

Because He Loves Me

How Christ Transforms Our Daily Life

WorkBook

This little workbook is designed to accompany the reading of « Because He Loves Me » written by Elyse M. Fitzpatrick.

I'm so grateful to the LORD that he gave the idea to Jason Webb to give me this book in November 2012.

God used this book to help me to enter in a deeper comprehension of the Gospel and motivated me to share it more. I hope that this workbook can be a good help for a lot of other God seekers and rejoice everyone in the amazing Gospel that God has prepared and accomplished for his glory and from which we benefit so greatly.

May God gives you an open heart to his voice, and a renewed mind to understand the Truth He gave to Elyse M. Fitzpatrick to show us based on the only Truth, the Word of God, the Bible.

(SDG) Tim

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Remembering His Love

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son.

John 3.16

- What Is God's Love and Why Should I Care ?
- The Gospel ... Again ?

Realizing How God's Love Transforms Your Identity and Life :

1) Do you have any hopes or expectations as you begin this study ?

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2) What is your response to the statement “If we've not completely convinced that his love is *ours, right now, fully and unalterably ours*, we'll always hide in the shadows, be focused on our performance, fearing his wrath”? Do you agree or disagree? How often do you think about God's love for you as demonstrated in the gospel ? Do you just assume it ?

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3) Quote John 3:16. Does it inform your daily walk ?

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4) My premise for this book is that many of us are so focused on living the Christian life, we've left Jesus behind. Do you agree or disagree? Interact with statement.

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5) Summarize in four or five sentences what you've learned from this chapter.

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Identity Amnesia

*For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith. . . .
For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind,
having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.*

2 Peter 1:5, 9

- But I Haven't Forgotten Who I am !
- What Have You Been Drinking ?
- What Have You Forgotten and How Would You Know ?
- It's a Willful Amnesia
- I Will Be Yours, You will Be Mine

Realizing How God's Love Transforms Your Identity and Life :

1) Define spiritual amnesia. Do you think you're suffering from it ?

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2) I wrote, "The attitudes of the world – self-improvement, self-reliance, self-love, self-promotion, pride, independence, and self-worship – resonate within each of us and drown out our Redeemer's loving words." Do you see these attitudes in yourself ? Do you see them in your desire to grow in maturity in the Lord ? Do you see how they play into your sins and failures ?

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3) How convinced are you that the key to transforming your identity and life in an ongoing appreciation of God's love as seen in the gospel story? What are your objections to his statement?

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4) 2 Peter 1:9 reads. "For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins." When you look closely at your life, do you see that Christlike qualities are present and increasing? I know that it's really hard to judge yourself in this way (since some of us tend to be so hard on ourselves that we're blind to God's grace, and others are so easy on themselves that they think there's growth when there isn't!), so why not ask a longtime friend what he sees in your life? When you act in an un-Christlike manner, do you remind yourself of the gospel, that you've been loved and cleansed from former sin?

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5) Summarize in four or five sentences what you've learned from this chapter.

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The Identity Gift

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:4

- Christ Is Our Life
- Lucifer's Error
- The Wonderful News
- To the Praise of His Glorious Grace

Realizing How God's Love Transforms Your identity and Life :

- 1) Our definition of the good news is that we are so sinful and flawed that we deserve eternal punishment but that we are more loved and welcomed than we could ever hope. Think back over your day and try to identify where this gospel truth intersected with your life. Were you consistently aware that what you deserve has been replaced by what Christ has given ? Were you aware or and thankful for this identity transfer ?

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- 2) What follows is a list of a few verses that will help you begin to construct a new identity. As you read each one, ask the Lord to help you see how it might apply to you.

