

# Being conformed to the image of Christ – a process that begins with the new birth

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word that you may grow (in Christ) thereby.  
2:3 If so be that you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Jesus Christ is the word of God

II Peter 1:3 ... His divine power has given to us all things that pertain unto life and godliness (Christlikeness), through the knowledge of Him ... (the Word of God is the knowledge of God).

II Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises (the word of God): that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature (Christ),

Jesus Christ is the word of God

Coloss. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;  
Ephes. 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;

Jesus Christ is the word of God

Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.  
John 6:48 I am that bread of life.  
John 6:54 Whoso eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, has ..life;  
John 6:63 The words I speak to you they are ... life.

Jesus Christ is the word of God

I Corinth. 1:30 ...Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us ... sanctification,  
John 17:17 Sanctify them through Your truth, Your word is truth.

**The formation of Christ, the living word, in the heart of a believer is progressive:**

- Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, ...
- Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ (be clothed with Him in the inner man), ...
- I Corinth. 1:30 ...Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom...
- James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom (Christ Jesus), let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally, ...
- Coloss. 3:10 ...the new man, which is renewed in knowledge (God's word) after the image of him that created him (Christ Jesus): - (this renewing is day by day II Cor. 4:16)
- II Corinth. 3:18 But we .. beholding ...the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image (of Christ) from glory (living word) to glory (living word) , even as by the Spirit of the Lord.
- Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

[Matthew Henry commentary on this verse: "That Christ is not fully formed in men until they are brought off from trusting in their own righteousness and made to rely only upon Him and His righteousness".

John Gill commentary on this verse: " Now though ... Christ was formed in them before, when he first preached the gospel to them, yet it was not a perfect man.. therefore he labored exceedingly .. to bring them to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. It is also the same as to be conformed to the image of Christ, which in regeneration is stamped upon the saints, and is gradually increased..."]

- Coloss. 2:7 Rooted and built up in him,..
- Ephes. 4:13 Until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: