



“Seek First”

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Seeking God for Transformation

Knowing the power of Jesus’ resurrection isn’t about God making us more comfortable, nor making us feel important, nor helping us achieve our goals. The power of Jesus’ resurrection is in the transformation and redemption of our hearts, our families, and our communities.

God has determined that all who follow His Spirit will be led to His heart (Romans 8:28-29)

Acts 9 – On the road to Damascus, Saul encountered an attribute of God that he was lacking and could not encounter in his religious system: Mercy.

Transformation is a fruit of God’s Spirit within, not the product of systems around us!

When we awaken to the goodness, glory, holiness, and power of God we won’t need things from outside to entice us to seek God, we won’t need anyone to beg or coerce us to walk in righteousness.

Seeking God first means leaving behind values, priorities, desires, and ideas/beliefs that turn our minds to self and the smallness of our own lives so that the values, priorities, desires, and will of God can flourish, unhindered in our lives.

Passages referenced: Romans 8:28-29, 1 John 2:6, Hosea 6:6/Matthew 12:7, 1 Peter 1:18, Romans 8:37-39, John 8:23-30, Philippians 3:7-14, John 15:1-2

TALK IT OVER

Discuss these questions with someone – maybe a family member, friend, or member of your LifeGroup. Use a communication method that works best for your situation.

1. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean? What would “the power of His resurrection” look like in your life? How should following Jesus make your life new and different?
2. What might Saul’s ministry to the Gentile’s have looked like had he not been transformed through his encounter with God? What might he have expected of new converts had he not known mercy and grace apart from religion?
3. Read Romans 3:19-26. What does it mean to you that God has freely justified you? What is an appropriate response to this truth? How should we live in light of this understanding?
4. Read 1 John 3:1-10. What are some of the hardest truths to accept in this passage? What are some of the most unsettling implications of John’s teaching here? How should these influence our perspective, motivation, and priorities?

Take some time to pray for one another.

Memory Verse for February: **1 Corinthians 11:1** *“Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.”*