

DAY 5



“At the cross everything changed.”

Romans 5:10

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

How does Christ's death on the cross and resurrection change everything for you as a believer?

God has reconciled all believers from death of itself. While Christ's death on the cross solved the problem of God's wrath between God and a fallen humanity, God's full purpose for humanity as described at the end of verse 10 is for life. A life that goes far beyond and is no longer threatened by death, but rather celebrates and partakes in His salvation itself.

In today's day and age so many people think that Christ's work was finished on the cross, but was it, or did it only begin there?

Describe a couple of times where you have seen Christ life at work in your lifetime.

“It’s not about this one time decision where we decide to believe. It’s about a change of a lifestyle.”



James 2:14-17

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

How does this Scripture impact the way you view your own faith as a believer?

What are some areas in your life that your lifestyle has really changed due to your faith in Christ?

What are some areas in your life that your lifestyle really needs to change in order to reflect your faith?



The majority of the world is going to be against you. There is a much easier road you could have taken, but you chose to take this road. You will have temptations all around you, you've got people who hate the way you believe, but Jesus says it's okay because I'm going to give you the power of the Spirit.

The Bible often talks about the world as a place that is in conflict with God ever since the Fall of humanity (Gen. 3). As believers we are called to a higher standard of living. If you call yourself a Christian then what you are saying to the world that you are a follower of Jesus Christ and not a follower of the world.

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Why would God tell Believers not to “love the world nor the things of the world”?

Verse 16 describes some of the things in the world that are in conflict with how God calls all believers to live. If you were to rewrite verse 16 in your own words and personalize it to the temptations you face as a Believer how would that verse read?

Verse 17 describes that all worldly things will one day pass away “but the one who does the will of God lives forever”. Try and imagine for a moment all those worldly things gone from you, describe as best you can what that world might look like. It’s almost unimaginable, isn’t it?

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

There is an old adage, “garbage in, garbage out” that is, what you put in your body or mind overtime comes out of you eventually. If I continually surround myself with lustful images trains my mind to view others as objects rather than people or brothers and sisters in Christ. This idea can be used for everything that the world values over Christ like living.

The good news is that the flip side of this saying is true as well, that is, if you surround yourself with healthy Christ like, Kingdom oriented things than what pours out of you will be healthy Christ like living.

What are some areas in your life that you may need to cut out of your life so that you can transformed by the renewing your mind?

John 15:18-21

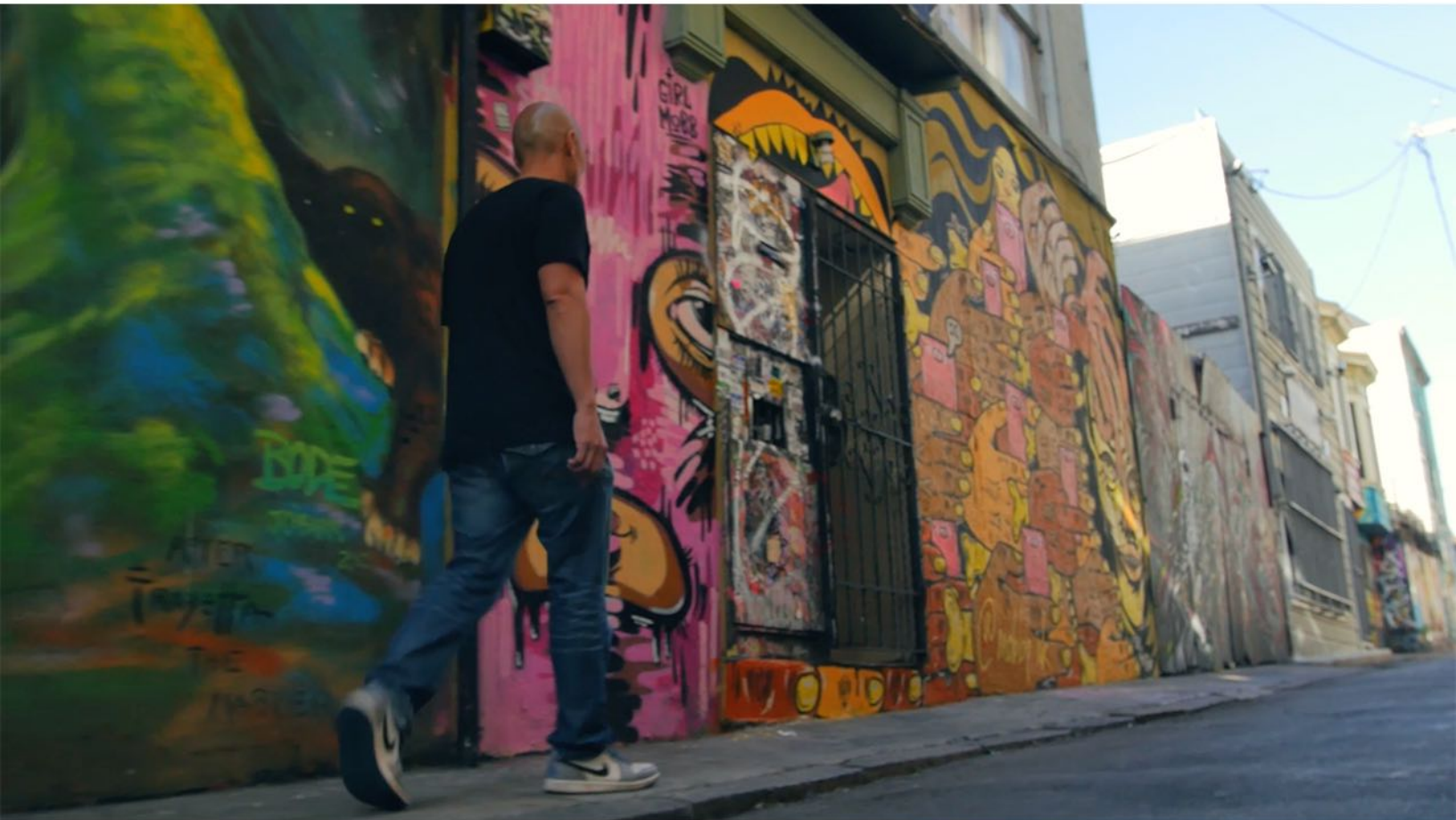
“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.

