



# UNITED

---

*Living Out Our  
Union with Christ*



# **The Gospel isn't opposed to *effort*. It's opposed to *earning*.**

Matthew 11:28: rest in Christ

Hebrews 4:11: strive to enter that rest

...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12b-13 (ESV)

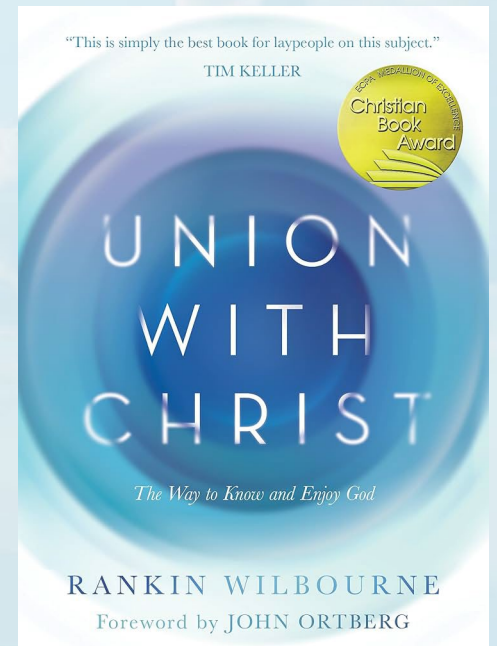
# **The Gospel isn't opposed to *effort*. It's opposed to *earning*.**

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Philippians 3:12

# Big Idea:

## We must work to experience more of our union with Christ.



1. Walk with God through continual faith & repentance
2. Behold God through spiritual disciplines
3. Lean on God through trials and suffering

# Walking with God in Continual Faith & Repentance

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1:14b-15

...testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:21

# Walking with God in Continual Faith & Repentance

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so  
walk in him...

Colossians 2:6



# Walking with God in Continual Faith & Repentance

## Faith

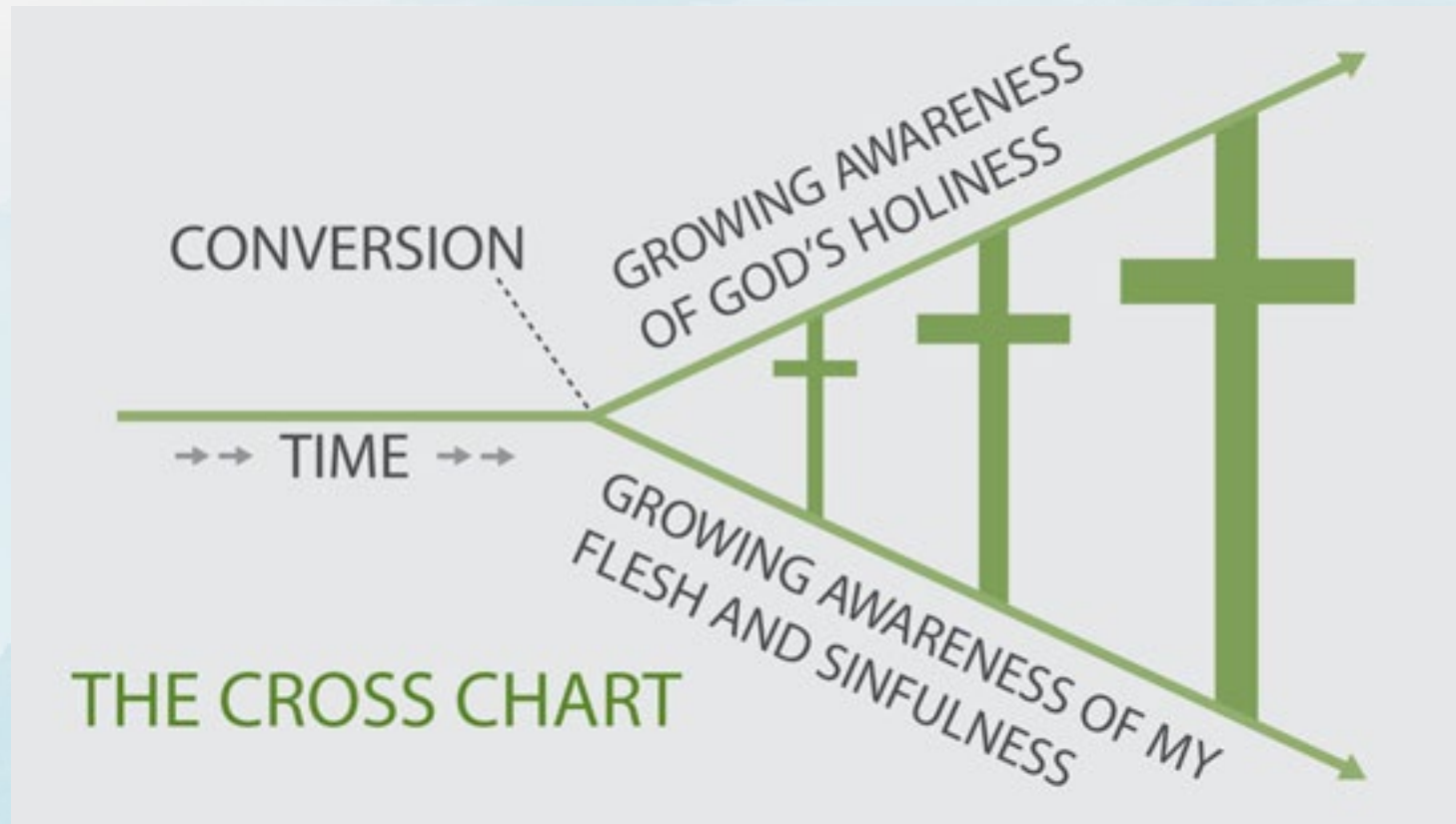
Recognizing our Lord  
and turning to him.



