

GREATER THAN

Week 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!

1. How does Christ's death on the cross and resurrection change everything for you as a believer?
2. In today's day and age so many people think that Christ's work was finished at the cross, but was it, or did it only begin there? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

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?

3. How does this scripture impact the way you view your own faith as a believer?
4. What are some areas in your life that your lifestyle has really changed due to your faith Christ?

THE WORLD WILL BE AGAINST YOU, BUT JESUS SAID IT'S OK - HE'LL GIVE US THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

1 John 2:15-17: Do not love the world or 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 desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

5. Why would God tell Believers not to "love the world nor the things of the world"?

Romans 12:2: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

6. Why do you think that the Bible says that the world will hate you if you are a follower of Christ?
7. 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?
8. 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

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.

9. Do you find it a struggle when listening for the Holy Spirit's guidance?

10. 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

1 Corinthians 9:24-27: Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

11. "Imitate me as I imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). Would YOU ever be so bold and be able to make that commitment? Are you willing to daily lay aside every sin that holds you back?

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

YOU DECIDED TO FOLLOW CHRIST AND NOW HE HAS GIVEN YOU THE POWER TO FOLLOW HIM

2 Timothy 1:7-8: for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,

WRAP UP!

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, then it's time to be committed and get in the race pursuing God with every ounce of your being. How are you going to win the race if you're too timid to even run it? Everyone's race holds different obstacles, but we're not alone- God has sent his Holy Spirit to counsel you and give you the needed power to be disciplined to follow him. So, run the race set before you. **Serve God, pursue Him, worship Him and it with everything you have!**

ON YOUR OWN

1. What are some areas in your life that your lifestyle really needs to change in order to reflect your faith?
2. 1 John 2:16 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 this verse in your own words and personalize it to the temptations you face as a believer, how would that verse read?
3. 1 John 2:17 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 as you can what that world might look like.
4. What are some areas in your life that you may need to cut out of your life so that you can be transformed by the renewing of your mind?
5. How does reading Romans 8:11 change the way you think about your own worldly temptations or situations?
6. What are the temptations and situations in your life that you could really use the Holy Spirit's guidance and power in right now?