



Copyright

The Saving and Transforming Work of God

A Quick Reference Guide Series

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This guide is intended for personal Bible study, discipleship, teaching, and spiritual encouragement. It is designed as a biblical quick reference resource to help readers better understand God's Word and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not intended to replace personal Bible study, prayer, or active involvement in a Christ-centered local church.

Every effort has been made to present Scripture faithfully and accurately according to its historical and biblical context. Readers are encouraged to examine the Scriptures for themselves and allow the Holy Spirit to guide their understanding as they grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayerfully prepared by

Christie Johnson

Servant of God

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

“Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.”

2 Peter 3:18



The Saving and Transforming Work of God

About This Series

The Saving and Transforming Work of God is a collection of quick reference guides designed to help believers understand the major works God accomplishes in the life of every follower of Jesus Christ. While each guide focuses on one essential biblical doctrine, together they present a unified picture of God's gracious work to save, justify, redeem, and continually transform His people into the likeness of His Son.

Although each guide may be read independently, they are designed to complement one another. Reading them in order—Salvation, Justification, Redemption, and Spiritual Formation—provides a clear progression through God's work of bringing sinners into a relationship with Himself and faithfully completing the work He begins in every believer.

This Series Includes

1. **What God Says About Salvation**
2. **What God Says About Justification**
3. **What God Says About Redemption**
4. **What God Says About Spiritual Formation**

Theme Scripture

“For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”

Romans 8:29

My prayer is that these guides will encourage you to open God's Word, deepen your understanding of biblical truth, strengthen your faith, and inspire you to walk more closely with Jesus Christ each day.



The Saving and Transforming Work of God

A Quick Reference Guide Series

What God Says About Spiritual Formation

Understanding God's Ongoing Work of Transforming Believers into the Image of Jesus Christ

Theme Scripture

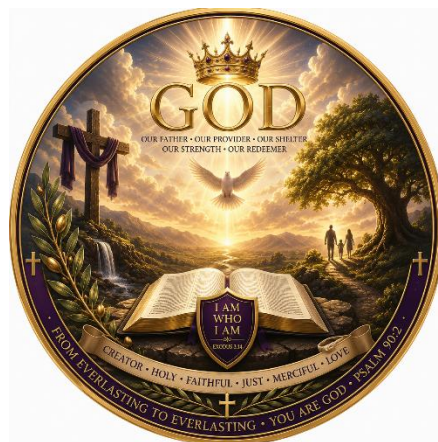
"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having called them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them the right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them glory."

Romans 8:29-30

What You Will Discover

Through this guide, you will discover:

- What the Bible teaches about spiritual formation.
- How God transforms believers into the likeness of Jesus Christ.
- The role of the Holy Spirit, God's Word, prayer, and obedience in spiritual growth.
- Why spiritual formation is a lifelong journey that begins at salvation and continues throughout our lives.
- How God uses everyday experiences, relationships, trials, and service to shape our character.
- How believers can faithfully cooperate with God's transforming work and reflect the character of Christ in their daily lives.



Introduction

God's work in our lives does not end when we place our faith in Jesus Christ. Through salvation, He rescues us from sin. Through justification, He declares us righteous. Through redemption, He purchases our freedom through the sacrifice of His Son. Yet God lovingly continues His work by transforming us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. This ongoing work is known as spiritual formation.

Spiritual formation is the lifelong process by which the Holy Spirit shapes believers to think, love, live, and respond more like Jesus Christ. It is God's work of renewing our minds, transforming our hearts, strengthening our faith, and producing Christlike character within us. While believers actively pursue God through His Word, prayer, worship, fellowship, and obedience, true spiritual transformation is ultimately the work of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout Scripture, we see that God's desire has always been to form a people who reflect His character and glorify Him. Spiritual formation is not about becoming more religious, earning God's acceptance, or achieving perfection through our own efforts. Instead, it is about growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ, learning to depend upon Him daily, and allowing His Spirit to transform every area of our lives from the inside out.

