



- The church should be a place that **celebrates** the pursuit of truth.

And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. Acts 17:11

I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate. Romans 7:15 (NLT)

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)

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.
- There has to be a **plan** that supports the change.

An important Question:

Do you really **want** to be **changed**?

Different responses to God changing me:

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

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

God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God. 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".

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

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

Important issues concerning change:

- Change within us begins with **surrender** from us.

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**.

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.

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**.

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**.

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.

...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)

How to partner with God for change:

- Give your **life** to Jesus.

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)

- Get in a **small group**.

People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy. Proverbs 28:13

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5:16a (NLT) (Ecclesiastes 4:8-12)

- Find God's **purpose** for your life.

But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God. Acts 20:24 (NLT)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- In your opinion, how can the church celebrate the pursuit of truth?
- Do you believe that God wants to continually change us? Why do you believe that people don't really want to be changed?
- Why does change within us begin with surrender from us?
- Why's it important to know that change is a process?
- Talk through the points under the sub-heading - God changes us when. Which of these can be a challenge to you? Explain.
- What does it mean to partner with God for change?
- Why is giving our life to Jesus necessary in experiencing change?
- Why is a small group/ Connection Group important if we're going to experience change?
- Why is living God's purpose important in experiencing change?

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Today's Talk..



Can I really change?

Sunday, May 7th, 2023

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