

The Vision God *Has Given Me*

How God Has Been Shaping My Life
Through Spiritual Formation

“For God knew His people in advance,
and He chose them to become like His Son...”

Romans 8:29 (NLT)

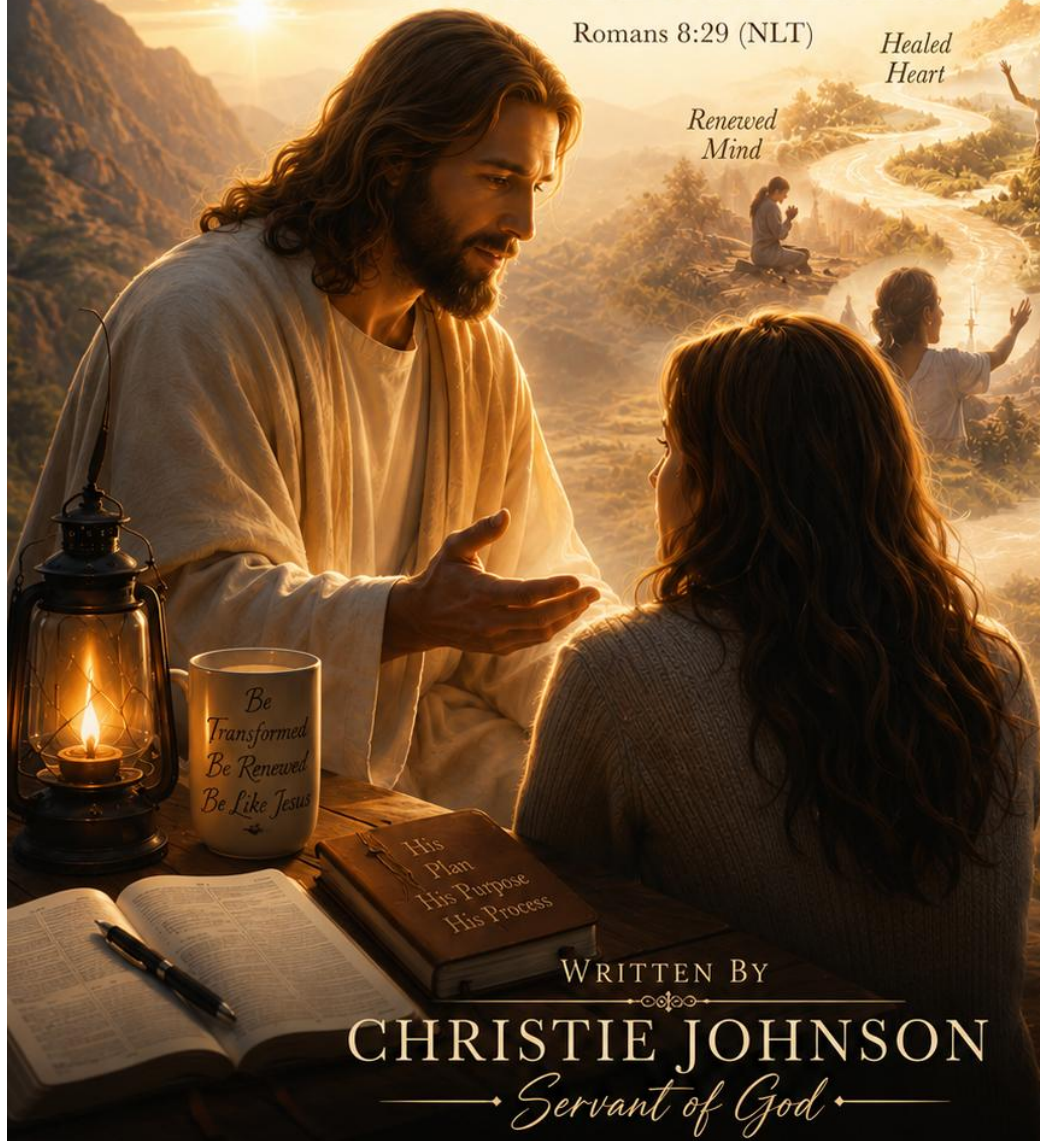
*Healed
Heart*

*Renewed
Mind*

*Shaped
Character*

*Faithful
Obedience*

*Transformed
into His Image*



WRITTEN BY

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— *Servant of God* —

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Scripture Notice

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

Unless otherwise indicated, emphasis within Scripture quotations has been added by the author for teaching purposes.

