

The Passionate Disciple - Part 2 Going Deeper

Discovering the Life You've Always wanted
(Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary Christians)

"IT'S MORPHING TIME"

Today, I want to invite you into continuing our journey in discovering what it means to be a passionate disciple. Our preaching team is going to unpack this in a series we called "The Passionate Disciple", Going Deeper into the Life we have always wanted. It's a journey of discovering spiritual disciplines for ordinary people.

We are basing this series on the book by John Ortberg, entitled "The Life You've always wanted".

Soren Kirkegaard prayed, "And now Lord, with your help, I shall become myself!"

The word morph comes from one of the richest greek words in the New Testament. In a sense it is the foundation of everything we are going to talk about over the next few weeks.

Morphoo means - "the inward and real formation of the essential nature of a person"

MORPHING REQUIRES TIME AND PERSPECTIVE

I am sure you agree we are a work in progress

Somehow though we need time to experience God

Moses - Exodus 3:1-15... Ever wondered what would have happened if Moses had just moved on? If he had not made the choice to turn aside and look? I think this what God wants us to do.

God wants us to take the time to be with Him - to step like it is in the Chronicles of Narnia through the magical door - into the world of Narnia, into his Kingdom.

As children we want to morph - there is hope in this...

Mel Whinnen, Keith Miller - Bat and bowled - Gary Sobers if we were playing the West Indies because they were better than us...

Adult forms are programmes, weight loss,

Paul used this word in Galatians...

*Galatians 4:19 (NIV) My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is **formed** in you...*

You see we are to be transformed (*metamorphoo*) by the renewing of our minds and we are to be conformed (*summorphizo*) to the image of his son (Jesus).

*Romans 12:2 (NIV) Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*Romans 8:29 (NIV) ...God also predestined us to be **conformed** to the image of his Son...*

So morphing is ancient and it is biblical **BUT** it doesn't just happen.

MORPHING REQUIRES CHANGE

When I was growing up in this church and others around WA the focus was on externals...

Behaviours - no rock music, no dancing, no drinking, no smoking, no sport on Sundays, dress in your absolute best for church, no hair touching your collar, whites shirt, collar and tie, no shorts, no facial hair etc. It led to judgmentalism in my life...

It was all external - similar to Jesus' day eh?

Are you in or out? Do you conform or not?

But Jesus always has and always will focus on the heart - the internal - the centre.

He wanted us to be transformed, morphed into new creatures...

When asked about the law Jesus' reply was pretty simple... "love God, Love People!"

Do we love God and do we love the people loved by Him?

1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (NIV) If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Here are some Questions...

AM I SPIRITUALLY AUTHENTIC?

Matthew 23:25 (NIV) Woe to you...You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

AM I BECOMING JUDGMENTAL OR EXCLUSIVE OR PROUD?

Matthew 23:6 (NIV) ...they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues.

AM I BECOMING MORE APPROACHABLE OR LESS?

Matthew 23:7 (NIV) ...they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others.

AM I GROWING WEARY OF PURSUING SPIRITUAL TRUTH?

Matthew 23:4 (NIV) They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders...

AM I MEASURING MY SPIRITUAL LIFE IN SUPERFICIAL WAYS?

Matthew 23:24 (NIV) You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

Journaling - is it that I have ticked off 365 days a year or is it that I have connected with the Lord at a heart level and I am growing in love for God and people.

MORPHING REQUIRES TRAINING, NOT TRYING!

Computer analysis - bio-rhythm's, heart, aerobic capacity, heart size, times in school etc. You are chosen to run for Australia at the Olympics in the Marathon... You can't even run to the refrigerator! You catch it, this is the chance of a lifetime... Then it dawns on you - Right now you cannot run a marathon. Even if you really, really try, really, really hard!

If you want to want to seize this opportunity of a lifetime you will have to enter into a life of training.

There is an immense difference between training to do something and trying to do something.

This is what we are inviting you to do with us.

Paul said a couple of important things about this...

1 Corinthians 9:25 (NIV) Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

1 Timothy 4:7 (NIV) ...train yourself to be godly.

So we are inviting you to go deeper.

Following Jesus simply means learning from him how to arrange my life around activities that enable me to live in the fruit of the Spirit.

Spiritual disciplines are not a barometer of spirituality. You could practice every spiritual discipline and not become more loving!

Spiritual disciplines are not necessarily unpleasant. Take next topic! Discipline of Celebration!

Spiritual disciplines are not a way to earn favour with God. They have value only in the way we morph!

Its time to morph and we want to show you some practices that may be helpful.

Morphing Requires Time and Perspective

Morphing Requires Change

Morphing Requires Training, not Trying!