

Godlike: Simplicity

[Download PDF](#)

[Archived Conversations with God](#)

Day 1

Methods

Most of the time we approach any type of transformation with a set of rules. If we want to lose weight, we tell ourselves we can't eat as much food as we want. If we desire to get stronger, we tell ourselves to get up earlier and exercise. Generally, we seek transformation through creating rules for ourselves. These rules serve the purpose of keeping us from doing what we really want to do. Our desire for transformation is usually driven by a desire to avoid the consequences, not a genuine love for the thing we are pursuing. I want to lose weight to avoid high blood pressure. In the same way, we often pursue simplicity because we are tired of the clutter and chaos of our lives. We are tired of the consequences of the way we are living, so we make rules to keep us from pursuing many things. The problem is, we love those things. The rules become corrupted and ineffectual because we love what we have prohibited. This leads to frustration or the worship of the rules. What is the answer? Simplicity is an inward attitude that results in an outward lifestyle. You cannot change from the outside in. Our hearts must pursue the kingdom because they love the kingdom. How do you learn to love God more? Learn to enjoy him more. Read the following article to start that process:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/how-to-find-more-joy-in-god>

Verses: Matthew 6:25-34, 1 John 3:1, Romans 15:13

Prayer Topics: Love, Joy, Excitement

Day 2

Anxious

When we seek to enjoy God more, we will find that there are many beneficial side effects. The first, of course, is a change of heart. We will not need to bind our will with a bunch of rules but will instead find ourselves pursuing God's kingdom because that is what we want to do. The second thing that will happen is that we will find our level of anxiety greatly reduced. I remember the feeling of fear and vulnerability when I first rode a motorcycle on the street. When I stopped at a red light and found myself surrounded by other cars I was struck by the feeling of vulnerability, as if I had just decided to play in traffic. I continued to ride in spite of the fear because of the fun, but over time as my experience grew, my anxiety decreased. I learned to trust that the fear was really the opportunity for excitement and enjoyment. We often forget that God's call to seek the kingdom first is given in the context of his teaching on anxiety. Focusing your pursuit on one thing helps keep away the anxiety of pursuing many things. To learn more about seeking God's kingdom, and how a life of simplicity seeking his righteousness will work on your anxiety, check out this article:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/seek-first-kingdom-God.html>

Verses: John 14:27, Psalm 55:22, 2 Timothy 1:7

Prayer Topics: Vulnerability, Trust, Peace

Day 3

Dread and Glory

Why is living a life of simplicity so difficult? From getting rid of clutter to being more disciplined in our purchases, or in refraining from deception and managing our image or abstaining from social media, we find simplicity to be excruciating. In order to understand this, we must go back to the garden. Adam and Eve sinned in the garden and covered their resulting nakedness with fig leaves. If we understand that clothes function as a glory cloud, we can understand the difficulty with simplicity. The glory cloud serves to reflect back to us an image of glory. Imagine being a rich person buying a mansion. You would probably fill that mansion with art and treasures like Citizen Kane. Why would you do this? It would reflect your greatness back to you, allowing you to see it, therefore overcoming your existential dread. Dread means to anticipate with great apprehension or fear. What do we dread? Death. Death is the ultimate sign of our inadequacy. In death we find ultimate shame because we are incapable of absolutely everything, including life itself and we experience corruption in totality. To keep from thinking about that, we fill our lives with nonsense, with fig leaves that cannot cover and we avoid simplicity like the plague. When the Israelites were dying after having been bitten by snakes, Moses held up a bronze snake on a pole to be healed. They had to look at the problem, confront their sin and inadequacy. In simplicity, we decide to forgo the fig leaf and confront the reality of our situation. We make room for a relationship with God in Christ Jesus where his death for our life is front and center. It is not easy. If it were, everyone would be doing it. It is rewarding, though, and worth the effort. Try making some room for Christ and his glory by laying aside your own.

Verses: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:1-4

Prayer Topics: Identity, Clothing, Humility

Day 4

Diligence

Living a simple life will make you much more diligent and effective in your labor. Some think of simplicity as being like a monk who sits on a mountain top and meditates without movement or deviation. If this is what God had made us for, then this could be the simple life. However, living a simple life is seeding God's kingdom first. It is being confident and joyful about the task that he has given us, that springs out of being found in Christ Jesus, in joyful relationship with him. We become ineffective in our task of building the kingdom when we are distracted with many things. We lack diligence in our work when our mind is given over to doubt and worry. Check out this devotion on simplicity and diligence to learn more:

<https://thelife.com/the-discipline-of-simplicity>

Verses: Proverbs 13:4, Galatians 6:9, 1 Corinthians 15:58

Prayer Topics: Consistency, Effort, Clarity

Day 5

Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr for our devotional today

The uncanny reality not many people want or desire to live what they perceive or understand what simply living is all about. Many go their entire life living a life of pretense, a life of deceitfulness because this world order demands self indulgence first at whatever the cost. Unlike this world order which prides itself in deceit, God calls His children to a life of simplicity, a life of purity of heart. A life of simplicity is a life lived wanting what's best for our neighbors without forcing our position because of freedom of choice which God never takes from

us. A life of simplicity can only be lived in and through the power of God's love which means God has to dwell in and be Lord of our heart, mind, soul, strength, He, must be Lord of our total being.

When we respond to God's invitation of redemption in and through Christ Jesus, God is inviting us to be conformed to the image and likeness of His only begotten Son. Therefore, transformation is inevitable when we present ourselves to God, Romans 12:1-2. Transformation of the heart means purity of the heart. Purity of the heart means serving with the right motive which is love. Purity of heart means you want what's best for your neighbor and that's for them to be who God created them to be, not who this world wants to force them to become or remain an enemy of the cross. Purity of heart takes longsuffering because of dealing with the issues of the heart and God by the Holy Spirit is the only One who addresses the issues of the heart.

One thing I can guarantee is when you truly start wanting what's best for people, you'll be moved to pray more because it takes the power of God to love people and live the life He has called us to live in and through Christ Jesus. Prayer is love in action. Prayer isn't an option, it's a lifestyle of our dependance on God almighty to effectively move in the life of those He has brought to us so He can reveal Jesus to their heart. Purity of heart simultaneously means God works on our hearts as He works on the heart He has brought to us.

The thing that prevents people from having a pure heart is when they begin to objectify the person. When people become an object of your desire the motive is no longer pure isn't of God because it's become self serving and not kingdom building. Objectifying means covetousness wanting something that doesn't belong to us to serve our own selfish desires. This is a problem when people claim to be children of God without transformation means they're wolves in sheep clothing who intentionally mislead people by deception. God's love isn't deceptive but can be painful at times because His love molds and shapes us into the image and likeness of His only begotten Son, Christ Jesus. God's love is the evidence of simplicity of a pure heart that wants what's best for you without fan fare without publicity that boast of Him and Him alone.