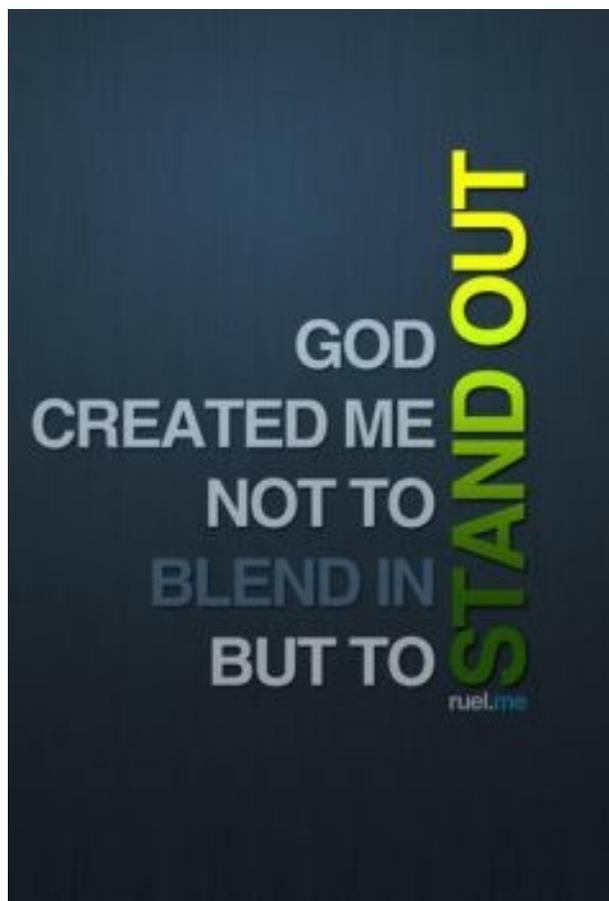


One thing that we have got really good at is conforming or blending into the world we live in. However we are not called to fit or blend in but rather to stand out. As Christians we are being called to stand out and stop just going with the flow. Romans 12: 2 tells us: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect". This has been a tough verse for me over the years because I did not want to stand out for Jesus. It was so hard for the me to separate myself from the things the world had to offer. I realized that I needed to change and that had to happen from the inside out. My heart and mind had to change, it needed a transformation that can only come from God. So I want to ask you "Why should you just fit in, when you can stand out?" Jesus didn't blend in, he stood out and if we are to model the life of Jesus then you and I have to stand out! Remember Jesus was trend setter, he did things that turned the religious establishment upside down. He came as a servant, he came to wash feet and to humble himself so that his Father in Heaven would receive the glory. He reached out to the poor and those in need, His love was available to all not just for the Jews but, also those gentiles, the rich and the poor. I love the fact that Jesus did not conform to the world standards, he touched the lives of the sick and afflicted, he reach out to the lepers and the outcasts. He accepted them for who they where and he loved them the same. There are no favorites in God's eyes because we are all special. My friend's we are called to stand out, stand out for Jesus. We are called not conform to

the way the world is, but to stand out, so that others can see Jesus. That is his command to different from the rest of the world around you. So how do we stand out? Well, we must have the Holy Spirit dwelling in our lives. We all know the change that happened to the disciples when the Spirit came. Instead of hiding away they stood out. They dared to be different from the world. They were plain ordinary people; until the one day Jesus said come follow me. But Jesus took them and made them stand out. Their lives became changed because of Jesus. Because of Jesus they did not fit in but they stood out, though the Holy Spirit in their lives the physical church began with over 3000 people in one day. Why is it that we aren't seeing grow in our church? Perhaps it's our failure to be filled and led by the Holy Spirit. We try every in our own power and usually fail miserably or at least don't have the impact that we could have if we did it in the power of the Spirit.



I want you to think where have you stood out in your life for Jesus? When you were first saved were you like the Apostle Paul, no one could shut you up? Did you go to the places where you did not follow Jesus and proclaim His name? An article from Life Way concluded that a recent study found 80% of those who attend Church one or more times a month, believe they have a personal responsibility to share their faith, which is great? Also 80% said they have a personal responsibility to share their faith but 61% of that 80% have not told another person about Jesus in the last 6 months. That means that only 19% of those polled reported that they did. To make disciples we have to stand out. The Holy Spirit brings difference; the Holy Spirit brings Power and leadership in our lives. The Holy Spirit is the key and In order to effectively share the gospel we need to rely on the Holy Spirit. If we want to stand out we need to be sure of who we are, why we are here and where our strength comes from. When we surrender our life to God we are finally be in a place to be used by him. People need to be able look at our life and see something different. When you start to stand out, people will take notice and ask who this Jesus is? So don't blend in, stand out!