- “He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus. Whom God made our wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” (1 Cor. 1:30-31)
- “And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” (2 Cor. 1:21-22)

- “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Cor. 5:17)
- “For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God.” (Gal. 3:26)
- “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Gal. 2:20)
- “[I may] ... be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.” (Phil. 3:9)

3) You were given your father's name when you were born. You've also been given your heavenly Father's name. What does it mean to have his name? What does it mean for you to bear the name “Christian”? See Isaiah 62:2-3; 43:1-7; Jeremiah 33:14-17; John 17:11-13, 26; and Revelation 3:12-13.

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4) Blaise Pascal wrote, “Not only do we only know God through Jesus Christ, but we only know ourselves through Jesus Christ; we only know life and death through Jesus Christ. Apart from Jesus Christ we cannot know the meaning of our life or of our death, of God, or of ourselves.”¹ What does Jesus Christ teach you about who you are and what your life ultimately means? What does he teach you about your heavenly Father?

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5) Summarize in four or five sentences what you learned from this chapter.

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The Verdict

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1

- But That's Not Fair !
- We Stood Condemned
- He Was Innocent
- He was Condemned in Your Place
- The Great Exchange
 - Time for a Heart Check
- You Stand Justified
- God's Love for His Son
- The Specters of Condemnation
- David Westerfield No More

Realizing How God's Love Transforms Your Identity and Life :

- 1) «He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord.» (Prov 17.15). Explain how God can justify the «wicked» and condemn the «righteous» without being unjust.

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2) What does it mean to be justified ? How does your justification affect your daily life ? How does it affect your struggle with self-condemnation ?

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3) “The acceptance of the believer with God is perfect the moment he believes because Christ and his work are perfect. The status of the believer can never be improved upon – he possesses all the riches of Christ.” How would your life be different if you consistently acted on this truth : you possess all the perfection and riches of Christ and nothing can ever change that ?

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4) Summarize in four or five sentences what you learned from this chapter.

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Your Inheritance

Now we have received ... the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

1 Corinthians 2:12

- Understanding Your Promised Inheritance
- Embracing Your Inheritance
- Understanding Your Inheritance
 - Everlasting Happiness in Him
 - Eternal Life in His Presence
 - Reconciliation and Peace with Him
- We've been Redeemed
- The Love of Christ for Orphans
- He Is Guarding Our Inheritance
- Remembering Your Key of Promise

Realizing How God's Love Transforms Your identity and Life :

- 1) Martin Luther wrote, "The inheritance is simply eternal salvation."
What are the facets of your inheritance that mean the most to you?
Why?

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- 2) A. W. Tozer wrote, "The man who has God for his treasure has all things in one. Many ordinary treasures may be denied him, of if he is allowed to have them, the enjoyment of them will be so tempered that they will never be necessary to his happiness. Or if he must see them go, one after

one, he will scarcely feel a sense of loss, for having the Source of all things he has in One all satisfaction, all pleasure, all delight.” Respond to his thought.

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3) Do you live like a foster child ? How do you respond to your own sin ? Are you comforted by Christ's perfections and love, or do you try to hide from him until you can do better ? How do you respond to suffering ? Are you tempted to believe that God is punishing you ? What is the difference between punishment and redemptive discipline ?

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4) In this shirt chapter we didn't consider the glorious fact that God calls us *his* inheritance! WE're his “own possession” (1Pet. 2:9), his treasure. WE're called to hom to that we might live to “the praise of his glory” (Eph. 1:12; see also Isa. 62:3, Zech. 9:16). What is the inheritance that he has in you ? Why would he call you his treasure ?

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5) Summarize in four or five sentences what you've learned from this chapter.

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Look and Live !

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

John 3:14-15

- Serpents in the Wilderness
- Faith in the God Who Loves Us
- Soul-saving Eye Exercises
- But My Wound Is Too Great
- My Wound Isn't All That Bad
- His Eyes Seeking Yours
- The Gift of God
- The Sum of Our Belief
- Growing Your Faith

Realizing How God's Love Transforms Your identity and Life :

- 1) Consider God's kindness in giving us the visible symbols of the cross and the serpent on the pole that point out invisible truths. He does so to assure and encourage us. Can you think of any other visible symbols of invisible realities in which we're called to witness the gospel ? Why do you think God is so careful to assure us ?

