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## 08 Genuine Discipleship: Christ Formed in You

### Recap to Date

To review, there were two sessions on the commitment necessary, two sessions on the world, the flesh, the devil, which detail the predicament we're in. Last week we got into identification.

### So Glad You are Still Here!

I'm so glad you're here because the concept of identification: we died with Christ, we were raised with Christ, we're seated with Christ and then we are to reckon our old selves dead and also alive in Christ, can be new and very challenging to a lot of people. Reflect again on what Jackie said on Sunday from 'Watchman Nee' running through the streets of Shanghai exclaiming "I'm dead, I'm dead!"—it's so freeing when we know that our old nature is dead.

In light of the reality of death—we all know that we are going to die—what should we be thinking about? We should be thinking about our next life and focusing on eternity. Even though we know that logically, there's something else within us that clings to this life, isn't there? So, you say "I have eternal life, so I want to enjoy eternity, but I want to enjoy this life to the fullest. And knowing this, the desire to focus on eternity and wanting to enjoy this life, is the conflict of the flesh versus the spirit of God in us.

### It Really IS Christ in You - But There is a Battle

We will begin in Galatians 5 which highlights the conflict. Remember that all of us that are born again of God's spirit really have Christ in us; we really do! We have the spirit of God living and real in us. So, we want to walk, being fully aware of that spirit in us!

#### **Galatians 5:16-21**

**16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

What a great promise! Why? Because if you walk by the spirit, you aren't going to gratify the desires of the flesh and that is in keeping with so much of what the Word says, "Put off this and put on this." Flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, godliness, etc. God doesn't just tell us what not to do but what to do. He tells us what to pursue. So, if we walk by the spirit and are totally focused on that, we're not going to be interested in gratifying the desires of the flesh.

**17** For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other,

Within this body I have this war going on. I have my flesh, my old man nature, which I inherited from Adam, and I have the spirit of God that's born within me which is the nature of God. Who is going to win? That's the renewed mind; who wins depends on me. They are opposed to each other to keep you from doing the things that you want to do. And you think, "How could I not do the things that I want to do? How could that possibly be true?" If I want to play golf, I play golf. If I want to go to the grocery store, I go to the grocery store. If I want to speak the Word to this person, uh, I have other things to do." Ahhh, ahhh, why? Because we have this battle going

on within us. The things you want to do are the things you decide in your heart you want to do because of your commitment to God and to Christ. We have seen that in Romans 7 and 8!

[17b](#) to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

There is this opposition to the REAL you, that wants to do what you have determined in your heart.

[18](#) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. [19](#) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20](#) idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21](#) envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.

[There's more to the list!] We know what our flesh does. Might be envy or jealousy. We can look at many sections in the New Testament which have more lists like this.

So, we've got this conflict going on, but we've got a true identity, as we talked about last week. Our new identity is the spirit of God in us. It's the new nature, the new man, the Christ in us. How are we going to get to the place where we walk in that new identity?

### Christ Must Be Formed In Your Mind

#### Galatians 4:19

[19](#) my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

You're saying, wait, I believe the Word says I already have Christ in me and it's the fullness of God in me and I'm complete in Christ and it's all in all. What do you mean 'until Christ is formed in you?' I already have Christ in me, but where does he have to be formed in me now? In between my ears, so what's in my mind matches the Christ in me that is the spirit of God in me. That's the renewed mind process. That's the change that has to take place. That's how transformation occurs. It's a process. It's called progressive sanctification. Twenty or thirty years ago the Christian movement called it "spiritual formation," meaning, **I'm forming in my mind what I already have spiritually**. So, how is that change in identity going to take place; and how am I going to live according to Christ in me? As we said, it's a journey to Christlikeness. Some of us may have further to travel than others, but the good news is revealed in Romans 8. The good news is for all of us and the end is the same. Our friends who have passed away, no matter what our loved ones have been through, illness and frailty, we all get a new body like unto Christ's. That's true for all of us. Where are we all going?

#### Romans 8:29

[29](#) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Notice this doesn't say transformed; it says **conformed**! There is a difference between transformed and conformed. We know that for those born again of God's spirit and having eternal life, we are going to be conformed to the image of Christ at the end. We'll have a body like unto his. You can read 1 Corinthians 15 regarding this. 1 John says we're going to be like him, we're going to see him as he is. We know that's where we're going!

