



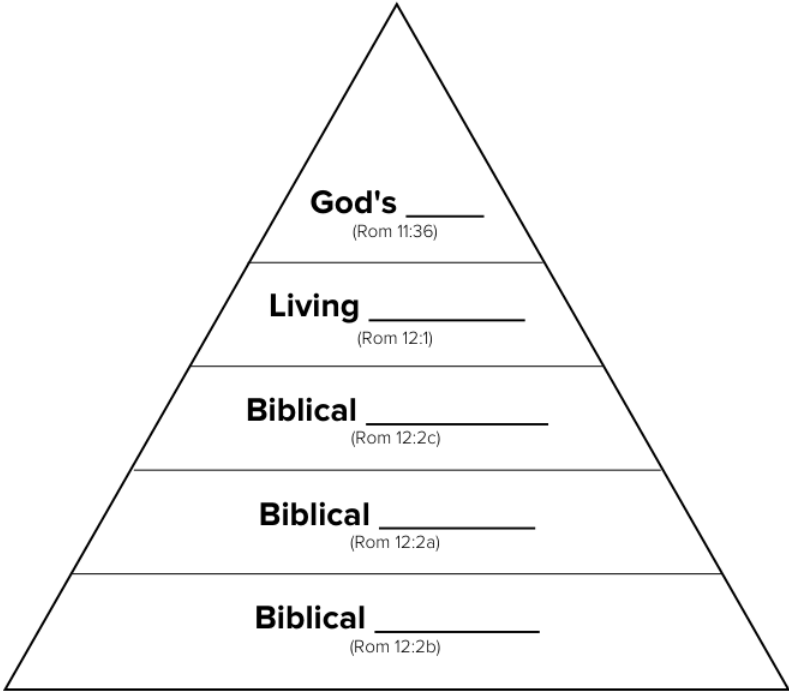
# THE FIRST STEP OF BIBLICAL CHANGE

ROMANS 12:2

Charlie Matz - Compass Bible Church - June 4, 2023

1. Comprehend \_\_\_\_\_

*Romans 12:2 (ESV)  
2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*



2. Replace \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Out of all the examples regarding replacing worldly thoughts with biblical ones, which resonated with you the most and why?

2. Following the examples we walked through during the message, fill in the blanks below using an example from your life.

	Conformed	Transformed
<b>Thoughts</b>	I believe that:	I believe that:
<b>Desires</b>	I want to:	I want to:
<b>Behavior</b>	I...	I...

3. You will inevitably need to counsel others in the church as you live out Galatians 6:2. Search for Bible verses that will help others renew their mind according to the following topics:

- Anxiety
- Anger
- Sexual Temptation
- Fear
- Money
- Marriage
- Parenting

4. **Read Romans 12:2 and Psalm 119:9-11.** Why do you read the Bible? (Be as honest as possible, following your first heartfelt response to this question.) Based on this exposition of Romans 12:2, will you study the Bible differently in the future? If so, how?

### RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

*Here are some books which may help you dig deeper into what we studied today. While Pastor Ben cannot endorse everything about each book/author, he does think these books are worth considering and reading.*

Pierre, Jeremy. *The Dynamic Heart in Daily Life*. New Growth Press, 2016.  
 James, Joel. *Counsel With Confidence*. Shepherd Press, 2018.  
 Elliot, Elisabeth. *Suffering Is Never for Nothing*. B&H Books, 2019.  
 Jones, Robert D. *Uprooting Anger*. P&R Publishing, 2005.  
 Welch, Edward T. *Running Scared*. New Growth Press, 2007.  
 Lambert, Heath. *Finally Free*. Zondervan, 2013.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray that our church will not conform to the world but be continually transformed by renewing our minds.  
 Pray that our church would trust in the sufficiency of Scripture.  
 Pray that everyone in our church will be convicted of sin and be quick to repent.  
 Pray that 2023 is the most faithful and fruitful year of evangelism in your life!  
 Pray that God will provide a long-term home for CBCTV through the Taking Ground project.

