we become.

Today, ask God to reveal any thoughts that do not agree with His truth. Then allow His Word to replace those lies with His promises.

Walking This Truth

One of the greatest battles God has fought in my life has been in my mind.

For years, I viewed myself through the pain of my past instead of through the promises of God's Word. Because of the abuse I experienced, I often believed I wasn't valuable. Because of rejection, I expected people to leave. Because of years of depression and disappointment, I sometimes believed my future would always look like my past.

Those thoughts influenced almost every area of my life.

But God patiently began renewing my mind.

As I committed myself to spending time with Him each day, He slowly replaced those old beliefs with His truth. I learned that my identity was never found in what had happened to me. It was found in Jesus Christ.

That change didn't happen overnight.

Even today, there are moments when old thoughts try to return. The difference is that I now recognize them much sooner. Instead of agreeing with those lies, I compare them with God's Word. If they don't agree with Scripture, I refuse to let them become my identity.

God is still renewing my mind, and every day I experience a little more freedom than the day before.

If He has faithfully done that in my life, He can do the same in yours.

Reflect with God

Spend a few quiet moments with the Lord and honestly answer these questions.

- What negative thoughts do I find myself believing most often?
- Are those thoughts based on my feelings, my past, or God's truth?
- What lie does God want to replace with His Word today?
- What Scripture can I begin meditating on this week to renew my mind?
- How would my life look different if I truly believed what God says about me?

Write what God places on your heart.

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving me enough to transform not only my life but also my mind. You know every thought I think, every fear I carry, and every lie I have believed in because of my past. Forgive me for the times I have believed those lies instead of believing Your truth. Teach me to recognize thoughts that do not come from You. Help me to stop agreeing with fear, shame, rejection, worry, and discouragement. Fill my heart and mind with Your Word until Your truth becomes my first response instead of my old way of thinking.

Holy Spirit, renew my mind day by day. Give me the desire to spend time with You, to meditate on Scripture, and to trust Your promises even when my feelings tell me something

different. Thank You for patiently changing me into the likeness of Jesus. I know this transformation is a lifelong journey, but I also know that You are faithful to complete the work You have begun in me.

Today I choose to believe what You say about me.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Today's Challenge

Don't allow old ways of thinking to become stronger than God's truth.

Today:

- Ask God to reveal one lie or unhealthy thought pattern you have been believing.
- Write it in your journal.
- Beside it, write a Scripture that speaks God's truth over that lie.
- Read **Romans 12:2** aloud, asking the Holy Spirit to renew your mind.
- Throughout the day, whenever that old thought returns, intentionally replace it with God's truth.

Remember, lasting transformation begins with a renewed mind. As you fill your heart with God's Word, He faithfully changes the way you think, live, and follow Jesus Christ.

Scripture to Memorize

Philippians 4:8

“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.”

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ means allowing Him to transform not only your actions but also your thoughts. As you fill your mind with God's Word and choose His truth over the lies of the past, the Holy Spirit renews your thinking and shapes you to become more like Jesus.

Ask Yourself Today **Am I allowing God's Word to shape my thinking, or am I still believing lies that He never said about me?**

Today's Truth. God is renewing my mind through His Word and transforming me into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Today's Step of Faith. Today I will replace one lie I have believed with the truth of God's Word and choose to think according to His promises.

Tomorrow We'll Discover. Tomorrow we'll discover how the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of Christlike character in our lives as we learn to live in step with Him.

Today's Takeaway Transformation begins in the mind before it is seen in our lives. As you continue filling your heart with God's truth, the Holy Spirit will replace old patterns of thinking with the mind of Christ, enabling you to live each day in greater freedom, faith, and obedience.

Day 3 — The Fruit of the Spirit

Theme

As we walk closely with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit transforms our hearts and produces His character in our lives.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you ever wondered why becoming more like Jesus seems to take so much time? Be encouraged—the Holy Spirit is faithfully producing His character within you each day, and every season of life is another opportunity for Him to make you more like Christ.