Ministry Disclaimer

This resource is intended to provide biblical encouragement, spiritual guidance, discipleship, and leadership development rooted in the truth of God's Word.

It is not intended to replace the care of a local church, pastoral counsel, professional counseling, legal advice, medical treatment, or mental health services. 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, healing, and strength.

A Personal Note

Thank you for taking the time to study God's Word through this resource.

My prayer is that every page points you to Jesus Christ rather than to me. Any wisdom found in these pages comes from God's Word and from His faithful work in my own life. My desire is simply to faithfully teach His Word, encourage your walk with Him, and help you continue growing into the disciple He has created you to be.

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, I pray this study strengthens your faith, deepens your understanding of God's truth, and encourages you to live as a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

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

Contact

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

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God Gave Me a Vision

When people hear the word transformation, they often think about changing habits, improving behavior, or becoming a better version of themselves. For many years, I thought spiritual growth was mostly about learning more about God and trying harder to live the Christian life. **Over time, God gently showed me something far greater.**

His desire was never simply to improve my behavior. His desire was to transform my heart.

Looking back over my life, I can see that God was preparing me for this vision long before I recognized it. Every season—both joyful and painful—became part of His work of shaping me into the person He was calling me to become. What once seemed like random events were pieces of His greater purpose unfolding one step at a time.

That is the vision behind this ministry.

God has called me to point people beyond information and into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. My desire is not simply to teach the Bible or share my testimony, but to encourage people to experience the lifelong work of God that transforms us into the likeness of His Son.

That is what spiritual formation has become to me.

It is learning to walk with God each day and allowing Him to change us from the inside out. Through this lifelong journey, the Holy Spirit renews our minds, heals our hearts, shapes our character, and teaches us to trust and follow Jesus more fully. **This vision did not begin with a website or in a classroom.**

It began with God patiently working in my life.

Long before I understood the words spiritual formation, God was already forming me. He used every season to draw me closer to Himself, make me more like Jesus, and prepare me for the ministry He already had planned. Today, everything on this website flows from that vision. Every testimony, Bible study, devotional, discipleship resource, and reflection has one purpose: to help people encounter Jesus Christ, discover their identity in Him, and grow into the people God created them to be.

Because true transformation does not begin with us. It always begins with God.





Jesus Began My Transformation

“But God showed his great love for us while we were still sinners.”

Roman 5:8

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.”

John 3:16

“So, we have stopped evaluating the others from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is as a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So, we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

2 Corin 5:16-20

The Foundation of My Vision

These three passages have become the foundation of the vision God has placed upon my life and this ministry. They remind me that spiritual formation always begins with the Gospel. Before God could transform my life, He first had to save me through Jesus Christ.

His love reached me while I was still broken, and through His grace He made me a new creation in Christ.

These Scriptures also remind me that salvation is not the end of God's work—it is the beginning of a lifelong journey of becoming more like Jesus Christ. The same God who redeemed me continues to transform my heart, renew my mind, and shape my life through the work of the Holy Spirit.

That ongoing transformation is what spiritual formation means to me.

Finally, these verses remind me that God never intended His work to stop with me. Through Christ, He has entrusted every believer with the ministry of reconciliation—inviting others to be restored to Him. That calling has become the purpose of this

website. My prayer is that every testimony, Bible study, devotional, and resource points people to Jesus Christ, encourages them to trust Him, and helps them continue the lifelong journey of spiritual formation until they reflect His character more fully.

