



MONTH 6

TRANSFORMATION: HOW WILL YOU GROW IN CHRIST?

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (TLB)

"But you must keep on believing the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know that you can trust those of us who have taught you. You know how, when you were a small child, you were taught the holy Scriptures; and it is these that make you wise to accept God's salvation by trusting in Christ Jesus. The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone."

Luke 14:33 (AMP)

"So then, any of you who does not forsake (renounce, surrender claim to, give up, say good-bye to) all that you have cannot be My disciple."

OBSERVE

Jesus' invitation – "Follow me" – is not an invitation into an easier or more fulfilling life. On the contrary, following Jesus is sometimes difficult and always requires commitment. Following Jesus is not just saying "yes" or "no," but is a journey that brings radical transformation about in our lives.

Growth is part of life. We see growth when we look at creation, or at our families. Growth is part of God's design for life. As leaders, just like all Christians, we may find ourselves stalling or no longer developing. The apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to continue to learn, grow, and develop. The same encouragement applies to us in our growth and journey.

How are you growing in Christ in your...

- faith?
- personal life?
- leadership?

IDENTIFY

As we develop as leaders, we discover that there are **inhibitors** and **enhancers** to how we grow in Christ. Withhold water from a plant, and it will soon wither and even die. Give it too

much water, and the soil becomes so saturated that the roots can no longer take in oxygen. Growing and developing in our journey with Christ requires balance.

What are some of the current inhibitors in your growth as a leader?

What are some enhancers that are helping you grow in your leadership?

What steps do you as a leader need to take to remove current inhibitors and increase or multiply your enhancers?

Max DePree, leadership author and former CEO emeritus of Herman Miller

"In the end, it is important to remember that we cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are."

Sheryl Sandberg, *Lean In*

"Women need to shift from thinking 'I'm not ready to do that' to thinking 'I want to do that- and I'll learn by doing it.'"

What kind of leader is God forming you to be? How have you identified that?

What are some descriptors of the leader you are hoping to become?

In what intentional actions are you engaging to ensure that you are not remaining where you are as a leader? What are the results?

APPLY

Spiritual growth is influenced by **external** factors as well as **internal** ones. In the life of a leader, both internal and external dynamics play a role in growth and development.

Think about the inhibitors you identified in your own life. Which of these are external, and which are internal? about your enhancers? Which of these are external, and which are internal?

Identifying someone as an **influencer**, **mentor**, and **coach** in your leadership development is a key part of growth in leadership. Just like Timothy had Paul, Ruth had Naomi, and Joshua had Moses, each of us needs someone who mentors and encourages us in our journey.

Who has served in that role for you? If you are unable to identify someone currently in that role for you, is there someone in your life who might be able to serve in this way?

Mentors, influencers, and coaches bring benefits to our leadership development. We trust them in our journey.

As you think about the person you identified up above, what has this person done specifically to help you transform as a leader?

If you do not presently have someone in this role, what areas of your leadership journey might you feel need the most growth?

Who in your life might be able to serve as a mentor and coach to you in these areas?

NEXT STEP

We are called to make radical choices daily as we seek to grow in Christ. Living a life of purpose, living true to our values and beliefs, and leading out of a deep well of faith come only when we choose to follow the way of Jesus, and go against the prevailing culture and the way of the world.

Where are the places that you struggle with living a countercultural life?

How are you inviting others to journey with you in following Jesus?

How are your and their lives a reflection of radical risk in exercising faith?

How do your and their lives point to radical reward because of faithfulness?

Take time to identify two key areas for leadership growth in your own life. Focus on one for the next six months and the other for the six months following that. (We will be exploring these in more detail at our in-person retreat.)

- _____
- _____

For each of these two areas, put together a three-to five- step action plan that you can engage in over the next months. Include what accountability to a peer coach (or similar person) might look like as you share it with her.

REFLECT

Romans 12:2 (NRSV)

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Barbara Brown Taylor, *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*

"We speak and sing of divine transformation while we do everything in our power to maintain our equilibrium. If redeeming things continue to happen to us in spite of these deep contradictions in our life together, then I think that is because God is faithful even when we are not."