

YOUR TRANSFORMATIONAL JOURNEY

Begin your Journey

“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 (NLT)

Come as you are—

God meets you
right where you are,
with grace, love and mercy.

Written by--

Christie Johnson, Servant of God

You are
loved.
+
You are
seen.
+
You are
welcome
here.



This paper is part of the *Your Transformation Journey series*—a collection of discipleship resources designed to help you come to Jesus Christ, discover your identity in Him, experience His healing, and grace, and grow into the person He created you to be.

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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 resource is intended to provide biblical encouragement, spiritual guidance, testimony, 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 resource points you to Jesus Christ. My story is only a testimony of God's grace and transforming power. Any wisdom shared comes from His Word and His faithful work in my life. May the Holy Spirit use these pages to draw you closer to Christ, strengthen your faith, renew your hope, and continue His transforming work in you.

"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, or prayer, I would be honored to hear from you.

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Welcome to Your Transformation Journey

"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 (NLT)

Welcome.

Whether you are taking your first steps toward Jesus Christ, returning after a difficult season, or continuing to grow in your walk with Him, this series was written to encourage you on your journey of transformation.

Transformation is not something we accomplish by our own strength. It is the lifelong work of God as He draws us to Himself, renews our minds through His Word, heals the broken places of our hearts, teaches us to trust Him, and shapes us into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

These eight papers are designed to be read one at a time. Each one focuses on a different part of the Christian journey while building upon the others. Together they present a biblical picture of God's grace, healing, purpose, and ongoing work in the life of every believer.

The Eight Papers

1. Come As You Are—God Meets You Right Where You Are

Discover that you do not have to clean up your life before coming to Jesus. He welcomes you with grace, love, mercy, and the invitation to begin a new life in Him.

2. Jesus Began My Transformation

Learn how salvation through Jesus Christ is the beginning of a new life and the foundation for every step of spiritual growth.

3. Walking with Jesus Today

Discover what it means to develop a daily relationship with Christ through Scripture, prayer, obedience, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

4. Trusting God Through Life's Storms

See how God remains faithful during seasons of suffering, grief, uncertainty, and hardship, using every trial to strengthen our faith.

5. Growing to Become More Like Christ

Explore how God transforms our character over time as we surrender to His work and allow Him to shape every area of our lives.

6. Discovering Your Identity in Christ

Learn who God says you are and how your identity in Jesus replaces fear, shame, rejection, and the lies of the past.

7. Transformed to Serve

Discover how God uses every part of our story—even our brokenness—to prepare us to serve others for His glory.

8. Living with Hope Until He Returns

Finish your journey by fixing your eyes on Jesus, living faithfully each day, and looking forward with confidence to His eternal promises.

How to Use This Series

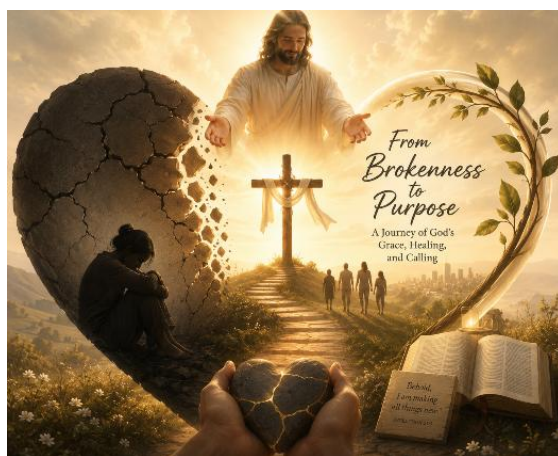
Read each paper slowly and prayerfully. Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to teach you through God's Word and to reveal areas where He desires to continue His transforming work.

As you read:

- Read every Scripture carefully and consider its meaning.
- Spend time praying about what God is teaching you.
- Reflect honestly on how each truth applies to your own life.
- Return to passages that speak deeply to your heart.
- Allow God's Word—not simply the author's experiences—to shape your thinking and strengthen your faith.

My prayer is that these resources will not simply give you information but will help you know Jesus Christ more deeply, trust Him more fully, and experience the ongoing transformation that only He can accomplish.