Everything begins with God's love, is made possible through Jesus Christ, is sustained by the Holy Spirit, and is lived out by faithfully inviting others to *"Come back to God."* That is the vision God has placed upon my heart, and it is the mission that guides everything I share through this ministry.

Everything changed because of Jesus Christ.

Like every person, I was born separated from God because of sin. No amount of good work, personal effort, or religion could restore that relationship. Because of His great love, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die in my place so that through faith in Him I could be forgiven, redeemed, and made new.

That is where every story of spiritual transformation begins.

It begins at the cross.

When I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ on April 9, 2006, I knew something had changed within me. I knew I had experienced God's saving grace. What I did not realize at the time was that salvation was not the end of God's work in my life—it was only the beginning.

God was inviting me into a lifelong journey of becoming more like Jesus Christ.

At first, I thought spiritual growth meant simply reading my Bible more, praying more, and learning more about God. Those things are essential, but over the years God showed me that He wanted something much deeper than outward change.

He wanted my heart.

He wanted me to trust Him with every wound, every fear, every disappointment, every question, and every part of my life that I had tried to carry on my own.

Although I had accepted Christ as my Savior, I still carried years of hurt from abuse, rejection, broken relationships, grief, insecurity, and the lies I had believed about my worth. Those wounds did not disappear overnight. Instead of removing every struggle in a single moment, God lovingly began walking with me through a process of healing and transformation.

Looking back now, I am thankful He did.

If God had simply changed my circumstances, I might never have learned to depend on Him. Instead, He chose to change me. Day by day, year after year, He patiently renewed my mind through His Word, taught me to find my identity in Christ instead of my past, and showed me that His grace was greater than every painful chapter of my life.

That journey is continuing today.

I have not arrived, and I do not pretend to have everything figured out. I am still learning to trust Him more deeply, surrender more completely, and follow wherever He leads. Yet through every season, God has remained faithful. The same Savior who rescued me continues to transform me.

That gives me hope—not only for my own life, but for everyone who comes to this website.

If God can patiently transform my heart, heal my brokenness, and continue shaping me into the image of Christ, then He can do the same for anyone who is willing to place their life in His hands.

God Formed Me Through the Journey

When I look back over my life today, I can see God's hand in places where I never recognized it before.

There was a time when I only saw pain.

Now I see His faithfulness.

For many years, I believed my life had been defined by abuse, rejection, broken relationships, grief, disappointment, loneliness, fear, and the lies I believed in myself. Those experiences shaped how I viewed my worth, my future, and even my relationship with God. I often wondered if my life would ever have purpose beyond simply surviving another difficult season.

But God saw something I could not see. He never wasted a single part of my story.

Long before I understood what spiritual formation was, God was already using every season of my life to draw me closer to Himself. While I often asked Him to remove the pain, He was quietly using it to transform my heart. He was teaching me to trust Him when I could not understand my circumstances, to depend on His strength instead of my own, and to discover that my identity could never be found in what had happened to me but only in Jesus Christ.

One of the hardest seasons of my life came during my husband Joseph's illness and the months leading up to his passing. As I cared for him, I experienced grief, exhaustion, uncertainty, and heartbreak in ways I had never known before. There were moments when I questioned what God was doing. There were days when I felt overwhelmed and struggled to see beyond the pain.

Yet even in those moments, God never left me.

He faithfully carried me through every tear, every unanswered question, and every difficult day. Looking back now, I realize He was doing far more than helping me endure that season. He was deepening my faith, teaching me complete dependence upon Him, increasing my compassion for people who are hurting, and gently shaping my heart to reflect the love of Christ more fully.

The healing God has done in my life has not happened all at once. It has been a journey of learning to surrender one area of my heart after another.

- Through His Word, He replaced lies with truth.
- Through prayer, He taught me to listen.
- Through seasons of waiting, He taught me patience.
- Through suffering, He taught me perseverance.
- Through forgiveness, He brought freedom.
- Through His grace, He showed me that no part of my life was beyond His ability to redeem.

