

YOUR TRANSFORMATIONAL JOURNEY

Continue Your Journey

“Jesus came and told his disciples,
‘I have been given all authority
in heaven and on earth. Therefore,
go and make disciples of all the
nations, baptizing them in the name
of the Father and the Son and the
Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples
to obey all the commands I have
given you. And be sure of this:
I am with you always, even to
the end of the age.’”

MATTHEW 28:18–20 (NLT)

Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ

Following Jesus. Loving God.
Loving Others. Making Disciples.

—❤—
Go and Encourage Others—
Share the hope of Christ and make disciples.

Written by--

Christie Johnson, Servant of God

Note: If this is your first paper in the **Your Transformation Journey** series, please begin by reading the **Series Introduction**. It explains how to use these studies, includes important ministry information and disclaimers, and provides an overview of the complete transformation journey.

If you are reading this paper as a stand-alone study, you may continue here and refer to the **Series Introduction** whenever you have questions about the ministry, copyright, Scripture quotations, or how these studies are designed to work together.

Throughout these studies, you will also find memory Scriptures, reflection questions, journal prompts, weekly challenges, and occasional worship song recommendations. For a more complete collection of worship music organized by spiritual themes and stages of the Transformation Journey, please visit the **Ministry Library** on my website. My prayer is that these resources will encourage you to spend time in God's Word, draw you into worship, and strengthen your daily walk with Jesus Christ.



Main Theme

Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ

Jesus does not simply call us to believe in Him — He calls us to become His disciples. A disciple is someone who loves God wholeheartedly, abides in Christ daily, obeys His Word, is continually transformed by the Holy Spirit through God's Word, loves others as Jesus loves them, and faithfully helps others become His disciples. This final paper brings together every step of the Transformation Journey and shows how each stage has been preparing us to live as lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ. It is not the end of the journey, but the beginning of a lifetime of walking with Him until the day we see Him face to face.

Main Scripture

Matthew 28:18–20

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commandments I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Why This Scripture?

Jesus' final words to His disciples reveal the mission He has entrusted to every believer.

The Great Commission is more than a command to go—it is Jesus' invitation for every believer to become His disciple and to faithfully help others become disciples who know Him, love Him, and obey His teachings. Everything we have studied throughout this Transformation Journey has been preparing us for this calling. Jesus promises that as we faithfully follow Him and share His truth with others, He will always be with us. This promise gives us both confidence and hope as we continue our lifelong journey of discipleship.

Key Supporting Scriptures

These passages form the biblical foundation for what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

- **Matthew 22:37–40** — The Great Commandment: Loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. This is the foundation of every disciple's life.

Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

- **John 13:34–35** — Jesus teaches that His disciples are recognized by their love for one another, reflecting His love to the world.

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.

- **John 15:1–17** (selected passages) — Jesus calls His followers to abide in Him, reminding us that apart from Him we can do nothing and that lasting spiritual fruit comes from remaining in Him.

"...Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.... when you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.... 'This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends...'

For a deeper understanding of what it means to abide in Christ and bear lasting spiritual fruit, I encourage you to prayerfully read the entire fifteenth chapter of John's Gospel.

- **Luke 9:23–24** — Jesus teaches that true discipleship requires daily surrender, taking up our cross, and faithfully following Him.

Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

Additional Scriptures for Further Study

The following passages will deepen your understanding of biblical discipleship and reinforce the truths throughout this paper. As you continue your journey with Christ, take time to prayerfully read and reflect on each of these passages, allowing God's Word to shape your heart and strengthen your walk as His disciple.

- **Luke 14:25–33**
- **Romans 12:1–2**
- **Philippians 1:6**
- **Ephesians 4:11–16**
- **Colossians 3:12–17**
- **James 1:22–25**
- **1 Peter 2:9–12**
- **2 Corinthians 5:17–20**
- **Hebrews 10:24–25**

Throughout this Transformation Journey, Jesus has been preparing your heart to become more than a believer—He has been preparing you to become His disciple.

Discipleship is not a destination you arrive at; it is a lifelong relationship of following Jesus Christ. Every day, He continues to shape your heart, deepen your faith, and conform you more into His image. As you learn to love Him more, trust Him more, and obey Him more, you continue growing into the disciple He has called you to be. In this final paper, we will discover what it means to faithfully follow Jesus Christ for the rest of our lives, helping others become His disciples as we continue growing in our own walk with Him.

Welcome and Encouragement

Congratulations on reaching this final paper in the **Transformation Journey** series. Whether you have walked through each study from the beginning or are reading this paper as a stand-alone guide, I am thankful you are here. My prayer is that throughout this journey, you have experienced the love of Jesus Christ in a deeper way and have seen Him faithfully working in your life.

As you have journeyed through these studies, Jesus has been gently leading you one step at a time. He invited you to come just as you are. He called you to surrender your life to Him. He began healing your broken places, revealed your true identity in Him, renewed your mind through His Word, taught you to abide in Him each day, and helped you discover the purpose He has for your life. None of these steps were accidental. Each one has been part of His loving work of preparing you for something greater.



You are never walking this journey alone. Jesus faithfully walks beside those who follow Him.

