Small Group Guide: The Spirit’s Transformation

Key Takeaways:

1. The Holy Spirit's goal in rebirthing us is to make us Christlike.

2. God chose us before the foundation of the world to be part of His family.

3. Our salvation is entirely by God's grace, not our own merit.

4. Christlikeness is an internal renovation, starting with the renewal of our minds.

5. The Holy Spirit uses God's Word as a mirror to reveal His glory and bring transformation.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon emphasizes that God chose us before the foundation of the world. How does this truth impact your view of salvation and your relationship with God?

2. Pastor Burgess mentions that we are part of a "new born again race" with Jesus as our first brother. How does this perspective change the way you see your identity in Christ?

3. The sermon states that our spirit is saved, but our body and mind still need transformation. Can you share an example of how you've experienced this internal struggle in your own life?

4. How does the concept of being a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1-2) challenge you in your daily walk with God?

5. The pastor uses the analogy of a washing machine to describe how God's Word cleanses our minds. What are some practical ways you can engage with Scripture to allow this "cleansing" process to occur?

6. Discuss the idea of the Holy Spirit using God's Word as a mirror. How have you seen this work in your own life to reveal areas that need transformation?

Practical Applications:

1. Commit to a daily Scripture reading plan to engage more consistently with God's Word.

2. Practice acknowledging the Holy Spirit throughout your day, talking to Him as you would a close friend.

3. Identify one area in your life where you struggle to be Christlike. Pray for the Holy Spirit's help in transforming that area this week.

4. Memorize Romans 12:1-2 and reflect on what it means to be a "living sacrifice" in your specific context.

5. Start a journal to record ways you see the Holy Spirit working in your life, transforming you to be more like Christ.

6. Share with the group next week one instance where you chose to act more like Christ in a situation where you typically wouldn't have.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for choosing us before the foundation of the world and for sending the Holy Spirit to transform us. Ask for His help in becoming more Christlike and for a greater awareness of the Spirit's work in our lives.