One of the greatest lessons God has taught me is that spiritual formation is not about becoming a stronger person through my own effort. It is about surrendering every part of my life to Him and allowing the Holy Spirit to continue His work within me. The more I have learned to trust Him, the more I have discovered that real transformation happens when we stop trying to control the process and simply allow God to do what only He can do.

- I am still growing.
- I am still learning.
- I am still being transformed.

Every day, God continues to reveal places where He wants to shape my heart to become more like Jesus Christ. That gives me great hope because it reminds me that He has not finished His work in me.

As I look back now, I understand something I could never see while I was walking through those difficult years.

God was never simply bringing me through my brokenness.

He was preparing me for the vision He had already placed on my life.

Everything He has taught me has become part of this ministry. Every lesson He has patiently walked me through now allows me to encourage someone else to trust Him. My story has never been about what I have overcome. It has always been about what God has done and continues to do through His amazing grace.

That is why no life is beyond hope.

If God can redeem my story, heal my heart, and continue transforming me into the likeness of Christ, then He can do the same for every person who is willing to place their trust in Him.

That is the hope I pray every reader discovers as they journey through this ministry.

God Confirmed the Vision

As God continued transforming my life, He also began revealing the purpose behind everything He had been doing.

For many years, I did not understand why I had walked through so much pain. I simply trusted God one step at a time, believing He was leading me even when I could not see where the path would end.

Then, little by little, He began making His purpose clear.

He placed within my heart a deep burden for people who are broken, hurt, discouraged, and spiritually weary. Every lesson He had patiently taught me became something I could now share with others. The comfort He had given me became comfort I could offer someone else. The hope He had restored within me became hope I wanted others to discover through Jesus Christ. As that calling continued to grow, God opened the door for me to study at Liberty University.

Looking back now, I realize that Liberty did not create the vision God had placed within me. God had already been preparing my heart for many years. Through every trial, every season of waiting, every answered prayer, and every difficult circumstance, He had been teaching me what it truly means to follow Christ and allow Him to transform a life.

What Liberty University did was strengthen that foundation.

It gave me a deeper understanding of God's Word. It helped me study Scripture more faithfully, understand spiritual formation more clearly, and grow in my ability to teach, disciple, and encourage others with biblical truth. God used that education to equip me for the ministry He had already been preparing me to fulfill.

One of the greatest gifts He gave me through my studies was helping me understand what He had been doing in my own life all along.

For years I simply called it "God changing me."

Now I understand that I was experiencing the beautiful work of spiritual formation.

God was patiently conforming me to the image of Jesus Christ.

That realization changed the way I looked at my entire journey.

I no longer saw my life as a collection of painful experiences. I began to see it as the story of God's faithfulness. Every season had a purpose. Every hardship became an opportunity for Him to shape my character. Every step drew me closer to Jesus and prepared me to serve others with greater compassion, humility, and hope.

Today, I understand that everything God has taught me was never meant to stay with me.

He has called me to share it.

That calling is the reason this website exists.

Every page has been created with one prayer in mind — that people would encounter Jesus Christ through His Word, discover the hope found in the Gospel, experience healing through His grace, and continue growing into the men and women God created them to be.

My desire is never to point people toward myself.

My desire is to faithfully point them toward Jesus Christ.

If someone leaves this ministry thinking more about Him than about me, then I have fulfilled the purpose God has placed on my life.

Everything begins with Jesus.

Everything depends upon Jesus.

Everything is for His glory.

The Vision God Has Given My Online Ministry

Today, when I look at this ministry, I do not simply see a website.

I see the evidence of God's faithfulness.

Everything you find here is the result of His grace, His patience, and His transforming work into my own life. This ministry was born out of the journey He has walked with me through over many years. It is the story of a faithful God who never stopped pursuing me, never stopped teaching me, and never stopped shaping me into the person He created me to become.

That is why this ministry belongs to Him.

