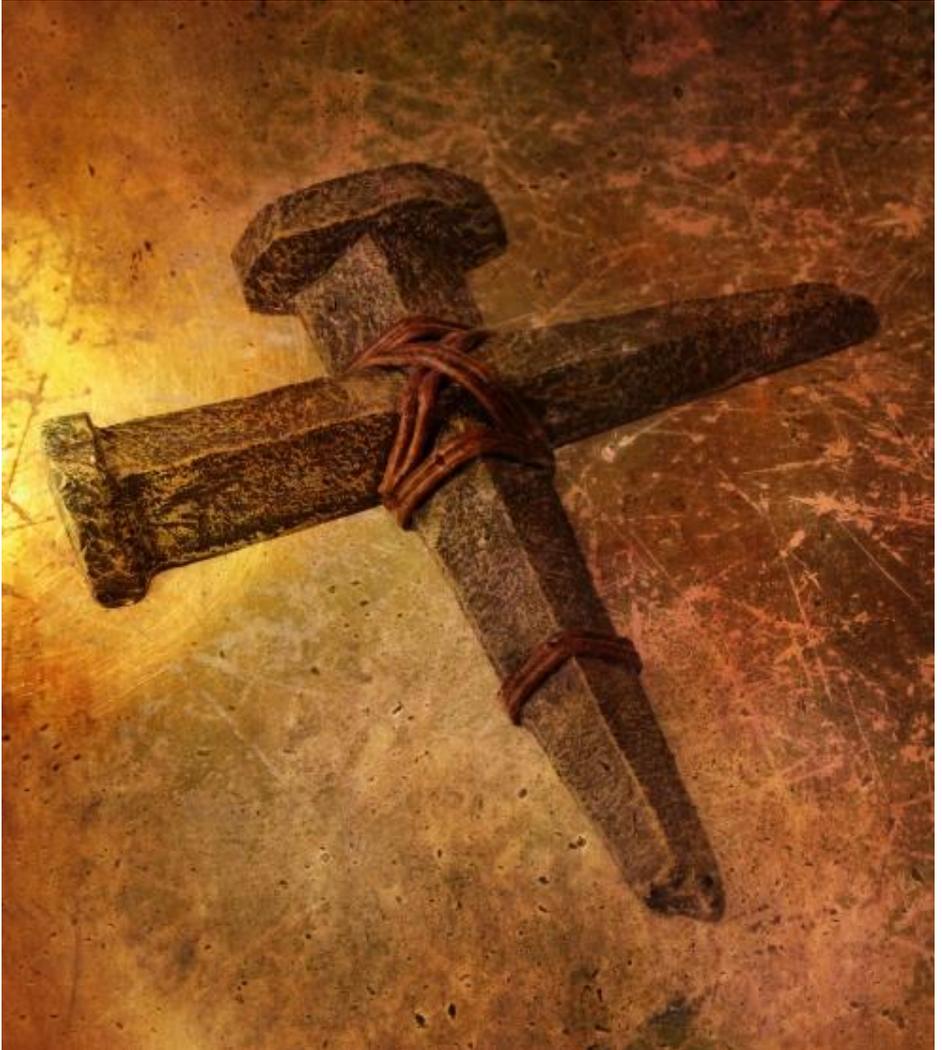


Living A Transformed Life Conference



Bill Loveless
Christ Is Life Ministries

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Biographical Sketch

Bill Loveless

Bill was born and raised in College Station, Texas and moved to Dallas, Texas in 1986. He was a commercial general contractor there for 25 years. Bill and his wife, Paige, have been married since 1988.

Although he was saved at age 18, Bill wandered in a wilderness of spiritual performance for the next thirty years trying to earn God's love and acceptance. He also wanted to experience victory over his severe internal struggles with fear, anxiety, and inadequacy that overcame him for most of those thirty years. He would ask, "Where is this abundant life that the Lord promised in John 10:10? Why, after living the Christian life so long, am I still being defeated by the same sin patterns? Why am I not experiencing God's promises of change?"

Bill's defeat in the Christian life got to a point that in 1998, while an elder at a former church, he told Paige that he wanted out of the Christian life. He was spiritually exhausted. In late 1998 Ian Thomas, founder of Torchbearers, was invited to Bill's church to speak. The first words that he shared were, "**God never intended for you to live the life that only Christ can live in and through you.**"

The Lord showed Bill through Ian Thomas's words that he had been living much of his Christian life out of self-effort and self-sufficiency. The Lord also revealed to Bill that God has designed us to be His vessels through which His life and His power would flow. He realized for the first time that God didn't want to help Christians live the Christian life. He discovered that God wants to be our **Source** for living the Christian life. This was such a transforming time for Bill that five months later God called Bill out of his business and eventually led him into full-time ministry with Exchanged Life Ministries Texas (ELMT) in Dallas. During his 2 ½ years with ELMT, Bill shared the Christ-life message in conferences and in follow-up discipleship curriculum. He was the conference coordinator for all the ELMT church conferences. While ministering in the churches, he recognized a growing need to partner with them on a continuing basis. He and Paige prayed for God's will concerning his growing passion to be more involved with churches.

Then in September 2003 the Lord called him and Paige to form a ministry with the primary focus being to teach, develop curriculum, and disciple "multipliers" in the local church. In November 2003 he and Paige formed Christ Is Life Ministries. They moved to San Antonio in April 2004, and they are now working with several churches in the area and throughout Texas.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SESSION ONE

***What Is The Truth About Living
The Christian Life?***

SESSION TWO

The Walk of Faith

SESSION THREE

Expectations Concerning The Walk of Faith

SESSION FOUR

The Fight of Faith

SESSION FIVE

Application To Daily Living

SESSION ONE

What Is The Truth About Living The Christian Life?

What Is Your Spiritual Destiny?

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.” Romans 8:29

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 3:18

“My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed IN you.” Galatians 4:19

Your Spiritual Destiny:

To be transformed into the LIKENESS of Christ

which means that you will think, believe, choose, and behave like Christ.

