

Transformed by Trouble
Happily Ever After? Part 5

**God's #1 purpose in your life is to make you
become like Jesus.**

"From the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him—and all along He knew who would—should become like His Son."
Romans 8:29 (LB)

"God wants us to grow up ... like Christ in everything."
Ephesians 4:15 (Mes)

"We look at the Son and see God's original purpose in everything created."
Colossians 1:15 (Mes)

"Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image and likeness.'"
Genesis 1:26

WHAT GOD USES TO MAKE YOU LIKE JESUS:

- 1. God uses His Holy Spirit.**
- 2. God uses the Word of God.**
- 3. God uses other people.**
- 4. God uses problems, pressure, pain, and even suffering.**

"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going..."

Through suffering, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in us... That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are quite small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us an

immeasurably great glory that will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever." 2 Cor. 4:8-18 (NLT)

"Don't be bewildered or surprised when you go through the fiery trials ahead, for this is no strange, unusual thing that is going to happen to you."
1 Peter 4:12

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those who are crushed in spirit."
Psalm 34:18

"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them. For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son..." Romans 8:28-29

"We know that these troubles produce patience. And patience produces character..." Romans 5:3-4

"We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with Him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with Him." Romans 8:17 (Mes)

HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

- 1. Remember that God's plan is good.**

"Our present troubles are quite small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever!" 2 Cor. 4:17

- 2. Rejoice and give thanks.**

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thes. 5:18

"Rejoice in the Lord always." Phil. 4:4

- 3. Refuse to give up.**

*“... let the process go on until your endurance is fully developed,
and you will find that you have become men of mature
character...with no weak spots.”* James 1:3-4