### REVIVAL FROM THE BIBLE READING

Date	Old Testament	New Testament
6/5	Isaiah 24-27	Romans 1:1-17
6/6	Isaiah 28-30	Romans 1:18-32
6/7	Isaiah 31-34	Romans 2
6/8	Isaiah 35-37	Romans 3:1-20
6/9	Isaiah 38-40	Romans 3:21-31
6/10	Isaiah 41-43	Romans 4

**SUFFERING**

	Conformed	Transformed
Thoughts	I believe that: Times of difficulty aren't useful and get in the way of the life I should be living; this trial will never end; this trial isn't worth it; my suffering is too hard to endure.	I believe that: God uses trials to grow me in steadfastness (James 1:2-4) and Christlikeness (Rom 8:29); suffering is temporary (2 Cor 4:17) and glory awaits those who are in Christ (Rom 8:18); suffering maximizes my weakness to magnify God's strength (2 Cor 12:10); God provides everything we need in both good and bad times (2 Pet 1:3, Phil 4:13).
Desires	I want to: Escape quickly from difficulty and do whatever it takes to avoid pain.	I want to: Grow to be more like Christ; see trials as an opportunity; never waste a trial; look forward to an eternity without suffering.
Behavior	I... complain when things don't go to plan; avoid situations that are difficult.; am only happy when things are pleasurable and pain is avoided.	I... trust the Lord when things don't go according to my plans; I lean into difficult situations and increase my prayers to the God who is in control; I find joy amidst the storm, trusting that it will produce what God promises it will.

**MARRIAGE**

	Conformed	Transformed
Thoughts	I believe that: My spouse should bring me pleasure; I don't have to serve them unless they are worthy of it; my spouse should serve me because I had a hard day; my husband can't lead me because I'm a better leader; I can't love my wife because she doesn't submit to me	I believe that: I should be focused on bringing my spouse pleasure (Eph 5:22-33, 1 Pet 3:1-7, 1 Cor 7:1-5); I can serve an unworthy spouse into biblical obedience (1 Pet 3:1); demanding a desire leads to quarrels (James 4:1-2); as a wife, I can submit to my husband because I trust the Lord (1 Pet 3:5-6); as a husband, I can love my wife sacrificially because Christ has loved me more (Eph 5: 25); I can't outserve God (John 3:16)
Desires	I want to: engage in my marriage when things are good and disengage when they are bad; stop serving my spouse until they are worthy of it; take the reins when my husband doesn't lead; stop treating my wife with tenderness and kindness until she shows me respect.	I want to: continually seek to find out how I can best bring pleasure to my spouse; serve my spouse even when they are unworthy and even more so when possible; never let circumstances dictate how or when I will serve my spouse; trust the Lord and submit to my husband; trust the Lord and sacrifice everything I can for my wife; serve in my marriage for an audience of One.
Behavior	I... shut down often; stop showing affection; get combative; raise my voice; stop caring and give up on the marriage; engage in self-pity; gossip about my spouse.	I... pray every day for my spouse and for my ability to serve them; am quick to apologize and forgive; am joyful regardless of the circumstances of my marriage; lean into my biblical role and seek wise counsel from others on how to do it well.

## CHILDREN

	Conformed	Transformed
Thoughts	I believe that: Children will get in the way of enjoying my life; children are my means of joy in this life; parenting is impossible; physically disciplining children isn't necessary and it's actually mean; I need my kids in sports to teach them what they need to know.	I believe that: Children are a blessing (Psalm 127:3-5); my pleasure comes from the Lord (Psalm 16:11); having children should be the default desire under God's created order (Gen 1:28); physical discipline under control drives foolishness from the heart of a child (Prov 22:15) and it is the loving thing to do (Prov 13:24); our most important task as parents is to raise our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4, Deut 6:7).
Desires	I want to: Start having children only once I'm ready to give up my preferences; find silver bullets to make parenting easier; let my children do what they want without discipline; shape my children to be successful based on worldly metrics; get rid of my children as soon as I can so I can get back to what I want to do.	I want to: have children (if possible) and find joy in the Lord through them; discipline my children biblically as an act of kindness and protection; spend energy teaching them the word of God whenever I have the opportunity; enjoy my children as I develop a relationship with them; see my children get saved!
Behavior	I... delay having children or have fewer; don't spend time shaping their hearts to desire the Lord; forgo biblical physical discipline; spend inordinate amounts of time teaching my children temporal skills; complain about my children; am harsh with my children.	I... pursue having children as a natural part of being married; seek to find joy in my children with my spouse; set aside time to teach my children the Bible and how to live it out; biblically discipline my children; make time to be with my children to know them, enjoy them; share the gospel; teach my children biblical wisdom.