Why do your think that the Bible says that the world will hate you if you are a follower of Christ?

What does Jesus mean when he says that he has chosen you out of this world and that you no longer belong to this world?

What does this passage in John tell you about your identity as a Christ follower?

“God is going to change you from the inside out. He is going to change your desires and you’ll have the power to overcome.”



Romans 8:11-13

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

This is incredible news! Because no matter what temptation you face in life, no matter what struggle or hardship you face, the power of the Holy Spirit is within you! The same Spirit that “raised Jesus from the dead” is with you as a believer to give you counsel and the needed strength to get through any and all situations!

Picture that dead body and the amount of power it took to take a dead crucified, mutilated body and cause it to rise up and come to life! Paul says that this is the same Spirit that is in you right now. This is the Spirit He gave us to put to death the deeds of the flesh. This is the Spirit He gave us to be his witnesses.

While the role of the Spirit is to counsel and to give you power to fulfill God’s call, please know that you have a role to play in all of this as well. First, you have to listen to the Holy Spirit and second you have to obey when the Holy Spirit calls you to do something.

How does reading Romans 8:11 change the way you think about your own worldly temptations or situations?

What are the temptations and situations in your life that you could really use the Holy Spirit’s guidance and power in right now?

Do you find it a struggle when listening for the Holy Spirit’s guidance (Explain)?

What are some good strategies or ways to know when the Holy Spirit is trying to tell you something or push you in a certain direction? Do you have any practical examples of times in your life when you felt the Holy Spirit tell you something?

When you committed your life to Christ this was the beginning of something new.



You have purpose now. You are not just some random creation that's just out there doing whatever feels good, but you were made with a purpose! When you hear the word “commitment” what thoughts come to your mind?

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (MSG)

You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got. No sloppy living for me! I'm staying alert and in top condition. I'm not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.

When you commit your life to Christ, you commit to running a race. If you are a Christian you run to win! Just like anything we do in life, if we don't put everything we have into it we won't win. Maybe you have heard the old adage, "you get what you put into it", and that's a very true statement

The goal of Christian life is "to be like Christ." Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians says, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Would you ever be so bold and able to make that comment?

The Apostle Paul tells us to give our best effort; he calls us to run the race and discipline ourselves and put our greatest effort towards the prize. While on the one hand the prize is salvation, on the other hand, it is really becoming like Christ!

You can do this by getting involved more with your church. You can do this by getting into God's word every day, studying it and finding out more and more about who this great God is that you serve. You can take time in your busy day to pray. You can find ways to serve in your communities. You can take the opportunities God brings your way to share the good news of Jesus to your friends, and the list can go on and on, right?

Are you willing to daily give your all, to daily lay aside every sin that holds you back?

Will you run the race or will you be a spectator simply standing on the sidelines and watching others?

Remember the runner wins the trophy ... the spectator walks away with nothing other than a memory of watching a good race run by others.

You decided to follow Christ and now he has given you the power to follow him.

