

THE 28th.LIFE

THE EMBERS

MODULE 1 — SANCTIFYING GRACE

Becoming More Like Jesus Every Day

Module Overview

Welcome to **THE EMBERS**.

The spark of faith has been ignited. Now God desires to fan those embers into a steady, enduring fire.

When you first placed your faith in Jesus Christ, something incredible happened. Through His grace, your sins were forgiven, your relationship with God was restored, and you became His beloved child. The Bible calls this **justification**—God's gracious declaration that you are made right with Him through faith in Jesus Christ.

But salvation is not the finish line.

It is the beginning of a lifelong journey.

From the moment you trusted Christ, the Holy Spirit began another work within you—a work of transformation. This ongoing process is called **sanctification**. Day by day, God shapes your heart, renews your mind, and forms you into the likeness of Jesus.

This transformation doesn't happen overnight.

It happens as we continually respond to God's grace through prayer, Scripture, worship, fellowship, obedience, and service. These practices do not earn God's love—they position us to receive and cooperate with the grace He freely gives.

John Wesley described this as **Sanctifying Grace**—God's continuing work of making us holy through the power of His Spirit.

In this first module, you'll discover that spiritual growth is not about striving harder or becoming "good enough." It is about learning to cooperate with the work God is already doing within you.

The embers are glowing.

Now let God strengthen them into a steady fire.

"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

— Philippians 1:6

Learning Objectives

By the end of Module 1, you will:

- Understand the difference between justification and sanctification.
 - Recognize the Holy Spirit's role in spiritual transformation.
 - Learn how to cooperate with God's sanctifying grace.
 - Develop realistic expectations for spiritual growth.
 - Discover practical ways to pursue Christlikeness every day.
 - Trust God's faithfulness in completing the work He has begun.
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LESSON 1 — FROM SAVED TO TRANSFORMED

Theme

Salvation begins our relationship with God. Sanctification deepens it throughout our lives.

Key Scriptures

- Romans 3:21–26
 - Ephesians 2:8–10
 - Philippians 1:6
 - Titus 3:4–7
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Big Idea

God doesn't simply forgive us—He transforms us.

Introduction

Imagine adopting a child into your family.

The moment the adoption is finalized, that child legally becomes your son or daughter.

That relationship changes instantly.

But learning to live as a member of that family takes time.

The Christian life is much the same.

When you trusted Christ, you were immediately forgiven and welcomed into God's family.

Your identity changed in a moment.

Your character, however, continues to grow over a lifetime.

Justification

Justification answers the question:

"How can I be made right with God?"

The answer is simple:

Through Jesus Christ.

Because of His death and resurrection:

- Your sins are forgiven.
- Your guilt is removed.
- You are declared righteous.
- You become God's child.

None of this is earned.

It is entirely God's gift of grace.

Sanctification

Sanctification answers a different question:

"Now that I belong to God, how does He change me?"

God begins transforming:

- Your desires.
- Your thoughts.
- Your attitudes.
- Your priorities.
- Your relationships.
- Your character.

This is God's lifelong work.

Reflection

1. What does it mean to know you are fully accepted by God?
 2. In what areas do you already see God changing you?
 3. Why is it encouraging that spiritual growth takes time?
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Weekly Challenge

Read Romans 8 this week and identify ways the Holy Spirit works in believers.

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for saving me through Your grace. Help me trust that the same grace that forgave me is also transforming me every day.

Amen.

Memory Verse

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

— Philippians 1:6

LESSON 2 — THE HOLY SPIRIT: GOD'S TRANSFORMING PRESENCE

Theme

The Holy Spirit is actively shaping every believer into the likeness of Christ.

Key Scriptures

- John 14:15–27
 - Romans 8:1–17
 - Galatians 5:16–26
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18
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Big Idea

You do not grow spiritually through willpower alone—you grow through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

Many Christians try to live the Christian life in their own strength.

God never intended that.

When Jesus returned to the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to live within every believer.

The Holy Spirit is not merely a force or influence.

He is God Himself, present with us every day.

What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

The Holy Spirit:

- Guides us into truth.
- Convicts us of sin.
- Gives wisdom.
- Produces spiritual fruit.
- Comforts us.
- Empowers us to obey.
- Reminds us of Jesus' teaching.

As we surrender to His leadership, we become more like Christ.

Walking by the Spirit

Every day we make choices.

We can:

- Follow our own desires.
- Follow God's leading.