My prayer has never been to build a platform for myself. My desire is simply to be a servant who faithfully points people to Jesus Christ. If someone visits this website and leaves knowing Him more deeply, trusting Him more fully, and loving Him more completely, then God has answered the prayer that has been on my heart from the very beginning.

- Everything on this website has been created with that purpose in mind.
- Every testimony is shared to remind you that God is still faithful.
- Every Bible study is written to help you know His Word more deeply.
- Every devotional is meant to encourage you to draw closer to Him.
- Every discipleship resource has been created to help you continue growing in your relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Every reflection is written with the hope that you will see God's hand at work in your own life, just as He has faithfully worked in mine.

Above all else, I pray that every page points you beyond my story and toward the Savior who changed my life.

One of the greatest lessons God has taught me is that spiritual formation is not about becoming a better version of ourselves. It is about surrendering ourselves to the Holy Spirit day by day and allowing Him to form the character of Jesus Christ within us. That work continues for every believer throughout our lives. We never stop learning, growing, trusting, and becoming more like the One we follow.

That is the vision God has placed upon my heart.

To minister to broken, hurting, and spiritually weary people by pointing them to the truth, healing, hope, and restoration found in Jesus Christ. Through biblical teaching, compassionate discipleship, personal testimony, and spiritual formation, my prayer is that every resource on this website helps people trust God through life's storms, discover their identity in Christ, and experience the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

- If you are hurting, I pray you find hope here.
- If you are searching, I pray you find truth here.
- If you are weary, I pray you find rest in Christ.
- If you feel broken, I pray you discover that God's grace is greater than your past.

And if you already know Jesus Christ, I pray these resources encourage you to keep growing in Him every day. My story is only one example of what God can do through a life that is surrendered to Him.

The same God who patiently transformed my heart can transform yours.

As you continue exploring these resources, my prayer is that you will not simply gain more knowledge about God. I pray that you will encounter Him personally, trust Him more deeply, follow Him more faithfully, and allow Him to continue the beautiful work He has begun in your life.

**May everything on this website lead you closer to Jesus Christ because
He alone is our hope, our healing, our strength, and the One who
transforms us into His likeness.**

To Him alone be all the glory.

Closing Scripture

"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

A Prayer of Thanksgiving to God

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your unfailing love, amazing grace, and faithfulness throughout every season of my life. Thank You for seeing purpose in me long before I could see it myself. Thank You for transforming my heart, renewing my mind through Your Word, and teaching me to trust You one step at a time. **Thank You** for never wasting the painful chapters of my life. You redeemed my brokenness, strengthened me through trials, and used every season to draw me closer to Jesus Christ. What I once believed would define me, You have used to reveal Your mercy, faithfulness, and redeeming power. **Thank You** for giving me this vision and entrusting me with this ministry. I know this calling did not begin with me—it began with You. Every testimony, Bible study, devotional, lesson, and resource on this website belongs to You. May each one-point people beyond my story and into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Continue shaping me into the likeness of Your Son. Keep my heart humble, my spirit teachable, and my eyes fixed on You. Let everything I write, every conversation I have, and every opportunity You provide bring glory to Your name. **Thank You** for allowing me to be Your servant. I give You all the praise, honor, and glory because You alone are worthy.

In the precious name of Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

A Prayer for You

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for every person You have brought to this page. You know their story, the burdens they carry, the questions they wrestle with, and where they need Your peace.

Lord, draw them close to You. Help them know they are deeply loved and never beyond Your grace. If they have never surrendered their life to Jesus Christ, open their heart to the Gospel and help them receive the forgiveness, hope, and new life found in Him. For those who already know You, continue the work You have begun within them. Heal what is broken, renew their minds through Your Word, strengthen their faith, and teach them to walk with Your Holy Spirit.

Reveal the purpose You created them to fulfill. Give them hearts to follow wherever You lead, courage to trust You through every season, and a desire to become more like Jesus Christ. May they leave with hope, stronger faith, and a deeper desire to walk with You.

In the precious name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.

Prayerfully prepared by

Christie Johnson

Christie Johnson

Servant of God

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

