

## Obtaining Christ's Character (Part 2)

### Transformation Into Christ's Likeness From the Inside Out:

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Ro. 8:28-29

My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of child-birth until Christ is formed in you. Gal. 4:19

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. Col.1:29

**Christ's Character:** The quality of our character will be determined by the degree in which Jesus Christ has internal mastery over our hearts. The health of our interior lives (souls and spirits) will be determined by how much Jesus Christ is allowed to influence our heart motives, attitudes, thoughts and feelings. Our character is the foundation for the quality of our life and calling. The starting point for character is first how we relate to Christ, whether He is truly our King or just our beneficiary. Secondly, character can only be formed in the context of healthy, loving, transparent covenant community. Only when our lifestyles allow heart-to-heart oneness, walking together in close intimate proximity, will our dark places be eradicated by the light of Christ through others.

### Some of the ways God transforms our character:

Starts with Deep Communion with Christ and Christ's people. Cultivate a hunger and humility to be one with Christ and like Christ. Ro. 8:5 Develop a conscious self-awareness regarding your inner disposition. Dialogue with the Holy Spirit...and ask God to search your heart. Ps. 139:33

1. Within the context of a safe, loving, nurturing environment...
2. A corrective truth will come to you regarding character issues within you.
  - A. It may come through God's Word, teaching, prophecy. 2 Tim. 3:16
  - B. It may come through the inner witness of the Spirit upon your spirit. Ro. 8:5-17
  - C. It may come through your conscience. Ro. 2:15
  - D. It may come from a correction or rebuke from a brother or sister in Christ. Lk. 17:3; 2 Tim. 4:2
  - E. It may come through circumstances.
3. Also, God disciplines His sons & daughters. Heb. 12:1-13
4. Godly sorrow. 2 Cor. 7:10
5. Repentance as a way of life. Is 30:15; Matt. 3:8; Lk 3:8; Ac. 20:21, 26:20; 2 Pet. 3:9
6. Restoration. Gal. 6:1

### Questions:

1. Describe your level of commitment to obtaining the character of Christ.
2. How has God transformed your character over the years?
3. What attributes of Christ is God growing in you right now. How is the process going? What is your level of cooperation.
4. Describe your level of humility when it comes to hearing and receiving correction from others. For example, do you receive rebukes and correction with joy and gratitude, or with defensiveness and anger?
5. Describe your practices and patterns of repentance.