Many people believe the Christian life begins and ends with placing their faith in Jesus Christ. While salvation is the greatest gift we could ever receive, Jesus lovingly calls us beyond that first step. Throughout the Gospels, He continually invited people to follow Him—not only to believe in Him, but to become His disciples. His invitation has always been to know Him personally, love Him wholeheartedly, obey Him faithfully, and become more like Him each day.

That same invitation is extended to you today.

This final paper is not simply the conclusion of a series of Bible studies. It is an invitation to embrace the lifelong calling of discipleship. Jesus is inviting you into a deeper relationship with Him—a life of abiding in His presence, growing in His Word,

walking in obedience, loving others as He has loved you, and faithfully helping others discover the hope and salvation found in Him.

If there is one truth I hope you carry with you from this entire journey, it is this:

**Jesus is not simply calling you to experience transformation —
He is calling you to become His disciple.**

The wonderful news is that you do not walk this journey alone. The same Savior who called His first disciples continues to call, guide, strengthen, and transform His followers today. Through the Holy Spirit, the truth of God's Word, and His unfailing grace, He will continue the good work He has begun in you as you faithfully follow Him one day at a time.

As we begin this final study together, let us turn once again to the words of Jesus Himself. **There is no greater teacher, no greater example, and no greater guide for understanding what it truly means to live as His disciple.**



Jesus Calls Every Believer to Be His Disciple

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus continually invited ordinary people into a life-changing relationship with Him. He invited the weary to find rest, the broken to receive healing, sinners to receive forgiveness, and the lost to receive eternal life. Yet one invitation appears again and again throughout the Gospels:

"Follow Me."

Jesus did not simply call people to admire Him from a distance or agree with His teachings. He called ordinary men and women to leave their old way of life behind and become His disciples. That same invitation continues today. Whether you have followed Christ for many years or have only recently placed your faith in Him, Jesus lovingly calls you to follow Him and continue growing as His disciple each day.

Discipleship is not about earning God's love or proving your worth. We are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Rather, discipleship is the lifelong response of a heart that has been transformed by His grace. As we walk with Him, the

Holy Spirit continues shaping us into the image of Christ so that our lives increasingly reflect His character, His love, and His truth.

Jesus shows us throughout the Gospels what every disciple is called to become.

Love God Above Everything Else

Matthew 22:37–40

Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, He did not begin with ministry, service, or religious activity.

He began with love.

Before we can faithfully serve Christ, we must first love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Every part of our lives is to be surrendered to Him because He alone is worthy of our complete devotion.

This love becomes the foundation of every decision we make, every relationship we build, every act of obedience we offer, and every step we take as His disciples.

Love Others as Jesus Loves Us

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.

Jesus gave His disciples a new command—not simply to love others, but to love them in the same way He had loved them.

His love is patient, sacrificial, forgiving, compassionate, truthful, holy, and full of grace. Jesus then gives one of the most powerful statements about discipleship in all of Scripture:

“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

The world should recognize Jesus in us by the way we love people—not only those who are easy to love, but also those who are difficult, those who have hurt us, and those who desperately need the hope found in Christ.

Abide in Christ

John 15:4–5, 8, 12–13

“...Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.... when you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.... 'This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends...'

Jesus reminds us that apart from Him we can do nothing of eternal value.

A branch separated from the vine cannot live or bear fruit. In the same way, our spiritual lives cannot flourish apart from a close, daily relationship with Christ.

To abide means to remain in Him—to continually seek Him through His Word, prayer, worship, obedience, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

As we remain in Christ, He transforms our hearts, produces spiritual fruit within us, and enables us to love others as He has loved us.

Discipleship is not accomplished through human effort; it is the natural result of remaining connected to Jesus.

Obey His Word

Throughout His ministry, Jesus connected love with obedience. He said:

John 14:15

If you love me, obey my commandments.

Obedience is not how we earn God's love; it is how we respond to His love.

When we truly love Jesus, we desire to know His Word, trust His commands, and follow His ways. His commands are not meant to burden us but to lead us into life, truth, holiness, and deeper fellowship with Him.

As disciples, we do not obey Jesus perfectly, but we continue growing in surrender. When we fall short, we come back to Him in repentance, receive His grace, and ask the Holy Spirit to help us walk in obedience again.

Deny Ourselves and Follow Him Daily

Luke 9:23–24

Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.”

Following Jesus requires surrender every day.

He lovingly calls us to lay down our own plans, ambitions, desires, and self-centered pursuits so that we may faithfully follow Him.

Taking up our cross is not merely enduring hardship. It is a daily decision to submit every part of our lives to Christ's authority and to trust Him even when obedience is difficult.

True discipleship is not about convenience; it is about faithfulness.

Bear Fruit

Jesus never intended for His followers to remain spiritually stagnant.

As we abide in Him, the Holy Spirit transforms us from the inside out. Our thoughts begin to reflect God's truth. Our attitudes become more like Christ's. Our words become filled with grace. Our actions increasingly display His love.

The fruit of a disciple is seen not only in personal spiritual growth but also in a life that points others to Jesus.

Healthy disciples naturally help others grow because they themselves are continually growing.