Opening Scripture

Galatians 5:16–18, 22-26

“So, I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses....But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.”

Understanding God's Word

When Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia, he described two different ways of living. One is controlled by our sinful nature—the flesh. The other is controlled by the Holy Spirit. Left to ourselves, our hearts naturally produce selfishness, anger, jealousy, pride, immorality, division, and other attitudes that pull us away from God. But when we place our faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us and begins the lifelong work of transforming us into the likeness of Christ.

Paul calls this transformation the **Fruit of the Spirit**. Notice he says *fruit*, not *fruits*. These qualities work together as one beautiful picture of Christ's character.

- **Love teaches us to put others before ourselves.**
- **Joy gives us hope in every season.**
- **Peace steadies our hearts during uncertainty.**
- **Patience helps us trust God's timing.**
- **Kindness and goodness reflect His compassion.**
- **Faithfulness keeps us steadfast.**
- **Gentleness demonstrates strength under control**
- **Self-control enables us to respond wisely instead of reacting to our emotions.**

None of these qualities are produced through human effort alone. They grow as we remain connected to Jesus through His Word, prayer, worship, and daily obedience. Jesus taught this same truth when He described Himself as the vine and His followers as the branches. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit apart from the vine, we cannot produce Christlike character apart from Him.

As we abide in Christ, the Holy Spirit faithfully grows His fruit within us. Sometimes that growth is gradual and almost unnoticed, but every season of joy, sorrow, waiting, or hardship becomes another opportunity for God to make us more like Jesus.

Walking This Truth

As I look back over my life, I realize the Fruit of the Spirit did not suddenly appear one day. God has been growing it through every season of my journey. Fear, rejection, and years of believing I wasn't enough shaped many of my early responses to life. Those experiences influenced how I viewed people, handled conflict, and even understood God's love.

But Jesus did not leave me there. As I continued walking with Him, He patiently began changing my heart. He taught me to forgive those who had hurt me, to trust Him when I could not understand His plans, and to find peace even in the deepest seasons of grief. After Joe passed away, His presence carried me through each day. Today, as I continue living with chronic pain and physical limitations, He is still teaching me patience and dependence upon Him. I have learned that spiritual fruit often grows in the places where we would rather not be.

Every difficult season has become another opportunity for God to shape my character and make me a little more like Jesus. He is still growing His fruit in my life, and I know He is faithfully doing the same in yours.

Reflect with God

Take a few quiet moments with the Lord and honestly reflect on these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal how He is working in your life.

1. Which fruit of the Spirit do I see growing most in my life today?
2. Which fruit do I struggle to demonstrate consistently?
3. How has God used difficult seasons to shape my character?
4. Am I trying to produce spiritual fruit through my own effort, or am I learning to depend on the Holy Spirit?
5. What area of my life do I need to surrender so Christ's character can continue growing in me?

Write your thoughts in your journal. Remember, spiritual growth is not about becoming perfect. It is about allowing Jesus to transform you one day at a time.

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving me enough to continue changing me into the likeness of Jesus. Thank You for giving me Your Holy Spirit, who patiently works within me every day. Forgive me for the times I have relied on my own strength instead of depending on You. I confess that I

cannot produce lasting spiritual fruit on my own. Please continue growing Your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control within my heart. Help my words, attitudes, and actions reflect Jesus in every area of my life.

Use both the joyful seasons and the difficult seasons to shape my character. When I become discouraged, remind me that You are not finished with me. Help me remain close to You each day so that Your life can be seen through mine. Thank You for faithfully continuing the work You began in me. I trust You to keep making me more like Jesus.

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Today's Challenge

Don't focus on trying to display every fruit of the Spirit today. Instead, ask God to help you grow in one specific area where He is working in your life.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one fruit He wants to develop in you.
- Write that fruit at the top of a page in your journal.
- Throughout the day, intentionally look for opportunities to practice it.
- At the end of the day, thank God for every opportunity He gave you to grow.
- Remember that every small step of obedience allows the Holy Spirit to continue His work within you.

