

LIKE JESUS 23.8.2020am

Key verse: 1 John 4:17 'As Christ is, in this world, so are we.'

Purpose 1-3:

1. Loving God and loving people
2. The Great Commission
3. Becoming like Jesus

Today: How we are transformed into His likeness.

From John 1: Jesus, the Word, became flesh and dwelled among us. Now, those who have received Christ, the living Word dwells within, sanctifying us by His Word, the truth. Jesus talked, walked, worked, lived, demonstrated, and imparted truth; thoroughly infused with love. Matthew 4:4

We are transformed by the renewing of our mind and this is by the Word of God, so we set our mind to gain understanding, to follow His example. Key passage: Philippians 2:5ff

John 8:31 'If you abide in My teaching you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.'

Paraphrased: *If you abide in my Word, you are like Me.*

To abide is to accept the authority of the Word of God; to abide is to assimilate it into our daily life.

5 ways to abide in the Word:

1. Receive it

Can't receive without listening, hearing. See parable in Luke 8. A noble and good heart hears, retains, perseveres, and produces. James 1:21 'Humbly accept the Word planted in you, which can save you.' 'Take' God at His Word.

2. Read it

The Word of God must be more than near. It must be read and read out loud is powerful. Read: Deuteronomy 17:18-20. We will live long if we read systematically, listen carefully, and respond reverently.

3. Research it

Study. James 1 exhorts us to look into the Word, continue in it – not forgetting... consider: who wrote it, who was it written to, where was it written, when, why? The context is important.

4. Remember it

We commit to memory, that which we value. The Holy Spirit will draw upon that which is stored.

5. Reflect on it

To meditate is to chew on, go over, not in a mindless manner but a focussed manner. We will see breakthrough, progress, health – we will be more Like Jesus.

DL Moody said the Bible was not given for knowledge but to change our lives. Matthew 7:24; John 13:17.

The Word of God can not be treated as common, but it is to be honoured. It is a creative force when spoken; it frames our future, is the answer to every issue and is the divine expression of Christ. Written on our heart will keep us from sin; if allowed to penetrate our heart (Hebrews 4:12) will bring life and change; judging our thoughts and attitudes – will bring us to the likeness of Christ. We are purposed, pre-destined to be conformed into the likeness of Jesus – this is the will of God for the people of God. Romans 8:29.

When He appears, we know we will be like Him. 1 John 3:2. **LIKE JESUS.**