Make Disciples

Matthew 28:18–20

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the

commandments I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Jesus' final command was not simply to go into the world.

His command was to make disciples.

Making disciples is not about building our own ministry or gaining recognition. It is about faithfully pointing people to Jesus Christ so they may know Him, follow Him, and glorify God with their lives.

Making disciples begins by living as one. As we faithfully follow Christ, He opens opportunities for us to share our testimony, encourage fellow believers, teach God's Word, pray with others, serve with humility, and point people to the saving hope found in Jesus Christ.

Not every disciple is called to the same ministry, but every disciple is called to faithfully represent Christ wherever He has placed them.

Whether in your home, workplace, church, neighborhood, or community, God can use your life to encourage others to know Him more deeply.

A Lifelong Invitation

Jesus' invitation has never changed. He does not expect you to walk this journey in your own strength. The same Lord who calls you to follow Him also gives you His Holy Spirit to guide, teach, strengthen, convict, encourage, and transform you each day. As you remain in Him, He faithfully continues the work He has begun in your life.

He is still calling ordinary people to faithfully follow Him, become His disciples, and reflect His grace to the world.

The Transformation Journey has been preparing your heart for this very calling.

Now, Jesus invites you to continue walking with Him every day, growing in His likeness, loving as He loves, obeying His Word, and helping others become His disciples.

This is the lifelong journey of every follower of Jesus Christ.

How Jesus Has Been Preparing You

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 Jesus Christ returns.

As you look back over this **Transformation Journey**, I hope you can see that God has been doing far more than simply teaching you biblical truths. From the very beginning, He has been patiently and lovingly shaping your heart into the likeness of His Son. Every lesson, every Scripture, every reflection question, every prayer, and every challenge has been another step in His work of spiritual formation.

Perhaps when you began this journey, you simply wanted hope, healing, or answers to life's questions. Maybe you were searching for peace, longing to know God more deeply, or wondering if He could truly transform your life. Whatever brought you here, Jesus has been leading you toward something greater than you may have imagined.

He first invited you to **come just as you are**, reminding you that His love is not based on your past, your failures, or your ability to fix yourself. His grace welcomed you before you had anything to offer in return.

Then He invited you to **surrender your life to Him**, trusting that His plans are greater than your own. You began learning that following Jesus means placing every area of your life under His loving authority.

As you continued walking with Him, Jesus began bringing **healing and restoration** to the places where sin, pain, disappointment, fear, and brokenness had left their mark. Through His presence and His Word, He reminded you that no wound is beyond His ability to redeem.

He then revealed your **true identity in Christ**. Instead of defining yourself by your past, your mistakes, or what others have said about you, you began discovering who God says you are—His beloved child, chosen, forgiven, redeemed, and deeply loved.

As your understanding of His truth grew, Jesus began **renewing your mind**. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the truth of Scripture, He started replacing lies with truth, fear with faith, shame with grace, and hopelessness with confident hope in Him.

He also taught you what it means to **abide in Him each day**. You discovered that spiritual growth is not accomplished by striving harder but by remaining close to Jesus through prayer, worship, Scripture, obedience, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

As your relationship with Christ deepened, He began revealing the unique **purpose** He has for your life. You learned that every gift, every experience, every trial, and every victory can be used for His glory and for the good of others.

Looking back, you can now see that every step of this journey has been leading to one beautiful truth:

Jesus is not simply calling you to experience transformation—He is calling you to become His disciple.

Transformation was never meant to be the destination. (See also Romans 12:1–2.) It has always been God's gracious work of preparing you to know Christ more deeply, love Him more completely, follow Him more faithfully, and help others do the same.

And now, your journey as a disciple truly begins.

The same Savior who called His first disciples continues to walk beside you today. He is still teaching you. He is still transforming you. He is still strengthening your faith. And He will continue faithfully completing the good work He has begun in your life as you walk with Him one day at a time.

My Journey of Becoming a Disciple

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 Jesus Christ returns.

When I look back over my life, I can clearly see that God was working long before I recognized His hand. There were seasons filled with pain, rejection, abuse, disappointment, loss, and brokenness. For many years, I searched for love, acceptance, and purpose in places that could never truly satisfy my heart. I believed many lies about who I was and carried wounds that I thought would always define me.

Yet even then, God never stopped pursuing me.

His love was always reaching toward me, even when I could not see Him. Looking back now, I realize He was preparing me for a relationship with Him long before I ever understood His amazing grace.



Some of the sweetest moments of discipleship happen quietly in the presence of Jesus.

Jesus Invited Me to Come to Him

Matthew 11:28–30

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.’

On **April 9, 2006**, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I knew He had forgiven my sins and given me eternal life, but if I am honest, I still had much to learn about what it truly meant to follow Him. I loved Jesus, yet I was still carrying the weight of my past and trying to live much of my life in my own strength.

God was patient with me. He never stopped loving me, teaching me, or drawing me closer to Himself.

Jesus Taught Me to Surrender

Luke 9:23–24

Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

Years later, on **July 30, 2021**, God brought me to a place of complete surrender. I realized that knowing about Jesus was different from fully surrendering every area of my life to Him. That night I prayed, asking God to help me get right with Him and to teach me how to truly follow Christ.