We know we're all going to die. This life is going to end. God's Word says in Hebrews 9:27, "It's appointed once for man to die and then the judgement." So, we know we're all going to die, but we have eternity to look forward to. We know we're going to be conformed to the image of Christ, so the opportunity and the challenge is to live that way now. And what a blessing and glory to God that we can do so. We only have 2 choices in life of who we want to follow: one is the first Adam; the second is the last Adam.

### **The History of Mankind is The Story of Two Men**

Romans 5:12–21 talks about the history of mankind. Really, it's the story of two men. Adam disobeyed God and sinned and we all have the consequences of that. Think about the consequences of one person's life. You think your life doesn't make a difference? How about Adam? His was one life and then fifteen billion people born with this propensity to sin afterwards. We have the opportunity to live like Adam OR to live like the last Adam, which is our new identity. The only reason that we can is because we have the last Adam, Christ, within us. And that's the great challenge that we have.

Let's back up just for a second because one person asked last week, "What do you say to people who say isn't it just good enough to get saved and move on with my life; enjoy life to the fullest?" Yes, you can, but let me go through this logically. We all deserve to die, right? The wages of sin is death, we're all born of Adam, when we die, it's going to be over, and we don't have eternal life unless there's some intervention. A perfect blood sacrifice had to be paid. The Old Testament sacrifices of animals for sins prefigured Christ. In order to pay the debt of sin, it had to be paid by someone who didn't have a debt. We cannot pay that price. Christ died to pay the price for sin. So then, when we believe in the resurrection, we have eternal life. Great, hallelujah! I didn't have to die, Christ died for me.

But then, the New Testament presents this incredible opportunity for all people who are born in this Church Age. Out of gratitude to God, thanksgiving for what He has done, and for what Christ did—out of love for him and for other people—we have the privilege and opportunity to willingly die on a daily basis. Why would we want to do this? We can willingly die to self, and let Christ live within us. Then the world sees, and the spiritual principalities and powers see the wisdom of God as it says in Ephesians 3. This is the purpose of the ages, God really was brilliant. Even though people live in the world and have flesh and there's a devil, people can still live like Christ and not be dominated by the old man nature. So instead of thinking, well I'm just going to do the minimum of what I can do, it's really a joy and a privilege to say, you know what, I'm going for it, I'm going to do the maximum I can do for God because it brings glory to Him.

### **What is Going to Bring Glory to God?**

#### **John 12: 20-25**

**20** Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. **21** So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." **22** Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. **23** And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

So the glory is going to from what—his death? That’s going to bring glory to him and glory to God? Yes, because when something dies, then it can bear fruit.

**24** Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **25** Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

So, if we love our life so much in this world that we don’t renew our mind and do what it takes in order to give glory to God by dying to self, etc., we’re really losing—not losing eternal life, but we’re losing what we could really have in opportunity and rewards, etc.

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Verse 26, “If anyone serves me, (the invitation is open to everyone) he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.”

Follow him where? In my behavior, in my example; follow him where? All the way to the cross. What happens when you carry your own cross and follow him? He died. He was crucified. We have the opportunity to crucify ourselves, crucify the flesh, etc. and follow him. That is the only way that John 13 comes to pass,

**John 13: 34-37**

**34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

What does that love of God, that love of Christ result in, but his death? “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” Christ loved us enough to die for us. In order to love like that we have to die to self.

**35** By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Love to the place where we sacrifice ourselves to the place of other people’s interest and to really give. The challenge for all of us descendants of Adam, our tendency is we’re always concerned with “us” and “me” and “my” and now! But to get beyond that, not to be a slave to our old man nature it takes getting rid of and not being obedient to the old nature and being obedient to the new nature and to walking according to the new man. Christ paved the way and did it: “Just as I have always loved you, you’re to love one another” and we can’t do it on our own resources and our flesh. How can we do it? Walking according to who did do it, which is who? Christ! And Christ is IN US.

**36** Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.” **37** Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”

Was Peter able to do it then? No. But with the spirit of God in him later, was he able to? Yes, he did. He lived 35 years faithfully, sacrificing himself and then he did lay down his life physically, at the end of his life.

We can willingly die. We can imitate Christ. But here's the kicker, it's almost beyond comprehension. By doing this and giving glory to God, then we get eternal rewards for doing so! I think that next week or the week after, we're going to cover a section about rewards, what the scripture says about how we're rewarded for doing this. God is a just God, he's a righteous God.

