

Excerpt from the book  
**“Becoming Like JESUS - God’s Key To Abundant Living”**  
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**Chapter 12.**

**MEANS OF FOLLOWING JESUS**

This subject of following Jesus requires another volume to thoroughly handle it. However, we shall briefly introduce you to some godly means the LORD has made available for us to see Jesus vividly and so follow in His footsteps.

From our understanding of following Jesus, more than just going physically after, but becoming conformed to His image, we need to explore the means of seeing Him as He is.

**1. CULTIVATING HIS MIND**

"A man's life is shaped by his thoughts" is a basic Scriptural truth. What a man's action is in any situation is a result of the mind he has. The outward appearance of a man is but the inner workings of his mind. Hence, to grow in conformity with Christ, we must begin with having access into His mind.

When His mind becomes our own mind, our outlook shall eventually become like His own.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. Phil. 2:5-7

Jesus had a mind. He did not do things thoughtlessly. "To become like Jesus", some have ridiculed, "will make you senseless. You will be out of your mind". This is a lie. Following Jesus is a conscious action. It is a deliberate choice of the mind. Christ exercised His mind. But then look at the mind which was behind His actions.

Here, the Bible says, "though He was equal with God..." So, He had every right to be all that God is. No one could cheat Him out of that right. God the Father Himself acknowledged and called Him God.

"Your Throne O God, is for ever and ever. Heb. 1:8-10

Yet, Jesus did not think of grabbing that right and insisting on it; defending it and clinging to it as the way to live.

He rather laid it down by a voluntary action. He emptied Himself and made Himself of no reputation.

He never thought mentioning it at the time of provocation would give Him a sense of relief or accomplishment. This explains why He kept mute when Herod and Pilate challenged Him to speak of Himself.

To become conformed wholly to His example, you also need to change your mind about creating self-impressions. For example, you speak about your credentials, because you think, if men do not know about them, they will take you for granted.

Jesus was everything in everything. He had all authority vested in Him; He had all creatures at His command. The wind, seas, demons, trees etc. all obeyed Him, yet, He never thought of that as something to grab and tenaciously hold onto in His relationship with men or with God.

When He stood up to serve and wash His disciples' feet, it was because He had already concluded in His mind that:

### ***BECOMING LIKE JESUS: GOD'S KEY TO ABUNDANT LIVING***

"The Son of man did not come to be served but to serve... " Matt. 20:28 (NIV)?

Peter was perplexed seeing Jesus washing their feet. He could not imagine it. "How can?" He queried loudly. Yet, to Jesus, it was nothing abnormal. He came to serve and not to be served.

Those whose minds are set on being served cannot do this. They look at their age, positions, attainments, and judge others as secondary to themselves, so they sit down expecting to be served or honoured somehow. They take offence when they are treated otherwise as common. They raise their voices: "Point of correction please! I am not a Mister, I am a Dr... " It is all a matter of the mind. In their mind, they place so much value on these things.

Thus, to follow Jesus, we must explore His mind towards things. As you now look intently into Scriptures, you will discover the mind He had that motivated Him to do all He did. When you begin to allow that mind to replace the mind of the flesh you have all along used in doing things, you will also discover your attitude, outlook, and actions changing to that of Christ effortlessly.

The old man is dead! This is true. It is a fact.

But he left his mind behind, and your mind forms the bulk of your intellectual reasoning. It has to be washed off with the word of God and replaced with the mind of this new Man, Jesus Christ the LORD.

But be transformed (changed) by the entire renewal of your mind - by its new ideals and its new attitude..." Rom12: 2b (AMP)

The old man is no more here. Why do you look for the dead among the living? But he left his old furniture. Though the new man has come; the old man's environment must be changed for the new

The first thing to cultivate now is the mind of Christ. Before I leave this point: remember that the mind of a man is not on his face. The mind is usually underneath. You do not see it afar off, it is not superficial. If you do not search for a man's mind, you cannot touch it.

You may hear his words, his jokes, but you may miss his mind completely. Hence, to know the mind of Christ, you must diligently look beneath the surface. Study the word of God closely. Follow His actions in Scriptures with much prayer asking the Holy Spirit to illuminate your heart and show you the mind behind His actions.