Spiritual fruit grows one surrendered day at a time.

Scripture to Memorize

Galatians 5:22-23

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"

As you hide God's Word in your heart, the Holy Spirit will continue using it to shape your character and transform your life.

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ is not about trying harder; it is about staying closer to Jesus. Just as a branch bears fruit by remaining connected to the vine, we begin reflecting Christ's character as we remain connected to Him through His Word, prayer, worship, and obedience. Ask Yourself Today: **What fruit is Jesus growing in my life during this season?**

Today's Truth. The Holy Spirit is faithfully producing the character of Jesus in me as I remain connected to Him.

Today's Step of Faith. Today I will depend on the Holy Spirit instead of my own strength and trust Him to grow His fruit in every situation I face.

Tomorrow We'll Discover. Tomorrow we will discover why our words matter to God and how learning to control our tongue helps us reflect the heart of Jesus.

Today's Takeaway. The Fruit of the Spirit is not something we achieve; it is the evidence of a life surrendered to Jesus Christ. As we remain close to Him, the Holy Spirit patiently grows His character within us and makes us more like Jesus every day.

Day 4 — Controlling the Tongue

Theme

The words we speak reveal the condition of our hearts, and as we become more like Jesus, He transforms not only what we say but how we say it.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you ever said something you immediately wished you could take back? Be encouraged God can transform not only your heart but also your words, teaching you to speak with wisdom, gentleness, truth, and grace.

Opening Scripture

James 1:19-27

“Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what looks like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and doesn’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. If you claim to be religious but don’t control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.”

Understanding God's Word

James gives practical instructions for living out our faith, reminding believers that genuine faith is seen not only in what we believe but also in how we live. One area he addresses directly is our speech. He tells us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. Those instructions may sound simple, but they are often difficult to practice because our natural response is usually the opposite. We can speak, quick to defend ourselves, and slow to listen.

Jesus modeled something entirely different. He listened with compassion, spoke with wisdom, and even when correcting others, His words were filled with both truth and grace. James also reminds us that controlling the tongue is evidence of spiritual maturity because our words often reveal what is taking place inside our hearts. Angry words may reveal unresolved hurt. Critical words may expose pride or insecurity. Harsh words can reveal impatience or selfishness.

Jesus taught that our mouths speak from the overflow of our hearts. That means God does not want to change only the words we say; He wants to transform the heart behind them. Proverbs 15 reminds us that gentle words can calm conflict, wise words can bring healing, and gracious speech can reflect a heart changed by God. **As the Holy Spirit continues producing His fruit within us, our words gradually begin reflecting the heart of Jesus.**

Walking This Truth

As I reflect on my own life, I realize some of the deepest wounds I carried were not physical—they were spoken. Growing up, words often told me I wasn't enough, that I didn't matter, or that I would never become anything worthwhile. Those words shaped how I viewed myself for many years. Long after they were spoken, I continued believing them.

Yet God also showed me that just as words can wound, words can also heal. He began replacing those painful voices with the truth of His Word. As He renewed my mind and healed my heart, He also began changing my own speech. I realized there were times I spoke out of fear instead of faith. There were moments when frustration influenced my responses, and sometimes my words reflected my pain more than they reflected Jesus.

The Holy Spirit gently convicted me—not to condemn me, but to transform me. I began learning to pause before speaking, to pray before reacting, and to ask myself, "Will these words bring life, or will they bring harm?" Whether I am encouraging someone through my website, answering an email, praying with someone, or speaking with family and friends, I want my words to reflect the grace God has shown me. **I still do not get it right every time, but I know this: the closer I walk with Jesus, the more He changes not only my heart but also my words.**

Reflect with God

Take a few quiet moments with the Lord and invite Him to search your heart.

1. Do my words usually bring encouragement, healing, and hope, or do they often reflect frustration, fear, or discouragement?
2. Are there conversations or relationships where I need to ask God's forgiveness or seek forgiveness from someone else?
3. When I become upset, what do my words reveal about my heart?
4. How can I better reflect the love and grace of Jesus through the way I speak?
5. What is one conversation today where I can intentionally choose words that honor Christ?