This quick reference guide has been designed to help you discover what God's Word teaches about spiritual formation by bringing together key Scriptures and foundational biblical truths in one place. Whether you are seeking to deepen your personal walk with Christ, disciple others, teach God's Word, or better understand His transforming work, my prayer is that this guide will encourage you to trust God's ongoing work in your life and joyfully cooperate with His purposes.

As you study these passages, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where He is shaping your heart and drawing you closer to Christ. Remember that spiritual formation is not about instant perfection but about faithfully walking with God each day as He continues His transforming work. May this guide encourage you to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus and to become increasingly conformed to His image for the glory of God.



Why Study Spiritual Formation?

Spiritual formation is essential because it is God's ongoing work of transforming believers into the likeness of Jesus Christ. While salvation marks the beginning of our relationship with God, spiritual formation is the lifelong journey of growing in faith, obedience, and Christlike character. God does not simply save us from sin—He also desires to shape our hearts, renew our minds, and prepare us to live for His glory.

Studying spiritual formation helps us understand that Christian growth is not about striving to become a better person through our own strength. Instead, it is about learning to surrender to the Holy Spirit, abide in Christ, and faithfully follow God's Word each day. As we walk with Him, He gradually transforms our thoughts, attitudes, desires, and actions so that our lives increasingly reflect the character of Jesus.

Understanding spiritual formation also encourages us during seasons of struggle. Spiritual growth does not happen overnight, and God often uses His Word, prayer, worship, fellowship, service, trials, and everyday experiences to shape us. Even when the process seems slow, we can trust that God is faithfully accomplishing His purpose in every believer.

A biblical understanding of spiritual formation keeps us focused on God's work rather than our own performance. It reminds us that while we are called to pursue Christ with diligence and obedience, lasting transformation comes through the power of the Holy Spirit. As we remain connected to Christ, He produces spiritual fruit and continues the good work He began in us.

As you study this guide, ask God to reveal how He is working in your life today. May these Scriptures encourage you to trust His process, surrender more fully to His leader, and faithfully walk with Him as He continues transforming you into the image of His Son.

What God Says About Spiritual Formation

Definition

Spiritual formation is the lifelong work of God through the Holy Spirit, using His Word, prayer, obedience, the fellowship of believers, and the circumstances of life to transform believers into the likeness of Jesus Christ. While believers actively pursue God, lasting transformation is accomplished by God's grace and power as we remain faithful to Him.



Teaching	Primary Scripture	What God Is Teaching
Conformed to the Image of Christ	Romans 8:29	God's purpose is to transform believers into the likeness of His Son.
Transformed by Renewing the Mind	Romans 12:1–2	Spiritual transformation begins as we surrender ourselves to God and allow Him to renew our minds through His truth.
Abide in Christ	John 15:1–8	Lasting spiritual growth comes from remaining closely connected to Jesus, the true Vine.
Growing into Spiritual Maturity	Ephesians 4:11–16	God uses His church, His Word, and spiritual gifts to help believers grow into maturity in Christ.
The Holy Spirit Produces Spiritual Fruit	Galatians 5:22–25	The Holy Spirit develops Christlike character in those who walk by His leading.
God Completes His Work	Philippians 1:6	God faithfully continues the work He began in every believer until it is completed in Christ.

Understanding God's Work of Spiritual Formation

Spiritual formation is God's ongoing work of transforming believers into the likeness of Jesus Christ. It begins the moment we place our faith in Christ and continues throughout our lives as the Holy Spirit shapes our hearts, renews our minds, and teaches us to live according to God's Word. While salvation, justification, and redemption establish our new relationship with God, spiritual formation is His continuing work of helping us grow in that relationship each day.

Unlike salvation, which is received in a single moment by faith, spiritual formation is a lifelong journey. God patiently works within us through the Holy Spirit, using His Word, prayer, worship, fellowship with other believers, service, trials, and everyday experiences to develop Christlike character. Every season of life becomes an opportunity for God to strengthen our faith, deepen our dependence upon Him, and conform us more fully to the image of His Son.



