

Resistance

Read aloud God's character traits slowly savoring the attitude of each one.
Do we believe this character is good for us? Are we willing to have it?
This group is for those who say yes to transformation into God's character.

Backwards bicycle <https://www.inwardauthority.com/renew-our-mind.html>

Perseverance, endurance, faith, hope, courage, strength, diligence, suffering

At first it seems impossible where most or nearly all people will not even try.

Popular self-deception statements: "I'm trying," "I don't have time," "I don't understand," "I can't," "no one else is doing it," or "It's too hard."

Job 27:5 I will never admit you are in the right; till I die, I will not deny my integrity. (To the death - just like Jesus and the Apostles)

Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, (confess & repent)

2 Timothy 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. (insincere, dishonest, flattering, idolaters, etc.)

Titus 1:16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

James 3:14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. (confess & repent)

2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. (such leadership can be unknowingly)

James 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? (sin justified through cognitive bias)

1 Corinthians 9:26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. (structure, focus, plan)

2 Corinthians 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith. (goals to grow with God)

Revelation 2:16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. (shame & wrath)

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Psalms 132:1 Lord, remember David and all his self-denial.

Luke 14:25 - 34

Last is first and first is last (Are we competing for first, greed, pride, vanity...)

Group share: describe why this is important, what's the point here?

Mary's room ~ experience teaches wisdom we otherwise cannot know.

"Those who" & "if, then"

Matthew 19:30 But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

Mark 9:35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Hebrews 10:34 You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

Testimonies ~ Riding the bike or reading about it? Theories vs. proofs

As Christians who follow and obey Christ, we ought to be progressively growing into Christ likeness. Over time, we ought to have a convincing testimony demonstrating; choices, experiences, and struggles that correlate with Biblically described Christian attributes.

Stories of sacrifice for spiritual development - those who trust God

1. Asking for help and then taking new action - let go, let God
2. Confession of all sin or wrongdoings - identify wrongs
3. Identifying evil character and progressively letting go of it
4. Restitution for harm done & building sincere love
5. Daily spiritual correction over time - applying Godly solutions
6. Service to others in love/God's character, serving God's way
7. Mentorship - listening, demonstrating, rebuking, teaching, encouraging
8. Being available when God calls and willing to follow in God's ways

1 Corinthians 9:25 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. (So it is a competition, one day at a time)