What Do You Believe About Living The Christian Life?

Jesus says the following: *“...I AM the way, the truth, and the LIFE...” John 14:6*

“...I AM the resurrection and the LIFE.” John 11:25

What Paul says: *“..Christ who is YOUR life...” Colossians 3:4*

“For me, to live IS Christ....” Philippians 1:21

Jesus not only came to give you eternal life. He wants to BE your LIFE!

In other words, the Christian life is a Person. It is Christ HIMSELF.

What Does It Mean That Christ Is Your Life?

“He is the SOURCE of your life in Christ Jesus..” 1 Corinthians 1:30

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.....” Romans 11:36

“IN HIM we live and move and have our being.” Acts 17:28

Christ as your life means that God is the SOURCE from Whom you are to live life.

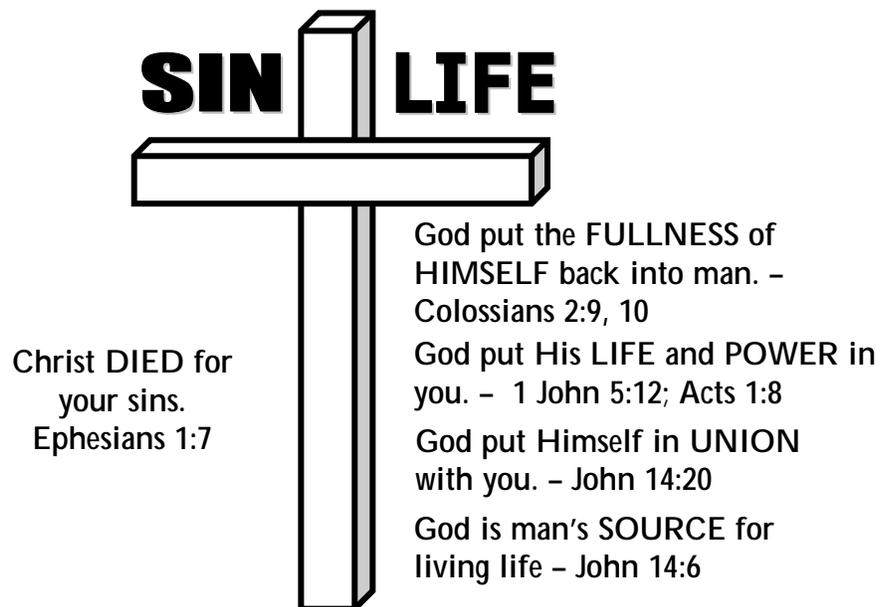
What are some of the ways that God is your Source as revealed in scripture?

- To meet your needs. - Philippians 4:19
- To be your power over sin. - 1 John 3:6
- To produce the fruit of the Spirit in your life. - Galatians 5:22, 23
- To transform your life so that you will think, feel, choose and behave like Christ – 2 Corinthians 3:18

Since God is the Source, He DOES NOT and WILL NOT help you be the source to solve your problems, resolve your conflicts, or to live the Christian life.

How Do We Know That God Is To Be Our Source?

The Two Sides of The Cross



Since God Is Your Source He Wants To Live His Life IN You

“I am crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives IN me...” Galatians 2:20

The Christian life is not a life you live FOR God.

It is a life He wants to live IN you with the result that you are living FROM Him.

What Does It Look Like For God To Live His Life In You?

- **VICTORY** – God as your Source is your victory over the power of sin, the flesh, the world, and Satan. - 1 Corinthians 15:57
- **FREEDOM** – God is your Source to free you from your sin patterns and strongholds that constantly defeat you. – Galatians 5:1
- **RENEW** – God will renew your mind to believe His truth - Romans 12:2
- **HEALING** – God is your source to heal you of your past and present woundedness. - Psalm 147:3
- **SUPPLY** – God is your Source to meet every need in your life. - Philippians 4:19
- **INTIMACY** – God is your Source to draw you into an intimate relationship with Himself. Ephesians 1:5
- **TRANSFORMATION** – Transform you to think, feel, choose, behave like Christ. – 2 Corinthians 3:18

As Your Source, God Will Is The INITIATOR and CAUSE and EFFECT To Make His Promises An Experiential Reality In Your Life

*“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began (INITIATOR) a good work in you will perfect (CAUSE and EFFECT) it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6
(Parentheses mine)*

God will be the cause and effect to make His promises of TRANSFORMATION a reality in your life.

In other words, it is THROUGH Him that you will fulfill your SPIRITUAL DESTINY.

The Truth Is That You CAN'T Produce What Only God Can Produce In You!

“...for apart from Me you can do NOTHING.” John 15:5b

Jesus is saying that you CAN'T produce Christ-likeness INDEPENDENTLY of His life and power accomplishing it in you.

Since You Cannot Produce God's Promises, What Is Your Part In Living The Christian Life?

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who ABIDES in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

Your part in the Christian life is to DEPEND ON, RELY ON, and DRAW FROM the life and power of Christ within you.

We Learn Dependence From Jesus In Relationship To His Father

Jesus Set Aside His Privileges To Be Co-Equal With The Father

*“He (Jesus) had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of Himself that He had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, He **set aside the privileges of deity** and took on the status of a slave and became human!” Philippians 2:6, 7 NLT (Parenthesis mine)*

Jesus Lived TOTALLY Dependent On The Father

*“I can do **nothing on My own initiative**. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” John 5:30*

*“Jesus therefore said, ‘When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do **nothing on My own initiative**, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.’” John 8:28*

Jesus Did Not Function Out of His OWN Life and Power But Out of The Life and Power of His FATHER.

*“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I say are not my own, but **my Father who lives in Me does His work through Me**.” John 14:10*

How Did Paul Live?

*“For I would not dare say anything except **what Christ has accomplished through me** to make the Gentiles obedient by word and deed.” Romans 15:18*

*“For this purpose also **I labor striving according to His power**, which mightily works within me.” Colossians 1:29*

Why Do We Struggle With Dependence?