Although believers are called to pursue spiritual growth through obedience and faithful spiritual disciplines, lasting transformation is ultimately God's work. We cannot produce Christlike character by our own effort alone. As we abide in Christ and yield to the Holy Spirit, God produces spiritual fruit within us and continues the work He began when we first trusted in Jesus.

Spiritual formation is a process of becoming more like Christ in our thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions. It is not about achieving perfection in this life but about continually surrendering ourselves to God and allowing Him to transform us from the inside out. As we grow in our love for God and our understanding of His Word, our lives increasingly reflect His character and bring glory to Him.

Spiritual Formation Reminds Us That:

- God is committed to completing the work He began in every believer.
- The Holy Spirit is the One who produces lasting spiritual transformation.
- God's Word renews our minds and shapes our hearts.
- Abiding in Christ is essential for spiritual growth.
- Prayer deepens our relationship with God and aligns our hearts with His will.
- God often uses trials and difficult circumstances to strengthen our faith and develop perseverance.
- Spiritual growth takes place within the fellowship and encouragement of other believers.

Becoming like Christ is a lifelong journey that continues until we are with Him. Spiritual formation is God's gracious invitation to know Him more deeply and reflect His character more faithfully. As we walk daily with Christ and surrender to the Holy Spirit, He continues transforming us into the people He created us to be. Each step of obedience, every season of growth, and every challenge we face becomes part of God's loving work of making us more like His Son.

What Spiritual Formation Reveals About God

Spiritual formation reveals that God is not only our Creator and Savior but also our faithful Father who lovingly continues His work in our lives. He does not abandon us after saving us or leave us to grow in our own strength. Instead, He patiently walks with us, teaching, correcting, encouraging, and transforming us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Every step of our spiritual growth reflects God's loving commitment to completing the work He has begun.



Throughout Scripture, we see that God desires more than outward obedience—He desires transformed hearts. His goal is not merely to change our behavior but to shape our thoughts, attitudes, desires, and character so that we increasingly reflect the life of Jesus Christ. Spiritual formation reveals a God who is deeply invested in His people and who faithfully works for their good and for His glory.

Spiritual Formation Reveals That God Is:

- **Faithful** — He always completes the work He begins in His children.
- **Patient** — He lovingly transforms us over time and never gives up on His people.
- **Gracious** — He continues working in us despite our weaknesses and failures.
- **Wise** — He knows exactly how to shape our lives according to His perfect purpose.
- **Loving** — He desires a deep, personal relationship with each of His children.
- **Holy** — He calls us to reflect His holiness and become more like Jesus Christ.
- **Present** — Through the Holy Spirit, He continually guides, strengthens, and comforts us.
- **Sovereign** — He uses every circumstance, including trials and hardships, to accomplish His purposes.
- **Transforming** — He changes us from the inside out so that our lives increasingly display the character of Christ.

The doctrine of spiritual formation reminds us that God is continually at work in the lives of His people. His desire is not simply that we know about Him, but that we know Him personally, trust Him completely, and become increasingly conformed to the image of His Son. Because God is faithful, we can rest in the assurance that He will continue His transforming work until the day we stand complete in Christ.

What Spiritual Formation Means for the Believer

Spiritual formation is the lifelong evidence of God's continuing work in the life of every believer. Because we have been saved, justified, and redeemed through Jesus Christ, God now calls us to grow in our relationship with Him and become increasingly like His Son. This transformation is not about earning God's love or proving our worth. It is the gracious work of the Holy Spirit, shaping our hearts and lives so that we reflect the character of Christ.



As believers, we are invited to participate in God's transforming work by seeking Him daily through His Word, prayer, worship, fellowship with other believers, and faithful obedience. While spiritual growth requires our willing response, lasting change is accomplished by God's grace. As we abide in Christ and yield to the Holy Spirit, He continues to renew our minds, strengthen our faith, and produce spiritual fruit within us.

Spiritual formation also changes the way we view life's circumstances. God often uses seasons of joy, challenges, trials, and even suffering to deepen our faith and teach us greater dependence upon Him. Every experience becomes an opportunity for Him to develop perseverance, humility, compassion, wisdom, and Christlike character.

