

battling, struggling with cycles of defeat, believing deep down that this is as good as it gets.

This is *not* as good as it gets. The gospel offers us another way, but practically speaking, where do you begin? Right back to the soul care path. Deep transformation is possible; in fact, it is your birthright, but no quick fix is available.

The invitation to lasting freedom seems at best idealistic, and at worst a cruel invitation to hope. But in reality, God passionately desires to transform you from a twig of shame—think Charlie Brown's Christmas tree—into an oak of righteousness that will display His splendor, His glory—like one of the mighty redwood trees in Yosemite.

SELLING EVERYTHING TO BUY THE TREASURE

I've always been drawn to the story in the gospel of Matthew where a man finds buried treasure in a field, sells everything he has, then buys the field (13:44). Throughout the years of my addiction, I