



Change Isn't Change Until It's Changed

Change is the only constant in life! Things are constantly in flux and changing for good or bad. It is said of governments that *change can come from the top voluntarily OR it will come from the bottom by revolution*. It is true in governments, in marriages, in business, and every arena of life. Changes are coming...ARE YOU READY FOR THEM!

Woodrow Wilson once said, *If you want to make enemies, try changing something.* It has been said that ***the only one who likes change is a baby with a wet diaper!*** *The fact is that you cannot improve the future without disturbing the present...* so said William Booth.

Many are attempting to live in the past while missing out on the future God has planned for them. How sad it would be to realize at the end of our lives that we never discovered the joy that God intended for our lives. Having a willingness to change is the first step, but follow through is the step that many are not choosing to make.

Tim Keller was correct when he said that ***God invites us to come as we are, not to stay as we are.*** Becoming a Christ follower is not about ***idleness*** but rather about ***moving forward, progressing and pressing in to the NEXT that God has in store for us.*** The future will

never be what it can be without the necessary changes that are needed. ***So decide what you want OR settle for what you get!***

Since April of 2021 I have dropped over 80LBS in weight and have seen some noticeable results. For instance I experienced 7 strokes in 3 parts of my brain in June and July of 2016. Not only was I diagnosed with hypertension or high blood pressure but I was told that I was a type 2 diabetic. I was eventually put on 2,000MG of Metformin daily and 25 daily units of insulin. I was on this regimen for nearly 5 years.

When I made the decision to change my weight and lost the 80LBS the result was that I was taken off the Metformin and Insulin completely. Every day my sugars are normal and my A1c dropped from 11.6 to 5.9 in my most recent test. I am thankful to my family for their incredible help but I also thank God for His healing word! This testimony is just one of many examples that I could share regarding the benefits of making needed changes in our lives.

One of my mentor's is the late Dr. Edwin Louis Cole. He said, ***Many men today will change wives, children, businesses, anything, rather than change themselves. Real men face change and reality.*** Among Christians the divorce rate has not changed much in the last number of years. The ***Pew Research Center*** found Protestant individuals (anyone who identified themselves as non-Catholic, but Christian) included 74% of all Christians, and ***had a divorce rate of approximately 51%*** out of a sampling of 4,752 individuals.

There exists a segment of Christians that live their lives believing that God is in control of everything and that nothing happens that He did not approve of or initiate. I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS to be Biblical thinking. Yet if you applied this philosophy to your life then why do anything to improve yourself or your relationships with God and others including your spouse. If God was not the initiator or did not approve of what you were doing to improve your life it would simply be in vain! Thankfully this is NOT the case.

It has been said that the longest journey one can take is ***when WE come to ourselves.*** It is where we finally reach the place where the

lies we believed have lost their power of influence over us and where we begin to embrace the truth that can make us truly free! This was the case with the Prodigal Son in **Luke 15:11-32**.

It is like what Dr. John C. Maxwell said, ***People change when they hurt enough that they have to...They learn enough that they want to...and they receive enough that they are able to!*** These 3 issues of HURTING, LEARNING and RECEIVING enough are the keys to HAVING, WANTING and MAKING the changes we are needing.

George Bernard Shaw got it right when he talked about the reality that ***progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.*** You see, my friend, Dr. A. R. Bernard taught that ***All change begins with a DECISION. Once the decision is made, DISCIPLINE becomes the bridge between desire and accomplishment.***

The fact is ***When you're through changing, you're through!*** This is where things become critical...Repentance is required if you want to get back on the track that will lead you to a better place that will impact your life in its entirety. Rosabeth Moss Kanter said, ***The individuals who will succeed and flourish will also be masters of change: adept at reorienting their own and others' activities in untried directions to bring about higher levels of achievement.***

Are you ready to disturb the present in order to have a better 2022? If so, make this confession out loud: Heavenly Father, I make a willful decision today to make whatever changes I am needing to better myself, my family, my health and my finances in this coming year. I will heed the counsel of Your Word and the wisdom of others who have taken the road that I have yet to travel. I accept the fact that some changes will need to take place in my thinking, in my body, in my marriage and in my relationships along with my heart. Jesus is my Lord and with the help of the

Holy Spirit I believe I will be able to implement necessary changes thus making 2022 the best year of my life...In Jesus Name! Amen!

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