### Will It Be Rewards or Ashes for Your Work in this Life?

Here we have perhaps 30 people in our class. Jeff decides to go whole hog for God, gives the rest of his life teaching the Word, doing signs, miracles and wonders, getting people delivered and helping them mature into discipleship. But I say, "You know what? I've got eternal life, I like golf, I'm going to spend most of my time on the golf course." God is a just God, so at the end Jeff is going to get rewarded for the people saved, the people helped, the people grown to maturity. What's going to happen to me? I'm saved, but 1 Cor.3 5–15—(that's another session) says the day will disclose it. The one who built on Godly things, gets rewarded, the other person's works ends up in a lot of ashes. We have the example of two Adams. Which one are we going to imitate?

A question is posed about 1 Corinthians 3 so this is a bit of a tangent.

It's integral to know, because you think, "Why am I going to do this?" That's a whole other teaching. But think about Paul for example. Paul came from a good family, he had a good academic background, he could have done anything he wanted with his life. If you read 1 Cor.11 or 12, he details all the trials, difficulties, and persecution that he went through. Why would he freely do that? Maybe he knew something that we don't know. Why would anyone do this? Think again about the rich young ruler and his difficulty in comprehending, "Christ, how can that be good for me to give everything away? How can that be for my good?" Because Christ is looking eternally, God is eternal, Paul and Peter and John all detail this about living for eternity and they were willing to go through what they went through.

Paul was teaching the Corinthians who were following the "super apostles" and he's comparing himself. He doesn't want to do this, but he's saying okay... here are my credentials.

#### **2 Corinthians 11:23–28**

**23** Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like "a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. **24** Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned.

There he was. If you look in the book of Acts, they left him for dead and others went and prayed for him and he was back on track.

Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; **26** on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; **27** in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, <sup>b</sup> in cold and exposure. **28** And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

Paul made a free will choice to go through this out of love. He also knew the kind of reward that he was going to get.

### **2 Corinthians 12:1–3**

**1** I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. **2** I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. **3** And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

He is talking about himself. And if you read 2 Peter 3, Peter talks about eternity and he's saying, hey, since this is coming, what kind of godly and holy people should we be? And we know John saw eternity in the Book of Revelation, so, not only do they do it out of love and gratitude and thankfulness, but there's also rewards, eternal rewards for giving our lives.

### **What is The Third Heaven?**

Another question is posed: "What's the 3rd heaven?"

There are 2 schools of thought: A "Linear View" and an "Expansive View." The linear view says that there was the 1st heaven and earth—in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Then, between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, Lucifer tried to usurp God's power. There was a war with God which caused all to become without form and void. Then God had to put everything back into order, let there be light, etc. So, there was the 1<sup>st</sup> heaven and earth which was perfect followed by chaos from the devil, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> heaven and earth linearly is the one that we're in now. The 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven and earth will be the new heaven and earth described in Revelation.

The expansive view maintains that the 1<sup>st</sup> heaven is the heavens immediately around the earth, the atmosphere, etc., then the 2<sup>nd</sup> heaven is the universe and the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven is way out there where God resides. Those are the 2 explanations I am aware of for the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven.

Whether the linear or the expansive view is correct...either way, Paul was caught away to the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven and he saw things which he says were inexpressible. He wasn't allowed to reveal them at that time. Do you think he wanted to? Perhaps, but God said "No!" Why did God forbid him to share it? Probably because John got that detailed revelation later and wrote it in the whole book of Revelation. God knows what He's doing and sometimes when he says shut up, we need to shut up and sometimes some of us don't. We'll get back to this, but I want to get back to who we choose to imitate: Adam 1 or Adam 2 (Christ)?

I said this morning that I have five teachings I could share. I really do. The topic is so incredibly vast! It really is the whole New Testament from the gospels through the epistles. All of this scripture is teaching us how to live according to our new identity. And those that do it, get to prove the reality of it and get to see Christ in them in action. We read in Galatians 5 about the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith, and self-control. We actually begin to see those things in our life and ask ourselves, "Where'd that come out from? I don't have that within me. I didn't generate that. I didn't do self-help. I didn't stress and strain and force my mind to be that way." The fruit of the spirit emerges in our life as

we put the Word into our minds, walk in the spirit, and walk by the new nature. There now...I've fulfilled my reputation on tangents.