1. PRIDE

2. The world continually gives us the message that you are to be INDEPENDENT.

3. The world also sends the message that dependence is WEAKNESS.

4. There is a part of man’s makeup that resists being dependent on God called THE FLESH. (Flesh is an attitude that says “I can live my life independent of God.”)

**Self-Focused Grid (Living From the Flesh)
(The Lie)**

**Christ-Focused Grid (Living In Christ)
(The Truth)**

The Christian Life Is A Life Of Performance

The Christian Life Is Christ

The Christian life is a formula, set of rules to follow, or a checklist to complete.

Christ Himself is the Christian life.
John 14:6; Philippians 1:21

Self As The Source To Live The Christian Life

God As Source To Live The Christian Life

You are the source using God's truth and your intellect and ability to live the Christian life.

Living from God's life and power as the Source to live the Christian life. John 14:6; Acts 17:28

Living FOR God

Living FROM God

Trying in your own strength to please God and to earn His love and acceptance.

Allowing Christ to live His life in and through you. Galatians 2:20

Self-Transformation With God's Help

God-Produced Transformation

Trying by your own effort w/God's help to produce victory, freedom, healing, and transformation.

God as the Source to produce victory, freedom, healing, and transformation. 1 Corinthians 1:30

Independent Life

Dependent Life

Living independently of God to try to live the Christian life.

Living in moment by moment dependence on God as your Source for living the Christian life. John 15:5

Faith In Yourself With God's Help

Faith In God

Faith in your intellect, ability, self-discipline, and willpower with God's help to produce the Christian life.

Faith in God alone with the result that His life and power will flow in and through you to produce transformation into Christ-likeness. 1 John 5:12; Ephesians 1:19, 20; Hebrews 11:6

Results In:

Results In:

More flesh, sin, frustration, defeat, woundedness.
Disillusionment and walking away from the Christian life or just trying harder to make life work
No transformation
Continuing to live a self-sufficient Christian life
Ongoing turmoil and conflict
More of the same or worse

Freedom, victory, healing - Galatians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Psalm 147:3
Greater dependence upon God - John 15:5
Deeper intimacy with Him - Philippians 3:8
Being transformed into Christ-likeness - 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29
Abundant life - John 10:10

SESSION TWO

Walking By Faith

Dependence = Faith

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” Galatians 2:20

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

FAITH

Is a moment by moment dependence upon God believing that ONLY He can produce the LIFE that He promises.

You Have Two Objects of Faith

#1 - FAITH IN YOURSELF (Ability, self-discipline, willpower, intellect)

“.. the mind set on the flesh (SELF) is DEATH, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.” Romans 8:6

The results of going back to self as the source and live independent of God:

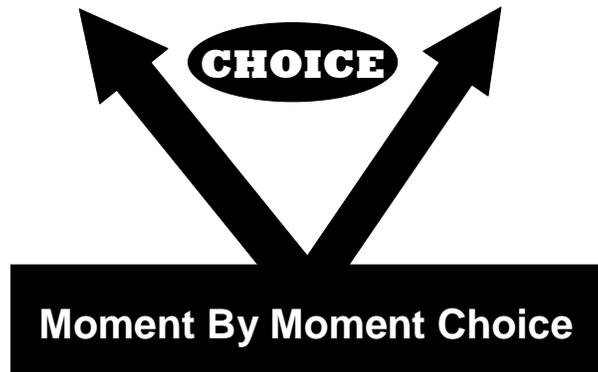
- No freedom.
- No victory.
- No transformation.
- More of the same.

#2 - FAITH IN GOD AS YOUR SOURCE

- VICTORY
- FREEDOM
- HEALING
- TRANSFORMATION

Faith In Yourself As
Your Source w/God's Help =
Defeat, bondage, unchanged
life, (more of the same)

Faith In God As
Your Source =
Victory, Freedom,
Transformation



What Choice Will You Make?

What Are Some Reasons We Struggle With Faith?

1. We bring the “LEARN and DO” mindset of life into the Christian life.
2. We want to bring our intellect and ability to be a part of the cause and effect of our spiritual transformation.
3. Legalism nurtures “learn” and “do” Christianity.

What Is A Step of Faith?

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7

A STEP of FAITH acknowledges that you are seeking God to produce His transformation promises in your life and to fulfill your spiritual destiny.

A Step of Faith Releases God's Supernatural LIFE and POWER In You To Transform Your Life

You Contain ALL of God's Life and Power

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness IN Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.” Colossians 2:9, 10

When you take a step of faith, ALL of God's LIFE and POWER is RELEASED in you to transform your thinking, your beliefs, and your behavior.

Christ's LIFE Is Released In You.

"I am ...the life..." John 14:6

"...Christ, who is your life" Colossians 3:4

Faith IGNITES Christ's life to flow in you the moment when you take a step of faith.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control...." Galatians 5:22, 23a

Christ As Your Life

means that you have AVAILABLE to you supernatural, Christ-life characteristics and attitudes that can only be SUPPLIED by Christ.

Examples of what Christ's life looks like:

Unconditional love	Victory	Worth	Acceptance	Faith
Freedom	Patience	Strength	Peace	Power
Forgiveness	Understanding	Security	Fearlessness	Wisdom
Discernment	Adequacy	Humility	Christ-confidence	Kindness
Righteousness	Selflessness	Rest	Compassion	Boldness
Kindness	Gentleness	Christ-control	Faithfulness	Courage

The Difference Between Human Characteristics and Christ-Life Characteristics

Human characteristics – feelings or experiences generated by man that CAN be changed by our circumstances and/or our relationships.

Christ-Life characteristics – SUPERNATURAL characteristics of Christ's life that are supplied by Christ and CANNOT be changed by circumstances or relationships.

Step of Faith In Drawing On Christ As Life: "Lord, I am taking ownership of my stress at work. I am entrusting my stress to you and trusting you to BE my peace and rest."

What Happens The Moment You Take This Step: At the moment you are giving over your stress to God He is flowing His supernatural peace and rest in you.

