



Getting Authentic Personal Change

Listen! We are not yet the people we need to be. Wherever we are in the growth process we still need to grow—to be transformed so that we look, think, and act more like Jesus.

- **The Question:** How does that happen?

An Example of Transformation: A one year old girl, who cannot even count, could eventually become the premier aeronautical engineer in the nation and one part of how that process happens is for her to interact successfully with lots and lots of books.

- **The Problem:** You and I, every one of us, believe some things that are false and those false beliefs are hampering our growth toward being like Jesus.
- **The Compounding Problem:** We are capable of thinking about our thinking—of evaluating what we believe—but we usually don't.
- **Part of the Solution:** You and I, every one of us, need to interact successfully with God's Book.

A truth to think about: “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2

- **Note Well:** This is a Holy Spirit enabled process as I submit to Him.
- **What not to do:** Be *conformed* to this world.
- **What to do:** Be *transformed*.
- **How to do it:** By *renewing* our minds-think about how we think using the Bible:
 - Renewing:
 - Romans 10:17:
 - John 17:17:
 - John 8:31, 32:
 - James 1:22-25:
 - 2 Timothy 3:16, 17:
- **Result of doing it:** We can successfully *test and find* God's perfect will.

Core Truth: I am obedient, happy, and really fulfilled...when I allow the Bible to shape how I think about my thinking—and by this process be transformed.

Application: Are you willing to use this Book every day to think about your thinking?

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

Core Truth: I am obedient, happy, and really fulfilled...when I allow the Bible to shape how I think about my thinking—and by this process be transformed. A key purpose of God is to transform His people to Christlikeness through the formative power of His Word.

- **Today:** Please read the passages listed here and reflect on the one that “grabs you by the lapels” and challenges you:
 - Romans 10:17:
 - John 17:17:
 - John 8:31, 32:
 - 1 Peter 2:2:
 - James 1:22-25:
 - 2 Timothy 3:16, 17:
 - Hebrews 4:12, 13:
 - Matthew 4:4:
 - Matthew 7:24-27:
 - Nehemiah 9:1-4:
 - Ephesians 5:26:
 - Ezra 7:10:

- **Monday:** What do you think about the thought that we are able to think about our thinking but usually don't? Do you agree? Do you, on a regular basis, say to yourself, “I believe this but I wonder if it is true?”

- **Tuesday:** What do you think about the declaration that, “Only God believes no false things?” What thoughts do you have or what beliefs do you believe that are most likely false?

- **Wednesday:** Based on the Bible passages listed above how would you define “The successful interaction with God’s Book?”

- **Thursday:** In what ways are you most likely “passively allowing yourself to be conformed to the beliefs and values of this present world system?”

- **Friday:** With what avenues or vehicles are you most likely “passively allowing yourself to be conformed to the beliefs and values of this present world system?”

- **Saturday:** Do you habitually use the Bible as a “mirror” to look at your life and evaluate it for the level of Christ-likeness or do you use it as something else?

God’s Confronting Question: Are you willing to use this Book every day to think about your thinking?

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.