

LET'S DO **Difficult**

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

Session 3: Realigning Our Thoughts for Transformation

Reading the Bible, reciting the prayer of salvation, attending church services, volunteering occasionally, and giving a little here and there are often seen as *standard* practices of a Christian life. For many, checking these boxes feels sufficient to quiet the conscience and secure a place in Heaven. Why press in any further? A life truly lived for Christ is an open invitation to complete transformation into something far greater than we could ever hope for or imagine—if we're willing to press past our typical responses to get to know God in new ways. This lifestyle demands far more than comfort, and it will not come easy. Moving from a mindset of "checking the box" to one of expectant, ongoing transformation by the Creator of the universe is the best possible choice we can make for our lives, and it's one no one will regret.

Scripture

Romans 10:9–10 (NIV®)

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Discussion Questions

1. What has following Jesus cost you?
2. Are you a "checklist" kind of person? Are you tempted to frame your faith as a checklist? (Read my Bible—check; said a prayer—check; went to church—check.) What does Pastor Allen say about this type of approach to our faith? Where do you see transactional faith showing up in your life and in the Church in general?
3. What is a practical way to shift from transactional to transformational thinking?
4. Think about the last time you were truly transformed—physically, emotionally, in your thoughts, with your actions, or spiritually. What brought about this change, and how long did it take? What has been the result of this change?

Going Deeper

1. What do you truly believe secures your future? What kinds of things do the children in your life need to do to secure their futures? Are you encouraging and training them in such a way that demonstrates that an authentic relationship with Jesus is the source of all security? Do your actions reflect this belief?
2. Think back to a time when you were in conversation with people outside the church, and they asked what you enjoy doing and how you spend your free time. What did you tell them? Have you been honest about participating in and enjoying the things of God? Would you like to change this narrative? What are some simple ways you can begin to implement this change?
3. Describe yourself in two to three sentences. Where does your relationship with Almighty God fall on that list? What are you tempted to look to for security, instead of God?

Prayer

Take a moment to say the prayer below aloud together. Then, keep it nearby to read on your own throughout the upcoming week.

I choose Jesus as Lord of my life. I yield to the Lordship of Jesus of Nazareth, offering myself as a living sacrifice. Almighty God, forgive me of all my sins and forgive me for placing my will before Your will. Holy Spirit, help me to learn to say "yes" to You. Grant me an understanding heart and the courage to follow You. Lead me away from temptation and deliver me from evil. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight. Oh Lord, You are my Rock and my Redeemer. In Jesus' name, amen.



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