Exercise: Look at the last page of the syllabus titled "I AM" and see what need is being created by the internal and external conflicts you are facing. Begin asking Christ to meet that need.

God's POWER Is Released In You

*"I pray that you will begin to understand the **incredible greatness of His power** for us who believe him. This is the **same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead** and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 1:19, 20*

God's power WITHIN you is the same power:

1. That raised Jesus from the dead.
2. Created the heavens and earth.
3. Is holding the universe together.

Is it possible that this same power can transform your life?

A step of faith unleashes God's power IN you to:

- RENEW your mind to believe His truth. - Romans 12:2
- Set you FREE from your lying beliefs. - John 8:32
- Give you VICTORY over the flesh, sin, Satan, and the world. - 1 Corinthians 15:57
- TRANSFORM your fleshly behavior to godly behavior. - 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 12:2

Step of faith: "I am believing the lie that I can live the Christian life independent of You. I am asking that You, in Your power, renew my mind to the truth that You are to live the Christian live in me."

God's Work Is A Supernatural Work In You

A SUPERNATURAL WORK
*is a work that God accomplishes in and through us as we walk by faith
for which there is NO natural or man-made explanation.*

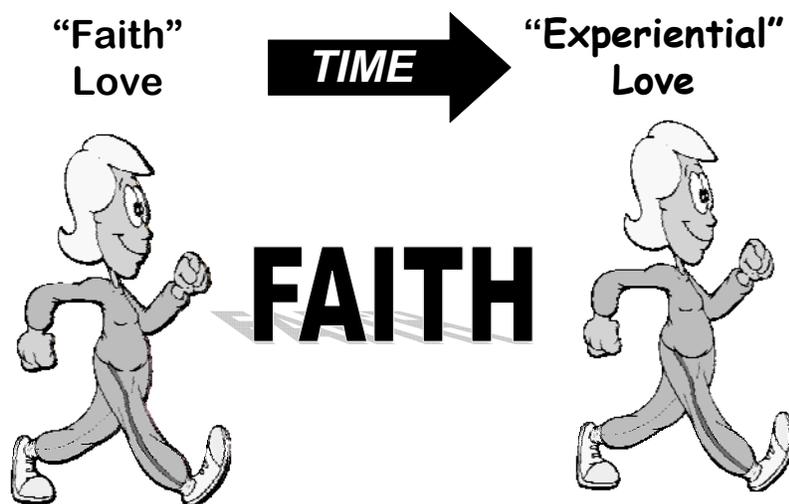
Key Truths To Understand About God's Supernatural Work:

1. You, for the most part, will **not feel** or **experience** God's supernatural power working in you.
2. God is not telling us **what** He is doing or **how** He is transforming our lives.
3. We will never know God's **timetable** for how long it will take for changes to take place.
4. **Believing** God is working when there is no outward sign of change taking place.

"Faithing It" Versus Experience

Let's assume that you are struggling with loving someone unconditionally. You know from the early part of this lesson that you have available to you in Christ all of His unconditional love. Therefore, you begin taking steps of faith receiving Christ's unconditional love. Steps of faith

might look like, “Lord, I can’t love this person. I am drawing on Your unconditional love from which to love this person.” Early on you don’t experience unconditional love, but you have what I call a “faith” love. After several steps of “faithing it,” you will eventually come to a place where you will begin to experience God’s unconditional love for this person. Perhaps the diagram below will help.



The Process of Moving From Faith To Experience

KEY TRUTH:

You may have to “FAITH IT” for some length of time in your walk of faith before you EXPERIENCE God’s transformation.

How Will I Know When Change Has Taken Place?

1. Your mind begins to think and believe God’s truth rather than believing your lies.
2. Your will begins to make choices based on the truth that you are now thinking and feeling. This will produce in you a greater willingness to come to God for Him to further renew your mind to the truth.
3. You begin to experience a supernatural change in your attitudes and behavior.
4. You will experience healing of your woundedness.
5. You will begin to experience freedom and victory in areas where you had only experienced bondage and defeat previously.
6. You will find your Christ-confidence in God’s ability growing.
7. Your desire to walk by faith in God will grow, and your desire to turn back to self will decrease.
8. You will find that your love and desire for God will take you to places that you never thought were possible.
9. You will find yourself more and more being stunned, overwhelmed, and in awe of Who God is and what He has done in your life.

SESSION THREE

Expectations About The Walk of Faith

Expectation #1 – You Will Consistently Make The Choice To Walk By Faith In God.

Unrealistic expectation: You will consistently choose to walk by faith in God.

The Truth: Early on in your walk of faith, you will choose many times to go back to your self (the flesh) as the source to try to deal with your problems, to find solutions, and to make your life work.

REMEMBER:

The truth is that you will turn back to self (the flesh) as the source MANY times, but remember that in the NEXT MOMENT you can repent of your flesh and turn back to God as your Source.

Expectation #2 – Failure Is NOT An Option!

“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” Romans 8:1

Unrealistic expectation: I cannot afford to fail in my walk of faith. If I do, I will condemn myself for failing and believe that I am a failure.

The Truth: Realistic expectation: You will fail many times in your walk of faith. However, this does not make you a failure or give you permission to condemn yourself. You are no longer under condemnation. (Romans 8:1)

It does not matter how many times you fail.

The key is to NOT stop SEEKING God by faith.

Expectation #3 - God’s Timetable Versus Your Timetable

“There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

Unrealistic expectation: When I begin the walk of faith God will meet my timetable for the changes I desire in life.

The Truth: God has a perfect timetable for His will to be accomplished in your life (and He is not telling you what that timetable is).

The key truth to remember is that even though you have not experienced the change, God is working every moment you are walking by faith.

Some Reasons Why Change May Come More Slowly In Some Areas Than Others

- Your lying beliefs are very entrenched because of the years of believing those lies.
- Your strongholds, addictions, etc. have a strong grip on you because of the length of time that they have held you in bondage.
- The depth of your woundedness and the length of time that you have lived with your woundedness may result in a slower healing process.
- Some areas of your flesh are stronger and more resistant to God's work than others are.
- Your unbelief, doubt, and fears can cause you to resist and delay God's transforming work in your life.

