



AUGUST CHALLENGE
Breaking the Mold

DAY 1: Breaking the Mold

Message

In last month's challenge, we explored The Way God Walks with Us. How He desires the joy of relationally walking with you through the process of sanctification... of being made into His image.

His passion is that you would enjoy every part of that process... because He is enjoying it!

What we read over and over again in the comments from challenge members last month was the freedom and delight they experienced by discovering God's perspective of their transformation.

So in this month's challenge, we want to continue to explore the genius plan of God for our freedom. He crafted that plan from

Notes

the very beginning—and we want to encounter the majesty and wonder of His passion for us.

If you're new to the Brilliant community, welcome! We're are thrilled to spend time with you over the next 3 days. These challenges are devotional sessions. What does that mean? It means that we're not going to be instructing you by giving you information about freedom. This is not a theology class.

A devotional mindset is very different than an educational one. In devotion, we expect to be overwhelmed by who God is for us. Everything we share in this challenge is about discovering the One in WHOM we have believed... not just learning more about Him.

This will mean that we upgrade our lens of who God is for us and we renew our minds in who we are in Him, which produces a different way of speaking both to God and ourselves.

Lens, mindset and language are the key elements of identity.

There may be some things to specifically un-learn so that we can learn and encounter God differently.

Your #1 allegiance is to God's Truth. Not to Graham or me or the

Brilliant community. And not to your previous learning.

Give yourself permission to not only listen to the sessions... but to allow time for an encounter with the Truth in the person of Jesus Christ.

Pay attention to what rises up in your heart towards the Lord as you listen.

Is it gratitude? Astonishment? Relief? Joy? Affirmation? If you feel overwhelmed by the wonder of it all, push the “pause” button and take the time just to stop and worship. Let your heart go out towards Him in thanksgiving and rejoicing.

You may also find that you’re perplexed at times. The Truth you’re hearing may clash with your previous perceptions. It’s okay to be surprised—don’t ignore that. And don’t accept the content of any of these sessions at face value.

Again, your first allegiance is to the Truth of God. Search the scriptures. Ask the Holy Spirit questions. After all, He IS the Spirit of Truth and He lives inside of you. Your primary relationship is with the Lord.

Use any sense of conflict to deepen your fellowship with Him. He loves those conversations.

God is in the business of teaching us HOW to think, not just what to think. He challenges our thinking, so don't let that put you off. He purposely creates opportunities for us to UN-learn as much as He offers new learning possibilities.

When God presents us with a Truth that challenges us, He is inviting us to upgrade our relationship with Him. It's an opportunity to choose between letting our history or previous learning define who He really is... or taking the occasion to displace any lesser experiences with a greater encounter of the Truth.

If the Truth has not set you free... if you are not living in a continually greater experience of the love, joy, peace and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ... then you need to discover the lie that is stealing the abundant life He promised us.

Many of us have heard these Biblical concepts for years, but if the evidences of transformation have not occurred... if the way you see, think and talk about God and about yourself hasn't really changed... if you're still not experiencing an abundance of peace, of joy, of hope and confidence.... then allow a new level of truth to rise.... and set you free.

Before you were ever born, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit planned your freedom.

Let's purpose to discover together just how great that salvation really is.

Listen to what God says to you in Romans 6:3-11:

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.

“Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to

sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

When Jesus died, so did you. He did not just die for you, He died as you.

When Jesus was buried He took your old man with Him, and when He was raised from the dead He left your old man behind. The old you cannot ever be resurrected. It is Gone. Finished. Forever. You died in Him, and then a new you was raised from the dead through the Holy Spirit’s glorious workings.

Now, you are forever united together with the Three (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and no one and nothing can ever separate you. Read the list of things that cannot ever separate you from God. It’s in Romans 8:31-19. It is really astonishing!

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that in Christ all the old is gone and you are a new creation!

You are no longer a slave to sin. It is no longer your nature. Jesus removed it! All that remains is your attachment through memory to a habit, which can be broken by your partnership and relationship with the Three.

Remember, God delights in this process.

God had great delight in seeing the mold of the old you shattered at the cross. He was so excited to know that you could be free of striving in your relationship with Him - and that He could begin the relational process of making you in His image.

Today, I'm sharing four key truths that illuminate the reality about breaking the mold of the old and who it is that does the breaking.

Key #1: Something Got Finished Before You Got Started

Before you were ever born, your redemption was already completed.

God initiated our salvation, a Way to be with Him in His Truth and His Life—not only before we were born, but before the foundation of the earth.

Before time ever was, the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit planned and determined how They would make people in Their image—how They would create a way to be with Them... so we could know what They are really like, and that as we continued to see the image of Them we would become like them (check out 2 Corinthians 3:18).

If we are to walk with God in the same fellowship as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit... then we must understand their vital purpose in relationship with mankind.

To be made in His image and likeness means to have the same nature... and to radiate it from the same source of inner Light from God... Christ IN you... our hope of glory.

The purpose of salvation is freedom. It is for freedom's sake that Christ has set us free.

The very core of the nature of God is the nature of Freedom.

God took all the initiative for our redemption... and it was His joy to do so. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit made the plan before time began.

