**John 2: A miracle of transformation by One who has authority**

**Main: God has the ability to change us, even you!**

**Context: John the Baptist has just finished emphasizing the reception and baptism of the Spirit - John 1:32-33 This event is also emphasized by Jesus at the time of His ascension, after which time the 120 disciples went back to Jerusalem, prayed, and the Spirit baptized them into the Body of Christ (Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4).**

**So, when Jesus transforms the nature of water into wine, it’s not surprising to realize the Spirit’s work in transforming us. But, one difference is that God doesn’t take away our flesh, our inclination to sin. All believers have new natures that are trapped in a sinful body which, left to itself, will dominate us (Rom. 7:22-24; Gal. 5:16-18). It is “uncooperative, or as Paul calls it, “dead” (Rom. 8:10).**

**Today, I want to talk about how it works, how believers trapped in dead, uncooperative bodies can be transformed by a miracle from God, like turning water to wine, like the last great proof that Jesus is the Christ when the Spirit gave life to a dead body and raised Christ from the dead.**

**John 2 – The Text: The First Sign**

**Jn. 2:4 “Not yet” – John was still alive, Jesus’ ministry had not yet begun**

**2:10 – “They won’t notice as much later”**

**2:11, 23 - This first sign alone was enough**

**2:24 – However, "Jesus did not commit Himself to" these believers. This does not mean they were not really saved, as many have suggested without the slightest warrant from John. On the contrary, the writer states plainly that they "believed in His name" [see 1:12-13]. But John's words do indicate that the level of their knowledge of Jesus remained rudimentary. He did not "disclose" Himself to them more fully - ZCH**

**Two very popular, but incorrect, theological ideas**

**1) We get eternal life by being good**

**2) Believers automatically are good or they are not believers**

**Realities we have to accept**

**1) Failure definitely IS an option Gal. 5:16-18; Rom. 7:14-25; 8:10**

* **Left to ourselves, the Christian life is impossible**

**2) You can’t change you - 2 Cor. 3:18**

* **Reflect on this – it’s a process: Glory to glory**

**3) We have what we need - 2 Peter 1:3**

* **When we believed, we got a “package deal”**

**How it works**

**4) “Baby, you were reborn this way” - Jas. 1:23**

* **Real change begins with a new identity**

**5) Go on with your bad self - Rom. 6:1, 11-12**

* **The old you is dead; let it go, let it go**

**6) You have two “I’s” - Rom 7:21-24**

* **You’re imprisoned in yourself Rom. 8:1**

**7) Tell the truth - 1 John 1:7**

* **Let’s be honest; you can’t change without it**

**8) The renovation of our thinking – Rom. 8:5-6; Rom. 12:2**

* **Our mindset; the Spirit’s way of thinking; the “renovation of our thinking”**

**9) You just call out My name – Ps. 116; Rom. 10:9-15**

* **We do not have, because…**

**10) Faith is the victory – Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:14-21**

* **We can trust Him because**
  + **He loves us**
  + **He can do anything**
* **Rom. 8:11 – A growing Christian is a resurrection miracle**