I believe when it comes to faith that the key question is this:

"How long can you continue to trust God WITHOUT experiencing change in your life?"

Remember:

Faith is believing that God is working even though there is no visible or experiential evidence of that work in our lives.

Faith is the key thing that God is teaching you as you wait on Him.

Expectation #4 – There Will Be No Pain Or Suffering.

"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed." 1 Peter 4:12, 13

Unrealistic expectation: If I do my part in walking by faith, God will prevent pain, suffering, and conflict in my life.

The Truth: There will be pain, suffering, or conflict, BUT God will supply your needs when those times arise in your life and will reveal to you in His timing the "divine good" that He is working through your suffering.

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

"DIVINE GOOD"

God will use every bit of your pain and suffering to draw you into a GREATER DEPENDENCE on Him, to TRANSFORM your life, and to REVEAL to you what His grace and mercy looks like during your times of suffering.

Expectation #5 – You Will Figure Out What God Is Doing In The Transformation Process

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways. And My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8, 9

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

Unrealistic Expectation: I will understand WHY and WHAT God is doing in my life.

The Truth: Many times you will not understand why God is doing what He is doing in your life. Ultimately, what God is about is to fulfill our spiritual destiny of being transformed into Christ-likeness. God will determine if you need to know why or what He is doing or not doing in your life. He always has a purpose in telling you OR not telling you what He is doing.

We see that Paul was perplexed about why and what God was doing:

“afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed but not despairing.” 2 Corinthians 4:8

***You can REST in your perplexity because
God knows exactly why and what He is doing and He IS in control.***

Expectation #6 – We Will Arrive At A Place Where The INTERNAL Struggle Will Be Over.

Unrealistic expectation: I will arrive at a point in my walk of faith where there will be no more internal struggles.

The Truth: There will be an ongoing internal struggle until you come face to face with Jesus. However, Christ in you has overcome all the internal and external struggles that you will ever face. As you walk by faith in God, you will experience more victory, more freedom, and more transformation through your internal and external struggles.

***God will bring you to several places along the way where
you will experience an INEXPRESSIBLE JOY (1 Peter 1:8) and
a PEACE that passes ALL understanding. (Philippians 4:7)***

TRUTHS CONCERNING THE WALK OF FAITH

Truth #1 - God Is In The Process of PERSUADING You.

“And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.”
Romans 4:21

During your walk of faith God is in a life-long process of persuading you of:

- His eternal desire to transform your life and to have an intimate relationship with you. (Ephesians 1:5)
- His ability to transform your life. (Ephesians 3:20)
- His willingness to change the way you think, choose, believe, and behave. (Philippians 1:6)
- The truth that He is in control. He knows what He is doing, He is for you, and His plans will be accomplished. (Job 42:2)
- All things will work together for your good. (Romans 8:28)
- His love for you is unfailing. (Psalm 36:5)

If you take enough steps of faith, God WILL persuade you that He is Who He says He is and that He will do what He promises to do in your life.

Truth #2 - Your Transformation Is A Lifelong SURGICAL Procedure.

“For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.” 2 Corinthians 4:11

God’s divine surgery is OFTEN without anesthesia.

However, STAY on the surgical table and let God work.

Truth #3 – As You Continue To Walk By Faith Then You Will Have SPIRITUAL Eyes To See What God Is About In Your Life

“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” Colossians 3:2

*“because we are **not looking at what can be seen** but at **what cannot be seen**. For what can be seen is **temporary**, but what **cannot be seen** is **eternal**.” 2 Corinthians 4:18*

As you continue to walk by faith you will have spiritual eyes to see that:

- God truly is sovereign and really is in control of your situation.
- God has known about the problem that you are facing for an eternity and has a solution.
- There is a divine good purpose that God is about in the midst of pain and suffering.

- God will never leave you nor forsake you in the midst of your struggle. He is always there comforting you, encouraging you and exhorting you to keep walking by faith.
- God really is for you and that you will understand that all that God allows or causes is out of His love for you.

God will give you EYES to see what the natural man is blinded to.

Truth #4 – You Can’t Connect A Step of Faith To Experiencing Transformation Tomorrow

We live in a CAUSE and EFFECT world but when it comes to spiritual transformation we will, for the most part, not experience transformation the moment we take a step of faith. We take steps of faith today and will experience transformation sometime in the future.

Truth #5 - God Is Building Christ-Confidence As We Walk By Faith.

“And such confidence we have through Christ toward God.” 2 Corinthians 3:4

THE CHALLENGE:

To take enough steps of faith to experience SUPERNATURAL changes in order to build your CHRIST-CONFIDENCE in God’s ability and His desire to transform your life.

Truth #6 – As You Walk By Faith You Will Be Tempted To:

- Doubt God’s ability and willingness to transform your life.
- Get frustrated and angry with God because He is not moving fast enough.
- Condemn yourself because of your failures in your walk of faith.
- Give up on God.

SESSION FOUR

The Fight of Faith

Truths About The Fight of Faith

#1 - You Can't Fight This Fight.

“For the LORD your God is the One who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.” Deuteronomy 20:4

God NEVER intended for you to fight a fight that you CANNOT win apart from Him.

#2 - Your Part In The Fight of Faith

“The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:14

Your faith ACTIVATES God's power to destroy the enemies to your walk of faith. Your part is to DEPEND on Him and REST in His ability to fight the fight.

#3 – Use God's Word As Part Of The Fight of Faith.

“My soul weeps because of grief. Strengthen me according to Your word.” Psalm 119:28

“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Ephesians 6:17.

Bring the truth of God's word into the fight of faith.

The Enemies In The Fight of Faith

Enemy #1 – The FLESH

“For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.” Romans 7:14

“For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.” Romans 7:18

The biblical meaning of the word “flesh” is man's DESIRE to live life with HIMSELF as the source, INDEPENDENT or APART from God as the Source.

