

# KEY INGREDIENTS

## SHARE

Are you a different person than you were ten years ago? How so?

## SEEK

### Spiritual Transformation

In Mark 1.14-15, we see the first “sermon” that Jesus possibly ever preached...at least to Mark. Jesus called for repentance and belief in the good news. Similarly, the ancient historian Josephus (born a few years after the death of Jesus) in one situation urged the Jews of his day to “change their minds” in order to avoid a fight with the Romans. In the Greek language that Josephus wrote, the words for “change their minds” were Jesus’ same words as He called for repentance.

Jesus was calling for a change of mind and heart, a whole body change. It was a calling into a new way of life, but this time it would be God’s way. As most people know today, this is a calling into radical love, hospitality, generosity, and faith. At the same time, we all mature into this new life. It takes us some time. Sometimes we are clumsy and we falter. We are like children who have been given a nice outfit, but it’s too big. We are growing into it.

Theologians call this process “sanctification.” We might also call it “spiritual transformation.” It is the lifelong journey of becoming more and more like Jesus. For centuries, Christians have recognized this transformation coming about through Scripture reading, serving, praying, fasting, worship, evangelism, and so much more!

At the end of the day, the announcement that God’s kingdom is at hand and the call to repentance is ultimately good news; for it calls us into His wonderful light and a life full of faith, hope, and love.

# SEE

## SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

JOSEPHUS CALLED FOR THE JEWS TO “CHANGE THEIR MINDS” IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM FROM A REVOLT WITH THE ROMANS. JESUS CALLS FOR PEOPLE TO “CHANGE THEIR MINDS” TOO. BUT WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE CHANGING OUR MINDS ABOUT? WHY DO OUR MINDS NEED CHANGING?

WE ARE ALL *FORMED* BY OUR UPBRINGING, TRAUMATIC EVENTS, SUCCESSES, EDUCATION, ETC. BUT HERE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT *TRANS*-FORMATION. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT TAKING OUR PAST FORMATION AND SUBJECTING IT ALL TO GOD. CAN YOU THINK OF WAYS THAT WE SUBJECT OURSELVES AND CIRCUMSTANCES TO GOD IN ORDER TO BE TRANSFORMED?

AS A MOMENT OF EXAMINATION, WHAT DOES A SPIRITUALLY TRANSFORMED LIFE LOOK LIKE? DO YOU FIT THAT IMAGE? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT SPIRITUALLY TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICES DO YOU ENGAGE IN?

PASTOR JOE WILL BE PROVIDING A HELPFUL MODEL TO DETERMINE BELIEF AND REPENTANCE FOR THE SAKE OF SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION. DISCUSS IT AMONG THE GROUP FOR CLARIFICATION AND/OR IF YOU FIND IT HELPFUL.

Please take a few moments to pray with and for one another