

PRISON LETTERS

EPHESIANS



PRISON LETTERS

Fill in the blank:

"I am most like Jesus when _____."



PRISON LETTERS

“I am most Jesus like when I celebrate
God’s work in others”



¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves,

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Healthy things grow,
growing things change

The moment we stop transforming is the
moment we start decaying

1) “ONCE”



¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

EPHESIANS 2:1-3

³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

EPHESIANS 2:1-3

Sin is understood as missing the mark

Transgression is understood as crossing
the boundaries

Iniquity is understood as twistedness

“The more important something is,
the more words you will find in that
culture for that something.”

- Sinclair Ferguson -

The words “once” confirms that a transformation has taken place and Jesus Christ is the Transformer

2) “BECAUSE”



⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

EPHESIANS 2:4-5

The word “because” tells us that the transforming work of Jesus is conditional upon something

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

JOHN 15:13

¹⁴ What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” ¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.

ROMANS 9:14-16

When love and mercy are applied, new
spiritual life begins

**3) “IN ORDER
THAT”**



⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 2:6-7

We are not in heaven literally, but we
are positionally seated with Christ

¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

ROMANS 8:17

¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; ¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

4) “FOR”



⁸ **For** it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ **For** we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

HEBREWS 11:1

We are not just a beautiful masterpiece
of grace, but we are useful vessels
for good works

When it comes to our partnership with
God, predestination works in cooperation
with faith

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“We are most like Jesus like when we
celebrate God’s work in others”



PRISON LETTERS

PHILIPPIANS