The “**flesh**” is an **independent attitude** that says:

- I can be in control.
- I can meet my needs.
- I can handle or overcome all problems.
- I can deal with every circumstance concerning marriage, family, job, finances, etc.
- I can be a success.
- I can be my own god.

Enemy #2 - The Power of Sin

*“But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but (**the power of**) sin which dwells in me.” Romans 7:20 (Parenthesis mine)*

THE POWER OF SIN:

**an INTERNAL and ONGOING power in your life that seeks to
DRAW you or TEMPT you to live independently of God**

Enemy #3 - Satan/His Demonic Forces

*“The thief comes only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**...” John 10:10a*

*“Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the **Devil, your great enemy**. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8*

**To STEAL, KILL, and DESTROY your walk with God,
your marriage, and your family.**

Satan and his demons come against you to:

- Constantly try to DESTROY your faith walk.
- Keep you in BONDAGE to your lying beliefs.
- Keep you in bondage to your defeating sin patterns and strongholds.
- Turning you back to yourself to be the source for life.
- Keep you focused on yourself to try and solve your impossible problems.

Enemy #4 – Your Thought Life

*“because **the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God**; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so.” Romans 8:7*

“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:5

Fearful Thoughts

*“For God has **not** given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7*

#1 - Fear of the UNKNOWN – “What will happen when I take a step of faith?”

#2 - Fear of FAILURE - “What if I take steps of faith, and nothing happens, or God does not come through?”

#3 - Fear of PAIN or SUFFERING - “I don’t want to take a step of faith because I might experience pain and suffering from God.”

Your fears can take OWNERSHIP of your life and ROB you of your faith walk.

Self-Condemning Thoughts

*“Therefore there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1*

Because we are so performance-oriented, we will give ourselves a failing grade when we fail and condemn ourselves.

Unbelieving Thoughts

*“Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, “I do believe; **help my unbelief.**” Mark 9:24*

*“And so we see that they were not able to enter because of **unbelief.**” Hebrews 3:19*

Unbelief primarily comes in two forms:

Unbelief about WHO God is.

Unbelief about WHAT God can (or is willing to) do in your life.

Doubting Thoughts

*“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘**Did God really** say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” Genesis 3:1*

*“But when he asks, **he must believe and not doubt,** because **he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.**” James 1:6*

The #1 killer to your walk of faith is DOUBT.

Doubting God will CAUSE you to turn back to yourself as the source.

In Some Fights You May Have To Continue To Fight For Some Time.

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” Ephesians 6:13

**Because of the strength of your flesh or your strongholds you may have to
CONTINUE fighting for a long time.**

You Will Be Tempted To Give Up The Fight.

*“How long will you forget me, Lord? Forever? How long will you hide from me? How long must I worry and feel sad in my heart all day? How long will my enemy win over me?”
Psalm 13:1, 2*

*“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Now may **the God** who gives perseverance and encouragement...” Romans 15:4, 5a*

As you PERSEVERE in fighting the fight of faith and eventually experience a supernatural change by God, your CHRIST-CONFIDENCE increases and allows you to take another step of faith.

Where Will You End Up If You Give Up The Fight?

“Of them the proverbs are true: ‘A dog returns to its vomit’ and, ‘A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.’” 2 Peter 2:22

If you don’t engage God to fight the fight of faith, you have ALREADY lost. However, if you ask God to fight, and you STAY in the fight, you will eventually experience His VICTORY over all the obstacles to your walk of faith.

Therefore, keep fighting the fight of faith so that you can say with Paul:

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.”

2 Timothy 4:7

SESSION FIVE

Application To Daily Living

Steps of Faith Concerning Transformation of Your Fleshly Behavior

Example: Let's assume that you have a fleshly behavior of wanting to be in control. You find yourself wanting to control your spouse, your kids, and the rest of your world. The truth is that only God is in control. The illusion is that we are in control. What we need is Christ-confidence that God is in control. Therefore, what would a step of faith look like to bring God's power to bear to set you free from your controlling behavior?

Step of Faith: "Lord, You have exposed my controlling behavior. I am trusting you to renew my mind to the truth that You alone are in control. I am asking You to set me free from my desire to control and walk in Christ-confidence that You are in control.

Steps of Faith Look Like In Your Circumstances

Example: You are struggling with your finances. It is causing you great stress and anxiety. You have two choices. You can go keep struggling and stay in the stress or anxiety or you can take a step of faith and bring God into the equation. What is the truth that we know? We know that God is sovereign and that He has known about the problem for an eternity. He is the only One who can supply You the peace and rest in this situation. As The Way, He has the solution for the problem. As you take steps of faith, He will guide you into that solution. A step of faith looks like this:

Step of Faith: "I am struggling with my finances. It is causing stress and anxiety. I am entrusting my stress and anxiety to You and asking you to BE my peace and rest. You promise that You are the Way. I am trusting You to show me the way out of this dilemma."

Steps of Faith and Past Woundedness

Example: Let's assume that you experienced woundedness from your mom or dad due to physical, emotional, verbal or sexual abuse when you were growing up, and it has left you believing that you are rejected or unacceptable. The truth is that you are totally accepted and acceptable in Christ.

Step of Faith: "Lord, I was abused as a child, and I am deeply wounded. As a result, I believe that I am rejected and unacceptable. I am asking You to renew my mind to the truth that You accept me unconditionally and that I no longer have to believe that I am rejected and unacceptable."

Steps of Faith and Forgiveness

Unforgiveness is one of the main things that will cut us off from the life and power of God flowing in us. This is why the Bible speaks to this issue many times. The truth is that you don't have an excuse not to forgive because you contain all of Christ's forgiveness in you. However,

you may **not be willing** to forgive a person because of how badly you were treated. The question is: Would you be willing to ask God to forgive this person through you? It might look like this:

Step of Faith: “Lord, I can’t forgive _____ because _____. I am **asking** You to BE my forgiveness and to forgive _____ through me.”

