2 Corinthians 3:18 - 8 But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. NASB

Thank God that this privilege is ours as Christians. We don’t just get forgiven of our sins, but we get transformed into the very goodness of God’s own character, the image of His Son Jesus.

Train your heart to be humble
Since the heart disposition of humility is of such dire importance in the process of sanctification and image bearing, it is important for us to learn to be disciplined in humility. So often we naturally revert to our old proud self and need a regular renewal of our thinking in the Word and in prayer. But consider that we could use a regular refresher on pride and humility to re-orient our thinking.

Luke 18:10 - 14 “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted.” NASB
Philippians 2:3-4 - 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. NASB
Romans 12:10 - 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; NASB
Romans 12:16 - 16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. NASB
Colossians 3:12-13 - 12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. NASB

Growing in humility starts with a recognition of our pride and an active killing of this sinful heart attitude, and the replacement of it with the godliness of humble child-like faith. We must come to see that the sinful posture of pride is arrogantly lifted up against God’s authority, bent on rebellion in defiance of His will, and willing to commit treason with contempt of His holy Law. The great beast of pride must be slain in our hearts if Christ will rule there! Therefore we need a regular reminder and refresher on the importance of this process of mortifying our pride and putting on humility. Here I have made several suggestions toward that end.

- **Read** the Bible everyday coming to it with a humble submissive attitude of prayer and faith. The Bible will humble you.
- **Pray regularly** for discernment of pride and God to grant you humility
- Get or make a Bible bookmark with a scripture and or principle about humility.
- **Read** a book on pride and humility annually. Here are some recommendations;
  - From Pride to Humility by Stuart Scott
  - Gospel Powered Humility by William Farley
  - Humility by Andrew Murray
  - Humility True Greatness by CJ Mahaney
  - Humility The Forgotten Virtue by Wayne Mack
  - The Prideful Soul’s Guide to Humility by Thomas Jones and Michael Fontenot

Understanding the Virtues – His image in us
Now as we have had a good look at the heart disposition of humility that is needed to cultivate virtue in any meaningful sense, and also an intense look at the crowning and chief virtue of love, let us now consider several other virtues that are part of the nature of God and also the fruit of the Holy Spirit powerfully abiding in us. Without a doubt one section of Scripture that shines a
bright light on these is that passage on the fruit of the Spirit. This is not an exhaustive list of virtues, but indeed an important one.

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. NASB

Here we see the "fruit of the Spirit" listed as a complex of virtues described as the virtuous product of the Holy Spirit abiding in us. When one lives under the domination of the Holy Spirit this produces the very character and nature of God in us, which emanates from our lives like a fruit tree or vine. This virtue is the “product” of a Spirit filled and dominated life.

Joy true and lasting

Any survey of joy in the Bible reveals that there are several kinds of joy that we experience. Joy is also many times spoken of as happiness, contentment, exaltation, satisfaction, cheerfulness or even amusement. These surely are types of joy and also enjoyment that we experience. Often times these kinds of joy come as a result of our circumstances or in joy that we derive from people, places or things. But this kind of joy is a natural joy that comes from the natural environment which can change as quickly as our circumstances. Often people seek to find lasting contentment from things in the natural world and wind up sorely disappointed because everything that is in the world is transient and passing away. But there is another kind of joy that is spoken of in the Bible that is a supernatural and therefore true and lasting kind of joy. This is the joy of the Holy Spirit that is produced by God in response to His promises and the spiritual realities of His Kingdom that we Christian believers experience every day. It is a product of the powerful work of the Spirit within us and a result of living in God’s Kingdom.

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. NASB

Romans 14:16-17 - 6 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

This kind of spiritual joy is normally a reasoned response to the knowledge and experience of the goodness of God in our everyday Christian life and it is also a commandment from God that we actually rejoice at all of His goodness in our lives. Therefore there is a host of good things in our lives that can elicit this kind of joy, and because the things of God’s Kingdom are true and lasting, our joy in those things can stand the test of even the most difficult circumstances of life. As result we can rejoice in God Himself and all of His goodness and blessing in our lives.

Psalm 43:4 - 4 Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And upon the lyre I shall praise Thee, O God, my God. NASB

Isaiah 61:10 - 10 I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. NASB

We rejoice in Christ and His salvation. For example, the Scripture says we rejoice simply in knowing Christ our Savior and Lord, even in the midst of the difficult trails of life.

1 Peter 1:3-9 - 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. NASB

The work of Christ on our behalf brings us much joy!