The very next day, I began reading the New Testament with a hunger I had never experienced before. By God's grace, I completed it in twenty-eight days. More importantly, His Word began changing me. Scripture was no longer simply information—it became God's living voice speaking truth into every area of my life.

Jesus Began Healing My Heart

Psalms 147:3

He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds.

As I spent time with Jesus, He began gently bringing healing to places I had hidden for years. The abuse, rejection, shame, fear, grief, and painful memories that once seemed to define me slowly lost their power as I learned to trust Him with every broken piece of my heart.

Healing did not happen overnight. It became a journey of learning to bring my hurts honestly before God, allowing His truth to replace the lies I had believed for so many years. Through Scripture, prayer, worship, and the faithful presence of the Holy Spirit, Jesus continued restoring what had been wounded.

Jesus Showed Me My True Identity

2 Corinthians 5:17

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

For much of my life, I believed I was what had happened to me. I believed I was my failures, my pain, my rejection, and my past. But God's Word began teaching me something entirely different.

Little by little, I discovered that my identity is not found in what others have said about me or what I have experienced. My identity is found in Jesus Christ. I am forgiven, redeemed, loved, chosen, and adopted into God's family. That truth changed the way I began seeing myself, and it continues changing me today.

Jesus Renewed My Mind

Romans 12:1–2

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice, the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 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.

One of God's greatest works in my life has been renewing the way I think. He has patiently taught me to recognize lies and replace them with His truth. Instead of allowing fear, shame, or discouragement to control my thoughts, I continue learning to fix my mind on what God says is true.

This transformation is still taking place. Every day, His Word shapes my thinking a little more and teaches me to trust Him more completely.

Jesus Taught Me to Abide

John 15:4–5

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

I once thought spiritual growth depended mostly on trying harder. Jesus showed me something much better.

He taught me that lasting transformation comes from abiding in Him. As I spend time with Him in prayer, worship, Scripture, and quiet dependence upon the Holy Spirit, I find the strength, wisdom, peace, and joy that only He can give.

The closer I remain to Jesus, the more He changes my heart from the inside out.

Jesus Revealed My Purpose

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

As God continued transforming my life, He also began revealing why He had allowed me to walk through so many difficult seasons.

He has called me to minister to broken, hurting, and spiritually weary people by pointing them to the truth, healing, hope, and restoration found in Jesus Christ. The very places where I once experienced the deepest pain have become places where God now allows me to encourage others with His comfort and His truth.

I do not share my story because my life is extraordinary. I share it because God's grace is extraordinary.

I Am Still Becoming His Disciple

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 Jesus Christ returns.

I have not arrived, and I never will this side of heaven. Every day I still need God's grace. Every day I continue learning to surrender more completely, trust Him more deeply, love Him more fully, and follow Him more faithfully.

That is what discipleship is—a lifelong journey of walking with Jesus.

Following Jesus Is Not Always Easy

John 16:33

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart because I have overcome the world.

Jesus never promised His disciples an easy road. Instead, He lovingly prepared them for the reality that following Him would include trials, suffering, opposition, and seasons of difficulty. Yet He also promised that we would never face those seasons alone because He has overcome the world.



Even through life's storms, Jesus faithfully walks with those who follow Him.

There have been seasons in my own journey when old wounds resurfaced, grief felt overwhelming, discouragement whispered lies, and I questioned whether I was strong enough to keep moving forward. There were moments when I wondered if God was still working or if I was making any difference at all.

Yet every time I honestly brought those struggles before Him, Jesus met me there.

He reminded me that my strength was never meant to come from myself. When I was weak, He became my strength. When fear tried to take hold of my heart, He reminded

me of His promises. When I wanted to give up, He faithfully carried me one step at a time.

Peter's life reminds me that discipleship is not about never failing. Peter loved Jesus deeply, yet he denied Him three times. He experienced fear, regret, and brokenness. But Jesus did not abandon him. Instead, Jesus lovingly restored him, strengthened his faith, and entrusted him with caring for His people. Peter's story reminds us that our failures do not have the final word—Jesus does. The same Savior who restored Peter continues restoring His disciples today.

God never asks us to walk this road alone. The Holy Spirit lives within every believer, giving us the strength, wisdom, courage, and endurance to faithfully follow Christ one day at a time.

Philippians 4:13

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

If you are walking through a difficult season today, don't mistake the difficulty of the journey for the absence of God. Often, the places where our faith grows the deepest are the very places where we learn to depend on Him the most.

Following Jesus is not always easy—but it is always worth it.

Scriptures for the Difficult Days

When the journey feels difficult, return to God's Word and allow His promises to strengthen your heart. These passages have encouraged believers throughout history and remind us that God is always faithful to those who trust Him.