Because God Is Forming Us:

- We are becoming more like Jesus Christ each day.
- Our minds are being renewed by God's Word.
- The Holy Spirit is producing Christlike fruit within us.
- We are learning to trust God more deeply in every circumstance.
- We are growing in love, humility, obedience, and spiritual maturity.
- We are strengthened through prayer, worship, and fellowship with other believers.
- God is using every season of life to accomplish His perfect purpose.
- We can live with confidence, knowing that God will complete the work He has begun in us.

Our lives become a testimony of God's transforming grace to those around us.

Spiritual formation is a lifelong journey of walking with Christ. Each day is another opportunity to know Him more deeply, trust Him more completely, and reflect His love more faithfully. As we surrender our lives to God's leading, He continues His beautiful work of transforming us into the image of His Son for His glory and the good of others.

Living This Truth

Spiritual formation is not simply another biblical doctrine to understand—it is the daily invitation to walk with God and allow Him to transform every area of our lives. The Christian life is not about becoming more religious or striving harder to earn God's approval. It is about faithfully following Jesus Christ, depending upon the Holy Spirit, and allowing God's Word to shape our thoughts, attitudes, desires, and actions.



God is continually at work in His children. Every time we spend time in His Word, pray, worship, serve others, obey His voice, or trust Him through life's difficulties, He is forming us into the image of Christ. Although spiritual growth takes place over a lifetime, every step of faithful obedience allows God to continue His transforming work within us.

Take time to reflect on how God is shaping your life and ask Him to continue forming you into the likeness of His Son.

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. Am I intentionally spending time with God each day through His Word and prayer?
2. Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to transform my thoughts, attitudes, and actions?
3. Is there an area of my life where God is calling me to grow in obedience?
4. How is God using my current circumstances to strengthen my faith and shape my character?
5. Am I becoming more like Jesus in the way I love, forgive, serve, and respond to others?
6. Who can I encourage or disciple as God continues His work in my own life?

Living Out the Truth

This week, choose one way to intentionally cooperate with God's work of spiritual formation:

- Spend dedicated time each day reading God's Word and asking Him to transform your heart.
- Memorize Romans 12:2 or Philippians 1:6 as a reminder of God's ongoing work in your life.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one area where He desires to develop greater Christlike character.
- Serve someone this week as an expression of Christ's love and humility.
- Share with another believer how God is growing your faith and pray together for continued spiritual growth.

Remember that spiritual formation is not measured by perfection but by faithful dependence upon God. As you continue to abide in Christ and follow His leading, He will faithfully complete the work He has begun in you. Trust His timing, surrender to His Spirit, and rejoice that each day He is making you more like Jesus Christ for His glory.



A Prayer of Gratitude

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your amazing grace and for the continual work You are doing in my life. Thank You for saving me through Jesus Christ and faithfully transforming me into His likeness. I praise You because You never leave me where I am, but patiently shape my heart, renew my mind, and teach me to walk more closely with You.

Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who guides me into truth, convicts me of sin, comforts me, and empowers me to live in a way that honors You. Thank You for using Your Word, prayer, worship, fellowship, and life's challenges to strengthen my faith and draw me closer to You.

Help me surrender every area of my life to Your transforming work. Teach me to trust Your timing, obey Your voice, and remain faithful when spiritual growth feels slow. Create in me a heart that longs to know You more deeply, love You more completely, and reflect Jesus in everything I say and do.

May my life testify to Your grace so others may see Christ through me. Thank You for Your promise to complete the good work You have begun in me.

All glory, honor, and praise belong to You alone.

In the precious name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.

Amen.





A Prayer for the Reader

Heavenly Father,

I lift up each person who has read this guide and pray that they would experience the joy of walking closely with You. Thank You for calling them into a relationship with Yourself through Jesus Christ and faithfully transforming them into His image.

Strengthen their faith and help them trust that You are working, even when they cannot see their progress. Give them a deeper love for Your Word, a greater desire for prayer, and increasing dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Teach them to abide in Christ, obey Your voice, and rest in the assurance that You will complete the good work You have begun in them.