May God richly bless you as you begin—or continue—your own Transformation Journey with Him.



Come → Believe → Walk → Trust → Grow → Identity → Serve → Hope.

Come As You Are

God Meets You Right Where You Are with Grace, Love, and Mercy

Theme Scripture

"Then Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.'"

Matthew 11:28–30

Supporting Theme Verse

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

Romans 5:8

These Scriptures reveal the heart of the gospel: Jesus invites weary, broken, and burdened people to come to Him, and God demonstrated His love for us through Christ while we were still sinners. You do not have to clean yourself up before coming to God—He meets you where you are with grace, love, and mercy, and begins the work of transforming your life.

Welcome and Encouragement

Welcome to the beginning of your Transformation Journey. Whether you are taking your first steps toward Jesus Christ or have been walking with Him for many years, I am grateful you are here. Perhaps you are carrying burdens that seem too heavy, wrestling with guilt or shame, searching for hope, or simply longing to know God more deeply. Whatever has brought you to this moment, know this: you are not here by accident. God sees you, loves you, and invites you to come to Him just as you are.

This truth has changed my own life. There was a time when I believed my brokenness, failures, and past would always define me, but God met me with His grace long before I understood the depth of His love. Through Jesus Christ, He welcomed me just as I was and began the lifelong work of transforming my heart. My prayer is that as you begin this journey, you will discover that the same Savior who lovingly met me is inviting you to experience His forgiveness, hope, and transforming grace today.



What God's Word Teaches

From the very beginning of Scripture, we see the heart of God pursuing people who have wandered from Him. After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God did not abandon them. Instead, He sought them, called to them, and provided a covering for their shame (**Genesis 3**). Throughout the Bible, we see this same pattern repeated again and again. God is holy and just, yet He is also rich in mercy, abounding in steadfast love, and always taking the first step toward those who need Him (**Psalms 103:8**).

This truth reaches its fullest expression in Jesus Christ. He did not come for those who believed they had no need for Him; He came to seek and save those who were lost (**Luke 19:10**). Jesus welcomed sinners, touched lepers, forgave the guilty, comforted the brokenhearted, and offered hope to those the world had rejected. Whether it was the woman at the well, **Zacchaeus**, the woman caught in adultery, or the thief on the cross, Jesus met each person where they were (**John 4; Luke 19; John 8; Luke 23**). He never minimized sin, but neither did He require people to clean themselves up before coming to Him. His invitation was always the same: come, believe, follow Me.

God's Word teaches that this invitation is extended to every one of us.

We all fall short of God's perfect standard and cannot save ourselves through good works, religious activity, or personal effort (**Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:8–9**). Salvation is a gift of God's grace made possible through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we place our faith in Him, God forgives our sins, adopts us as His children, and begins the lifelong work of transforming us into the likeness of His Son (**John 1:12; 2 Corinthians 3:18**). The Christian life does not begin because we become worthy; it begins because God is gracious.

The Holy Spirit is the One who carries out this work of transformation.

He convicts us of sin, opens our hearts to the truth of God's Word, gives us the faith to trust Christ, and empowers us to grow in obedience (**John 16:8; Galatians 5:16**). He patiently renews our minds, shapes our character, and produces the fruit that reflects the life of Christ within us (**Romans 12:2; Galatians 5:22–23**). Transformation is not something we accomplish in our own strength; it is the continuing work of God in the life of every believer.



As I look back on my own journey, I am reminded that God did not wait until I had everything together before He called me to Himself. He met me in seasons of brokenness, fear, grief, and uncertainty, and His grace proved greater than my failures and stronger than my past. Looking back, I can see that He was patiently drawing me to Jesus long before I recognized His hand at work. That same grace is available to every person who comes to Him in faith.

No matter where you find yourself today, God's invitation has not changed. He knows your story completely, the joys and the sorrows, the victories and the failures, the questions, and the doubts—and He still calls you to come. His desire is not merely to improve your circumstances but to reconcile you to Himself through Jesus Christ, fill you with His Spirit, and begin the transforming work that will continue throughout your life (**Philippians 1:6**). The God who lovingly meets you where you are is also the God who faithfully leads you, one step at a time, into the person He created you to become.

