



RCCG OCEANIA

Spiritual Disciplines

Transformation Through Shedding the Old Self

At a Glance

BIG IDEA

True transformation in Christ involves leaving behind outdated mindsets and embracing discomfort as a catalyst for growth. By aligning with God's vision and practicing discipline, believers can overcome excuses and step into their God-given purpose. The journeys of biblical figures like Joseph and Moses illustrate the power of personal evolution and alignment with divine purpose.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Corinthians 5:17

Romans 12:2

James 1:23-25

Hebrews 12:11

Philippians 3:13-14

Key Takeaways

- Transformation requires leaving the old self behind.
- Discomfort is a necessary part of spiritual growth.
- Aligning with God's vision is crucial for personal evolution.
- Discipline bridges the gap to spiritual maturity.
- Overcoming excuses is essential for fulfilling God's purpose.

Introduction

Transformation in Christ is a profound journey that involves shedding the old self and embracing a new identity. This process requires discipline, the willingness to face discomfort, and a commitment to align with God's vision. By examining the lives of biblical figures, we can learn how to overcome excuses and step into our divine purpose.

Scripture Reading

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** — Emphasizes the new creation in Christ and the necessity of leaving the old self behind.
- **Romans 12:2** — Highlights the need for transformation through the renewal of the mind to understand God's will.
- **James 1:23-25** — Illustrates the importance of acting on God's word rather than just hearing it.
- **Hebrews 12:11** — Describes discipline as painful but ultimately yielding a harvest of righteousness and peace.
- **Philippians 3:13-14** — Encourages forgetting the past and striving towards the future in Christ.
- **Exodus 4:10-12** — Shows how God reassures Moses despite his excuses, emphasizing God's power over human limitations.
- **Genesis 37:5** — Joseph's dream foreshadows his future leadership, despite the challenges he faces.
- **Genesis 50:20** — Joseph acknowledges God's purpose in his trials, turning intended harm into good.

Key Points

1. **Shedding the Old Self** — Transformation begins with identifying and releasing outdated mindsets that hinder spiritual growth. This involves a conscious decision to embrace the new identity in Christ. By understanding that we are a new creation, we can let go of past limitations and step into a life of purpose.

- Reflect on areas of your life where old mindsets persist.
- Pray for strength to release these mindsets.
- Embrace your new identity in Christ daily.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17 Philippians 3:13-14

2. **Embracing Discomfort** — Growth often comes with discomfort, which should be seen as a sign of transformation. Embracing this discomfort is essential for moving forward in faith. It is through these challenges that we develop resilience and a deeper trust in God's plan.

- Identify areas of discomfort in your spiritual journey.
- Seek God's guidance in these areas through prayer.
- View challenges as opportunities for growth.

Scripture: Hebrews 12:11

Key Points (cont.)

3. **Aligning with God's Vision** — Aligning actions with God's vision is crucial for personal evolution. This involves understanding and pursuing the divine purpose set before us. By aligning with God's vision, we can ensure that our efforts are meaningful and impactful.

- Spend time in prayer to discern God's vision for your life.
- Set goals that align with this vision.
- Regularly evaluate your actions to ensure alignment.

Scripture: [Genesis 37:5](#) [Genesis 50:20](#)

4. **Practicing Discipline** — Discipline is the bridge to spiritual maturity and alignment with God's purpose. It requires consistent effort and commitment. Through discipline, we can develop habits that support our spiritual growth and align with God's will.

- Establish a daily routine that includes time for prayer and study.
- Set small, achievable goals to build discipline.
- Hold yourself accountable to these goals.

Scripture: [Hebrews 12:11](#)

Key Points (cont.)

5. Overcoming Excuses — Excuses can hinder spiritual growth. Overcoming them is essential for stepping into the next level of personal and spiritual development. By recognizing and addressing excuses, we can remove barriers to fulfilling God's purpose.

- Identify common excuses that hinder your growth.
- Challenge these excuses with truth from Scripture.
- Seek accountability from a trusted friend or mentor.

Scripture: Exodus 4:10-12

Group Discussion

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

Observation

- What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ according to 2 Corinthians 5:17?
- How does Romans 12:2 describe the process of transformation?
- What role does discipline play in spiritual growth as described in Hebrews 12:11?

Interpretation

- Why is it important to leave the old self behind in the journey of transformation?
- How can discomfort be a sign of spiritual growth?
- What does aligning with God's vision look like in practical terms?

Application

- What are some outdated mindsets you need to shed to embrace your new identity in Christ?
- How can you embrace discomfort in your current spiritual journey?
- What steps can you take to align more closely with God's vision for your life?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for strength to release outdated mindsets and embrace a new identity in Christ.
- Ask for guidance in embracing discomfort as a catalyst for spiritual growth.
- Seek God's vision for your life and the discipline to align with it.
- Pray for the courage to overcome excuses that hinder spiritual development.

Next Step

Reflect on areas of your life where old mindsets persist and commit to embracing your new identity in Christ daily.

Conclusion

Transformation through Christ is a journey that requires shedding the old self and embracing a new identity. By facing discomfort, aligning with God's vision, practicing discipline, and overcoming excuses, believers can step into their God-given purpose. Let us commit to this transformative journey, trusting in God's guidance and strength.