When they face trials, remind them that You are strengthening their faith and shaping their character. When they fail, lead them to repentance and renewed fellowship with You. When they grow weary, renew their strength and remind them that Your power is made perfect in weakness.

May their lives reflect the love, humility, holiness, compassion, and faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Let them become examples of Your transforming grace within their families, churches, communities, and wherever You call them to serve.

Above all, help them know You more deeply, love You more completely, and faithfully follow Jesus each day. May their lives bring glory and honor to You.

I ask these things in the powerful and precious name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Amen.



Continue Your Journey

Congratulations on completing The Saving and Transforming Work of God series. Throughout these four guides, you have explored some of the foundational truths of the Christian faith:

- **Salvation** — God's gracious gift of rescuing us from sin through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Justification** — God's declaration that believers are righteous through the finished work of Christ.
- **Redemption** — Christ's sacrifice that purchased our freedom from the bondage and penalty of sin.
- **Spiritual Formation** — God's lifelong work of transforming believers into the image of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.
- These truths are not separate doctrines but parts of one beautiful story—God's saving and transforming work in every believer. From the moment He calls us to Himself until we stand in His presence, He faithfully saves us by grace, declares us righteous through Christ, redeems us by His blood, and transforms us into the likeness of His Son.
- Your journey with God does not end here. Continue seeking Him through Scripture, prayer, worship, service, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit. As you do, He will deepen your faith, shape your life, and use you for His glory.

I encourage you to continue exploring the Bible Reference Guides and in-depth studies available throughout this ministry library, including:

- The Characteristics of God
- The Characteristics of Jesus Christ
- The Names of God
- The Names and Titles of Jesus Christ
- The Characteristics of a Disciple of Jesus
- The Prophets of the Bible
- Major Men God Used Throughout the Bible
- The Promises of God
- The Miracles of Jesus
- Walking with God This Week (*Weekly Devotionals*)



Never stop pursuing the One who first pursued you. The God who created you, saved you, justified you, redeemed you, and is transforming you today will remain faithful until His work is complete. Walk with Him each day, trust His promises, and allow His Spirit to continue shaping your life so that you may glorify Him and faithfully point others to Jesus Christ.

"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having called them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them the right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them glory."

Romans 8:29-30



A Final Word and Invitation

Thank you for taking the time to study **The Saving and Transforming Work of God** series. It is my prayer that these four Quick Reference Guides have helped you better understand God's work of salvation, justification, redemption, and spiritual formation, and that they have encouraged you to trust Him more deeply in your own walk with Jesus Christ.

The mission of **Servant of God Christie Ministries** is to help broken, hurting, and spiritually weary people understand God's Word, grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, and experience the hope and transformation found in Him. Every resource I write is designed to strengthen biblical understanding, encourage spiritual growth, and help believers faithfully follow Christ in their daily lives.

These guides were intentionally created as **quick reference resources**. They provide a clear biblical overview of each subject and are meant to give you a foundation for further study. They are not exhaustive. In the future, I plan to create more detailed studies that explore salvation, justification, redemption, spiritual formation, and other important biblical topics in greater depth.

As you continue your journey, I encourage you to spend time in Scripture, prayer, worship, and quiet reflection with God. If Christian music helps you focus your heart on Him, visit the **Ministry Library** on my website for a list of worship songs and Christian music that I listen to during my own time with God. My prayer is that these songs will also encourage your heart and draw you closer to Jesus.

If you would like a **personalized biblical study guide** created around a particular question, spiritual struggle, life circumstance, or area of growth, you may contact me by email. Please include details about the subject you would like the guide to address, what you hope to learn, and any specific Scriptures or concerns you would like included. Personalized guides will be created prayerfully and centered on the truth of God's Word.

Email: servethebroken@servantofgodchristie.com

A reasonable service fee or suggested ministry donation may apply to personalized guides, depending on the length, research, and level of customization required. Specific details will be discussed before the guide is prepared.

Thank you for allowing me to walk alongside you through these studies. My prayer is that every resource you find through this ministry will help you know God more deeply, trust Him more completely, and faithfully follow Jesus Christ one step at a time.

"Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen."

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