The Result: Every time this person comes to mind and you are tempted to feel the unforgiveness, rejection, woundedness, etc. ask Christ to BE your forgiveness and ask God to forgive this person through you.

Key Truth: God never does a work through you that He does not do in you. Therefore, keep asking God to forgive through you and you will eventually experience forgiveness for this person.

Steps of Faith and Your Workplace

Example: Let’s assume that you have a stressful job (doesn’t everybody?). You get to work one day, and you find yourself taking ownership of the stress which is robbing you of your peace and rest in Christ. A step of faith in drawing on Christ as your life might look like this:

Step of faith: “Lord, I am taking ownership and being weighed down by the stress of my job. I am **entrusting** that stress to You, and I am **trusting** You to BE my peace and rest.”

Key Truth: It may take **several** steps of faith before you are able to truly offload the stress and experience Christ’s peace.

Steps of Faith and Your Marriage

Example: I assume that you want to love your spouse with Christ’s love. You know that in and of yourself you cannot produce the **unconditional** love of Christ that your spouse needs. Therefore, a step of faith in drawing on Christ’s love for your wife might look like this:

Step of faith: “Lord, I can’t produce unconditional love for my spouse. I am **asking** You in faith to love my spouse THROUGH me with Christ’s unconditional love.”

Remember: As you pray this prayer, you will most likely not feel Christ’s love flowing through you, but know by faith that it is. Remember that as you walk by faith, God is truly supernaturally loving your spouse through you.

Steps of Faith To Experience Freedom From A Defeating Sin Pattern

Example: You are struggling with being critical. You tend to be critical of yourself, your spouse, your kids, your friends or your co-workers. The truth is that you contain all of Christ’s grace and love.

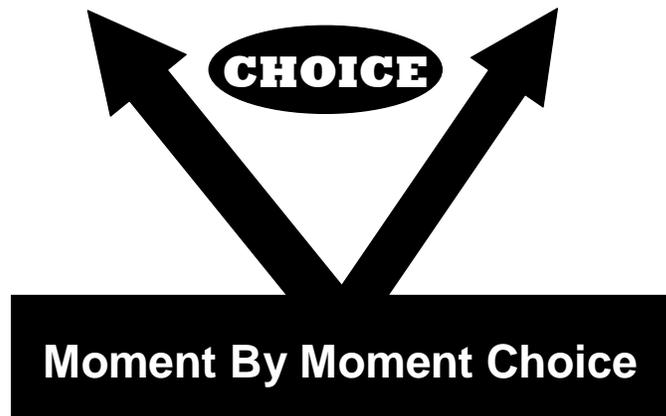
Step of faith: “Lord, You have revealed to me that I have an ongoing struggle with being critical of others including myself. I am trusting you to renew my mind to the truth that I no longer have to be critical because in Christ I can love and give grace to others rather than criticize. Give me a willingness to love and give grace at those times where I tend to be critical.”

Summary

Remember The Choice You Have Every Moment?

Faith In Yourself As
Your Source w/God's Help =
Defeat, bondage, unchanged
life, (more of the same)

Faith In God As
Your Source =
Victory, Freedom,
Transformation



What Choice Will You Make?

Remember:

- When everything within you says: "I must take back control of my life," take ANOTHER step of faith.
- When you demand answers from God, and you don't get them, take another step of faith.
- When you are in more pain than you can bear, take another step of faith.
- When you are perplexed, confused, and bewildered, take another step of faith.

This is why Paul says: "PRESS ON" and don't turn back to living from yourself as the Source.

Where God Is Taking You In Your Walk of Faith

“From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. ‘You do not want to leave too, do you?’ Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’” John 6:66-69

**You will eventually become a JOHN 6:68 Christian and
realize that there is no other way but
THE WAY: JESUS CHRIST**

You Will Come To The Place Where You Say With Paul:

*“Now to Him who is able to **do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think**, according to the (God’s) power that works within us...” Ephesians 3:20
(Parenthesis mine)*

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” Philippians 3:7-8

Flesh Patterns/Fleshly Behavior

Be self-absorbed (self-consumed)

become overly introspective
feel sorry for myself (self-pity)
get depressed
beat up on myself
play the role of victim/martyr
focus on my suffering to get
attention and sympathy
be jealous of another's success
and happiness

Withdraw (isolate myself)

be aloof (pull away)
distance myself from others
avoid others (be a loner)
go into a shell
become unapproachable
give them the silent treatment
refuse to communicate

Escape (pain/pressure) by using:

promiscuity carousing
drugs and alcohol talking
staying busy school
hobbies/games reading
computers fantasy
television movies
pornography sleep
overeating religion
work/career sex

Be anxious (worry and fret)

be fearful (apprehensive)
lack peace and rest
become paralyzed (numb)
be paranoid (overly suspicious)
refuse to see the positive
(gloom and doom thinking)
assume the worst

Seek guidance from:

astrology/horoscopes,
fortune telling and/or
the occult

Be self-disciplined (self-reliant)

base acceptance of self and
others on performance
become a perfectionist
try hard so as not to fail
fear making mistakes
be legalistic:
live "by the book"
feel obligated (have to's,
should's, ought to's)
be too hard on myself/others
set unrealistic standards for
myself/others

Become obsessed with:

accomplishments
recognition/status
acquiring material things
what others think of me
how I look physically
my physical health
the past (especially past hurts
and failures)
a devotion to a cause
structure, order and regulations

Become dominant

be dictatorial (bossy)
be demanding (pushy)
be overbearing (controlling)
intimidate others
refuse to give in

Stay in control through:

blackmail (making threats)
manipulation (use of guilt, pity,
silence, flattery, etc.)
coercion (physical threats)
profanity (swearing)
passivity (playing helpless)
not eating (anorexia/bulimia)

Lack compassion, gentleness

understanding, kindness, love
become defensive

Be self-righteous (self-justifying)

make excuses (rationalize)
cover up and hide mistakes
have to prove my point
assume I am never the problem
blame someone or something
else as the problem
avoid taking responsibility for
failure or problems
have difficulty: apologizing,
admitting I was wrong,
asking for forgiveness,
asking for help, and/or
expressing gratitude
have a superior attitude
(saying in effect):
"I know what is best"
"My way is the right way"