## FRIENDSHIPS

	Conformed	Transformed
Thoughts	I believe that: I don't make friends because I'm an introvert; it is my friend's job to pursue me; I can only be friends with people who share my same interests; I shouldn't have friends who bring me down; a friendship must always remain balanced.	I believe that: It's my job to make the first move in developing godly friendships (Col 3:12-17, Matt 7:12); our unity in Christ is more powerful than labels (Matt 12:48-50, Rom 12:5, John 13:34-35); one of the jobs of a friend is to wound us (Prov 27:6); we will be the bearer of other's burdens (Gal 6:2).
Desires	I want to: Wait until others pursue me; find a church where friendships come easy; find a community of people that are easy to get along with; avoid difficult relationships; draw hard boundaries when others don't love me well; only be friends with people who fill me up as much as I fill them up.	I want to: Keep an eye out for people that I can invite into my life; be the type of friend to others that I desire for myself; expect difficult relationships and prepare my heart to deal with them biblically; learn biblical forgiveness and practice it with those who hurt me; outserve every friend that I have.
Behavior	I... wait for others to talk to me and invite me into their life; complain that others don't serve me well; avoid getting too involved in the burdens that others are carrying; cutoff relationships that are hard work.	I... talk to strangers at church to get to know them; look for ways to serve the friends God has brought into my life; lean into the trials my friends are dealing with; share biblical truth with friends even if it hurts them; keep serving others even if I get nothing in return.

**ANGER**

	Conformed	Transformed
Thoughts	I believe that: I wasn't angry before I had children; anger is something that happens to me; I am justified in my anger because of how others treat me; It's good to express my anger and not bottle everything up.	I believe that: I was born a sinner (Psalm 51:5; I am angry because I don't get what I want (James 4:1-2); I should be long-suffering (Col 3:12-16), I should treat others as better than me (Phil 2:3), and even love those who are my enemies (Luke 6:35); anger does not produce the life that God desires (James 1:19-20).
Desires	I want to: find a reason for my anger outside of myself; excuse my anger due to my circumstances; express my anger for an emotional release.	I want to: Repent of my anger and confess to the Lord and others that it is sinful; learn what desires I have that have become demands; adjust my expectations to rightly align with reality; desire a righteous life more than being right.
Behavior	I... blow up and use harsh words around others; physically assault objects or people to find an emotional release; stew on the inside and say harsh words under my breath "murdering" others in my heart; make excuses and justify my behavior; make half-hearted apologies.	I... pray for God to search my heart and show me where I have sinful desires that have become demands; give up my preferences and expectations for the sake of others; confess to God and others when I sin in my anger; apologize authentically; pray for those who offend me; am quick to hear and slow to speak.

**REST**

	Conformed	Transformed
Thoughts	I believe that: I need a specific type of rest that I have determined in order to be useful; I need a specific amount of time to be rested; I need to go/get away to be rested; I deserve more rest because I work hard; true rest is doing nothing; everyone needs "me time" to function properly.	I believe that: Christ has what I need to find the rest that is required to serve Him (Matt 11:28-30); only God can ultimately provide rest for me (Psalm 4:8); a lack of rest can come from my anxious work (Psalm 127:2); rest comes through prayer (Phil 4:16-7); true satisfaction and fulfillment comes from the Lord (Psalm 63).
Desires	I want to: Plan ideal times of rest that are non-negotiable; get a specific amount of rest or I won't be satisfied; have a time of rest after working hard; let my lack of rest dictate my attitude.	I want to: Pray for Christ to restore me; seek God in the Scriptures to find rest in Him; monitor if I'm overworking due to a lack of trust in the Lord; run to the Lord for rest rather than a worldly idea of fulfillment.
Behavior	I... plan vacations with a closed fist; shut down providential appointments because I've deemed myself too tired; find rest in food and entertainment; don't serve the church because it can't work on paper due to my math; am grumpy towards others because I didn't get the rest I wanted; talk about how tired I am to others a lot.	I... pray more, the more tired I am; spend time feasting on the word of God; pour myself out for the Lord's work; plan times of rest with an open hand; think very little about rest and leisure.

