

8 Hope That Transforms

Introduction

“Pwede pa bang magbago?”

No one is too broken for God’s transforming power. Jesus offers forgiveness, healing, and a fresh start to anyone who turns to Him. Baptism is a symbol of this new beginning—a spiritual “rebirth” where the old life is left behind, and a new life begins in Christ.

No matter your past, Jesus can change your future. He offers hope, not just for eternity but for today, helping us live with purpose and peace.

Jesus—our Hope—transforms lives.

The True Story of Chris Gardner

Chris Gardner’s life is a remarkable example of transformation. In the early 1980s, he faced homelessness while raising his young son. Despite extreme hardships, he secured a place in a highly competitive stockbroker training program. Through determination, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to success, he eventually founded his own brokerage firm. His story, later told in his book *The Pursuit of Happyness* and the movie adaptation starring Will Smith, is a powerful testimony of overcoming adversity.

Chris Gardner’s financial success is inspiring, but the Bible offers a transformation far greater than any material wealth—a complete change of heart, mind, and eternal destiny.

- While financial success can improve life on earth, salvation offers eternal life with God.
- While Gardner overcame homelessness, God rescues us from sin and gives us a home in His kingdom.
- While Gardner’s hard work led to riches, God’s grace, not our efforts, leads to salvation.
- While Gardner built a financial empire, God invites us to inherit His eternal kingdom.

The transformation God offers is not just about success in this life, but a radical change of the heart that leads to joy, peace, and eternal hope.

Bible Discussion

The Bible is filled with stories of transformation—people who were once lost, broken, sinful, and hopeless but were changed by an encounter with Jesus. Just as Chris Gardner’s life turned from homelessness to success, the transformation Jesus offers is greater—it changes our hearts, character, and eternal destiny.

Let us explore the journey of character transformation through biblical examples and the steps to a new life in Jesus that leads to baptism.

Step 1: Recognizing Our Need for Change (Conviction of Sin)

The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24)

- The prodigal son realized he was lost, miserable, and far from his father.
- He acknowledged his wrong choices and desired to return home.

Romans 3:23 – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Transformation begins when we recognize that we need God and that we cannot change on our own.

Step 2: Turning to Jesus (Repentance and Surrender)

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

- Zacchaeus, a tax collector and known sinner, sought to see Jesus despite his past.
- Jesus called him by name, and Zacchaeus responded with repentance, pledging to restore what he had stolen.

Acts 3:19 – “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.”

When we come to Jesus in repentance, He accepts us and begins our transformation.

Step 3: Receiving Forgiveness and a New Heart (Spiritual Renewal)

The Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8:1-11)

- The woman was brought before Jesus for judgment, but instead of condemnation, He gave her forgiveness and a new beginning.
- Jesus said, “Go and sin no more”, showing that His grace leads to real change.

Ezekiel 36:26 – “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.”

Jesus does not just forgive our past—He gives us a new heart and empowers us to live differently.

Step 4: Developing Christlike Character (Growing in Faith)

Peter's Transformation (Luke 22:54-62 → Acts 2:14-41)

- Peter denied Jesus three times, but after receiving the Holy Spirit, he became a bold preacher for Christ.
- His journey shows that even when we fail, God continues to shape our character if we stay with Him.

Galatians 5:22-23 – The “fruit of the Spirit” includes love, joy, peace, patience, and self-control.

Transformation is not instant—it is a journey of growth in Christ.

Step 5: Publicly Declaring Our New Life (Baptism as a Sign of Commitment)

Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-39)

- After hearing the gospel from Philip, he believed and immediately asked to be baptized.
- His baptism was a public declaration that he had accepted Jesus and was starting a new life.

Romans 6:3-4 – “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that... we too may live a new life.”

Baptism symbolizes the death of the old self and resurrection into a new life with Christ.

Step 6: Living as a Disciple of Jesus (Faithfulness to God)

Paul's Mission (Acts 9:1-22 → 2 Timothy 4:7-8)

- Paul (formerly Saul) persecuted Christians, but after his conversion, he dedicated his life to serving Christ.
- Despite hardships, he remained faithful until the end.

Matthew 28:19-20 – Jesus commands us to make disciples, teaching them to obey everything He has commanded.

The transformed life is a lifelong journey of faithfulness and service.

Appeal

The transformation Jesus offers is greater than any earthly success. It is the promise of a new heart, a new purpose, and eternal life with Him.

- Are you tired of living in guilt, sin, or emptiness?
- Do you desire a new life, full of peace, joy, and meaning?
- Do you want to publicly declare your faith in Jesus through baptism?

Now is your time! Just as Zacchaeus, Peter, Paul, and the Ethiopian eunuch responded to Jesus, He is calling you today. Take the step of baptism and start your journey of transformation with Christ!

2 Corinthians 6:2 – “Now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation!”

Will you say YES to Jesus today?

Closing Remarks for the “Enduring Hope” Series

As we bring the “Enduring Hope” series to a close, we reflect on the journey we have taken together—a journey of transformation, faith, and the unshakable hope we find in Jesus Christ.

Through the lives of biblical figures and real-life testimonies, we have seen that no situation is too hopeless, no past too broken, and no heart too lost for God to restore.

Hope is not just a fleeting emotion but a firm confidence in the promises of God.

- Hope that endures in times of trouble because God is our refuge and strength (Psalm 46:1).
- Hope that sustains us through transformation because He who began a good work in us will complete it (Philippians 1:6).
- Hope that leads to salvation because in Christ, we are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

As we close, let me leave you with this challenge:

- Hold on to Jesus, the Anchor of your soul (Hebrews 6:19).
- Live out your faith boldly, as a witness to the world (Matthew 5:16).
- Never stop growing in Christ, because His grace is endless (2 Peter 3:18).

If God has spoken to your heart through this series—if you feel the call to deeper commitment, to baptism, or to renewed faith—do not delay. The journey does not end here. This is only the beginning of a life filled with the enduring hope that comes from walking with Jesus.

Thank you for being part of this series. May you continue to grow, to trust, and to hope—until the day we see Jesus face to face.

God bless you all.