

BECOMING WHO YOU ALREADY ARE

COLOSSIANS 3:1-10 – ERIC SIMPSON – APRIL 8, 2018

You know the resurrection of Jesus has become personal with you when...

➤ The focus of your “thought life” is changed and changing.

The most important thing about your mind is what it is fixed upon.

“The ultimate freedom we have as individuals is the power to select what we will allow or require our minds to dwell upon and think about. By *think* we mean all the ways in which we are aware of things, including our memories, perceptions, and beliefs. The focus of your thoughts significantly affects everything else that happens in your life and evokes the feelings that frame your world and motivate your actions.” – Dallas Willard



Will = our capacity to choose, freedom to do good or evil

Mind = our thoughts and feelings, the ways a person is conscious of things

Body = our physical presence in this world, the way you carry out actions

Soul = integrates all the parts into a whole life, the “operating system” of a person

➤ The choices of your everyday life are changed and changing.

Discipleship to Jesus is the process of becoming in *character* who we already are in *identity*.

“...those who say we cannot truly follow Christ turn out to be correct in a sense. We cannot behave ‘on the spot’ as he did and taught if in the rest of our time we live as everybody else does. The ‘on the spot’ episodes are not the place where we can, even by the grace of God, redirect unchristlike but ingrained tendencies of action toward sudden Christlikeness. Our efforts to take control at that moment will fail so uniformly and ingloriously that the whole project of following Christ will appear ridiculous to the watching world.” – Dallas Willard

spiritual practices = something we can do that enables us to do what we haven’t yet been able to do by our own direct effort

Recommended reading: *Your God is Too Safe* by Mark Buchanan