Finally, you can have the mind of Christ. Do not think it is impossible. He is a man tempted at all points as we are. As you relate intimately with Him in prayer and in the WORD, His mind will become yours.

## **2. BEHOLDING HIS GLORY**

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.  
2Cor, 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the LORD, are being changed into His likeness, from one degree of glory to another... (RSV)

And all of us, as with unveiled face, (because we) continued to behold (in the word of God) as in a mirror the glory of the LORD, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image, in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another, (for this comes) from the Lord /who is) the Spirit. (AMP.)

This is another provision God has made for every one of us to follow the pattern of Christ Jesus. Once the veil of the flesh, and the deception of the world system is taken from our hearts and our faces, God's word becomes plain and open unto our hearts. God's word serves as a mirror to reflect into our hearts the glory of the LORD Jesus.

Whereas,

... He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Isa. 53:2-3

We never can see any beauty in the lifestyle Jesus lived as long as the veil remains. We always only see a Man of sorrow. To a man who is liberated from the deceit of the flesh and from being corrupted by the deceitful lusts; to a man who has seen the world system as a mere endless cycle of restless search for meaning, Jesus' lifestyle is the epitome of rest and glory.

Over the years, since the world lost its glamour in my eyes, I have unconsciously, at moments of ecstasy and divine insight into the personality of my LORD Jesus, shouted to myself like those men in that boat...

"What manner of man is this Jesus?"

My theme song ever since has been:

***"Jesus is my Alfa and Omega.***

***"Like Him I want to be and to live forever"***

A miracle takes place, as we behold Him continually in the word of God. And so we are constantly being transformed. We are constantly losing sight of "the sights that dazzle" in the world.

This change is gradual but cumulative. It is like the chemical process of crystallisation. Drop by drop, a weight of His lifestyle is being formed in our lives, from one degree of glory to another. This crystallisation of His character in us is not a one-day affair. It is progressive but cumulative. For the obedient disciple, each day adds to this conformity in a definite way. Just like a baby matures by the day, so we grow on if we keep looking at Him, in every perspective.

This beholding first and foremost is in the place of personal communion. As Mary of Bethany sat at His feet, hearing Him teach; as John the Beloved leaned on His breast, and as Mary Magdalene bathed His feet with her tears and cleansed it with her hair, so an intimate fellowship with the LORD will bring this transformation to your soul and your character.

When Moses spent forty days and forty nights beholding Him on the mount, he came down with his own face shining. The Shekinah glory had rubbed on him. He became a little divine himself. Men could not look at him, just as no one dared to look straight into God's face in those days.

David made this communion his only prayer request, though he was a very busy king of the twelve tribes of Israel; with all the surrounding Philistine nations to subdue:

One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple. Ps. 27:4

We have this privilege daily to look into His person, without any intimidation. The Holy Spirit is there to reveal Him to us, in the WORD of God. You have searched scriptures severally, looking for God's promises, for prosperity, promotion, procreation, production and all 'pros'... Yet in Him, all God's promises are 'Yea' and also in Him, 'Amen'. If you look for Him, you will find Him.

Many Christians of our time look at men; preachers, singers and performers. They quote them and dress like them. This is unfortunate. God has not lifted any of these men to our view as His pattern.

Look to Jesus, copy His methods, emulate His manners and you will never be wrong.

This beholding is a diligent focusing of your mind to visualize Him, as you study the Scriptures. Do not just read; look at the Man behind the words. Whenever His bread is being broken, He is ever ready to reveal Himself, as He did to the brothers on the road to Emmaus. (See Luke 24:30-31).

Look out for Jesus, each time the word is being broken. The more we see Him as He is, the more like Him we shall be. But this is only possible with an unveiled face. Has the veil of the flesh, the veil of worldliness been torn away from your eyes?

### **3. WALKING IN THE SPIRIT**

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. Jn. 16:7, 13-14

The Holy Spirit is a Person (the third Person in the Trinity), trusted with the responsibility of leading us on the right path until we see Jesus. Though, this cannot be a detailed study of the Person of the Holy Spirit, I want you to take note of the 'Nevertheless' in the Scriptures above.