- **John 16:33**
- **Isaiah 41:10**
- **Philippians 4:13**
- **2 Corinthians 12:9–10**
- **James 1:2–4**
- **Hebrews 12:1–3**
- **Romans 8:28**
- **Psalms 46:1**

When your heart feels weary, don't stop at reading these Scriptures. Spend time worshiping the Lord as well. Worship has often helped turn my eyes away from my circumstances and back to the faithfulness of God. If you would like additional encouragement, I invite you to visit the **Worship Music section** of the **Ministry Library**

on my website, where you'll find songs organized by themes to help strengthen your faith during every season of your journey.

If there is one truth I hope you see through my story, it is this:

If God could transform someone like me, He can transform anyone who comes to Him with a willing heart.

Throughout Scripture, God transformed ordinary people whose lives seemed broken or unlikely to be used for His glory. He restored **Peter** after his denial, called **Paul** from persecutor to apostle, welcomed **Mary Magdalene** with His redeeming grace, used **Moses** despite his fears, and remained faithful to **David** even after his failures. Their stories are different from mine, but they all point to the same faithful God.

The same Jesus who met them is the same Jesus who met me.

And He is the same Jesus who is inviting you today.

No matter what your past holds, no matter how broken you feel, and no matter how impossible change may seem, Jesus is able to forgive, restore, heal, transform, and lead you into the life He created you to live.

He is still calling ordinary people to become His disciples.

Perhaps today, He is calling you.

A Prayer for Your Journey

Father,

thank You for never giving up on us. Thank You for calling us to follow Your Son and for faithfully walking beside us every step of the way. When this journey becomes difficult, remind us that You are our strength, our refuge, and our hope. Help us to keep our eyes on Jesus, trust Your promises, remain faithful in every season, and continue growing as His disciples. Complete the good work You have begun in each of us and use our lives to bring glory to You and point others to Christ.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Before you continue, I encourage you to pause and worship with **"Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me" by CityAlight**. My prayer is that its message will remind you that everything you have learned throughout this Transformation Journey points to one

beautiful truth: it is not by our strength, but by the grace and power of Jesus Christ working within us.

Characteristics of a Disciple



Jesus calls us to walk the path of lifelong discipleship, one faithful step at a time.

This section is designed to become a lifelong guide. Return to it often, prayerfully asking the Holy Spirit to continue shaping these characteristics within you as you grow in your walk with Jesus Christ. Jesus never called us simply to believe certain truths—He called us to become His disciples. As we remain in Him and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, He continually shapes our hearts to reflect His character. These characteristics are not a checklist to earn God's love; they are the evidence of a life being transformed by His grace.

As you read through each characteristic, prayerfully ask the Lord to show you where He is growing you and where He is inviting you to trust Him more deeply. None of us lives these perfectly, but as we continue abiding in Christ, He faithfully transforms us day by day.

Take time to read each Scripture in your Bible before reading the explanation. Allow God's Word to speak to your heart first, then use the reflections below to help you apply these truths in your daily walk with Jesus.

Love God Above Everything Else

Matthew 22:37–38

What did Jesus teach?

Jesus taught that loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength is the greatest commandment. Every other area of discipleship begins here.

What does this look like in everyday life?

Loving God means making Him the highest priority in our lives. We seek Him before making decisions, trust Him during difficult seasons, worship Him with gratitude, and desire to know Him more through His Word.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Set aside intentional time with Jesus today. Read His Word, pray honestly, and thank Him for His love. Ask Him to help you love Him more than anything else.

Love Others as Jesus Loves

John 13:34–35

What did Jesus teach?

Jesus commanded His followers to love others in the same way He has loved us.

What does this look like in everyday life?

We forgive, encourage, serve, show compassion, extend grace, and speak truth with love. Even when people are difficult, we choose to reflect the love Christ has shown us.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Ask God to place one person on your heart who needs encouragement, forgiveness, kindness, or prayer. Take one practical step to demonstrate Christ's love today.

Abide in Christ

John 15:4–5

What did Jesus teach?

Jesus taught that apart from Him we can do nothing. Lasting spiritual fruit comes from remaining connected to Him.

What does this look like in everyday life?

We regularly spend time with Jesus through Scripture, prayer, worship, obedience, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Instead of relying on our own strength, we learn to depend upon His.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Spend at least fifteen quiet minutes with Jesus today. Listen more than you speak and ask Him what He wants to teach you.

Obey His Word

John 14:15

What did Jesus teach?

Jesus taught that those who love Him will obey His commands.

What does this look like in everyday life?

Obedience becomes a joyful response to God's love. We choose God's truth over our feelings, His wisdom over our opinions, and His will over our own desires.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Ask yourself, "Is there one area where God has already shown me what He wants me to do?" Take one step of obedience today.

Deny Yourself and Follow Him Daily

Luke 9:23–24

What did Jesus teach?

Jesus taught that discipleship requires daily surrender and faithfully following Him.

What does this look like in everyday life?

We surrender our pride, selfish ambitions, fears, and personal agendas so Christ can lead our lives.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Begin your morning by praying, "Lord, today I choose Your will instead of my own. Lead me wherever You want me to go."

Bear Spiritual Fruit

Galatians 5:22–23

What did Jesus teach?

As we remain in Christ, the Holy Spirit produces Christlike character within us.

What does this look like in everyday life?