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- 2) A. W. Tozer wrote, "Faith is the gaze of the soul upon a saving God... Faith is the least self-regarding of the virtues. It is by its very nature

scarcely conscious of its own existence. Like the eye which sees everything in front of it and never sees itself, faith is occupied with the Object upon which it rests and pays no attention to itself at all.” Does this definition of faith differ from what you've previously thought? How?

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3) The sole condition for your new righteous identity is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is simply an instrument by which you appropriate Christ and his righteousness. See Romans 1:17; 3:25-26; 4:20, 22; Philippians 3:8-11; Galatians 2:16. Does this understanding of faith encourage you? Why or why not?

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4) Do you see that faith is simply a matter of believing that God is as loving as he claims to be? In what ways do you disbelieve? Have you ever wondered at his dealings with you or accused him of unkindness? What does the gospel tell you about this way of thinking?

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5) Summarize in four or five sentences what you've learned from this chapter.

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Be Who You are

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3.1

- The Indicative and the Imperative ... What ?
- Gospel-Driven Imperatives
 - Obligation without Declaration
 - Declaration without Obligation
- Keep Declaration and Obligation Together
- Our Hope : The Seed Will Produce Fruit
- Faith Working Through Love
- Living and Working in the Light of the Gospel

Realizing How God's Love Transforms Your identity and Life :

1) Read Colossians 3:1-5, 12-15 and answer the following :

- What are the declarations God has made about you ?

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- What are the obligations he has placed upon you ?

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- When you struggle with your inability to perform these injunctions, what is your only hope? What do the declarations he has made about you mean when you struggle with sin?

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- 2) In what category do you usually find yourself : the happy moralist, the sad moralist, the apathetic libertine? It might be helpful for you to ask yourself these question : Do I struggle with self-condemnation? Do I find myself frequently failing into self-indulgence? Do I see fear of failure or laziness in myself? Am I condemning of others? Do I compare myself to others and find myself lacking? Understanding the basis of your unique struggle with sanctification will be helpful.

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- 3) Review the four motives for holy living on page 120. Which one speaks most powerfully to you? What normally motivates you to live a holy life? Do you find yourself motivated by a desire to prove your goodness or by self-promotion (pride and ambition), or are you motivated by faith working through love?

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- 4) Summarize in four or five sentences what you've learned from this chapter.

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I Will Cleanse You

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean ... and from all your idols I will cleanse you.”

Ezekiel 36:25

- Think about It : You Are Dead to Sin
- Think about It : You're Alive in Christ
- The Foundation of All Sin
- We Are All Worshipers
- Where Is Your Treasure ?
- The Desires That Rule Our Souls
- Our Search for Happiness
- Seeking Your Happiness in Him
- I Will Cleanse You from All Your Idols
- Vindicating His Holy Name

Realizing How God's Love Transforms Your identity and Life :

- 1) Every failure in sanctification is a failure in worship. Do you agree ? Explain.

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- 2) Read 2 Corinthians 6.16-7.1. What are the gospel declarations and obligations here ?

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3) Review your answers to the questions on page 137. Why is it important for us to know our unbelief and idolatries ?

4) Can you explain why sanctification seems so difficult ? What are the promises that encourage you as you struggle with sin ?

5) Summarize in four or five sentences what you've learned from this chapter.

Walk in Love

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

- The Runaway Bunnies
- You Are His Darling
- Because of That, This ...
- Live a Life of Love
- Put On a Life of Love
- Faith Working Through Love
- Through Love Serve One Another
- Be Renewed, Put Off, and Put On
- Gospel-controlled Obedience
- Following Our Savior's Footsteps

Realizing How God's Love Transforms Your identity and Life :

1) Do you have hope that your life can be transformed ? If so, upon what do you base that hope ?