The first "nevertheless" in verse seven is a follow up on verse six. Sorrow filled the hearts of the disciples when they learnt of the imminent departure of their beloved Master. It was understandable.

Who would cast out the demons, in case they were harassed and embarrassed, as the case of the epileptic boy of Mark chapter nine?

Who would calm their stormy seas, when the wind gets contrary and boisterous? To whom would they turn if tax collectors were to arrest them again? Who would follow Peter and the married men to their mother-in-laws, in case an emergency call came?

Who would answer all their questions and explain the perplexities if they hear the word in parables? Who would provide bread to feed the thousands that would troop everyday behind them, when the day grows dark? Endless questions on their minds.

They left all to follow Him, not knowing it would end abruptly. They had reasons to sorrow! He was their Hope. He was their Sustainer. He was their Defender. He was their only identity. What could they do without Jesus physically present in their midst?

It was against this stark reality that the Master said...

'Nevertheless' - all that, notwithstanding; My absence, not withstanding; I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away.

Some of you may be wishing you had lived when Jesus was here. You thought Peter and John had an advantage of knowing Him in a better, more definite way. I do not think so! Jesus declared that it was more expedient to have the Holy Spirit come than Himself being here physically. The Holy Spirit will do the work in us. He will provide leadership, the provision, the protection, the teaching and the 'this' and 'that', better in us. This is not a cajole. It is the truth!

In our pilgrimage, Jesus assures us that the Comforter who dwells within our hearts, who inspires from within, who instructs personally from inside will be more expedient for us. He cannot be local-ized. He is everywhere. The world cannot sever Him from us because they see Him not. They cannot over-ride His instructions, because He speaks from within our hearts.

He is there before the evil imaginations will come. If we turn to Him, He shows us the danger of the

"flash of the world system"; He quietly shows us the way of escape from the snare of the fowler. He searches the deep things of God and communicates them to us, not through the external ear. His is an

"in-to-in" connection. Those of you who have electronics, you understand "in-to-in" plug! No external interference at all. Actually, it is expedient to have Him come.

The second 'nevertheless' in verse fifteen, is a follow up on verse twelve. Let us examine verse twelve, so we can appreciate this second 'nevertheless'.

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; Jn. 16:12-13

Our capacity to comprehend and assimilate spiritual truths is very small. While Jesus was with His disciples, there were several truths He would have loved to teach and show them, but they either misunderstood them or never understood them at all. Up until the time He rose from the dead, the record still showed "They knew not the Scriptures" and this was said of Peter and John, the beloved.

Remember Thomas Didymus' declaration "We know not the way", and Philip's request: "Show us the Father..." and this, after staying with Jesus day and night for over three years. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned.

Following Jesus will be tedious if we are to do it by our mental abilities. It will be a tedious or impossible task, if we are to depend on our physical strength. 'Nevertheless' when He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will not only teach you by dictation, He will guide you into all truth. He will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth about Jesus, about His lifestyle; about His motive, about His will for your life.

Sometimes you see the truth, you know the truth, but you cannot step into it. You become helpless;

"The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak". But when the Holy Spirit comes into your life, He empowers you to get into the truth and live by it.

So many men there are, in our age who know the truth, but cannot abide by it. The influence of men, brethren, and the world, is so great on them that they shut their consciences and bow to popular opinion around them. When a man is following the Holy Spirit, he alone can stand against a whole crowd.

He feels within himself, the dynamite of God, with the bold assurance from within, "Go on, I am with you. Fear not their faces"

The Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself. He does not preach another personal doctrine. He does not divert the attention of the believer from Jesus to Himself. He only takes of the Lord Jesus to show to us. Hence, we find that following Jesus is made possible by the enabling power of the Spirit within our hearts.

What others cannot teach you explicitly, the Holy Spirit will reveal it to you. Even though teachers and preachers must be respected, but I must say to you, that the Teacher within is the One not to offend. If you recognize the Spirit of God within you and give heed to His instructions, if you incline your inner ear to hear Him; if you wait for His comments at every point, you will be sure to be right.

