



SIGNS OF LIFE

About the Series

In this brief eight week series, Pastor Bryan will explore different topics that display to us what life from God looks like. The good news is that although sin and death are all around us, God has not abandoned us nor this world to be conquered by them. In his great love, he has intervened and initiated a new work by establishing a better Kingdom. The true King has come and placed these signs of life for us to see! In the next eight weeks, we will study the following topics:

- 12/23 **Incarnation** (God became one of us)
- 12/30 **Transformation** (God changes us)
- 1/6 **Community** (God welcomes us)
- 1/13 **Worship** (God is enjoyed by us)
- 1/20 **Love** (God loves through us)
- 1/27 **Generosity** (God gives through us)
- 2/3 **Reconciliation** (God makes peace through us)
- 2/10 **Mission** (God reaches the lost through us)

This Week: Transformation (God change us)

The Bible describes the work of salvation as the Kingdom of God and Jesus as the true king coming to rescue. Every king has a particular way they want their subjects to act and how they want their kingdom to appear. The challenge for every king is how to motivate their subjects. Historically, kings have sought to create peace/order through obedience from their subjects by using methods of force, fear, threats, laws and even bribery. The resulting problem from using this method is that an artificial peace and order are created. Such methods never permeate through to the core of a person and leave the heart cold and unchanged.

God cares about what motivates our obedience. Paul the apostle describes the motivation that moved him as love (2 Cor 5:14). Christian growth is based on obedience, yet many allow fear or other subordinate forces to motivate them. While fear is a powerful motivator, any obedience not initiated by the good news (gospel) will in the end fail.

The secret of genuine transformation that leads to lasting spiritual growth happens when you focus on the beauty of who Jesus is and what He has done for you, not what you need to be doing for him. If we focus on what we should be doing for Jesus our hearts will shrink in fear and insecurity. If we focus on the beauty of what he has done for us, our hearts will grow and swell in worship and praise. This is how hearts are transformed.

Read 2 Cor. 5:14

The love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Application: Answer the below questions:

- How does, force, fear, threats, laws and bribery create peace and order? Why does this form of motivation always fail at some point?
- Why is it important to have our hearts motivated and sustained by God's beauty and love?
- Hearing the story of two people falling in love may be interesting/inspiring, but knowing that *you're the one that's loved* captures you and transforms you. For many, God is only a concept that people find interesting/inspiring. For others, God is the reality whose love has changed everything. Knowing that love is the most powerful and only sustainable motivator for genuine transformation, what are some practical ways we can remind ourselves/others of this good news (the gospel)?

Prayer

Thank God for his love for you.

Ask God to help you to effectively preach the gospel to yourself, reminding yourself of His indescribable beauty and never-ending love for you.

Community Group Discussion

- Read scripture together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking the questions & taking the time to share/respond.
- Pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have a child/adult read the passage aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests, invite them to pray & sing a worship song together.