



The Process We Must Know and Endure

The Lord said, “I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh. That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God” (Ezekiel 11:19–20).

There is a process we all must endure to become like Christ. First, we are drawn to Him by His Spirit. Then we see the need for Him in our lives. Once we surrender to His call, He takes our stony hearts and breaks them down to penetrate His seed of love in them. This is painful as He shows us who we are apart from Him. He gives us a new heart and His Spirit within us, so we are no longer hardened to the things of this world. Bit by bit, we are allowed to see, hear, feel, and do as He allows. He breaks down our hardness so we can have a heart of flesh. Think about that. Flesh is *pierceable*, which equals *pain!* We must know this to follow His will and ways. Our human natures won't allow us to do anything pleasing to Him on our own. We must be broken in order for Him to reign and acknowledge His love and strength. Isn't that fascinating? He loves us where we are but won't allow us to remain in our filth. His love changes us. No longer who we once were, we become a work in progress, His craftsmanship. Humility is required to break our human natures

(carnality). Somebody stand in awe with me, and shout this from the rooftops! No other can love us this way.

Do you remember who you were, where you were, what you were doing when you were drawn to Christ? Do you remember what was going through your heart and mind when you accepted the King's call of repentance and surrender to Him, His ways and His trade? Recall what your life was like before your walk began, can you and others around you see notable differences in who you were then compared to who Christ is molding you into now?



Coach Bags and Christianity

As I watched an online auction one afternoon for the high-end Coach bag products, I initially thought I was wasting my time. See, name brand has never been an issue for me. Much less could I afford to feed such desires.

As I watched the numbers soar in short amounts of time for countless styles, colors, and sizes, the Lord spoke these things to my heart: “There’s only one Coach brand but many impostors. These handbags come at a high cost not many desire to spend. They desire the appeal of wealth without the cost it takes to achieve and attain such craftsmanship. Look at the state of the church. Many impostors have come in offering a replica of My Son yet require half the cost, if any cost at all. Many cannot see or do not realize accepting the imposter will damn their souls.”

How true is this? So many have accepted a knockoff version of Christ. He feels good, looks good, and seems affordable.

Without correction and conviction of sin, we cannot have a genuine repentant heart to turn from our hearts’ desires, fleshly desires, and our wills. Hence we cannot have a life change that will lead us to life everlasting by and in Christ! The imposing knockoff will come packaged in a form suitable to our wants, our “needs,” and our wills. But the true, genuine Christ will challenge every fiber of your being. He requires a high cost; your heart of stone for a heart that’s pierceable, and your old life in exchange for His everlasting life.

Look closely at the Christianity you claim, and keep these things in mind. Have you settled for a dangerously deceptive knock-off, or are you willing to consider the cost of Christ and the cross He requires?

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect. (Matthew 24:24)

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (2 Peter 2:1)

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)

Remember, a good salesperson can sell anything despite need, value, quality, or integrity. Test it all by prayerful digging in the Word of God. Are you confident you have the real Jesus, the One spoken of in the Scriptures who died and rose again to save lost and dying souls? Have you considered the cost? What does this cost of following Christ look like in your life?