



## Becoming Better

**Series:** Becoming....Transformed into His Image

God's \_\_\_\_\_ and desire is for us to \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_ of reshaping and conforming our character to \_\_\_\_\_ the image of Christ.

Christ's assistance—his \_\_\_\_\_—is necessary to truly experience the kind of change that God desires in our lives.

- Romans 8:28-30
- John 15:4-5
- it yields \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

## Journey of Grace:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ grace
  - God takes the initiative to reach out to us
2. \_\_\_\_\_ grace
  - Ephesians 2:8-9
3. \_\_\_\_\_ grace
  - \_\_\_\_\_ for God's use.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ occurs at the crisis point of \_\_\_\_\_;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ happens at the crisis point of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ is a life that is completely \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ grace
  - An \_\_\_\_\_ grace that \_\_\_\_\_ us daily to live a better life and \_\_\_\_\_ us through every challenge of life.

## How do we begin the journey?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ your need.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit to begin \_\_\_\_\_ you.
  - Romans 12:1
3. \_\_\_\_\_ to the lifelong reshaping \_\_\_\_\_ of Christlikeness.

**Start Talking.**

- What's something you've tried to change about yourself that was harder than you expected?
- Have you ever started something (diet, exercise, habit) strong but struggled to maintain it?

**Start Thinking:**

- Why is self-discipline alone not enough to create lasting spiritual change?
- What does Jesus' "vine and branches" illustration teach us about our dependence on Him?
- How is "fruit of the Spirit" different from just trying harder to be a better person?
- What's the difference between saving grace and sanctifying grace?
- Pastor Troy said "salvation happens at repentance, sanctification happens at surrender." What does that mean to you? Why is surrender such an important part of spiritual growth?
- Why do you think God chooses to grow us through a lifelong process instead of instant change?

**Start Sharing:**

- Have you ever felt stuck in the cycle of trying, failing, and feeling guilty? What did that look like?
- What areas of your life are hardest to fully surrender to God?
- What does "remaining in the vine" look like practically in your daily life?
- Where have you seen God slowly shaping you over time?
- Which of the three steps is hardest for you right now:
  - Admit your need
  - Invite the Spirit to reshape you
  - Yield to the lifelong process
- What's one area where you sense God still molding and shaping you?

**Start Praying:**

- Ask God to help you admit your need for Him
- Pray for hearts willing to fully surrender
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reshape your character
- Ask God to help you remain connected to Christ
- Pray for patience in the lifelong process of change
- Pray for freedom from guilt, shame, and frustration

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week

- Take time this week to honestly admit an area where you need God's help. Spend a few minutes each day inviting the Holy Spirit to shape your heart.
- Identify one habit that helps you "remain in the vine" (prayer, Scripture, worship, etc.).
- Surrender one specific area of control to God this week.