



Walking with God

Spiritually Transforming
Practices (2) – Tuning In

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How the WWG journey starts

1. We Join Christ's Family – We trust Jesus and are born from above, receiving Christ's righteousness and His Spirit within.
2. Then we begin following Jesus - which includes Choices & Consequences. WWG/Living by the Spirit doesn't just happen, It's something that takes training.

This series is about that training

1 Tim 4:7 ...*train yourself to be godly.*

What God Provides:

1. Word of God
2. People of God
3. Works of God
4. Spirit of God

All believers have the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:13-14 *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.*

Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal,

the promised Holy Spirit,

14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-- to the praise of his glory. (NIV)

Implications of having the HS

1 Corinthians 3:16 *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?*

6:19-20 *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?*

*You are not your own;
you were bought at a price.*

Therefore honor God with your body.

(NIV)

Cooperating with the Spirit

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 *Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ.*

He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

➤ **A mistake that can be made:**

Galatians 3:3 *Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?*

(NIV)

Living by the Spirit = Freedom

2 Corinthians 3:17 *Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.*

2 Cor 3:18 *But we all, with unveiled face,
beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,
are being transformed into the same
image from glory to glory,
just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (NKJ)*

➤ **The Spirit uses God's Word as a mirror to transform us to being more & more like Christ**

Our Response is Important

James 1:21 *Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.*

Lit. “*save your souls*” = save your lives

James 1:22 *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (NIV)*

Remember God's Mirror?

James 1:23 *Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror (NKJ) ...observing his natural face in a mirror*

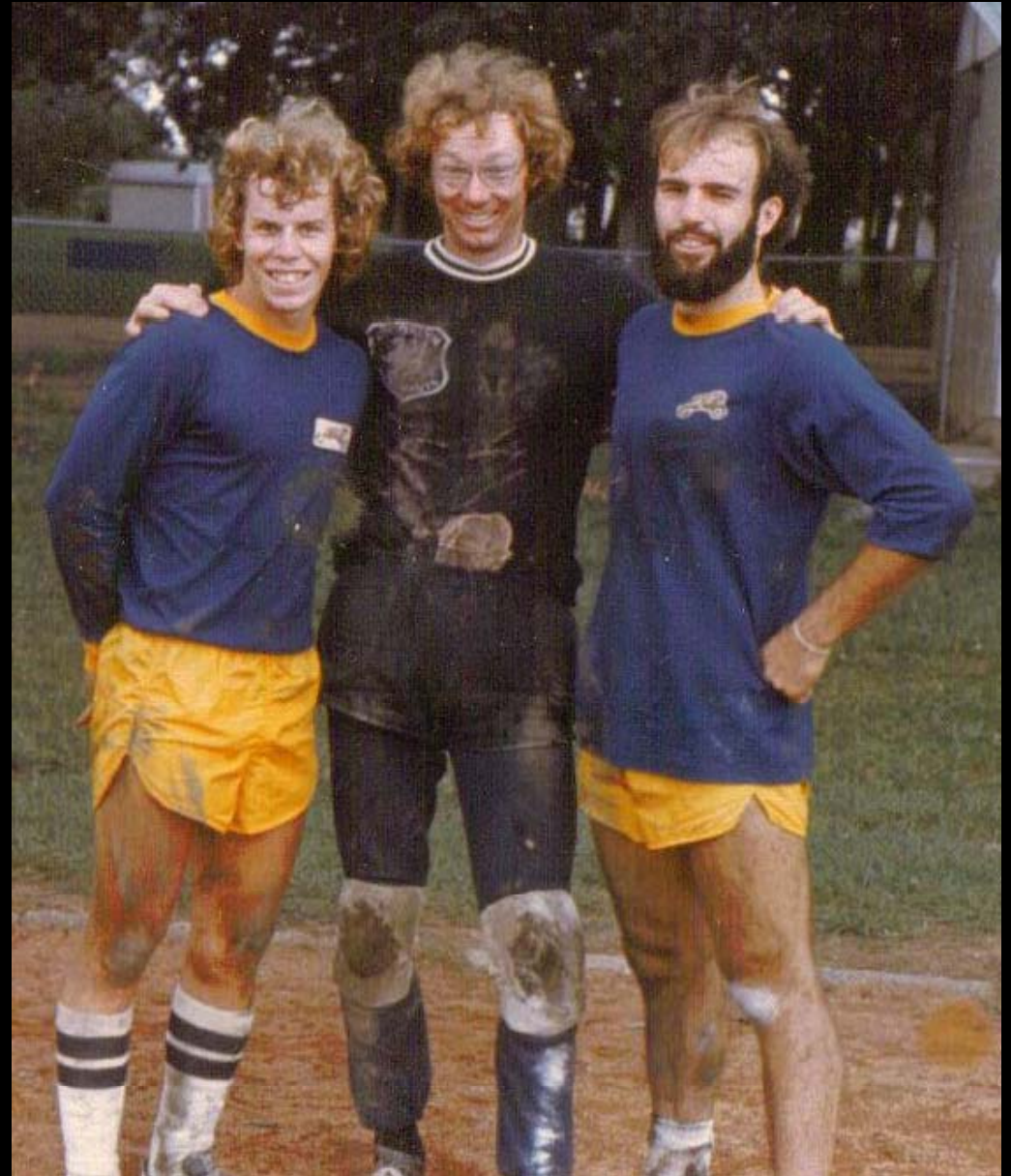
Literally “***the face of his birth***”

