

Discussion questions:

1. Tozer said that what comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us, because we tend to move toward that image.

And Dallas Willard said, “We don’t believe something by merely saying that we believe it, or even when we believe that we believe it. We believe something when we **act as if it were true.**”

Considering these two statements together, what does your customary, characteristic behaviour tell you about what you truly believe about God? Does what you think you believe match how you behave? Or does your vision of God need re-thinking? (Eg: You say that you believe that God is trustworthy... but you are a chronic worrier ? You say that God will take care of you... but your anger when you are crossed indicates that you feel that **you** have to manage your needs ? You say that God unfailingly loves you...but you still act as though you have to earn His love, and believe He is disappointed when you “mess up”)

Does your image of God need a mature re-thinking?

2. C S Lewis said, “How God thinks of us is not only more important, but infinitely more important!” Agree or disagree? Can you see the connection between the two view points?

3. God sees us as His beloved children. Spiritual transformation is the process of fixing our eyes on Jesus in moment by moment submission to Him as the greatest teacher or Rabbi who ever walked this earth. It involves embracing our identity as spiritual image bearers who are filled with the love of God, and are designed to be light in our world.

If we are to follow our teacher, can you think of any specific one or two of His teachings, or habits, or practices, that, if practiced with the enabling of the Holy Spirit, might help you to become more like Him at this point in your journey? Think of some things He did that, if you copied Him, would bring you into closer contact with God, make you more aware of His presence, open up space for the Holy Spirit to act? (Eg: Jesus routinely took time alone to be with God. Jesus clearly had taken time to memorize and meditate on Scripture. Jesus was interrupt-able when he was needed. Jesus fasted. Jesus prayed. Jesus celebrated with all different kinds of people. Jesus talked to His Father continually.) Can you choose one and try it out this week?

4. Do you really believe that God loves you? Are you ready to choose to listen to His voice of love and delight in you above all others? How might this change you? Are you ready to choose to keep on deliberately, daily seeking, reaching out, and finding God? He wants to transform you as you do, to help you act in love, truth and power as if you really mean it. May God bless you as He transforms you!