



Growing on Purpose

March 21 & 22, 2026

Three Major Differences Between Salvation and Discipleship

- _____ is an instantaneous birth by belief.

John 3:3-8 (NLT)

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

"What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

- _____ is different than faithful obedience.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 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.

- _____ is a moment-by-moment struggle to be like Jesus.

Colossians 3:10-11 (NLT)

Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

Romans 8:29 (MSG)

God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son.

Colossians 1:15b (MSG)

We look at this son and see God’s original purpose in everything created.

Three Ways to Thrive Like Jesus



1 I thrive when I understand God’s original reason for _____.

Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Imago Dei = _____ of God

Hebrews 1:3 (NIV)

The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

1 Corinthians 11:7b (NLT)

...for man is made in God’s image and reflects God’s glory.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (MSG)

Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It’s rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you.



I thrive when I allow God to shape my _____.

How?

- **God's _____ is working in me.**

2 Corinthians 3:18 (TLB)

But we Christians have no veil over our faces; we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him.

- **God's _____, people, and circumstances are molding me.**

Hebrews 4:12 (TPT)

For we have the living Word of God, which is full of energy, like a two-mouthed sword. It will even penetrate to the very core of our being where soul and spirit, bone and marrow meet! It interprets and reveals the true thoughts and secret motives of our hearts.

- **God's _____ of making me like Christ is a long, slow process of growth.**

Ephesians 4:13 (NLT/CEV)

This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, and just as Christ is, and we will be completely like Him.

"God is far more concerned about

who I'm _____

than what I'm _____."



I thrive only when I practice what _____

James 1:22-25 (NCV)

Do what God's teaching says; when you only listen and do nothing, you are fooling yourselves. Those who hear God's teaching and do nothing are like people who look at themselves in a mirror. They see their faces and then go away and quickly forget what they looked like. But the truly happy people are those who carefully study God's perfect law that makes people free, and they continue to study it. They do not forget what they heard, but they obey what God's teaching says. Those who do this will be made happy.

John 14:15 (NLT)

If you love me, obey my commandments.

John 13:17 (NLT)

Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

Luke 11:28 (NLT)

Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice."

Three Ways God Transforms Us



1

Transformed by _____.

Matthew 4:4 (NLT)

But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Acts 20:32 (MSG)

“Now I’m turning you over to God, our marvelous God whose gracious Word can make you into what he wants you to be and give you everything you could possibly need in this community of holy friends.”



2

Transformed by _____.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

1 Peter 4:12 (Phillips)

And now dear friends of mine. I beg you not to be unduly alarmed at the fiery ordeals which come to test your faith, as though this were some abnormal experience.



3

Transformed by _____.

**“Every temptation is an opportunity to
do the _____.”**

Hebrews 2:18 (NCV)

And now he can help those who are tempted, because he himself suffered and was tempted.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (TPT)

He understands humanity, for as a man, our magnificent King-Priest was tempted in every way just as we are, and conquered sin. So now we draw near freely and boldly to where grace is enthroned, to receive mercy’s kiss and discover the grace we urgently need to strengthen us in our time of weakness.



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- **Faith alone is different than faithful obedience.**

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