[=the face he was born with]

➤ What does that mean spiritually?

☐ In God's Word we see a reflection of who we truly are by the grace of God - Who we are inwardly by virtue of being born from above

I pictured it like this



And then what?

James 1:24 *and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.*

25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this,

not forgetting what he has heard,

but doing it—

he will be blessed in what he does. (NIV)

An Amazing Possibility

Romans 8:10 *But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. (NIV)

2 Options with 2 Outcomes

Romans 8:13 *...if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die;*

but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

Galatians 6:8 *The one who sows to please his sinful nature,*

from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. (NIV)

Living by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16 *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. (NIV)

= not dutiful, but freely chosen good actions

Living by the Flesh

Galatians 5:19 *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;*

20 idolatry and witchcraft;

hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

(NIV)

Fruit of the Spirit

Gal 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy,
peace,
patience,
kindness,
goodness,
faithfulness,
23 gentleness
and self-control.*

Against such things there is no law. (NIV)

Keeping in Step with the Spirit

Galatians 5:24 *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*

25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Romans 8:26 *...the Spirit helps us in our weakness.*

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

How we live by the Spirit

2 Corinthians 5:

4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

6 Therefore we are always confident and... 7 We live by faith, not by sight.

9 we make it our goal to please him...

Ready for the Coming Evaluation

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

1 John 2:28 *And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. (NIV)*

Tuning In to the Spirit STPs

1. Solitude & Silence – coming apart to be alone with God
2. Listening – quietly and consciously considering who God is & what He wants.
3. Journaling – my ongoing written conversation with God where I share my emotions, insights, hopes, plans, fears, requests, answers, and what I sense the Spirit is saying to me and doing within me.

3 R-5 Q Bible Reading Guide

Reading

1. What is my favorite truth or verse from today?
2. What Questions did this reading stimulate?

Reflecting

3. What did I learn about God (Father/Son/Spirit) or the following Jesus Journey?
4. What do I sense God wants me to **Do, Change,** or **Pray** about?

Responding

5. **Take Away** – What one thing do I sense God saying to me or asking of me today?
 - Express this to God in prayer throughout today.

Tuning in to the Spirit STPs

4. Self-examination – looking at myself honestly: who I am, how I'm living, what the Spirit wants to change so I'm more like Jesus.
5. Confession – verbalizing to God, myself, and trusted others what is true and how I sense the Spirit wants to change me.
6. I Spy-ing – noticing and declaring God's amazing works and grace.

Take Away

Walking With God is training ourselves to live by the Spirit instead of according to our flesh.

Making Spiritually Transforming Practices a regular part of our lives helps us to tune in to the Spirit's voice and work within

A Prayer

Ephesians 3:16-19 *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (NIV)