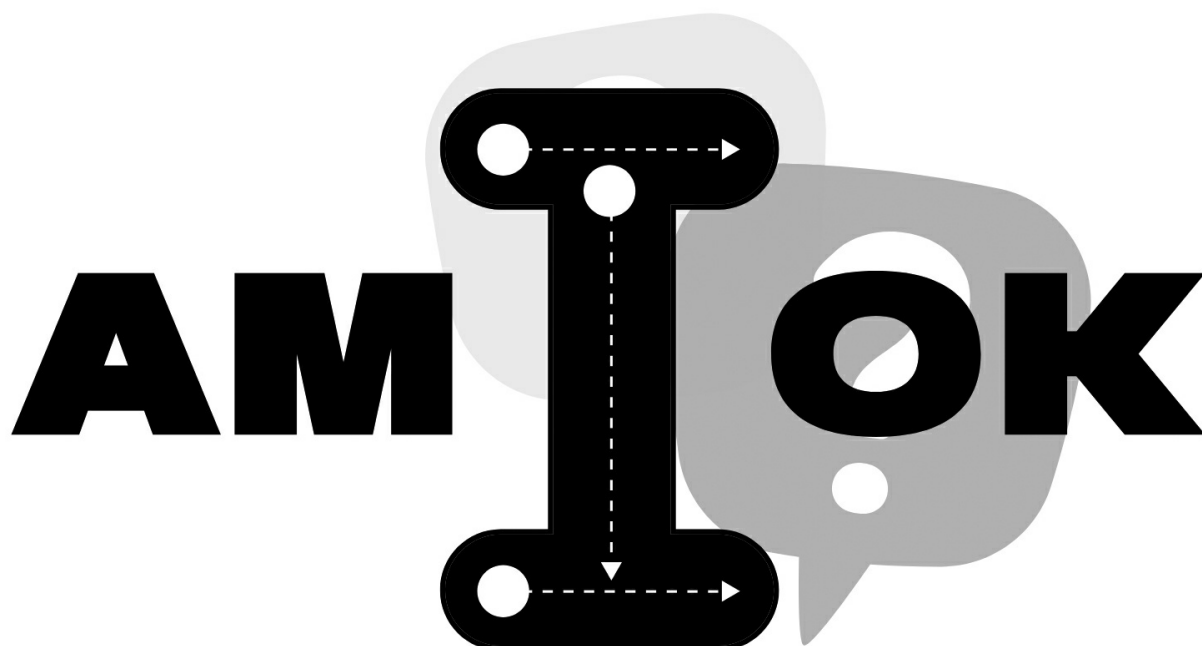


Progress

November 20, 2025



**Leo Loughmiller • November 23, 2025 • Progress
(Sanctification)**

Sanctification is God making me more like Jesus over the course of my life.

Struggle Is Part of the Journey — Not a Disqualification*. “I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.” (**Romans 7:15**)*

“For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.”
(**Romans 7:18b**)

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood... but against the spiritual forces of evil.” (**Ephesians 6:12**)

There is an enemy who cannot take your salvation, so he works to discourage your transformation.

Holy Discomfort Leads to Holy Transformation

“Christians can go to church for twenty years and not have twenty years of spiritual maturity but be one-year-old twenty times over.”
(Pete Scazzero)

We look like our parents when we are born, but we look like our decisions when we die.

How We're Formed — and How Jesus Re-Forms Us

You don't get to choose whether you're being formed - only by what.

Four Major Forces That Shape Your Life

1. **The Stories You Believe.** Every one of us lives from a story — and those stories come from many places.

Re-Forming Practice: Scripture Reading

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 **Corinthians 5:17**)*

2. **The Habits You Practice.** You're not just doing your habits, your habits are doing something to you.

*“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”
(**Matthew 7:24**)*

*“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (**Ephesians 4:22-24**)*

Re-Forming Practice: Habits of Jesus

3. **The Relationships Around You.** We become like the people we spend the most time with.

“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers

*harm.” (**Proverbs 13:20**)*

Re-Forming Practice: Christian Community

4. The Environment You Live In. Our environment pushes us toward hurry and distraction, not toward Jesus.

*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (**Romans 12:2a**)*

Re-Forming Practice: Sabbath + Rule of Life

We don’t transform ourselves but we do place ourselves where transformation happens.

My failure is not final because Jesus is my rescuer. *“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:24-25)*

God’s Promise With Your Progress

“...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion....”
(*Philippians 1:6*)