## Repentance

Recognizing our sin  
and turning from it.

# Walking with God in Continual Faith & Repentance



# Walking with God in Continual Faith & Repentance



# Behold God through Spiritual Disciplines

## 1. Studying & Meditating on God's Word



Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the  
counsel of the wicked...  
but his delight is in the  
law of the LORD, and on  
his law he meditates day  
and night.  
Psalm 1:1-2

# Behold God through Spiritual Disciplines

## 2. Pouring out your heart to God in prayer



# Behold God through Spiritual Disciplines

## 3. Participating in gathered worship



# Behold God through Spiritual Disciplines

## 4. Participating in Christian community



# Behold God through Spiritual Disciplines

1. Studying & Meditating on God's Word
2. Pouring out your heart to God in prayer
3. Participating in gathered worship
4. Participating in Christian community



# Lean on God through Trials and Suffering



# Lean on God through Trials and Suffering

“...the storms of life can lead you where you want to go, as long as communion with God is your horizon. Suffering can be a shortcut toward this destination. It’s a shortcut no one would ever choose, but looking back, few would trade it for where it has brought them.”

Rankin Wilbourne, *Union with Christ*, p. 250



# Lean on God through Trials and Suffering

## Remember that You are in Christ

- When you're tempted to think suffering is punishment
- When you're tempted to think suffering means God doesn't care
- When you're tempted to think suffering will last forever

Look to the cross and the empty tomb!

# Lean on God through Trials and Suffering

Remember that Christ is in You

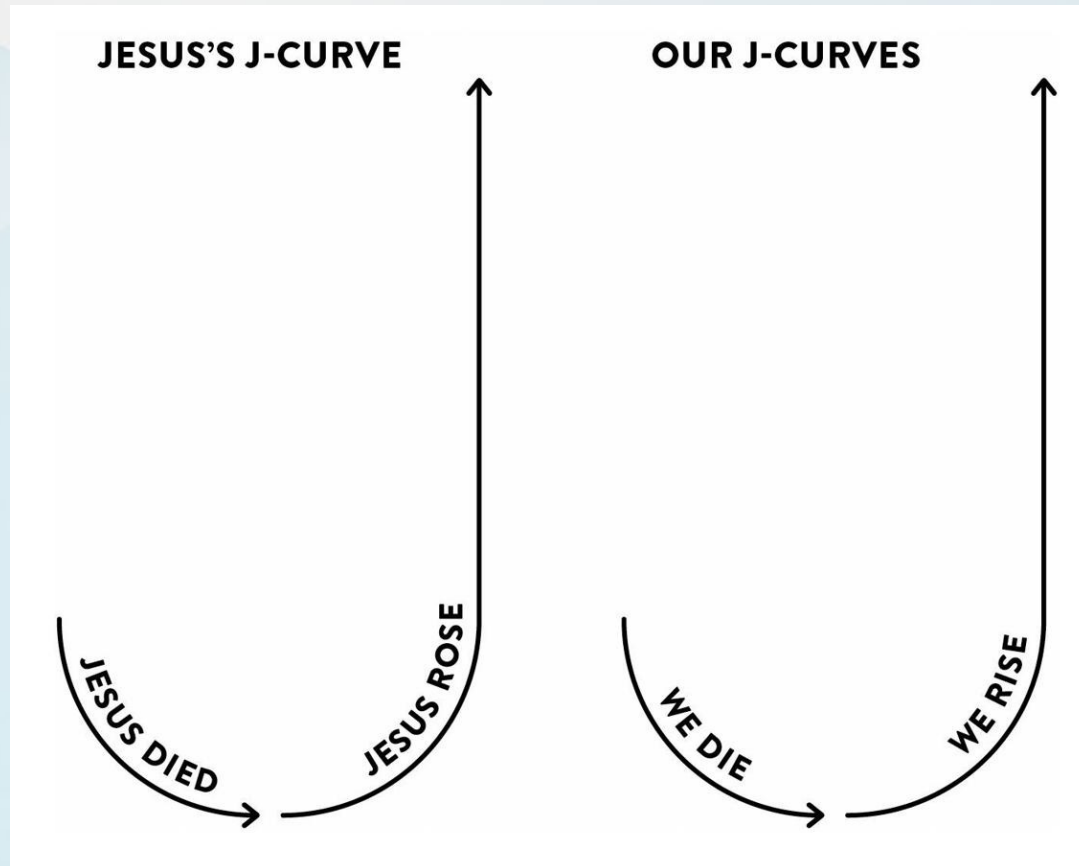
You are united to a suffering servant

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Luke 9:23

# Lean on God through Trials and Suffering

## Remember that Christ is in You: The J-Curve



We are... always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies.  
2 Corinthians 4:8-10



## **Big Idea:**

We must work to experience more of our union with Christ.

1. Walk with God through continual faith & repentance
2. Behold God through spiritual disciplines
3. Lean on God through trials and suffering