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2) Define “gospelized” obedience. Define penance. Which one does obedience most resemble ? What is the key to gospelized obedience ?

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3) John Calvin wrote “I am here subject to many changes, which may cause me to lose courage. But what of it? The Son of God is my Head, Who is exempt from all change. I must, the, take confidence in Him.” What are the “changes” that cause you to lose courage? How to the resurrection and the ascension benefit you personally?

4) Do you realize that every sin you commit is a failure to love? Think back over your day to ascertain hiw this is true in your life. If you were to put on a life of love, how would this day have been different? What must be done if you're to love others tomorrow? What do you need to think on, put off, and put on?

5) Summarize in four or five sentences what you've learned from this chapter.

Take Courage; Your Sins Are Forgiven

“Take heart, my son [my daughter]; your sins are forgiven”

Matthew 9:2

- Your Sins Are Forgiven
- I Can't Let Myself Gain Weight
 - The Incarnation – His Sinless Life – The Crucifixion – The Resurrection – The Ascension
- This Is My Time
 - The Incarnation – His Sinless Life – The Crucifixion – The Resurrection – The Ascension
- Mary's Life in the Cave
 - The Incarnation – His Sinless Life – The Crucifixion – The Resurrection – The Ascension
- The Lure of the Lurid
 - The Incarnation – His Sinless Life – The Crucifixion – The Resurrection – The Ascension
- Let This Mind Be in You
- Take Courage; Your Sins Are Forgiven

Realizing How God's Love Transforms Your identity and Life :

- 1) Apply the gospel to your life. What are the declarations God has made about you ? What are the imperatives that you now must pursue ?

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2) Define the gospel. Hint : “I am more sinful and flawed than I ever ...”

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3) Write out Philippians 2.3-11. What would having this attitude look like in your life ? How does your heart militate against it ?

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4) What does it mean to you that Jesus Christ said, “take courage. Your sins are forgiven” ?

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5) Summarize in four or five sentences what you've learned from this chapter.

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Gospel-centred Relationships

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone.”

Genesis 2:18

- The Tourist-Driven Church
- The Program-driven Church
- The Church as Family
- The Nature of Your God
- Our Relationship Lived Out with Others
- He Gave Himself for Her
- Gospelized Fellowship
- Living Out Gospelized Fellowship
- Yes, But ...
- Faith Working Through Love

Realizing How God's Love Transforms Your identity and Life :

1) The following verses reveal something about gospelized fellowship. Please indicate what it is :

- John 13;33.34
- Romans 12:10, 16
- Ephesians 4:2, 32
- James 5:16

2) Considering your relationship with other Christians, would you say that you are more like a tourist, a student, or a member of a family? What basis is there for your assessment?

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3) Is there someone in your life with whom you have gospelized fellowship? If so, who? Are there ways you could be more intentional about your times together? If there isn't someone like that in your life, why isn't there? What are the concerns that would remembering the gospel, "I am more sinful and flawed than ever dared believe, more loved and welcomed than I ever dared hope," change your perspective on relationship?

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4) Summarize in four or five sentences what you've learned from this chapter.

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The Hope of the Gospel

“... not shifting from the hope of the gospel.”

Colossians 1:23

- Don't Shift Away from Your Hope
- Why We Shift Away
- Your First Love
- Knowing Nothing but Jesus
- Is His Name Heard ?
- A Hand Like Ours

Realizing How God's Love Transforms Your identity and Life :

1) Do you believe that “every conversations where his name isn't mentioned is meaningless ?” Why or why not ? How will you begin to work his name and the gospel into your thoughts and then out into your speech ?

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2) What have you learned about yourself in this study ?

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3) What have you learned about Christ ? About the gospel ?

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4) Paul wrote, “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58). How can remembering the gospel make you “steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord?”

5) Summarize in four or five sentences what you've learned from this chapter.

6) Summarize the main thesis of this book and what you believe the Lord has thoughts you through it. Share your thoughts with someone else.