

Becoming What You Behold

Have you ever wondered why some people seem to effortlessly live godly lives while others struggle constantly with sin and temptation? The answer lies in understanding a powerful spiritual principle: we become what we behold. This truth can revolutionize your Christian walk and lead to genuine transformation from the inside out.

What Does It Mean to Be a Child of God?

Not everyone is automatically a child of God simply by being born. While God created all people, becoming His child requires a spiritual rebirth through faith in Jesus Christ. This isn't about religion or trying to be a good person - it's about recognizing what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Jesus became sin for us, taking on everything that sin produced - every curse, every consequence. He became what we were so that we could become what He is. When we put our faith in Him with a "steady, absorbing gaze," we're delivered from spiritual darkness and transformed into children of God.

As First John 3:1 declares: "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God." This is a special gift, not an automatic status for everyone.

The Promise of Future Transformation

Scripture tells us that "when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2). This means that when we finally see Jesus face to face, there will be an instant, complete transformation. All wrong thinking, deception, and sin will be gone in His presence.

But here's the exciting part - this transformation doesn't only happen in the future. It's happening right now as we get to know Him through His Word.

How Transformation Happens Now

The Mirror Principle

Second Corinthians 3:18 reveals the key: "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."

God's Word is like a mirror. When you look into it, you don't just see God - you see yourself as you're meant to be, created in His image and likeness. As you behold Him in Scripture, the Holy Spirit works to transform you into His image, bit by bit, from glory to glory.

The Supernatural Reality

This isn't just positive thinking or self-improvement. We live in a supernatural world where spiritual forces are constantly at work. Just as beholding God transforms us into His likeness, focusing on evil, perverse, or unclean things transforms us into their image.

This is why advertisers repeat commercials - they understand that what you repeatedly see, you begin to want and become. The same principle applies spiritually. Whatever captures your attention and focus will shape who you become.

Why Purity Becomes Natural

Hope Produces Purity

First John 3:3 says, "And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." When you truly understand that you're going to see Jesus face to face, something amazing happens - you naturally begin purifying yourself.

You start throwing things away, getting rid of influences that don't match who you're becoming. It's not a struggle or a fight - it's like taking off clothes that no longer fit or match your new outfit.

Laying Aside vs. Fighting

First Peter 2:1-2 instructs us to lay aside "all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking" while desiring "the pure milk of the word" like newborn babies.

Notice it says "laying aside," not fighting or struggling. When you receive revelation of who Jesus is and who you are in Him, sin becomes something you simply don't want anymore. It doesn't match your new identity. You don't miss it because you've seen something infinitely better.

The Feeding Process

Spiritual Nutrition

Just as physical food transforms into your body's cells, tissues, and bones, God's Word becomes spiritual nourishment that transforms your inner being. You literally become what you spiritually consume.

This is why it's crucial to be selective about what you allow into your mind and heart. Just as you wouldn't want your physical body made from junk food, you don't want your spiritual life built from spiritual junk.

New In, Old Out

The transformation process involves taking in new revelation while laying aside old patterns. As new understanding comes in, old ways of thinking and behaving naturally go out. You can't hold onto both - the new displaces the old.

Why the Christian Life Should Be Easy

Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:30). The Christian life isn't meant to be a constant struggle. When you understand the principle of beholding and being transformed, following Jesus becomes natural.

You're not trying to climb your way to God or striving to be like Him through willpower. Instead, His Spirit is transforming you as you behold Him. You simply discipline yourself to put yourself in position to see Him revealed in His Word.

Practical Steps for Transformation

Guard What You Behold

Be intentional about what you watch, read, and listen to. Remember - you become what you behold. If you're struggling with something, examine what you're looking at or consuming mentally.

Desire God's Word

Like a newborn baby desires milk, cultivate a hunger for Scripture. Ask God to give you revelation and show you great things from His Word, knowing that as you see Him, you're being transformed.

Expect Transformation

Don't expect to stay the same. Expect awesome changes in your life. The Holy Spirit is working on you as you engage with God's truth, so anticipate transformation rather than settling for the status quo.

Life Application

This week, commit to examining what you're beholding and make necessary adjustments. Identify anything in your life - entertainment, relationships, habits, or thought patterns - that doesn't align with who you're becoming in Christ. Practice "laying aside" rather than fighting these things, while simultaneously increasing your time in God's Word with expectation for revelation and transformation.

Ask yourself these questions:

- What am I regularly looking at or consuming that might be shaping me in ways contrary to Christ's image?
- How can I create more opportunities to behold Jesus through His Word this week?
- What specific things do I sense God calling me to "lay aside" as I grow in my understanding of who He is?
- Am I approaching my Christian walk as a struggle, or am I allowing the Holy Spirit to transform me as I behold Jesus?

Remember, you were created for awesomeness - God's kind of awesomeness. As you behold Him, you're being transformed from glory to glory into His very image. This isn't about trying harder; it's about positioning yourself to see Him more clearly and allowing His Spirit to do the transforming work in your life.

Quotes

1. “We need to go through this life aware that someday we will see God face to face.”
2. “The key to living a pure life is knowing you will see Him.”
3. “Not everyone is a child of God.”
4. “We are no longer children of the devil. Behold, now we are children of God.”
5. “Just seeing Him—truly seeing Him—will transform your life.”
6. “‘We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed’—present tense—‘into the same image from glory to glory.’”
7. “You were created for awesomeness.”
8. “We’re not here just to become nicer people. We’re here to let the Holy Spirit make us new people—changed, transformed from the inside out.”
9. “If you don’t want to become it, don’t keep looking at it.”
10. “The Christian life is not us climbing up to God, striving to be like Him. It’s God transforming us to be like Him.”
11. “We’re not straining to become like Him—He is transforming us into His likeness.”
12. “When you truly live with the hope that you will see Him and stand before Him, purification begins naturally.”
13. “God’s Word is like food. Sometimes it comes as milk, sometimes as bread, sometimes as meat.”
14. “That milk becomes flesh and blood—it produces growth. You are literally being shaped by what you consume.”
15. “There will be things to lay aside, and there will be things to take in. As you receive what is from Him, you are changed—and some things must be shed.”

16. “Sin is not appealing to a transformed mind.”

17. To someone who has truly seen Him, sin loses its flavor—it becomes repulsive.”

18. “When you truly see Him, you don’t fight to get free from sin—you simply don’t want it anymore.”

19. “The Christian life is not meant to be a constant struggle.”

20. “You’ve been called to live an awesome life—the God-kind of life.”

Verses

1. 1 John 3:1

2. 1 John 3:2

3. 1 John 3:3

4. Luke 10

5. 2 Corinthians 3:17

6. 2 Corinthians 3:18

7. 1 Peter 2:1

8. 1 Peter 2:2

9. Philippians 3:7

10. Philippians 3:8

Summary

We become what we behold - a powerful spiritual principle that explains why some Christians seem to live godly lives effortlessly while others struggle. When we focus our attention on Jesus through His Word, the Holy Spirit transforms us into His image from glory to glory. This isn't about trying harder or fighting sin, but about positioning ourselves to see Him clearly. As we behold Christ in Scripture, purity becomes natural and

transformation happens from the inside out. The key is being intentional about what we look at and consume mentally, while cultivating a hunger for God's Word like a newborn baby desires milk.