

This year we have been giving a lot of attention to being and making disciples. To clarify what we mean by this, we have defined what a disciple is with these four basic pillars drawn from the Scripture: a disciple is a person who has made a **DECISION** for relationship with Jesus Christ, been **IMMERSED** in Christian community, prioritizes Jesus' **TEACHING**, and practices **OBEDIENCE**.



All this and the transformation it brings about are a direct result of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. As followers of Christ, [we truly are “His workmanship created in Christ Jesus.”](#)

The Bible teaches clearly that [the ruler of this world will be judged](#), and [the world and everything in it is passing away](#). But as for us living in it right at this moment, there is a draw to mirror the ways all around us. This natural way of things is to “conform to the world,” to follow the same pattern and act in accordance with what we are surrounded by. Without the Holy Spirit, our destiny is to follow this pattern and share the same destiny.

But Jesus interrupted that pattern to open another way, an opportunity to transform rather than conform. Because of Him we have a chance to be non-conformists, and instead be transformed [into a new creation altogether](#). But it's crucial to recognize how this transformation happens. If we try to go about it our own way, then it's likely we are only modifying our behavior rather than being transformed. God does not desire conformed behavior, but transformed behavior born out of the renewed mind!

Transformation occurs only in the life of the person who has surrendered to God, confessed that He is true, and [allowed the Holy Spirit to renew their minds](#). It is from a repentant heart and renewed mind that transformation becomes real, and not simply behavior/habits modification.

My prayer is that we will all maintain a heart of repentance towards a continually renewed mind; and in this way **not only experience transformation on an individual level, but become a transformed community!**

~ Pastor Ed