Jesus came to earth, did and said only what His Father was doing and saying. And when it was time, He went to the cross... not just for you... but AS you.

At the cross, the mold was broken as to how to have a relationship with God. It was no longer through keeping all the rules and regulations... and getting to be in His presence a few times a year at the Temple.

Jesus gladly took the initiative to break the mold, walking and talking with His people in a new and living way.

Jesus came talking about the Kingdom and we now have a realm that is in direct competition with the world. The Kingdom is concerned with upgrading all of our life experiences so that we live in the relationship that Jesus has with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

This is the essence of what it means to have Christ in us and for us to be in Him... and He's excited to see your response to that.

When God broke the mold of the old you on the cross of Christ, He set you free to become a unique expression of His true nature. It's true that you're being recreated in His image, which is God's original purpose in Genesis 1:26.

Our revelation of His nature of freedom expands when we realize what has already been accomplished at the Cross. When Jesus said, "It is finished," the mold was irreversibly broken in that moment!

Key #2: Dead Means Dead!

Imagine a huge glass platter dropping and shattering. There's no putting it back together. And

yet so many Christians spend their lives trying to put the pieces of what Jesus shattered back together. They have been taught that their relationship with God is all about trying to fix their old selves.

But how utterly absurd would it be for God to kill your old nature, but then raise it back from the dead to try to fix it?!

He is not double-minded. He absolutely believes in the sacrifice of His Son.

God only sees the new you, He doesn't see the old you (because it's dead!). He is not trying to fix up something that you're not, He is trying to make you aware of who you really are. He's not dealing with your behavior, He's actually developing your identity in Jesus.

The finished work of the cross is becoming absolute in our minds and in our hearts. The old you was shattered.

Your true freedom is that you are dead and your life is hidden with Christ in God [Colossians 3:3].

There is no more "old you" to fix up. Dead means dead! God only sees you in the New Man, which is Christ in you. That is the whole new focus.

Key #3: You Have a Helper

On top of that reality, there comes a marvelous additional gift: The wonderful Holy Spirit who helps us to navigate our life in God. The Holy Spirit takes all the truth of Jesus and makes it all real to us in every circumstance. [John 16:13-15]

And then, as if that freedom isn't marvelous enough, The Holy Spirit comes bounding into our lives as our Teacher when we're perplexed. He adores challenges because He loves being your Helper.

It is the Holy Spirit acting as your personal Comforter and Trainer who mentors you as you navigate through all of life's difficult moments. He empowers you to receive under pressure and to develop your true identity in Jesus.

Think about it: God is so passionate about you that there's a member of the Godhead that lives inside you that is totally devoted to being your full time tutor, assistant and friend.

It's one of the ways we learn to love the learning, because it's the place where we can experience the pleasure and delight of God in helping us to get it, helping us grow, comforting us when we fail, and telling us to be cheerful because He has already overcome

through Jesus. Loving us the same, all day, every day... whether we're getting it or not.

Key #4: You are free to connect with the joy and celebration that God has for you.

In freedom, we get to consider everything as joy because of the beauty of going through every situation in a habitational relationship. We are God's dwelling place.

Jesus said, "Loving Me empowers you to obey my word. And My Father will love you so deeply, that we will come to you and make you our dwelling place." John 14:23 (TPT)

One of our greatest freedoms is the freedom to be celebrated by God.

Zephaniah 3:17 says, "The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Do you feel His passion for you in that? He's right there, in the middle of who you are and are becoming. He's the Mighty One that saves. It's not drudgery to Him. It's a delight!

He's rejoicing in being your Deliverer - that's why it doesn't bother Him when there are things you need to be delivered of.

God is never disillusioned with you. He never had any illusions in the first place. He knows exactly what Jesus accomplished when He died as you!

His unchanging love will quiet the chaos of your soul. And all of this makes Him so happy, He has to sing... songs of freedom, songs of deliverance, songs of joy.

As you come into the reality that the old you is dead to God, and that all of His focus is on supporting, developing and celebrating the new you—then you come into a place of learning how to live under His smile and affection.

You feel the joy of Jesus that you get to live together as resurrected beings. All God ever wanted was a people of His own. He wanted family and He wanted friends. That's what Jesus gave His Father on the cross. He gave Him back His family.

He gave Him you.

The old is gone. The new has come. You're a new creation in Christ. Sure, you may have habits or patterns of the past, but that's

what the relational journey of sanctification is all about: you and Jesus walking together into your new life in Christ.

Unlearning the ways of the old, the world, the flesh and the devil. And learning the ways and habits of being made in God's image.

The Father sent Jesus to redeem, and the Holy Spirit to upgrade us into Kingdom life—and it's His good pleasure to do so.

All of your transformation comes when you learn the Kingdom way of seeing, thinking and speaking. You become accustomed to replacing their worldly equivalent.

And as if that wasn't enough, now you're united together with God and no one and nothing can ever separate you from Him.

The truth that maintains your freedom is that God put Christ into you AND you into Christ so that Jesus becomes the focal point of your spiritual life with God.

The Father loves you in the same way He loves Jesus, and you are accepted in the Beloved.

That's what we're doing today: connecting with the joy and celebration that God has for you. He loves where you are now, but

He also loves where you're going next.