Write your thoughts in your journal, asking the Holy Spirit to continue transforming your heart.

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for speaking words of life, grace, and truth over me. Thank You for Your patience as You continue transforming every part of my life.

Forgive me for the times my words have wounded others instead of encouraging them. Forgive me for speaking too quickly, reacting in anger, or allowing my emotions to control my speech. Create in me a heart that reflects the heart of Jesus. Teach me to listen before I speak. Give me wisdom to know when to remain silent and courage to speak when You want me to. May my words bring peace instead of conflict, hope instead of discouragement, and grace instead of judgment. Help every conversation I have today point someone closer to You.

Continue making me more like Jesus in my thoughts, my attitudes, and my words. I surrender my tongue to You today.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's Challenge

Our words often become habits before we even notice them. Today, intentionally slow down before responding.

- Before speaking, ask yourself, "Will these words honor Jesus?"
- Listen carefully before giving your opinion.
- Replace one negative or critical comment with a word of encouragement.
- Pray before responding to any difficult conversation today.
- At the end of the day, reflect on one moment where God helped you speak with grace.

Remember, every word is an opportunity to reflect the heart of Christ.

Scripture to Memorize

James 1:19

"Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry."

As you hide God's Word in your heart, the Holy Spirit will teach you to speak with wisdom, patience, and grace.

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ changes more than our actions—it changes our conversations. As we spend time with Jesus, His compassion, wisdom, and gentleness begin to shape the way we speak. People should hear something different in the words of a follower of Christ. Today, ask yourself: **Do my words sound like someone who has been spending time with Jesus?**

Today's Truth. The Holy Spirit is transforming my heart, and as my heart changes, my words will reflect the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Today's Step of Faith. Today I will pause before I speak, listen with humility, and choose words that bring life, encouragement, and honor to Christ.

Tomorrow We'll Discover. Tomorrow we will discover how God invites us to experience His peace even in the middle of life's greatest worries and uncertainties, learning to trust Him with every burden we carry.

Today's Takeaway. Our words are one of the clearest reflections of what God is doing within our hearts. As we surrender our thoughts, emotions, and conversations to the Holy Spirit, He teaches us to speak with the same love, wisdom, grace, and truth that Jesus showed every person He encountered. Every word surrendered to Christ becomes another opportunity for others to see Him through us.

Day 6 — Walking in Love

Theme

As we grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, His love transforms the way we love God, love others, and even love those who have hurt us.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you ever found it difficult to love someone who hurt, rejected, or disappointed you? Be encouraged Jesus does not ask you to love others in your own strength; He teaches you to receive His love and allow that love to flow through you.

Opening Scripture

John 13:34–35

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Understanding God's Word

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus gave His disciples a new commandment: to love one another just as He had loved them. This was more than being kind, polite, or helpful. **Jesus was calling His followers to reflect His own heart through a love that is patient, sacrificial, forgiving, humble, and faithful even when it is not returned.**

Jesus said the world would recognize His disciples by their love. Not by their knowledge, abilities, accomplishments, or religious activity, but by their love. Paul expands this truth in **1 Corinthians 13**, reminding us that love is patient, kind, humble, enduring, and seeks the good of others rather than demanding its own way. This kind of love cannot be produced by human effort alone. It is the work of the Holy Spirit within us.

As we grow closer to Jesus, His love begins changing our attitudes, relationships, and responses to others. Perhaps the greatest test of Christian love is not how we treat those who love us, but how we treat those who do not.

Jesus loved those who misunderstood Him, rejected Him, and even crucified Him. Through the Holy Spirit, He gives us the grace to love others with His love.

Walking This Truth

If there is one lesson God has taught me repeatedly, it is the lesson of love. For many years, I confused love with acceptance. I believed that if I loved people enough, helped them enough, or sacrificed enough for them, they would love me in return. Because of my past, I often tied my value to how much I could do for others, and that way of thinking left me exhausted.

