

Come as You Are But Don't Stay That Way 3

How do I know if I am settling for pseudo-transformation instead of the real thing?

Rom 12:1-2

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (New Living Translation)

Prov 3:5-6

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. ⁶ Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. (THE MESSAGE)

1 Peter 1:14-16

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

"The strongest argument for Christianity is Christians, when they are drawing life from God. The strongest argument against Christianity? Also Christians, when they become exclusive, self righteous, and complacent."

Sheldon Van Auken

"How many people are radically and permanently repelled from The Way by Christians who are unfeeling, stiff, unapproachable, boringly lifeless, obsessive, and dissatisfied? Yet such Christians are everywhere, and what they are missing is the wholesome liveliness springing from a balanced vitality with the freedom of God's loving rule... Spirituality wrongly understood or pursued is a major source of human misery and rebellion against God."

Dallas Willard

How do I know if I am settling for pseudo-transformation instead of the real thing:

→ Am I spiritually "inauthentic?"

Matt 23:25

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence."

→ Am I becoming judgmental, exclusive, or proud?

Matt 23:6

they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues;

"When beginners become aware of their own fervor and diligence in their spiritual works and devotional exercises, this prosperity of theirs gives rise to secret pride.... they conceive a certain satisfaction in the contemplation of their works and of themselves.... They condemn others in their heart when they see that they are not devout in their way."

St John of the Cross

Eph 5:3-4

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

→ Am I becoming more approachable, or less?

Matt 23:7

they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.'

Matt 23:8-11

"Don't let anyone call you 'Rabbi,' for you have only one teacher, and all of you are equal as brothers and sisters. ⁹ And don't address anyone here on earth as 'Father,' for only God in heaven is your spiritual Father. ¹⁰ And don't let anyone call you 'Teacher,' for you have only one teacher, the Messiah. ¹¹ The greatest among you must be a servant. (NLT)

➔ **Am I growing weary of pursuing spiritual growth?**

Matt 23:4

They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders

"...becoming a 'peculiar people' set at odd angles to the world rather than being an attractive light illuminating it. As a result, our morality calls out rather feebly. It whines from the corner of a sanctuary; it awkwardly interrupts pleasures; it mumbles excuses at parties; it shuffles along out of step and slightly behind the times.... It's often regarded by our secular contemporaries as a narrow, even trivial, pursuit."

"Tragically, conventional religious goodness manages to be both *intimidating* and *unchallenging* at the same time."

Steven Mosley

➔ **Am I measuring my spiritual life in superficial ways?**

Matt 23:24

You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

Matt 23:23

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy and faithfulness.

Eph 2:4-7

God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ

Jesus. ⁷ So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.
(NLT)