



Name of Book : Becoming Like Jesus

Author : Gbile Akanni

No. Of pages :300

Reviewer : Ruth A. Alfa(Mrs)

The book BECOMING LIKE JESUS is authored by our brother Gbile Akanni. It was first published in May 1997, well over a decade ago. The book is a Christian Classics printed in an easy-to-read style! The book centres on a great spiritual adventure of steps to take to become a disciple of Jesus with the ultimate goal of actually becoming like Jesus in every sphere of life.

The book opens with a great offer God makes to His creature, mere mortals like you and I, if we dare to come to Him: the offer of Himself, His very self. This offer is His package of salvation for us. This package is not just the forgiveness of our sins but much more than that, He offers to be our father. He desires to be make us His own dear children. And when we become His children “Our inheritance is not just some material things we can gather here and there. God Himself becomes our heritage. All that God is and has, all His power, all His wisdom, all His creation are laid out for us to inherit”. God is committed to this. He is standing with all His authority and power to back up this promise and make an effective reality to all who come to Him, even Now!

How can we access this great offer? This is what the book BECOMING LIKE JESUS seeks to address. Thus we can access this offer by becoming a disciple of Jesus. When you become a disciple of Jesus, you will be involved in discipleship which is “a process whereby a Christian who has voluntarily surrendered himself to the Lord Jesus Christ is being made to become like Jesus by various exposures, activities and discipline, administered by the leadership and determination of the Lord Himself. The goal of discipleship is not to make a Christian become like another brother or sister but to become like Jesus Christ, to be conformed to His very image.

The book goes further to define who a disciple is and the conditions which must be fulfilled before you can qualify as a true disciple of Jesus Christ. “A disciple is first of all a person who is born again”, who has voluntarily decided to take up Jesus' yoke and put it on his own neck, a man who has surrendered his life to be tied down for the Master's use and a learner. We must strive to become disciples of Jesus because: It is commanded for effective fulfillment of the Great Commission, God uses only men whom He has formed, discipleship fosters an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus, you will be at God's disposal for future use, it is God's means

of knowing those who are His; and because the deep things of God belong to disciples.

WHY don't you become a disciple of Jesus today?

To become a disciple however there are conditions to be fulfilled. These conditions are embedded in Luke 9:23 "And He said unto them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me". These conditions are universal and applicable to all. They apply to both men and women, rich and poor, religious and irreligious. They are applicable to all men of all ages, all races, all generations and all backgrounds.

To follow Jesus, you must deny self i.e. "the totality of your personality, the complete identity with which you are known. Self determines your character, your ambition, your concepts, your goals and your ego. Your self must be crucified with Christ so you can rise to newness of life. Then you must take up your cross daily and follow Jesus. Taking up your cross daily implies that you can damn the world system and all it offers.

The cross is God's implement for terminating the old Adamic nature in us. The cross terminates every heredity of the old nature i.e. self, be it sinful habit, a sickness or a trait that is contrary to God. The cross is the end of all corruption of self. The cross is also the take-off point for the New life. The resurrection life begins at the cross. Taking up your cross daily implies that you keep reckoning that you have been crucified with Christ and you are not the one who lives anymore but Christ who lives in you.

The last condition for becoming a disciple of Christ is that you must follow Jesus. Follow His lifestyle. Let Him be your example, the pattern and standard for life and living, for every endeavour in life. When this becomes your experience, you will gradually be conformed to the very image of Christ as you keep following and walking in His steps by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

You can follow Jesus practically by cultivating His mind and beholding His glory as you study the word of God the bible, and as you walk in the spirit. Following Jesus is the only way to become a fellow heir with Him. Only a follower can become a fellow with Him. Followers of today are the apostles of tomorrow.

The book has been a challenge to my own personal life. It is a good resource for assessment of my walk with God. It made me lay all my cards on the table to check one after the other whether or not I'm still on track and in line with God's word. What do you want to make of this? Will you not also come on this ship DISCIPLESHIP?