You will grow daily to become like Jesus.

He specifically models, guides, and guards you to become like Jesus, in thought, word and deed. You need to be endowed of the power of the Holy Spirit from on high.

Apart from the new birth experience, you need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Water baptism is water, but the Holy Spirit dips you into the fullness of the power of God. And the promise is to you.

Jesus commanded His disciples to wait and not depart from Jerusalem until they had received the promise of the Father - the Holy Spirit.

All their converts were taught to wait for this Holy Spirit baptism. They took time to pray with everyone that they would receive the Holy Spirit. Hands were laid on men to be filled with this power.

Every appointee into any office to serve in the early Church was to have been filled with the Holy Spirit.

You also are surely not going too far on this long journey, unless you wait to be ended.

Depart not hence, unless you are sure that the heavens have opened to you and the Holy Spirit has descended and sat on you and filled your heart.

#### **4. OBEYING HIM DAILY AND GRIEVING HIM NOT.**

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Eph. 4:30

The Holy Spirit does not struggle with any man. He speaks gently. He guides and teaches. He shows and reveals things to come. He warns (but does not threaten any

man). He reminds you of things that were taught you in time past. He convicts but does not condemn.

Yet, if you continually violate His leading, due to self-will, His voice grows faint! If you continue to stamp your feet on the ground, insisting on your own path; He withdraws. Do not grieve Him. Obedience will make you His friend. He speaks much more to a willing ear. His teaching becomes clearer and deeper as we obey Him.

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh... "  
Gal.5:16

The Spirit at work in you will produce the fruit that brings forth the character of Jesus. He places you far above the reproach of men. The Holy Spirit produces an impeccable and impeachable lifestyle in all who abide by and do His bidding.

He leads largely with the Word of God. Occasionally, He may guide you by circumstances: by dreams or visions but His stable instrument of guidance is the word of truth. He Himself is the Spirit of truth.

When a man is said to be filled with the Spirit, it is synonymous with being filled with the word of God.

Please confirm this. (Read Eph.5:18-19 and Col. 3:16-17.)

You will discover that when a man is filled with the Spirit, he does the same things as the man in whom God's word dwells richly in all wisdom. You cannot be walking in the Spirit and be living contrary to the written word of God.

## **5. FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF MEN WHO FOLLOWED JESUS.**

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" 1Cor.11:1 (KJV)

"Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. 1Cor.4:16 (KJV)

Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. Phil. 3:17

In our LORD's provision for our growth, He also makes some of His men, servants and children available for us to examine their lives and their conduct. Several of us may find it difficult to identify wholly with Christ in His humanity. We somehow feel he was able to conquer because He never sinned, yet God places on our pathway men of like passion as ourselves to challenge us to obedience.

Elijah was of like passion as we are, yet he prayed fervently that it would not rain, and God heard him.

Joseph was a man of flesh and blood; he resisted Portiphar's wife and rather fled naked than fall into the trap of an adulterous woman.

As we look at men who went before us and who pleased God, we may follow them where they followed Christ and avoid their examples where they avoided Christ's life.

This is where the LORD depends on His men to act as trainers to bring up the younger men in the way of the LORD. When a young man cannot hear the Spirit of God teach him vividly, or interpret a vision, because he is yet to know the word of the LORD (like Samuel of old), God requires elderly ones in the faith to explain the vision to the novice in the faith by their lives and experiences with God.

Finally, following Jesus is the only way to become a fellow heir with Him. Only a follower can become a fellow with Him. Followers of today are the apostles of tomorrow.

Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. If you want to fish men out of the kingdom of darkness and fit them for heaven; if you want your life to become a net that catches men for the Saviour, you must follow now.

And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."

So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.  
Lk.5:10-11

Do not be afraid of losing out with the world system. From henceforth, you also shall catch men.

They forsook all and followed Him. That was why their names remained in the heavenly records. That was why they shook their world. What will you yourself do? They forsook all and followed Him... will you also let go?

**Will you also let go of the boats and come aboard this... *DISCIPLE-SHIP?***