

## **Back to School: Reminding Ourselves of Who We Are and Why We Are Here**

### **Week 1: Formative Growth**

**Introduction:** The Great Commission of Christ is centered on the command to make disciples (Matt. 28:18–20). Teasing that out further, the apostle Paul taught that the church’s mission is making disciples who make disciples (2 Tim. 2:2). The aim of discipleship is nothing less than the complete transformation of the believer’s heart, mind, affections, will, relationships, and purpose.

In short, discipleship is how a person enters into and experiences the good life Jesus promised!

This is why the church exists—not just Cornerstone, but the church from its beginnings until now. Our sole purpose is to help people experience Jesus now and in eternity! Formative Growth is our way of encouraging and building up each other’s belief. None of us are perfect, but we are, by God’s Spirit and Word being made into the actions and attitudes of Jesus.

We strengthen belief as we engage God through worship, word and witness.

**The Big Picture:** The heart of the church’s mission is making disciples who make disciples.

### **Discussion:**

#### **Share:**

- What is something you need to be regularly reminded about?

#### **Discuss:**

#### **Sermon Review:**

- Write down any questions or thoughts that stand out to you as you review the sermon together. Discuss them as a group.
- Cornerstone’s vision simply stated is: “Connecting people to Christ and His community”. What does that statement mean to you?
- Respond to Pastor Jeremy’s statement: “The whole of the Christian life is to believe.”
- Mark 9:24 reads, “I believe Lord, but help my unbelief.” How do you need Jesus to strengthen your unbelief?

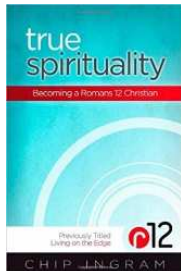
- Formative Growth is strengthening belief. Belief grows through:
  - Worship: Honoring God
  - Word: Learning from God
  - Witness: Recognizing God

How do you see each of these engagements in Romans 12:1-2?

- Where do you see belief growing in your life?
- Where do you see belief struggling in your life?
- How do you think God wants you to experience Him in light of your response to these last two questions?

### Further Exploration on this Topic:

*True Spirituality: Becoming a Romans 12 Christian* by Chip Ingram



**From the Publisher:** A launching pad for your spiritual journey, this inspiring book provides clear, specific, and practical guidelines for becoming a Christian who lives like Christ.

Christians today live in a world that is activity heavy and relationship light. The result is spiritual emptiness. We struggle to know what God wants *from* us and *for* us . . . and we're unsure what a real relationship with God really looks like. But that was never God's idea. HIS idea of faith is not about rules or religion— it's about relationship.

That's where God tells us to start. In Romans 12, God gives us a clear picture of what Christians should look like at the root level. If you're ready to move from "in" to "all in," then you're ready to become a Romans 12 Christian. The next steps of your journey toward true spirituality start here.

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/True-Spirituality-Becoming-Romans-Christian/dp/1476727635>