**LOVE**

	Conformed	Transformed
Thoughts	I believe that: If I tell others what they are doing is wrong it's unloving; true love is supporting someone no matter what they believe or do; love is an emotional feeling; I can't help who I fall in love (or out of love) with; loving others shouldn't cost me anything; love is a battlefield.	I believe that: loving others is telling them what's good for them (Col 3:16); loving others means warning them about the wrath of God (2 Cor 5:20); love is an act of the will (1 Cor 13:1-13); the greatest love requires extreme sacrifice (John 15:13).
Desires	I want to: Avoid upsetting others by giving them what they want; seek emotional highs in relationships and avoid emotional lows; leave relationships that have "lost that loving feeling;" keep a score sheet of how well others are loving me in comparison to how I love them.	I want to: Subordinate my emotions to the truth of Scripture; do the hard work of handling conflict and admonishment head on; share the gospel; make choices to love others even when they don't deserve it; outserve those I love.
Behavior	I... avoid conflict at all costs; surround myself with people based on how they make me feel; measure the love of someone by how they interact with me emotionally; lose interest in relationships that don't have the excitement they once did; think about how others love me more than how I love them.	I... love others through my actions; share the truth with other believers, with kindness, even when it's hard for them to hear; obey the Scriptures even when I don't feel like it; lay down my life for the benefit of others; share my faith!

**MONEY**

	Conformed	Transformed
Thoughts	I believe that: I need more; I can't give anything to God until my needs are met; I need to retire by a certain age; it's my job to be the ultimate provider; I have to have a certain amount in the bank; I have to say no to God's priorities in order to provide for my family.	I believe that: I should be content in seasons of plenty and of need (Phil 4:13); I should give my first fruits to the Lord and I will be blessed (Prov 3:9-10); the race is done when God says it's done (2 Tim 4:7); God is the ultimate provider & provides for our needs (Matt 6:25-34).
Desires	I want to: Store up as much wealth as I can; make sure my needs are met as the highest priority; plan out my future aggressively; give my leftovers to God.	I want to: Train to be content in all seasons; plan to give generously to God first before I plan for my needs; plan my future loosely; trust the Lord for all of my needs; invest in eternal accounts.
Behavior	I... think about money a lot; don't give much to the church; don't experience the blessing of giving; get anxious when money is tight; miss opportunities in the church and my family because I'm working to obtain my ideal.	I... give generously to the church; budget wisely; don't get anxious when money is tight or unexpected needs arise; hold loosely to my long-term investments; give to kingdom efforts with the faith that it will provide an eternal return; experience the blessing of giving.

**WORK**

	Conformed	Transformed
Thoughts	I believe that: I must be passionate about what I do; I must find a sense of self-worth and fulfillment from what I'm doing; I work to get it out of the way so that I can arrive at leisure; work is bad and is a result of sin.	I believe that: The purpose of my job is to glorify God (1 Cor 10:31); I find my identity in Christ (Eph 2:10); work is a gift and not a result of sin (Gen 2:15).
Desires	I want to: Hold out for the perfect job; look beyond what I'm doing now as I long for what's down the road; devalue what God has me doing now; grind through my duties so I can get to something more fun; stop working as young as I can.	I want to: Embrace what God has brought as a means of provision; work hard because I know God is watching; be content and focus on doing the best job I can with what I've been given to steward over; thank God for the means to do the work He's given me; be excited for the eternal impact of the work I'm doing.
Behavior	I... don't hold down jobs for very long; complain about the work I'm doing; get easily distracted from the work I'm doing; only look at work as a means to make money.	I... seek to be the hardest working person at my work with the best attitude; don't complain about what I'm doing; pray for God to use me how He wants me to be used; speak of the privilege of my job to my spouse and children.