



# VII

## 7 MARKS of a DISCIPLE

**DISCIPLESHIP IS  
TRANSFORMING!**  
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

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**Introduction:** Last time we saw that the essence of discipleship is “a changed life that comes from a transformed heart.” Today we are going to discover the possibility, the barriers, and the benefits of experiencing the complete spiritual transformation of our lives that is the mark of a true disciple.

### **I. The Possibility of Supernatural Transformation**

(Galatians 4:19; 1 Peter 1:23; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18)

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

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

1 Peter 1:23 “For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.”

Romans 8:29 “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 12:2a “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,”

2 Corinthians 3:18 “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 from the Lord, the Spirit.”



## II. What Spiritual Transformation Is NOT

### A. Theological Information

### B. Religious Conformation

## III. Four Barriers To Experiencing Spiritual Transformation

### A. Spiritual Transformation Is Not Necessary (John 3:36; John 12:26)

John 3:36 “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 12:26a “If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me.”

John 14:21 “He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.”

John 14:24a “He who does not love Me does not keep My words;”

**One should seriously inquire if to live in a world permeated with God and the knowledge of God is something they themselves truly desire. If not, they can be assured that God will excuse them from His presence. They will find their place in the “outer darkness” of which Jesus spoke. But the fundamental fact about them will not be that they are there, but that they have become people so locked into their own self-worship and denial of God that they cannot want God.**  
(Dallas Willard, RENOVATION OF THE HEART, p. 57)

### B. Spiritual Transformation Is Not Desirable (Matthew 13:44)

#### 1. Jesus’ invitation to live within “the kingdom of God”



Matthew 4:23a “And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom,”

Matthew 10:7 “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

Luke 4:43 “But He said to them, ‘I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.’”

## 2. Understanding “the kingdom of God”

## 3. The benefits of living in “the kingdom of God” now

Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells at that he has, and buys that field.”

Matthew 6:10 “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

### C. Spiritual Transformation Is Not Possible (Romans 8:2, 4)

Romans 8:2,4 “For the power of the life-giving spirit, and this power is mine through Christ Jesus, has freed me from the vicious circle of sin and death. So now we can obey God’s laws if we follow after the Holy Spirit and no longer obey the old evil nature within us.” The Living Bible

### D. Spiritual Transformation Is Not Planned For (Luke 14:28)

Luke 14:28 “For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?”

Conclusion