Walking by the Spirit means continually choosing God's direction over our own.

Reflection

1. How have you experienced God's guidance?
 2. What area of your life needs greater surrender?
 3. How can you become more aware of the Spirit's presence?
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Weekly Challenge

Each morning pray:

"Holy Spirit, guide me today."

Then record moments where you sensed His direction.

Prayer

Holy Spirit,

Teach me to recognize Your voice and follow Your leading. Continue shaping me into the person God created me to become.

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."

— Galatians 5:16

LESSON 3 — COOPERATING WITH GOD'S GRACE

Theme

God provides the power for transformation. We respond through faithful obedience.

Key Scriptures

- Philippians 2:12–13
 - John 15:1–8
 - James 1:22–25
 - Hebrews 12:1–2
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Big Idea

Spiritual growth is not passive. We actively cooperate with the work God is doing within us.

Introduction

Some people believe spiritual growth depends entirely on human effort.

Others believe believers have no responsibility at all.

The Bible teaches something beautiful.

God works.

We respond.

He provides the power.

We choose obedience.

This partnership is the heart of sanctifying grace.

Positioning Yourself for Growth

God has given us practices that help us remain connected to Him.

These include:

- Prayer
- Scripture
- Worship
- Fellowship
- Serving
- Confession
- Generosity

These practices do not earn God's grace.

They place us where His transforming work can flourish.

Think of a sailboat.

The sailor cannot create the wind.

But he can raise the sail.

Reflection

1. Which spiritual discipline helps you connect with God most?
2. Which discipline needs more attention?
3. What is one practical step you can take this week?

Weekly Challenge

Choose one spiritual discipline to practice intentionally every day this week.

Prayer

Lord,

Help me cooperate with the work You are doing within me. Give me a willing heart, faithful habits, and complete trust in Your transforming grace.

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Continue to work out your salvation...for it is God who works in you."

— Philippians 2:12–13

LESSON 4 — A LIFETIME OF BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

Theme

Spiritual maturity is measured by faithfulness, not perfection.

Key Scriptures

- Romans 12:1–2
 - 2 Peter 1:3–11
 - Colossians 3:1–17
 - Hebrews 12:1–3
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Big Idea

God's goal is not simply to make you better—it is to make you more like Jesus.

Introduction

Growth rarely happens overnight.

Trees take years to mature.

Strong relationships develop over time.

Faith grows the same way.

There will be seasons of rapid growth.

There will be seasons that seem slow.

There will even be setbacks.

But God remains faithful through every season.

Signs of Spiritual Growth

As sanctification continues, you may notice:

- Greater love.
- Increased patience.
- More peace.
- Growing humility.
- Deeper trust.
- Greater compassion.
- A stronger desire to obey God.
- More grace toward others.

The goal isn't perfection.

The goal is becoming more like Christ.

Looking Ahead

Throughout **THE EMBERS**, you'll continue learning how God transforms every area of your life.

Each module will help strengthen the embers of your faith until they burn with steady conviction, resilient hope, and Christlike love.

Reflection

1. Where have you seen the greatest spiritual growth?
 2. What season of growth are you currently experiencing?
 3. How does God's patience encourage you?
 4. What kind of person is God shaping you to become?
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Weekly Challenge

Ask a trusted Christian friend or mentor:

"Where have you seen God growing me?"

Listen with gratitude and humility.

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for never giving up on me. Continue shaping my heart until my life reflects the love, humility, holiness, and compassion of Jesus. Help me trust Your timing and remain faithful as You continue Your good work within me.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Memory Verse

"We all...are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

— 2 Corinthians 3:18

Module 1 Wrap-Up

The Christian life is not about earning God's approval—it is about living in response to the grace you've already received.

Through **Justifying Grace**, God forgave your sins and welcomed you into His family. Through **Sanctifying Grace**, He continues to shape you into the image of His Son. This work is not powered by your perfection but by His faithfulness.

As you cooperate with the Holy Spirit through prayer, Scripture, worship, fellowship, and obedience, the embers of your faith grow stronger. Over time, what began as a single spark becomes a steady fire that reflects the character of Christ.

As you continue your journey through **THE EMBERS**, you'll discover that transformation begins with understanding who you are because of Christ.

In **Module 2**, you'll explore **Your Identity in Christ**, learning how God's truth about you can replace fear, shame, insecurity, and striving with confidence, freedom, and purpose as His beloved child.