



20 God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us. Ephesians 3:20 (MSG)

- The further away we get from God, the more our lives are **troubled**.
The closer we get to God the more our lives are **transformed**.

How change gets started:

- There comes a point that we get **tired** of our current **condition**.
- We take **responsibility** for our **part** in the problem.
- Our **reason** to change must be greater than our **excuses** to stay as we are.
- It's not who you've **been** or who you **are** that matters, but who you are **becoming**.

Different responses to God changing me:

- God **can't change** me.

Obstacles we face:

- My **sin** is too **great** for God to forgive.
- I don't **deserve** God's **forgiveness**.

Faith step: Accept God's **love** and **forgiveness**.

8 God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God. 9 It's not the result of anything you've done, so no one can brag about it. Ephesians 2:8-9 (GWT)

- "God has **changed** me".

Obstacles we face:

- We become **satisfied** with the change in us.
- We start **tolerating** things in your lives that need to be changed.
- We become **religious**.

Faith step: Allow **change** to **continue**.

2 Put me on trial, LORD, and cross-examine me. Test my motives and my heart. Psalm 26:2 (NLT)

Important issues concerning change:

- Change begins with **surrender**.

33 If you grasp and cling to life on your terms, you'll lose it, but if you let that life go, you'll get life on God's terms. Luke 17:33 (NLT)

- Change is a **process**.

18 All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (MSG)

- Change happens when we **partner** with God.

6 God who began the good work with you will keep right on helping you grow in His grace until His task within you is finally finished. Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

God changes us when:

- We stop grasping for what **we want** in life and start embracing what **God wants**.

33 If you grasp and cling to life on your terms, you'll lose it, but if you let that life go, you'll get life on God's terms. Luke 17:33 (NLT)

- We stop trying to **fit in** and start thinking of how we can **stand out**.

2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:2 (NLT)

- We stop **fighting** God and start allowing Him to **lead** us.

4 ...God is kind, but he's not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change. Romans 2:4 (MSG)

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What's one point from the talk that really stood out to you? What is one scripture that spoke to you?
- Does the idea of God changing you frighten or excite you? Explain.
- People have many reasons why they feel that God can't change them. Talk about the obstacles they face and why these are difficult hurdles to overcome.
- Those that believe that God has changed them, and He's done, face unique obstacles. Talk about the hurdles these individuals face.
- Do you believe that the change God makes in us begins with surrender? Explain.
- Why is it important for us to know that change is a process?
- What does it mean to partner with God in the change He is making in our lives?
- Talk through the points under the heading "God changes us when". Which of these do you struggle with most?
- What are some ways we fight God that keeps Him from leading us?

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