As God continued healing my heart, He began teaching me that true love does not have to earn acceptance. True love is not based on performance. True love comes from God. One of the hardest parts of my journey has been learning to love people who hurt me. There were

seasons when bitterness felt easier, but every time I brought those wounds to Jesus, He reminded me of how much He had forgiven me.

Forgiveness did not happen all at once, and healing did not happen overnight. But as I surrendered those wounds to God, He replaced bitterness with peace and resentment with compassion. That does not mean I trust everyone or ignore healthy boundaries. It means I no longer want past hurts to control my heart. **Today, whether through writing, ministry, prayer, or conversations, my desire is for people to experience the love of Jesus through me.**

Reflect with God

Take a few quiet moments with the Lord and ask Him to search your heart.

1. Do I truly believe that God loves me unconditionally?
2. Is there someone I am struggling to love the way Christ loves me?
3. Am I carrying bitterness, resentment, or unforgiveness toward anyone?
4. How has God's love changed my life?
5. What is one practical way I can show Christ's love to someone today?

Write your answers honestly in your journal. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal any area where He wants to deepen your understanding of His love.

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving me with a perfect and unconditional love. Thank You for sending Jesus Christ to demonstrate that love through His life, death, and resurrection.

Help me understand more deeply how much You love me. When I struggle with feelings of rejection, insecurity, or fear, I remind myself that my identity is secure in You.

Teach me to love others the way You have loved me.

Help me forgive those who have hurt me.

Help me show kindness when it is difficult.

Help me extend grace when I would rather hold onto resentment.

Fill my heart so completely with Your love that it overflows into every relationship and every conversation.

May people see Jesus through the way I love.

Continue transforming me into His image.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Today's Challenge

Love becomes real when it is put into action.

- Ask God to bring one person to mind who needs encouragement today.
- Reach out with a kind word, prayer, text message, or act of service.
- If you are carrying unforgiveness, begin praying for the person who hurt you.

- Thank God for at least three ways He has demonstrated His love toward you.
- Look for opportunities to love others without expecting anything in return.

Remember, every act of love reflects the heart of Christ.

Scripture to Memorize

John 13:34–35

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

As you hide God's Word in your heart, the Holy Spirit will teach you to love others with the same love Christ has shown you.

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ means learning to love the way He loves. The closer we grow to Jesus, the more His compassion, grace, patience, and forgiveness become visible in our lives. People may forget many things we say, but they often remember how we loved them. Today ask yourself: **Do people experience the love of Jesus when they encounter me?**

Today's Truth. I am deeply loved by God, and through the Holy Spirit I can love others as Christ has loved me.

Today's Step of Faith. Today I will intentionally demonstrate Christ's love through my words, actions, and attitudes toward others.

Tomorrow We'll Discover. Tomorrow we will discover what it means to live a life that reflects Jesus Christ and how God uses ordinary believers to shine His light in a world that desperately needs hope.

Today's Takeaway. The Christian life is ultimately a life of love. As we experience the incredible love God has shown us through Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit transforms our hearts so that His love begins flowing through us to others. The greatest evidence that we belong to Christ is not what we know—it is how we love.

Day 7 — A Life That Reflects Jesus

Theme

God's desire is not simply for us to believe in Jesus but to become more like Him so that our lives reflect His love, truth, and glory to the world.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you begun to see that becoming more like Jesus is not about achieving perfection, but about surrendering to God one day at a time? Be encouraged—every lesson, every trial, every act of obedience, and every surrendered moment is part of the beautiful work God is doing to make your life reflect His Son.

Opening Scripture

Matthew 5:14–16

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

Understanding God's Word

Jesus told His followers that they are the light of the world. He did not say they should become the light; He said they already were. The moment we belong to Christ; His light begins shining through us. **Our responsibility is not to create the light, but to let His light be seen in the way we live.**

Many people think reflecting Jesus means doing extraordinary things, and sometimes it does. But often, Christ is seen through ordinary acts of faithfulness: a kind word, a patient response, a forgiving heart, a quiet act of service, or a life that consistently points others toward Him. Throughout this week, we have seen that Christlikeness is formed through daily surrender. As God renews our minds, produces His fruit, teaches us to guard our words, fills us with peace, and helps us love others, the light of Christ becomes more visible.