People begin seeing Jesus through our attitudes, words, and actions. Love replaces selfishness. Peace replaces anxiety. Patience replaces frustration. Kindness becomes natural.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Choose one fruit of the Spirit and intentionally practice it today. Ask God to develop that characteristic in your heart.

Humbly Serve Others

Mark 10:45

What did Jesus teach?

Jesus showed that true greatness is found in serving others.

What does this look like in everyday life?

We willingly help others without expecting recognition. We look for opportunities to encourage, support, and bless people simply because Christ has served us.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Look for one unnoticed act of service you can do today without expecting anything in return.

Walk by Faith

2 Corinthians 5:7

What did Jesus teach?

Jesus continually called His followers to trust Him even when they could not see the outcome.

What does this look like in everyday life?

Instead of allowing fear to make our decisions, we trust God's promises and believe He is working even when circumstances are difficult.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Choose one worry you have been carrying and intentionally place it into God's hands through prayer.

Live with Humility

Philippians 2:3–5

What did Jesus teach?

Jesus modeled humility by serving others and putting the Father's will before His own.

What does this look like in everyday life?

We recognize that every blessing, ability, and opportunity comes from God. We seek to glorify Christ instead of ourselves.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Ask God to help you notice the needs of others before your own and look for ways to encourage someone without seeking recognition.

Pursue Holiness

1 Peter 1:15–16

What did Jesus teach?

God calls His people to reflect His holy character.

What does this look like in everyday life?

We desire our thoughts, words, choices, and relationships to honor Christ. Holiness is not perfection—it is a growing desire to become more like Jesus.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal one area of your life where He wants to continue transforming you.

Persevere Through Trials

James 1:2–4

What did Jesus teach?

Jesus never promised an easy road, but He promised His presence and peace through every trial.

What does this look like in everyday life?

Rather than giving up during difficult seasons, we continue trusting God's faithfulness, knowing He uses hardships to strengthen our faith.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Whatever challenge you are facing today, bring it honestly before God. Ask Him to help you trust Him one step at a time.

Encourage Other Believers

Hebrews 10:24–25

What did Jesus teach?

Jesus built a community of disciples who strengthened one another.

What does this look like in everyday life?

We pray for one another, worship together, offer encouragement, and help each other remain faithful to Christ.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Reach out to another believer with a note, phone call, text message, or prayer of encouragement.

Share the Gospel and Make Disciples

Matthew 28:19–20

What did Jesus teach?

Jesus commanded every disciple to make disciples.

What does this look like in everyday life?

We point people to Jesus through both our words and our lives. We share our testimony, encourage spiritual growth, and help others learn to follow Christ.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Pray for one person who needs Jesus or encouragement in their faith. Ask God to open a door for you to share His love in a natural and faithful way.

Live with Gratitude

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

What did Jesus teach?

God calls His people to rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in every circumstance because He is always faithful.

What does this look like in everyday life?

Gratitude changes our perspective. Instead of focusing on what we lack, we begin recognizing God's presence, His provision, and His goodness, even during difficult seasons.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Before your day ends, write down three specific things you are thankful to God for. Let gratitude become a daily habit that keeps your heart focused on His faithfulness.

Continue Growing

Philippians 1:6

What did Jesus teach?

God faithfully completes the work He begins in every believer.

What does this look like in everyday life?

Discipleship is a lifelong journey. We never stop learning, growing, repenting, trusting, and becoming more like Jesus until the day we are with Him.

Walking as a Disciple Today

Ask the Lord, "What is one area where You want me to grow next?" Listen for His leading, trust His timing, and take one faithful step forward.

A Final Encouragement

As you read through these characteristics, remember that Jesus is not asking you to become all of these in your own strength. The Holy Spirit is faithfully producing them in your life as you remain in Christ. Some will grow quickly, while others will take years of patient refinement. Do not become discouraged by where you still need to grow. Instead, rejoice in what God has already begun and trust His promise that He will continue completing His work in you.

The goal of discipleship is not perfection—it is becoming more like Jesus, one faithful step at a time.

Walking with Jesus Today

Many people imagine discipleship happens during church services, Bible studies, or special ministry opportunities. While those moments are important, I have discovered that discipleship is most often lived in the ordinary moments of everyday life. It is found in the quiet decisions we make each morning, the thoughts we choose to believe

throughout the day, the words we speak, the way we treat people, and the countless opportunities we have to trust and obey Jesus.

People sometimes ask what it looks like to follow Jesus on an ordinary day.



Discipleship is lived one ordinary day at a time.

For me, it begins before anything else.

Each morning, I choose to surrender my day to the Lord. Before I make plans or face whatever the day may bring, I remind myself that my life belongs to Him. I ask Him to guide my thoughts, my words, my decisions, and my attitudes so that everything I do will bring glory to Him.

Romans 12:1–2

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 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.

Throughout the day, I intentionally seek Jesus. I have learned that following Him is not simply something I do during a quiet time—it is learning to remain aware of His presence wherever I am. Whether I am studying Scripture, writing, serving, talking with someone, facing a difficult decision, or simply going about ordinary responsibilities, I want my heart to remain focused on Him.

