

Breaking Through **How Does God Want Us to Be Different?**

I. Introduction

A. You have been made new!

1. I Peter 1:14-16 (NLT) ¹⁴Obey God because you are his children. Don't slip back into your old ways of doing evil; you didn't know any better then. ¹⁵But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God—who chose you to be his children—is holy. ¹⁶For he himself has said, "You must be holy because I am holy."
2. "Holy" - - "set apart"
3. I Thessalonians 5:23 (NAS) *Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.*
4. We need to choose to be different!
5. A disciplined person in the faith is someone who continually chooses to live like who God says they are!
6. What you think about you eventually feel, and what you feel you eventually do.
7. I Peter 1:13 (NLT) *So think clearly and exercise self-control. Look forward to the special blessings that will come to you at the return of Jesus Christ.*
8. I Peter 1:18-19 (NLT) ¹⁸For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. ¹⁹He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.
9. Be different because God paid a ransom for you!

II. How Does God Want Us to Be Different?

A. By loving one another

1. I Peter 1:22 (NLT) *Now you can have sincere love for each other as brothers and sisters because you were cleansed from your sins when you accepted the truth of the Good News. So see to it that you really do love each other intensely with all your hearts.*
2. John 13:35 (NAS) *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*
3. You choose to love!
4. Love is learned!

B. By disciplining our tongue

1. I Peter 2:1 (NLT) *So get rid of all malicious behavior and deceit. Don't just pretend to be good! Be done with hypocrisy and jealousy and backstabbing.*
2. Proverbs 21:23 (NAS) *He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles.*
3. Proverbs 10:18b-19 (NAS) ¹⁸And he who spreads slander is a fool. ¹⁹When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.
4. James 3:2 (NAS) *For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.*
5. Maturity is partially measured by our speech!

C. By longing for God's Word

1. I Peter 2:2-3 (NLT) ²You must crave pure spiritual milk so that you can grow into the fullness of your salvation. Cry out for this nourishment as a baby cries for milk, ³now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.
2. The Bible is our owner's manual for how to live our lives!
3. Joshua 1:8 (NAS) *"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success."*
4. Psalm 1:1-3 (NAS) ¹How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. ³He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.

5. Psalm 119:9-11 (NAS) ⁹*How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.*
¹⁰*With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments.* ¹¹*Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.*

III. Conclusion