1. **Introduction**
   1. Shift in Focus
   2. So far, Recovery focused inward: identify sinful nature, confess sin, turn from sin
   3. God’s goal is not just to turn us from sin but to draw us to him. He is the one who changes us.
      1. Step 7, Follow: We humbly ask God’s Spirit to change our hearts and minds to follow Christ fully.
   4. Prayer
2. **How does God transform us? Great exchange reminder.**
   1. Christ’s perfect sacrifice to pay for the penalty of your sin—washed clean.
   2. Given Christ’s righteousness. Adopted (given a new identity) as a child of the King of kings.
   3. The Holy Spirit came to live in you (to supernaturally free you from the power of sin and conforming your heart and mind to Christ.)
3. **The Holy Spirit**
   1. Who He is: a distinct person, yet one in nature/essence with the Father and Son. eternal, worthy of worship. He has a mind, a will and emotions.
   2. His role: creation, source of life, reveal truth, Christ’s birth, reveal Christ
   3. His work in Christians: regenerates us to new life (indwell), help us, unify us, control/guide us, eternally seal us, give us spiritual gifts, make us holy, produce spiritual fruit, produce worship.
   4. The Spirit is Christ in us the moment we receive Christ—he is fully available and starts changing us inside out.
      1. Foundation 7: Galatians 5:22-25 - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

1. **If “Christians” have the Holy Spirit living inside of us, how do we end up in recovery?**
   1. Not truly a believer. Only have a sinful nature—no Spirit. No choice but to sin.
   2. We choose rebellion. Live in sinful world. Sinful nature is not fully laid to rest. We choose to follow own desires and own purpose or seek life in something other than God—misplaced worship.
   3. Trying to live spiritual life by our own strength.
      1. Pride. We don’t like weakness. Don’t want to be dependent. Muscle through temptation.
      2. Still trying to earn God’s love. We forget God’s love is not earned—it is a gift (grace). God already loves us perfectly—we don’t need to perform for him. God doesn’t want us to try harder, he wants us to draw closer. We need God—not only to save us, but to get through each day. “humbly ask God to change us.” He will give us what we need by his Spirit
      3. Galatians 3:3 - *Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*
2. **Identity**
   1. Letting something other than God take preeminence in defining who you are, your value or your purpose.
   2. Good/bad examples: Relationship. Past sin. Race. Career. Tribalism. Your own ego, low self-worth.
   3. Prominent example today: “sexual orientation.”
      1. Church, gay community and now society say that “sexual orientation” defines who we are.
      2. Human desires don’t define who we are, what is right/wrong, our value as a person, or if God loves us. God decides. That was the sin of Adam and Eve. Human nature desires to rebel against God’s will. God isn’t trying to keep us from good. He is protecting us from death and directing us to where life is found. We need to deny our natural desires to follow God’s will.
         1. Luke 9:23 - *If anyone wishes to come after me he must deny himself take up his cross daily and follow me. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it…*
      3. To same-sex attraction: God loves you. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. God loves you so much that he sent his beloved son to suffer and die for you so that you might have an intimate relationship with him. In fact, the Bible says that God set eternity in your heart so that you will never be satisfied apart from an eternal relationship with him. There is no relationship, no marriage, no worldly status, no freedom given by legislation that will satisfy your need for joy and love apart from a relationship with Jesus Christ.
      4. We are all in the same boat. We are great sinners with sinful desires living in sinful world. We need to be made new. We need God to change our desires and give us new convictions. We need his strength to give us victory over temptation.
      5. If we belong to Jesus, desires and past sins no longer define us or have to control us. We are preeminently identified by Christ.
         1. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*
   4. How God sees you through Christ: Loved, accepted, chosen, forgiven, blameless, righteous, holy, free, a new creation, his child, an heir, a saint, a co-worker, his temple, a member of Christ’s body, united in Spirit with him, one in fellowship with him, one who bears fruit, a sharer of his nature, someone with direct access to him, someone able to know God, someone able to do God’s will, set apart for his purpose.
3. **New Spirit. New Identity. New Purpose**.
   1. Isaiah 61:1-4 - *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.*
   2. Christ saves/heals/adopts/transforms us and to make us part of his rescue mission and glorify himself.
4. **How do we live by the Spirit? Focus, rely upon and follow Jesus: Trust and Obey.**
   1. Matthew 14:23-32 - *[Jesus] went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat [with the disciples in it] by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night [Jesus] came to [the disciples], walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.*
   2. Peter recognized Jesus’ voice above the wind. Spend time with God to know him—his character and will.
      1. Prayer: talking and listening to God. Watching God work. This is a relationship. Apart from him you can do nothing.
      2. God’s Word. All scripture is God-breathed (See 2 Timothy 3:16).
      3. God’s people. Surround yourself with people who have the Holy Spirit and God’s word. Listen to them.
   3. Peter trusted Jesus. Believed Jesus’ identity: Holy (perfectly good), all-knowing, all-powerful. Leading to life. Believed he was chosen by Jesus for a purpose: Peter embraced God’s identity for him.
   4. Peter loved Jesus. He asked to be with him in the middle of his work: “Command me to come!”
   5. Peter focused on Christ and obeyed: As Peter focused on Jesus, stepped out of the boat and walked toward him, Jesus enabled Peter to do something beyond his natural ability. Only when Peter shifted focus from Jesus to the chaos around him, did he become afraid, doubt Christ, stop following the command to come and begin to sink. When in trouble, Peter called to Jesus (he prayed) and was rescued. We can fault Peter for little faith—but to my knowledge I know of no other disciple in the history of the world to walk on water. This is the one whom Christ built the church upon. 2 Chronicles 16:9 - *The eyes of the Lord…*
5. **Conclusion**
   1. God loves you. He saved you for purpose a purpose. He is not trying to keep you from good but leading you to a truly abundant life. The Spirit will give you everything you need if you are willing to fully follow Christ. Ask him to change you, draw close to him, focus on him, know his will, depend on him to trust and obey his will. You will face chaos and temptation, he promises love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control through all circumstances. He will transform you and use you in supernatural ways.
   2. Pray Step 7, Follow: We humbly ask God’s Spirit to change our hearts and minds to follow Christ fully.