When God impresses something on my heart through His Word, prayer, or the prompting of the Holy Spirit, I write it down. Recording what He teaches me helps me remember His faithfulness, recognize His guidance, and continue growing in my relationship with Him.

John 15:4–5

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

One of the greatest lessons Jesus continues teaching me is to believe what He says more than what my emotions or circumstances tell me. There are still days when fear, discouragement, grief, or old lies try to find their way back into my thinking. When they do, I choose to return to God's Word and remind myself of what is true. Little by little, He continues renewing my mind.

I also desire to reflect God's character in the way I treat people. Jesus has shown me incredible patience, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and grace. My prayer is that others would experience those same qualities through my life. I certainly do not live this perfectly, but each day I ask the Holy Spirit to help me become a little more like Christ than I was yesterday.

One of the deepest desires God has placed within my heart is to see people experience the hope that is found only in Jesus Christ. I know what it feels like to live with brokenness, hopelessness, and unanswered questions. Because Jesus has been so faithful to me, I never want anyone to believe they are beyond His love, His forgiveness, or His ability to restore them. Whether through a conversation, a written page, a prayer, or a simple act of kindness, I want my life to continually point people toward Him.

There are still days when I fail. I say the wrong thing, become discouraged, struggle with my thoughts, or fall short of reflecting Christ the way I desire. The Bible reminds us that none of us has reached perfection in this life.

1 John 1:8–9

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

When I fall, I no longer stay there. Instead, I confess my sin, receive God's forgiveness, thank Him for His grace, and continue following Jesus. His mercy is new every morning, and His faithfulness never fails.

Discipleship has taught me that following Jesus is not about never stumbling—it is about continually returning to the One who never lets go of us.

Lamentations 3:22–23

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

As I continue walking with Christ, I have learned that discipleship is not built on extraordinary moments. It is built one ordinary day at a time—through daily surrender, daily prayer, daily trust, daily obedience, daily repentance, daily worship, and daily dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

That is the life Jesus continues inviting every one of us to live.

And it is a journey that is worth taking every single day.

Reflection Questions

Before answering these questions, spend a few quiet moments with the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and honestly reveal where you are growing as a disciple and where Jesus is inviting you to trust and follow Him more deeply. Answer each question prayerfully, remembering that God's purpose is never to condemn you but to lovingly transform you into the likeness of Christ.

Psalms 139:23–24

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends You and lead me along the path of everlasting life."

1. Is Jesus truly the Lord of every area of my life, or am I still holding back places that I have not fully surrendered to Him?

Scripture: Luke 9:23–24

God says:

"If any of you want to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me."

2. Which characteristic of a disciple do I see God growing most in my life today, and which one is He inviting me to develop more fully?

Scripture: Philippians 1:6

God says:

"I am faithfully continuing the good work I began in you."

Remember that discipleship is a lifelong journey. God is still shaping you into the image of Christ.

3. Am I spending intentional time abiding in Jesus each day, or have the distractions of life become more important than my relationship with Him?

Scripture: John 15:4–5

God says:

"Remain in Me, and I will remain in you... Apart from Me you can do nothing."

4. Who has God placed in my life that I can encourage, pray for, serve, or help grow closer to Jesus this week?

Scripture: Matthew 28:19–20

God says:

"Go and make disciples... Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you."

Remember that making disciples often begins with faithfully loving and encouraging the people God has already placed around you.

5. When people look at my life, do they see someone who is becoming more like Jesus?

Scripture: John 13:34–35

God says:

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples."

Our greatest witness is not found only in what we say but in how faithfully we reflect the love and character of Christ.

6. Looking back over this entire Transformation Journey, what is the greatest change God has made in my heart, and what next step is Jesus inviting me to take as I continue following Him?

Scripture: Romans 12:1–2

God says:

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Transformation is not the finish line—it is God's continuing work of preparing you to faithfully follow Jesus every day.

Closing Reflection

Before moving on, spend a few moments thanking God for the work He has already done in your life. Then ask Him to continue making you more like Jesus each day. Remember that discipleship is not measured by perfection but by a heart that continually loves Christ, trusts His Word, follows His leading, and faithfully returns to Him whenever it stumbles.

"Jesus is not simply calling you to experience transformation—He is calling you to become His disciple."

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your amazing grace and unfailing love. Thank You for never giving up on me and for patiently transforming my heart day by day. Thank You for calling me out of darkness into the light of Your Son, for healing my brokenness, renewing my mind through Your Word, revealing my identity in Christ, and teaching me how to walk with You each day.

Thank You for every lesson You have taught me, every trial You have used to strengthen my faith, and every reminder that Your grace is always greater than my weakness. Thank You for allowing me to experience the joy of following Jesus and for continuing to shape me into His likeness through the work of the Holy Spirit.

My greatest desire is not simply to know more about You, but to know You more deeply and faithfully follow wherever You lead. May my life always point others to the hope, truth, and salvation found in Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

A Prayer for You

Heavenly Father,

I lift up every person who has walked through this Transformation Journey. Thank You for bringing them to this moment. Thank You for the work You have already begun in their lives and thank You that You promise to faithfully complete it.