Why This Matters

Many people believe they must change before God will accept them. They carry the weight of guilt, shame, regret, fear, or failure, wondering if they have done too much or wandered too far for God to love them. Yet the gospel tells a very different story. God does not wait for us to become worthy before inviting us into a relationship with Him. Through Jesus Christ, He extends His grace first, calling us to come just as we are (**Romans 5:8; Matthew 11:28**).

Understanding this truth changes everything. When we realize that God's love is not based on our performance but on His character, we are free to stop striving to earn His acceptance. Instead, we can come honestly before Him, confess our sins, receive His forgiveness, and trust Him to begin the work of transforming our hearts (**Ephesians 2:8–9; 1 John 1:9**). We no longer have to hide behind fear, shame, or the opinions of others because our hope is found in Christ alone.

This truth has been life-changing in my own journey. There were seasons when I believed my brokenness defined me and that I had to somehow fix myself before God could use me. Instead, I discovered that He met me with grace, patiently walked with me through my healing, and continues to transform me day by day. The same God who welcomed me is inviting you today. Wherever you are in your journey, His grace is enough, His mercy is new every morning, and His invitation is still the same: come to Jesus.



Signs You May Be Here

Every person's journey is different, but there are often common places where God begins drawing our hearts toward Him. You may be reading these pages because you are searching for hope, carrying burdens that feel too heavy, or sensing that there must be more to life than what you have experienced. I know what it is like to carry wounds, questions, and seasons of brokenness while wondering if God could truly love and use someone like me. Looking back, I can see that even when I felt far from Him, He was faithfully drawing me to Jesus. If you recognize yourself in any of the signs below, take heart. They are not evidence that God has abandoned you—they may be evidence that He is lovingly calling you to Himself.

- *You feel weary and overwhelmed by life's burdens. (Matthew 11:28)*
- *You carry guilt, shame, or regret from your past. (Romans 8:1)*
- *You long for forgiveness but are unsure if God could forgive you. (1 John 1:9)*
- *You have tried to find peace in other places but still feel empty inside. (John 4:13–14)*
- *You believe you need to fix yourself before coming to God. (Ephesians 2:8–9)*
- *You feel alone, forgotten, or wonder if anyone truly sees your pain. (Psalm 34:18)*
- *You sense God drawing your heart, even if you do not fully understand what He is doing. (John 6:44)*
- *You desire a fresh start and hope that your life can be different. (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

If these signs describe where you are today, know that there is hope. Jesus is not waiting for you to have all the answers or to put your life back together before you come to Him. He simply invites you to trust Him one step at a time. That invitation changed my life, and it continues to shape me every day as I learn to depend on His grace rather than my own strength. My prayer is that you will respond to His loving call and discover that He is faithful to meet you right where you are and lead you into the life He has prepared for you.

"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed."

Psalm 34:18



Biblical Truths to Remember

When emotions, past experiences, or difficult circumstances make it hard to see clearly, anchor your heart in what God says. His Word is unchanging, and His promises remain true regardless of how you feel. As you begin this journey, hold on to these biblical truths and allow them to remind you of God's heart for you.

- *God loves you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3)*
- *Jesus invites you to come to Him just as you are. (Matthew 11:28–30)*
- *Christ died for you while you were still a sinner. (Romans 5:8)*
- *You cannot earn God's grace—it is His free gift through Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8–9)*
- *God is rich in mercy and delights in showing compassion. (Ephesians 2:4–5)*
- *If you confess your sins, God is faithful to forgive you and cleanse you. (1 John 1:9)*
- *In Christ, your past does not define your future. (2 Corinthians 5:17)*
- *Nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:38–39)*
- *God is near to the brokenhearted and gives hope to those who trust Him. (Psalm 34:18)*
- *The God who welcomes you also promises to transform you. (Philippians 1:6)*

These truths are more than encouraging words—they are the unchanging promises of God. Return to them often, especially when doubts, fears, or old lies begin to surface. As you build your life on God's Word, you will discover that His grace is greater than your past, His love is deeper than your wounds, and His faithfulness will carry you every step of your transformation journey.