People may never read a Bible, but they will read our lives. They notice how we respond during hardship, how we treat others, whether our hope is genuine, and whether our faith is real. Our greatest testimony is often not only found in what we say, but in how we live.

Today, ask God to continue shaping every part of your life so that others see more of Jesus through you.

Walking This Truth

When I think about everything God has done in my life, I realize the greatest miracle is not simply that He saved me—it is that He has never stopped transforming me.

There was a time when my life was marked by fear, insecurity, shame, and pain. Because of everything I experienced growing up, I never imagined God could use someone with my story. I believed my past would always define my future, but God had a different plan.

He patiently began changing me one step at a time. He did not erase my past, but He redeemed it. He did not waste my brokenness; He used it to help me understand the

brokenness of others. He did not remove every struggle, but He taught me to depend on Him through each one. My pain taught me compassion, my waiting taught me patience, my losses taught me to treasure His presence, and my limitations continue teaching me dependence.

Today, as I write Bible studies, build this ministry, and follow wherever God leads next, my greatest desire is not simply to accomplish something for God. My greatest desire is to become more like Jesus. **If people remember my name but never see Christ, I have missed the purpose of my life. But if they remember Jesus because of something He did through me, then my life has pointed them where it should. God is still writing my story, and He is still writing yours.**

Reflect with God

Take a few quiet moments with the Lord and reflect on everything He has been teaching you throughout this study.

1. In what ways have I seen God transforming my life over the past week?
2. Which lesson from this Bible study has impacted me the most?
3. Is there an area of my life that I still need to surrender to Christ?
4. If someone watched my life every day, what would they learn about Jesus from me?
5. What is one step I can take this week to become more like Christ?

Write your thoughts in your journal. Celebrate the progress God has already made while trusting Him to continue His work in your life.

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving me enough not only to save me but also to transform me into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Thank You for Your patience throughout every season of my life and for never giving up on me, even when I have struggled, doubted, or failed. As I finish this study, I ask You to continue the good work You have begun in my heart. Help me each day to put off my old ways, renew my mind with Your truth, and walk in the power of Your Holy Spirit. Fill my life with the fruit of Your Spirit, guard my words, teach me to live in Your peace, and help me love others as Jesus has loved me.

Above all, make my life a reflection of Christ. May people see Your grace in my actions, Your kindness in my words, Your peace in my trials, and Your love in the way I treat others. Use every part of my story for Your glory and continue shaping me into the person You created me to be. I surrender my life to You again today, trusting that You will faithfully complete the work You have begun in me.

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Today's Challenge

This Bible study may be ending, but your journey with Christ is just beginning.

- Spend a few minutes reviewing what God has taught you throughout this week.
- Write down one area where you have already seen spiritual growth.
- Choose one lesson from this study that you want to continue practicing every day.

- Ask someone you trust, "What Christlike quality have you seen God developing in me?"
- Thank God for His faithfulness and commit to continuing your daily walk with Him.

Remember, becoming more like Jesus is a lifelong journey of daily surrender.

Scripture to Memorize

Matthew 5:16

"In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

As you continue hiding God's Word in your heart, allow your life to become a light that points others to Jesus Christ.

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ is not a destination we eventually reach—it is a relationship we continue cultivating every day. As we remain close to Jesus, people begin seeing His character reflected in our thoughts, our words, our actions, and our love. The greatest testimony we can give the world is a life that consistently points others to Him. Today ask yourself: **Does my life reflect the Jesus I proclaim?**

Today's Truth. God is faithfully transforming me into the likeness of Jesus so that my life will bring glory to Him and hope to others.

Today's Step of Faith. Today I will intentionally live in a way that reflects the love, truth, grace, and character of Jesus Christ in everything I do.

