

Changes Only God Could Make

- *I Corinthians 15:51-52*

➤ **One of the great things about the time that we are living in is the changes we have seen, especially over the last 20 years.**

- Changes are not always convenient, but changes are often times necessary for not only our learning, but even for our protection.
- Should the Lord tarry His coming, one thing is for sure, there will be many more changes that will come.
 - The neighborhood that I lived in growing up has made some changes. Some of the people have changed & many of the houses have changed.
 - Our jobs & our responsibilities often times change at work.
 - Our children change as they grow up to become young men & young women.
 - Our bodies change as we get older & along with that our ability to do certain things changes, AMEN?
- But all we have really covered so far is natural changes. But do you understand there are also some spiritual changes that take place as well? Let's discuss a few ...

1. The Is A Change Created Through Our New Birth (II Corinthians 5:17)

- "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
- Every one of us have a story, and every one of us have had a change that HAS taken place, and is CONTINUING to take place in each of our lives.
- I am amazed at where God has brought me from and to where He has brought me today.
 - I grew up in a small family, in a small town, never once thinking that I would do anything significant for God.
 - Even throughout school, I had no idea what I would do or how in the world God would use me.
 - Little did I know that by accepting Christ as my Savior, God had begun a process of change in my life that would lead me down paths that made no sense at the time, but in God's time it made perfect sense.
 - There were struggles & heartache that seemed unfair & I did not understand God's plan, but now I see clearer b/c of the change that God has made in me.
- But I am equally amazed at the change that God has made in each of you.
 - I have told you before, there are some of you that I never expected to be in church.
 - Some of you use to hate the thought of going to church & now you are faithfully serving the Lord each week.
 - Some of you have stepped into places of ministry & are doing some amazing things that I never would have expected.
- And when I see these things, I am reminded that during Jesus earthly ministry, He touched people, and every time He touched them, He changed them.
 - The blind received their sight,
 - The crippled could walk,
 - The demon-possessed found peace & joy.
- And Jesus is still touching lives today through their faith in Jesus Christ.
 - John 1:12 – "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:"

- What a change God made in us when we accepted Jesus Christ & we entered into the family of God!
 - Our sins have been forgiven,
 - Our name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life,
 - And we have a hope of Heaven.
- He lifted us up out of the miry clay, and He set our feet upon a rock!
- We have been set free from our chains of sin & been given a life of freedom & joy in Him.

2. There Is A Change Created Through Growth In Grace (II Peter 3:18)

- "But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen."
- One of the greatest joys I have is to see people come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- But perhaps the next best thing is to see people growing in the Lord through the grace of Christ.
 - Spiritual growth is not something to be taken lightly, nor is it something that is just automatic.
 - Some people never grow.
 - Some may grow for a bit & then all of a sudden they lose focus & get off track.
 - But if a person means business with God & they have given their life completely over to Him, you will see a change begin to take place in their lives & they will begin growing in the Lord.
 - This is what I hope & pray for each time a person is saved.
 - Growth is what these Sunday School teachers & these leaders hope to see in new converts.
- The question might be asked, "Why doesn't everyone grow the same way?" I think the answer is found ...
 - a. In their faithfulness.
 - i. A person that has genuinely been born again, you won't have to beg them to come to church or speak about Christ to others, or to make some changes in their life so they can be closer to God.
 - b. In their Bible reading.
 - i. If you don't know much about the Bible, tell me what the problem is?
 - 1. I don't know much about rebuilding engines. Do you know why? I have never studied it.
 - 2. Likewise, Christians who never pick up the Bible & study it will never grow effectively in their walk with the Lord.
 - c. In their service.
 - i. Just as physical exercise is good for our physical growth, so spiritual exercise is good for our spiritual growth.
- If a person is doing these three things, you will find them growing in the "grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ."

3. There Is A Change Created By Prayer (Luke 9:29)

- "And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered,"
- Prayer changed Jesus, and it will change you & me too.
 - Stonewall Jackson was a great Christian man, even in the midst of war.
 - He said that he was so committed to prayer that he never raised a glass of water to his lips without saying a prayer.
 - He never sealed a letter that he did not pray a prayer for the one receiving it.

- When he was a teacher, he said that as the classes were changing he would pray for the cadets that were coming in & those that were going out.
 - James Gilmour, the great missionary, never used a blotter while writing. He wrote his letters and then prayed while he was waiting for the ink to dry.
- Sometimes people expect prayer to change their circumstances every time. Though it may not always change your circumstances, it will always change us!

4. **The Greatest Change Will Come When Jesus Returns (I Corinthians 15:51-52)**

- “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”
- We have had the joy of talking about this some on Wednesday Nights. I don’t know as much about the end times as Preacher Earl or others know about it, but I know this, in a moment we will one day be changed for eternity.
- The Bible doesn’t give us a day or a time, but it does say that “He will come at the last trump.” Many have wondered what that will be like & what exactly will take place when the Lord returns. One of the best scriptures for that is found in
 - I Thessalonians 4:16-17 – “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”
- The dead in Christ who have gone on before us will be resurrected & we which are alive & remain shall be caught up in the air with them; but then the Bible tells us that we will be changed. What kind of change will this be?
 - It will be a change into the glorious likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - I John 3:2-3 – “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”
- All of our faults & frailties on this earth will in a moment be gone when we mount up with Him & are changed according to His likeness.
- And church, all of this will happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and in that we can rejoice.
- But let me also remind you that His coming is just as fast & it could be at any moment.
 - Are you ready for that time?
 - Are you trusting Him today?
 - Are you loving Him & serving Him with your all today?
 - If you are, this change that we are talking about this afternoon will be the greatest time of your life.
- We are living in a world of constant change. But isn’t it good to know there is One that will NEVER change.
 - He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
 - He never changes.
 - His love never changes,
 - His saving power never changes,
 - His forgiveness, His presence, His longsuffering ... they never change.
- These are Changes Only God Could Make.
 - That change begins the moment we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior.

- I have heard it said all my life, and I attest to its truthfulness today, Jesus can change your life!
- If you are here this morning & you have never allowed this change to take place in your life, why don't you trust in Him today?