Lord, draw them into an even deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Fill them with a greater love for Your Word, a stronger desire to obey You, and a heart that longs to become more like Your Son each day. Give them courage when following You is difficult, wisdom when they face decisions, strength when they grow weary, and peace as they trust Your perfect plan.

Help them to abide in Christ daily, to love others as He has loved them, and to faithfully live as His disciples wherever You have placed them. Open doors for them to share the hope of the gospel, encourage fellow believers, and make disciples who will, in turn, help others follow Jesus.

May they never lose sight of Your faithfulness. Remind them that they never walk alone, for You are always with them. Keep their eyes fixed on Jesus until the day they stand in Your presence and hear the words, "**Well done, good and faithful servant.**"

May the Lord bless you, keep you, guide you, strengthen you, and fill your life with His joy as you continue faithfully following Jesus Christ.

In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Amen.

Journal Prompt

Take time to prayerfully reflect on everything God has taught you throughout this **Transformation Journey**. As you write, ask the Holy Spirit to show you how He is inviting you to continue growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Journal Prompt:

As I continue my lifelong journey of following Jesus, what kind of disciple do I desire to become? What specific steps is God calling me to take to deepen my relationship with Him, faithfully live out His Word, love others as Christ has loved me, and help others grow as His disciples?

Memory Scriptures for Lifelong Discipleship

Matthew 28:18–20

"Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations... Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

Why memorize this Scripture?

Jesus' final words to His disciples became their lifelong mission — and they are ours as well. This passage reminds us that we are called to follow Jesus faithfully, make disciples, teach His truth, and trust His promise that He is always with us. As you memorize these verses, ask the Lord to continually shape your heart into the disciple He has called you to become.

Supporting Scriptures for Lifelong Discipleship

These passages will help you continue growing as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Return to them often, memorize them as you are able, and allow God's Word to guide your daily walk with Him.

- **Matthew 22:37–40** — Love God above everything and love others as yourself.
- **John 13:34–35** — Love others as Jesus has loved you.
- **John 15:4–5** — Abide in Christ and bear lasting spiritual fruit.
- **Luke 9:23–24** — Daily surrender and faithfully following Jesus.
- **John 14:15** — Love for Jesus is demonstrated through obedience.
- **Philippians 1:6** — God faithfully completes the work He begins in His children.
- **Romans 12:1–2** — Continually surrender your life and renew your mind.
- **Hebrews 10:24–25** — Encourage one another and grow together in Christ.

Why These Scriptures Matter

Together, these passages summarize the heart of biblical discipleship. They remind us to love God wholeheartedly, abide in Christ daily, obey His Word, walk in faith, serve others with humility, encourage fellow believers, and faithfully make disciples until the day we stand before Him. As these truths become hidden in your heart, they will

strengthen, encourage, and guide you throughout your lifelong journey with Jesus Christ.

Worship Recommendation

"Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me" — CityAlight

This hymn beautifully captures the heart of biblical discipleship. It reminds us that the Christian life is not lived by our own strength but through the grace, power, and faithful presence of Jesus Christ. As you listen, let it become both a prayer of surrender and a reminder that Christ is the One who enables you to faithfully follow Him each day.

Continue Walking with Jesus

If you have walked through each paper in this **Transformation Journey**, thank you for allowing me to be part of your journey. It has been my prayer from the very beginning that these studies would do far more than increase your knowledge of God's Word. My deepest hope is that they have drawn you into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and encouraged you to become the disciple He has called you to be.

Although this series is coming to an end, your journey with Christ is only beginning. Every new day is another opportunity to know Him more deeply, trust Him more fully, obey Him more faithfully, and reflect His love to the world around you. Continue spending time in His Word, abiding in His presence, listening for His voice, serving others with humility, and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform you into the likeness of Christ.

Never forget that discipleship is not about reaching a destination—it is about faithfully walking with Jesus every day until the day you see Him face to face.

My Prayer for Your Journey

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for bringing this precious person to these studies. Thank You for every step You have already taken with them and for every way You have been transforming their heart. Continue drawing them closer to Your Son each day. Strengthen their faith, deepen their love for You, fill them with the wisdom of Your Spirit, and help them faithfully walk as disciples of Jesus Christ.

May they never lose sight of Your goodness, Your grace, and Your faithfulness. When life becomes difficult, remind them that You are always with them. When they grow weary, renew their strength. When they rejoice, receive all the glory. Continue using their lives to reflect the love of Christ and to encourage others to follow Him.

Lord, bless them as they continue this lifelong journey of discipleship. May they walk humbly with You, faithfully obey Your Word, boldly share the hope of the gospel, and one day hear the words, **"Well done, good and faithful servant."**

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,

Amen.

The Final Commission

Jesus' final words to His disciples are now His invitation to you.

Matthew 28:19–20

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations... Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Go with confidence, knowing that the One who called you is the One who walks beside you, strengthens you, and faithfully completes the work He has begun in your life

**Jesus is not simply calling you to experience transformation —
He is calling you to become His disciple.**

May you faithfully follow Him...
and help others do the same.



The journey continues. Keep following Jesus.

Prayerfully prepared by

Christie Johnson

Christie Johnson

Servant of God

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