Walking with Jesus Today

My child, I know exactly where you are today. I see every burden you carry, every tear you have cried, every fear you hide, and every question that fills your heart. Nothing about your life is hidden from Me, and nothing you have done has changed My love for you. I am not asking you to make yourself worthy before you come. I am simply asking you to come to Me.

Lay your burdens at My feet and trust that My grace is sufficient for you. Stop trying to carry alone what I have already invited you to give to Me. My love is not based on your past, your successes, or your failures. It is rooted in who I am. I came so that you could know My forgiveness, My peace, and the new life I freely offer through My sacrifice on the cross.



Today, take one step toward Me. Open My Word. Talk with Me honestly in prayer. Tell Me what is on your heart, even the things you have never told anyone else. Trust that I hear you, I understand you, and I will never leave you. As you walk with Me day by day, I will continue the work I have begun in your life, shaping you into the person I created you to be.

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

Come just as you are today. I will walk with you one step at a time, and you will never walk alone. (John 10:27–28; Hebrews 13:5)

As you read this section, prayerfully receive these truths through the words and promises of Scripture.

Reflection Questions

Before you answer these questions, take a few quiet moments to pray and invite God to search your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything that is keeping you from fully trusting Jesus and to give you the courage to respond to His truth with honesty and humility. Remember God's promise:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts." —

Psalms 139:23–24

1. As you read this lesson, what truth about God's love, grace, or mercy spoke most deeply to your heart? Why do you think God brought that truth to your attention today?
2. What burdens, fears, wounds, guilt, shame, or unanswered questions are you still carrying that Jesus is inviting you to bring to Him?
3. Are there any lies you have believed about yourself or about God that have kept you from coming to Jesus with complete trust? What does God's Word say instead?
4. Looking honestly at your life today, where would you say you are in your relationship with Jesus Christ? What is one area where you sense He is inviting you to trust Him more fully?
5. Jesus lovingly invites you to follow Him and become His disciple (Luke 9:23). What step are you willing to take this week to know Him more deeply, trust Him more completely, and begin following Him more faithfully?





Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your unfailing love, amazing grace, and endless mercy. Thank You for meeting me where I was and continuing to transform my life through Jesus Christ. I also lift up every person reading these words today. Draw them closer to Your heart, open their eyes to the hope found in Christ alone, give them the courage to trust You with every part of their lives, and help them experience the peace, forgiveness, and new life that only You can give. May each step they take lead them into a deeper relationship with Jesus and a lifelong journey of faithfully following Him.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Journal Prompt

Take some time to be honest with God as you write. Don't worry about finding the right words—simply open your heart and allow Him to meet you where you are. As you reflect on today's lesson, consider these questions:

1. What is God showing me about His love, grace, and mercy that I need to believe and embrace today?
2. What burdens, fears, hurts, or areas of my life do I need to surrender to Jesus, trusting that He will meet me with compassion and truth?
3. If I choose to accept Jesus' invitation to "come," what is one step I will take this week to grow closer to Him and begin walking more faithfully as His disciple?

This Week's Challenge

Spend at least 15 minutes with Jesus each day this week. Find a quiet place where you can be alone with Him. Read Matthew 11, pray honestly about where you are in your life, and write one thing God teaches you each day about His grace, love, or mercy. Don't worry about saying the "right" words—simply come to Him as you are, trusting that He delights in meeting with you and drawing you closer to Himself (*James 4:8*).

Verse to Remember

"Come close to God, and God will come close to you."

James 4:8

Looking Ahead

Now that you have discovered Jesus' invitation to come just as you are, the next step is learning what it truly means to surrender your life to Him. Jesus said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). In the next paper, we will explore what it means to Surrender to Christ and why surrender is the beginning of a life fully devoted to Him.

Closing Blessing

Thank you for taking the first step on this Transformation Journey. My prayer is that you will continue seeking Jesus with an open heart and take the next step toward surrendering your life fully to Him. May the Lord bless you, strengthen your faith, fill your heart with His peace, and draw you ever closer to Jesus as you continue learning what it means to follow Him.

Prayerfully prepared by

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