### What or Where is Paradise?

A question is posed "What or where is paradise?"

Ok, biblically, when the word "paradise" is used, it has to do with the "Edenic" state. Eden, in the beginning, was paradise. Paradise is always a place on the earth. The next paradise doesn't exist yet. (This is my conclusion from my study—call it my theology.) The paradise that's going to exist in Revelation 22 is the new heavens and the new earth wherein dwells righteousness, and that will again be paradise on earth. So, he saw, some would say, ok, 3rd heaven, way out there, there's paradise, I don't believe that's what it means. Someone in the class raises the issue of what Jesus had said to one being crucified alongside him in Luke 23:43.

#### **Luke 23:42 and 43**

**42** And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." **43** And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Does the comma in verse 43 belong before or after the word "today"?

"I say unto you today, (comma) thou shalt be with me (future) in paradise."

OR

"I say unto you, (comma) today (immediately) you'll be with me in paradise."

So, where the comma is placed in that verse determines your theology on that. Were there any commas in the original? No. Those who translate from the original language insert punctuation where they believe it belongs and are often swayed by their theology or what they have been taught. Sometimes the choices made do not agree with the whole context of God's Word. I have landed on the first rendering where paradise is a future place on the earth and Jesus was promising this criminal a place in that future paradise.

Let's get back to Ephesians 5 and this is mind blowing when you see this possibility!

### Ephesians 5 - Who Will You Choose to Imitate?

Ephesians 1–3 are really indicative of what God did, what God accomplished through Christ on the cross, through the Resurrection, Ascension, and Day of Pentecost. Then chapters 4–6 are imperative: what we are to do as a result of that. Chapters 1 to 3, what God did, then chapter 4 starts with "therefore"—as a result of all that—walk worthy of the calling. Chapter 4 talks about renewed mind and then (because we can renew the mind, remember we read parts of chapter 4 in our last session)...

#### **Ephesians 5:1 and 2**

**1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children

Then you say, "Okay, that's not possible! I know me, no way I can be an imitator of God." Correct! You in your flesh can't. But if we go through this process of identification and have a new identity and it's the Christ in me, wow, I CAN be an imitator of God as a "beloved child." Because children have the same DNA as their parents, and now spiritually, with the spirit of

God in us, He declares we are children of God, ***we're beloved children***. If I'm going to imitate my Father, I have to walk by that spirit.

[2](#) And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

As we saw in John 13, to walk in love is how it is known that we are disciples.

#### **John 13:34 and 35**

[34](#) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35](#) By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

How are we to love? **As Christ loved us**. How did he love us? He gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. What verse does that make you think of? [Abraham, willing to sacrifice his son]. Think about 2 verses—how God can pack so much into a couple of verses and it's ours to explore. As John said at the end of his gospel, [John 21:25](#) if everything that Christ did, thought or said in his lifetime was written down, we wouldn't be able to read it all in our entire lifetime; the world could not contain all the books needed to record all of it. He gives us enough to dive in, explore and fit, together.

We're to be imitators of God as His dear children, I'm to walk in love. What kind of love? Not emotional love. What's the example of love? Walk in love **as Christ loved us**. How did Christ love us? He gave himself up for us. That's reflexive. He gave himself up. He had to do it by free will, just as we by free will can choose to give ourselves up, dying to self and walking according to the new nature, a fragrant offering and living sacrifice to God.

Let's compare that: "A fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" and what we're instructed to do.

#### **Romans 12:1**

[1](#) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

That's Ephesians 5:1 and 2! We get to do the same thing as Christ. He freely gave his life so that we would have eternal life and not have to die and then we get to freely give our life and then God gets glorified by it, and we receive eternal rewards for carrying it out.

[1](#) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

If you were to pick this apart: I appeal to you, I lovingly beg and implore you. Notice he says "brothers." This isn't written to unbelievers and unbelievers could not understand it. If you want to see the difference between the natural man of body and soul and the born-again man of body, soul, and spirit, read 1 Corinthians 2. It details that the natural man CANNOT receive the things of God.

#### **1 Corinthians 2: 12–14**

[12](#) Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. [13](#) And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who

are spiritual. [14](#) The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Everything God states in the epistles is spiritually discerned. You cannot understand it unless you have the spirit of God working in you to enlighten your understanding. That's why so many people think we're crazy for believing spiritual matters: because they can't understand it. Seeing you'll not see; hearing, you can't hear. [Matthew 13:13](#) They cannot understand it!