Be critical (judgmental)

find fault with others, myself
and everything around me
nit-pick things to death
be prejudiced (intolerant)
complain a lot (nothing is
ever good enough)

Be self-assured (self-confident)

depend on myself instead of
God or others
become proud (haughty)
be egocentric (act pompous)
brag (be boastful)
become arrogant (cocky)
become conceited (smug)

Come across as insensitive,

uncaring, unsympathetic,
indifferent or unconcerned

Be complacent (nonchalant)

say things like, "it's okay" or
"it doesn't matter"

Flesh Patterns/Fleshly Behavior (Continued)

Be pessimistic (negative)
lack confidence and optimism
be skeptical (suspicious)
distrust others, myself, God,
church and/or government
expect the worst
never be pleased with self
or others
never be satisfied or content

Become hostile
be unfriendly
be sarcastic (caustic)
be cynical (contemptuous)
be hateful (mean-spirited)
be cruel (malicious)
have a quick temper
rant and rave to vent my anger
be physically abusive
be verbally abusive
break things

Hold a grudge (be resentful)
become moody (sulk)
harbor bitterness
be unforgiving
keep a scorecard of offenses
try to get even (seek revenge)
want others to fail or get hurt
punish myself or others

Fight unfair (take cheap shots)
be slanderous
misrepresent the situation
gossip (talk behind their back)
engage in passive-aggressive
behavior: use humor to hide
real feelings, forget things,
refuse to communicate, be
late, procrastinate, etc.)

Be self-depreciating
assume I am always the problem
become overly apologetic
be too hard on myself
be uncomfortable with success
or happiness
have difficulty receiving: love,
compliments, forgiveness
be unable to forgive myself

Challenge others
resist authority
be uncooperative (inflexible)
be unteachable (close-minded)
cause dissention (strife)
be irritating (aggravate others)
be argumentative
be stubborn (unyielding)
be unreasonable

Deny reality
ignore problems and hope they
will go away
deny anything is bad or wrong
be subjective instead of objective
deceive others and myself
lie to self and others
exaggerate (overstate matters)
play games to hide real intent

Put up a front
hide what I really think and feel
pretend to be something I'm not
put on a show to impress others
and/or get attention
fake it (act like I know something
even when I don't)
be pretentious (phony, unreal)
be superficial (never let anyone
get too close)

Be passive (lack initiative)
quit too easily (give up)
don't take chances (play it safe)
wait for someone to tell me how
to think and what to do
vacillate (be too changeable)
be indecisive (let others make
decisions for me)
avoid failure at all costs
procrastinate (put things off)
be irresponsible (unreliable)
be lazy (apathetic, lethargic)

Be tense ("on guard")
find it hard to relax
be restless (feel like I have to be
doing something)
become impatient
be easily agitated

Become emotionally insulated
avoid intimacy
have difficulty expressing
feelings and opinions
suppress (stuff) emotions
be inhibited (restrained)

Live by my feelings
believe that truth is what I feel
be too sensitive to criticism
take things too personally
(be hypersensitive)
be touchy (irritable)
be controlled by fear, anger,
doubts and insecurities
automatically, read in rejection
(think "it's about me")

Be a pleaser (be nice)
try to keep everyone happy
avoid conflict/keep the peace
say what I think others want
be overly compliant
submissive
have difficulty saying "no" and
setting boundaries
can't stand up for myself
afraid to disappoint others
give in to others too easily

Be a caretaker (rescuer)
be overprotective
be overly responsible
become too involved with
other's affairs/concerns
be possessive (too invested)
talk too much and listen poorly
make decisions for others
give unsolicited advice

“I AM Your Life”

As needs arise in your life, Christ is the “I AM” to meet your needs. Insert your personal needs and find from the list how Christ will be your Supply.

Your need _____? Jesus says, “I AM your _____.”

**I AM your love – Galatians 5:22
I AM your joy – John 15:11
I AM your adequacy – 2 Corinthians 3:5
I AM your wisdom – 1 Corinthians 1:30
I AM your way – John 14:6
I AM your truth – John 14:6
I AM your rest – Matthew 11:28
I AM your mind – 1 Corinthians 2:16
I AM your desire – Psalm 73:25
I AM your completion – Colossians 2:10
I AM your sanctification – 1 Cor. 1:30
I AM your purpose – Ephesians 1:10
I AM your identity – 2 Corinthians 5:17
I AM your security – Proverbs 1:33
I AM your goodness – Galatians 5:22
I AM your confidence – 2 Corinthians 3:4
I AM your compassion – Psalm 25:6
I AM your forgiveness – Daniel 9:9
I AM your success – Romans 8:37
I AM your endurance – Hebrews 10:36
I AM your peace – Ephesians 2:14
I AM your perseverance - Hebrews 12:2
I AM your trust – Romans 15:5
I AM your strength – Romans 6:10**

**I AM your sovereignty – 1 Timothy 6:15
I AM your intimacy – Psalm 139:3
I AM your kindness – Galatians 5:22
I AM your humility – Matthew 11:29
I AM your acceptance – Romans 15:7
I AM your faithfulness – Galatians 5:22
I AM your need-meeter – Galatians 4:19
I AM your deliverer – Psalm 18:2
I AM your freedom – John 8:32
I AM your victory – 1 Corinthians 15:57
I AM your gentleness – Galatians 5:23
I AM your patience – Galatians 5:22
I AM your courage – John 16:33
I AM your conqueror – Romans 8:37
I AM your holiness – Colossians 3:12
I AM your self-control - 2 Timothy 1:7
I AM your salvation – Psalm 27:1
I AM your trust – Jeremiah 17:7
I AM your guide – Psalm 48:14
I AM your shepherd – Psalm 23:1
I AM your comforter – John 14:16
I AM your Abba – Galatians 4:5-6
I AM your hope – Colossians 1:27
I AM your life – John 14:6**