Tomorrow We'll Discover. As you continue your journey with Christ, remember that spiritual growth does not end here. Every new day is another opportunity to know Him more deeply, trust Him more fully, and become more like Him.

Today's Takeaway. Becoming more like Jesus is the lifelong work of God in every believer. He patiently transforms us through His Word, the Holy Spirit, and the circumstances of life until His character is increasingly reflected in ours. As you continue walking with Him, remember that your greatest testimony is not found in what you accomplish but in the way your life points others to Jesus Christ. One surrendered life can become a powerful reflection of His hope, healing, and transforming grace.

Your Journey Continues

Over the past seven days, you've discovered that becoming more like Jesus is not something you accomplish through your own effort. It is the lifelong work of the Holy Spirit as you surrender your heart, renew your mind, and faithfully walk with Christ each day. As you remain close to Him, He continues shaping your character, producing His fruit within you, and helping you reflect His love to the world around you.

Yet every believer knows that the journey of following Jesus is not without struggles. Even as we grow, we still face temptation, disappointment, weakness, and seasons when we stumble. The good news is that our failures are never greater than God's grace. He does not abandon His children when they fall—He lovingly restores them and calls them to keep walking.

In Book 6—*When You Fall*, we'll discover how God's mercy meets us in our weakness, how His grace restores us after failure, and how He faithfully strengthens us to keep following Jesus. Together we'll learn that falling is never the end of the story because our Savior delights in lifting His children up and leading them forward.

I look forward to continuing this journey with you as we keep walking with Christ together.

A Personal Note from Christie

Thank you for allowing me to walk beside you through these seven days. My prayer is that this study has helped you take meaningful steps toward Jesus Christ and reminded you that God sees you, loves you, and continues His work within you. If you would like additional Bible studies, personalized resources, or prayer, I would be honored to hear from you through my website or by email. May God continue strengthening your faith as you walk with Christ.

Simply email me at:

servantofgodchristie@yahoo.com

Please share a little about yourself, the area where you are seeking God's guidance, and how many additional days you would like your study to include. Together, we will seek God's truth and discover what His Word says about your situation. My prayer is not only to provide another Bible study, but to help you continue growing into the person God created you to be through the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NLT)

"The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it."

May God's grace, peace, and love continue to guide you as you walk faithfully with Jesus Christ every day.

Spiritual formation is a lifelong journey. As you continue in Scripture, prayer, worship, obedience, and fellowship with other believers, remember this: God is faithfully working in you, even when you cannot see it.

As you continue walking with Christ, remember His promise:

Philippians 1:6

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

Trust Him with your next step. One day, one prayer, one Scripture, and one step of faith at a time.

Final Reflection

Spend a few quiet moments with the Lord and prayerfully reflect on these questions.

1. What has God taught me most during these seven days?
2. Which Scripture spoke most deeply to my heart, and why?
3. What lie has God replaced with His truth?
4. What burden have I surrendered to Him?
5. How has my understanding of my identity in Christ grown?
6. What area of my life is God continuing to transform?
7. What is one step of faith I will take this week to continue walking with Jesus?

Take time to write your answers in your journal. Revisit them often as God continues His work in your life.

My Prayer for You

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for every person who has completed this study. Thank You for the work You have already begun in their hearts. Continue drawing them closer to You each day.

Replace fear with faith, shame with grace, sorrow with hope, and uncertainty with confidence in Your promises.

Help them continue growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Fill them with the wisdom of Your Word, the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, and the peace that only You can give.

Strengthen them for every challenge they face, remind them of their identity in Christ, and help them become more like Jesus each day.

May their lives bring glory to You as they faithfully walk with Christ.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Remember: *Transformation does not happen in a single day. It happens one step of faith at a time as we walk with Jesus Christ.*

May God richly bless you as you continue your journey with Him.

Prayerfully prepared by

Christie Johnson

Christie Johnson

Servant of God

"Pointing people to the hope, healing, and transformation found in Jesus Christ."