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Your Desire to Become More

It is good to write you! I can't tell you how much I look forward to writing my letter every month. I pray they are a blessing and encouragement to you. This is an exciting time in our lives because God is truly faithful to His Word. It's from God's Word that we learn that there is always hope for change and victory in our lives. Past frustrations can discourage us to accept how life is but in our hearts we desire to walk in the best of the Lord for every area of our lives.

Our past doesn't matter; we can all grow and mature in Him. I'm personally stronger now than I was before. Even as I realize there is so much more of God ahead, it has taken patience and persistence to mature to the place that I am today. Praise God that I didn't settle for second best! Years ago, just after I got serious with God, I had a glimpse of what He had in store for me. I saw myself preaching to thousands of people. It was hard to believe, and I told God at the time, He had the wrong guy.

Although I really wanted to be the man He wanted me to be and do the things He called me to do, I looked on the inside and could not find that man that He wanted me to be. I felt that it was impossible for me to become who He wanted me to be. However, I also knew that even though I was not strong enough in myself, I could be strong enough through Him. I believed that if I were to live a life of obedience, He could put in me what He wanted to put in and take out of me what He wanted to take out.

Obedience became my hope even with the many times while following God I didn't understand why He chose some directions for me, but as I learned to trust in Him, I discovered that He always had a greater plan. Our only choice then is simple, trust Him and then follow. I've known for a long time that without God's direction I could never succeed, but with Him all things are possible! That's why I can say that I am very excited about all that God has in store for you!

God loves you. His heart is and always was to see you succeed in everything He has for you. He will never turn his back on you. The more I spend time in His presence the more I learn just how much He loves us. My greatest battle in life had been to believe that I could actually become who God wanted me to be and to believe that God believed in me.

I can remember the day I got serious with God. I was eighteen years old and had been going to church for just over a year. It was summertime in Alberta, Canada. A group of us were in a car coming from a Christian concert. It wasn't what happened at the concert that changed me; it was what happened after. It was a long ride home from a different town, and as I write this letter to you, I can still remember every detail.

It was cool with a slight breeze; there were a few clouds out that shadowed the night. The moon was beautiful, and as I was driving, I looked up hoping to see the northern lights dance

across the sky. I didn't know that was the night I would give my life over to God. I was already saved and faithful to church, but this was greater than that.

On the way home, we stopped off at a little farm town where they were having an outside celebration, and I ran into some friends from the youth group I attended. They were drunk and seemed to be having a good old-fashioned time. It was right then and there that I made my decision to change. I wasn't mad at them for drinking; it was the fact that I could see myself in them that pushed me over the edge. I had been saved, but still standing at the place where I controlled my future. I knew that it was time to step over the line and change.

This is the moment I gave Him all of me. I cried and said, "No matter the cost, I want to be who You want me to be." I was no longer waiting to believe in me; I simply decided to believe in His love for me. Always remember that to begin change is simple, it always and only starts with a decision to be different. Don't let your past experiences stop you from stepping closer to God. He will not reject you, but He will embrace you. If you haven't already, now is the time for you to stand up and begin to walk into who Jesus says you are.

Ephesians 1:3 tells you who Jesus has already made you. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ."* We are already blessed. Ephesians goes on to tell us in chapter 2:5-6 *"even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,"* you are already seated with Christ.

And the desire to become more than you are is already inside of you. I know, because it was in me. In every one of us, there is a desire for more, and the first step is simple: start to change. I lacked so much in my belief in myself; I had to put my trust into Him! The decision was my first step, and I had many more to go, but by His grace, I'm still walking. There has not been one step that I could have made without Him. You and I, we have great futures ahead. Let's keep walking!

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