

There is a call from Jesus that is so simple, yet so profound. It’s an invitation to a life that is far better than the life most people live, **AND IT’S ONLY TWO WORDS.**

These two words are this. It’s Jesus’ two-word invitation to **“Follow Me”**.

If you say yes to those two words, it will change everything.

One of the great things about responding to Jesus’ call to, “Follow Me”, is that Jesus doesn’t wait until you “have it all together” to call you to follow Him. He calls you to follow just like you are.

When you say, “Jesus, I will follow you”, He begins to make you into something that you aren’t already.

Jesus Became That We Might Become

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus became our sins and paid for our sins on the cross, so that we might be the righteousness of God.

The righteousness of God – in right standing with God. We are righteous not because of our own righteous or good acts, but because of the work that Christ Jesus did on the cross.

Do Versus Done

The difference between religious works and following Jesus is do versus done.

“D-O” Trying to do enough good things to please God. The Problem:

- We can never know when we have done enough.
- The Bible says that we can never do enough. (Romans 3:23)

Christianity, becoming a Christ follower is all about “D-O-N-E”.

- Christ did what we could never do. Lived the perfect life we could not.
- He died on the cross to pay for our wrongdoings.

When we say yes to following Jesus, He begins a process of changing you and transforming you to be like Him. And yes, notice I said that it is a process.

Becoming Like Jesus by Salvation and Sanctification

Salvation – The moment we truly believe that God loved us so much he sent Jesus as the Christ to save us from our sins, and we not only believe but we ask Jesus to forgive us and ask to receive Him:

- We receive Jesus as our **Savior**.
- We receive **forgiveness**- past, present, and future.
- We receive His **Holy Spirit** breathed into us at salvation.
- We receive **grace**, we receive the **gift of righteousness**.
- We receive **life** now and eternally in heaven.
- We receive **sonship** becoming the children of God.
- We receive **all spiritual blessings!**

That’s a lot of “free gifts received” and we didn’t earn any of it! It was undeserved, an act of grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

So, when does all of that happen? At the moment of salvation our spirit man receives life!

Made new, born again! As of that very moment, if we were to die, we will go to heaven as a child of God. We are 100% saved. You can’t get any more saved than that. All you did was believe, ask, and receive. We choose to follow Jesus in His way of salvation.

Some might say, “Well, if that’s the case why do I sometimes struggle with my old ways of my old sinful nature.” “I mean I don’t always act so righteous.”

And of course, you always have other’s reminding you of how unrighteous you sometimes are as well.

We are TRIUNE Beings. We Are BODY, SOUL and SPIRIT.

At salvation, our SPIRIT MAN is 100% saved, but our SOUL, which is, our mind, will, and emotions, must be transformed into the image of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, **are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.** Notice the wording “are being transformed”. A process begins at salvation. And that leads us to this big biblical word “Sanctification”.

Sanctification - At the point of salvation our Soul transformation begins. The process begins! We begin to change. Our Spirit is now saying to our Soul, “*Soul, get things lined up in accordance with the truth in the Word of God. Change your thinking. Be transformed.*”

Your soul, your mind, will, and emotions are not totally correct yet, but the process has begun. We all may be transforming at different rates, but all of us are on this transformation path to become like Jesus.

EX: Addictions. – I’ve seen people who were 100% delivered from an addiction at the point of salvation. I’ve also seen others who are saved but must work through the process of being free.

- Don’t be so judgmental of others, but rather focus on your own transformation process.

ILL: 68 Camaro – purchased and saved from the crusher. Never to go back to the junk yard again. Now the body shop guy begins the transformation! It’s a process, it doesn’t happen overnight.

Working Out Your Salvation

Sometimes there is confusion when people read Paul’s encouragement to the Philippian church, and he tells them to “Work out their salvation with fear and trembling”.

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;**

Some people say, “*I thought salvation wasn’t of works, (which it is not) is Paul saying we have to work to receive salvation?*” No, this verse is talking about the sanctification process.

Now that you are born again, the transformation process begins. Walk in obedience to God’s Word. Learn how salvation and your newness in Christ relates to your everyday life and interactions with others. Your life should now begin to reflect Christ likeness. In other words, work it out, work out your salvation.

Here’s the good news! Jesus hasn’t hung you out to dry, but He is helping you in this process.

Philippians 2:13 **for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**

Hypocrites?

We hear people say, “*You Christians are nothing but a bunch of hypocrites!*” Why do they say that? They expect us to be perfect and they don’t understand the sanctification process.

They say, “*Yeah, you came to work Monday and told us that you received Jesus on Sunday at your church, but I just saw you get mad. I heard you say something that you shouldn’t have said, etc.*”

The term Hypocrite is a theatrical word, which means “to pretend to be something that you are not.” or “acting”, acting like you are someone one other than who you really are.

- So, a true born-again Christian can’t be a hypocrite in that sense, because we are not acting. We are not pretending to be a Christian. We are a Christian or we are not.

- What the world does not understand is that, as true born-again Christians, we are all being transformed. It's the process of sanctification.

Transformation Is Not an Excuse to Continue in Sin

“Yes I’m living in sin, but you know, it’s all a part of that transformation process.” What? No!

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Transformation is not an excuse to live in sin and willfully violate the principles of God. The word itself implies that you are changing and becoming more like Christ Jesus.

I Am Confident You Will Follow and Become Like Jesus

Philippians 1:3-6 3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

I am confident that Jesus- who has saved you and breathed His Holy Spirit into you, the Jesus who has created you for good works, the Jesus who has begun this transformation process in you- I am confident that He CAN and Will complete the task.

1 John 3:1-2 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Bold Next Steps to Help Followers Become Like Jesus:

- Salvation – Follow Jesus. (I’m receiving Jesus as my Savior today.)
- Be filled with and walk in the Spirit. (Today I will ask Jesus to fill me with His Holy Spirit.)
- Pray – Talk to the one you want to become like. (This week I will spend at least three minutes talking to God. If you don’t know where to begin, start with “The Lord’s Prayer” Matthew 6:9-13)
- Read God’s Word – Read about the one you want to become like. Find out how he feels about things. (Start reading the Bible five minutes a day. Start in the Gospel of John)
- Hang around other Christ Followers - Be equipped and encouraged. Grow through fellowship with others and faithful church attendance. (The more you hang out with Jesus and His people, the more you will become like Him.)
- Be Water Baptized. Publicly Declare Your Salvation with Water Baptism.
- Establish a Firm Foundation. Go through the Firm Foundations Course. The Firm Foundations Course is on our web page <https://believersstatesboro.com/nextsteps/>
- Begin and complete the Believers Church Next Step Process.

1st Sunday's	Next Step: Newcomers Social Meet our Pastors and Leaders and hear God’s Vision for Believers Church.	After Each Service	Main Sanctuary
2nd Wednesdays	Next Step: Life Groups Learn the why’s and how’s of our small groups at Believers Church.	6:30—7:30 PM	Believers Pavilion
3rd Wednesdays	Next Step: Membership Everything you need to know about Membership at Believers Church.	6:30—7:30 PM	Believers Pavilion
4th Wednesdays	Next Step: Ministry Teams Discover the joy of serving on a Believers Ministry Team!	6:30—7:30 PM	Believers Pavilion