

THE INGREDIENTS OF TRANSFORMATION INTO CHRISTLIKENESS: VISION / INTENTION / MEANS

1. What does a person transformed into Christlikeness look like?
Routine, restful, easy obedience.
Life goals and day-to-day efforts supported by supernatural action.
The picture of Romans 5:1-5, 12:3-21, I Cor, 13:4-8, Eph. 4:22-32 & 5:8-10
The fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-26.
2. All personal transformation, as something consciously undertaken, follows the pattern:
VISION---INTENTION---MEANS.
3. This remains true for transformation that depends upon GRACE—upon **God acting in our lives to achieve what we cannot achieve on our own.**
Transformation into Christlikeness is not a PASSIVE process.

You are made by God in such a way as to be responsible for who you become.

The availability to us of God and His kingdom means we are not victims unless we choose to be victims.
4. In the process of transformation the support of it all is **Vision**. What is the condition that we see to be good and how does reality support that Vision? Refer back to #1.

What is *your* Gospel, the Message that you have accepted about Redemption?

I hope it is: The Vision of Life in the Kingdom of God with Jesus now. Matt. 4:17 etc.

Overcoming temptation requires us to see we are not missing out by not sinning.
5. **Intention** is solidly formed in the light of a correct vision. There is no other way.
We become disciples, apprentices of Jesus in kingdom living from our Vision of life.

For those in the **status** of disciple, the **process** of spiritual formation then goes forward. All dimensions of the self are becoming like the dimensions of Christ's self. E.g. transformation through renewing of the mind. Rom. 11:36-12:2
Easy, routine obedience and constant involvement with God's action results.
6. **Means** become available and effectual where the Vision is clear and the Intention is unwavering. Most Christian activities are ineffectual for most professing Christians most of the time because they are not framed by firm decision based upon a clear vision of life in the Kingdom now. All of life. (Why go to church?)
7. The life of transformation into Christlikeness is not hard. It is the easy way. Matt. 11:28-30. But only if you come to it from the "inside." Outward conformity without inward transformation (Vision, Intention) is impossible and will kill you and others spiritually.
8. The only hope for our churches and for "Christianity" is the relentless implementation of VIM to all we do. But what ARE we doing? Really!