## What Is True Spiritual Worship Today? Will You Be Conformed or Transformed?

### Romans 12:1 and 2

[1](#) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

It's our spiritual worship. I looked at "worship" in a few places in the Old Testament and may cover some of it next week. (Chronicles) and all that they did through their routine of worship and what qualified as worship. But now it's different. Now our spiritual worship is presenting ourselves on the altar instead of the animal, the calf or oxen or the lamb.

Present your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

[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.

Notice it says don't be conformed to this world. At the end, we're going to be conformed to the image of Christ. In between now and then, the world tries to conform us to the way it thinks. To be conformed is to be fit into a mold. You don't have a choice. The world is trying to conform you to its way of thinking. So don't be conformed to the world. That's why a few weeks ago we focused on "the world and all that's in the world." If we don't do something different, we're going to be conformed to the thinking of this world. If you watch the news, you read the papers, you see celebrities, all of that is impacting you. The entire world's system is to conform us into its way of thinking, in every category, in terms of entertainment and money and marriage and sex and sexuality. You could list a hundred things that the world is trying to conform us into thinking. **Unless we intervene, and change our input, we will be conformed to this world.**

but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,

The word "renewal" in Greek is "[anakainósis](#)" and is made up of two components—ana means up and kainosis means new. It's thinking on a new plane, in a new way. That new plane and new way is spiritual and it's according to the spirit of God in us. Be transformed by the renewing of our mind: that's our role. Our role is to input the Word and we will be transformed by thinking the Word. In doing so, you, by testing, "may discern what is the will of God." Hey, this actually works. I am actually being transformed. I really am exhibiting the fruit of the spirit of love, joy, peace and not being selfish. And then we'll see and say it's a good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Some translations use “well pleasing” for acceptable. God said to His son, “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased” [Matthew 3:17](#) and we also can live a life that is well pleasing to God.

We are not to be conformed to the world. What does the scripture say about the world? See James 4. This verse might be shocking to you. And who is James? The Lord’s brother, so he has street cred.

**James 4:4**

[4](#) You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

We don’t want to be an enemy of God. We want to be a friend of God and of Christ. In [John 15:14](#), Christ said to his disciples, “You are my friends if you obey what I tell you and obey my commands.”

**1 John 2:16**

[16](#) 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.

We’re going to pick up on this next week. We don’t want to be conformed; we want to be transformed. This is almost too good to be true. A huge word like “transformed”—metamorphoo—like the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to a butterfly. It only shows up four times in the New Testament. A huge concept of being transformed, only 4 times. And it’s really only 3 times because 2 of them have to do with the same account of Christ being transformed on the Mount of transfiguration, Matthew 16 and Mark 8. That transfiguration in front of the eyes of Peter, James, and John would then stay with them and then when the word transformed shows up only two times in the Epistles, it’s like, “Wow, that’s what transformation is? That’s what’s really possible?” Just as Christ was transfigured and his face shown like the sun and his clothing was bright as the light? That’s the only place in the gospels—two occurrences but one event.

It shows up twice in the Epistles: once in Romans, which we just read, be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, and another in Corinthians.

Next week we’re going to read Matthew 16 and 17, because within them, the context reveals an enormous amount about the commitment that we make to God, what transformation actually looks like and then what’s necessary on our part in order to make it a reality.

God gave us that spirit; He yearns zealously over that spirit. He’s jealous that the spirit within us then manifests itself and comes into fruition and He is going to give us more and more grace so that takes place. He gives grace to the humble, the humble who say, “OK God. You’re God, I’m not. I want to be obedient. Whatever you say, I’m going to do.” Then we get out of the way, and the old nature gets out of the way, and that spirit of God can be manifested in our life.

I know it's an incredible commitment, and it even runs counter to some contemporary Christianity because Americanized Christianity is, "O.K., I'm saved, so let's eat, drink and be merry and enjoy life to the fullest. I've got one foot in heaven, and I've got one foot in the world." However, God actually says if you want to maximize your rewards and to glorify me, change your shoes, or get one foot out of the world and live according to the spirit. I know it's very challenging. It's a daily challenge and that's why the choice to be a living sacrifice is a daily event.