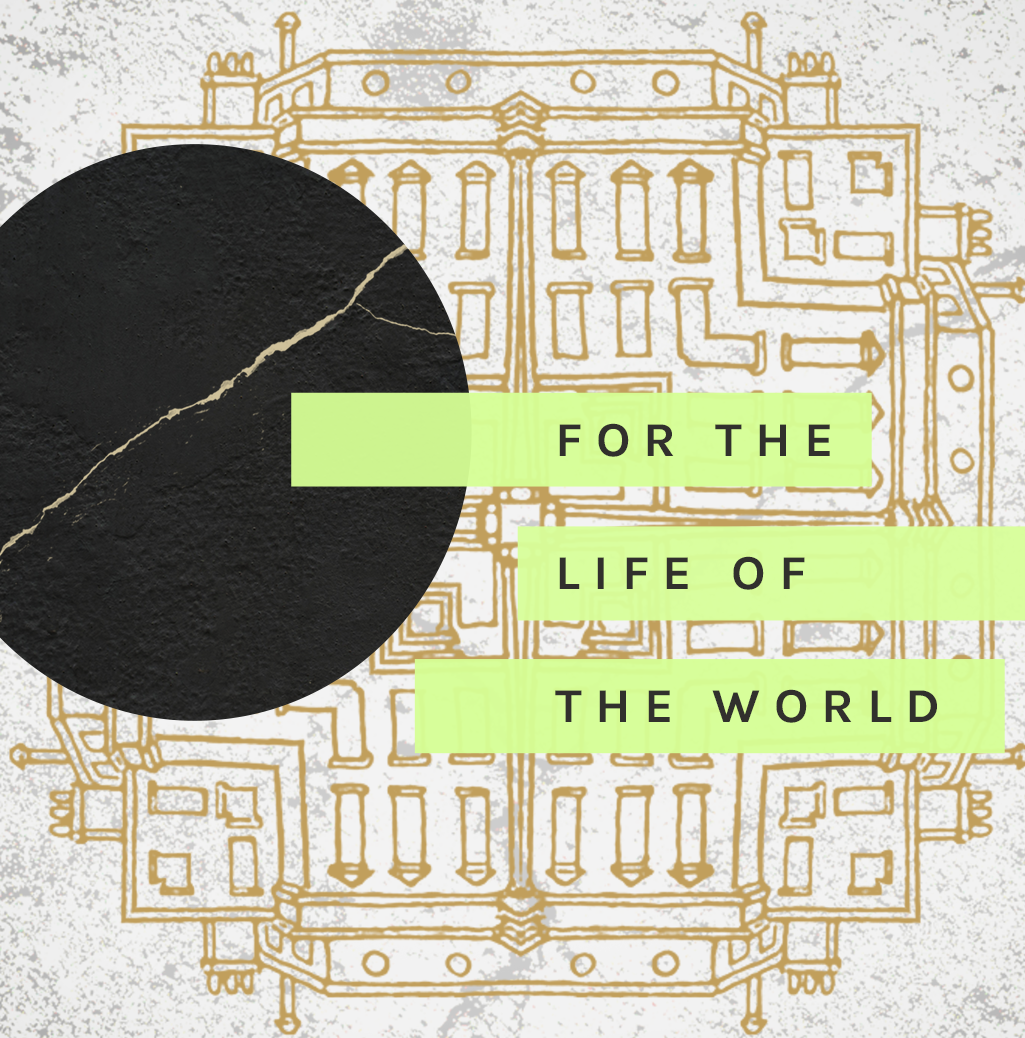


FOR THE

LIFE OF

THE WORLD



**Practicing the Way of Jesus (Formation)  
Together (Community)  
For the Life of the World (Mission)**

From ages 17 until about age 23, I was a born-again Christian, something I'm usually embarrassed to admit here in New York City. To use the jargon of my former life, I became a "believer" in Christ shortly after my mom "got saved" — the term evangelicals use to mean a conversion to a very specific kind of Christianity, the Billy Graham and gay Teletubbies kind that preaches Jesus as the only path to salvation.

Jessica Misener

# PERSONAL RENEWAL

**CONTEXT**

**Nicodemus: A dissatisfied, skeptical  
religious seeker**

**THE LIFE WE ALL LONG FOR**

**Born From Above**



**Flesh Gives Birth to Flesh**

Flesh denotes the whole of our creaturely being insofar as it seeks to organize itself and to exist in its own power and part from the continually renewed presence and power of God.

Leslie Newbigin

# Post-Pandemic Reinvention

The key to building last habits (change) is focusing on creating a new identity first. Your current behaviors are simply a reflection of your current identity. What you do now is a mirror image of the type of person you believe that you are (either consciously or subconsciously). To change your behavior for good, you need to start believing new things about yourself. You need to build identity-based habits...Decide the person you want to be, and prove it to yourself with small wins.

James Clear

# Reinvention vs. Regeneration

# Water and Spirit

I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will place My Spirit within you and cause you to follow My statutes and carefully observe My ordinances. Then you will live in the land that I gave your fathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will summon the grain and make it plentiful, and will not bring famine on you.

Ezekiel 36

Regeneration is the re-creation of spiritual life in those who are dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1). It occurs in the depths off the human heart, at the roots of consciousness, infusing new life which is capable of spiritual awareness, perception and response, and is no longer “alienated from the life of God” (Eph. 4:18).

Richard Lovelace



Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense.

What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.

CS Lewis

There is no rest, where ye seek it. Seek what ye seek; but it is not there where ye seek.

St. Augustine

# HOW PERSONAL RENEWAL WORKS

**Descended From Heaven**

**If I Am Lifted Up**

**Personal renewal precedes corporate renewal**