

IT'S TIME TO CHANGE

Galatians 5:16-26

- ***What changes would I like to experience in my life in 2024?***
- **Everyone needs to experience "changes" or "improvements" in their life.**
- **We all need to experience change because Jesus is the only perfect person and because we all struggle with our sinful nature (Galatians 5:16-21).**
- *"Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves."* (Galatians 5:16)
- **IT'S TIME TO CHANGE will help us learn how to live a "Spirit-directed life" rather than a "sin dominated life", so we can experience good and godly changes in our attitudes, character and relationships (Galatians 5:16-25).**
- ***What is it going to take for us to really experience positive and powerful changes in our lives in 2024?***

Experiencing Positive And Powerful Life Changes Requires:

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR NEED FOR CHANGE

- *"The Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. . . . When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear . . ."* (Galatians 5:17, 19)
- **No one has ever made good decisions and lived a healthy and holy life when they've followed the desires of their sinful nature.**
- *"Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Romans 7:24-25)
- **The way we live is often discouraging to us, but the Lord will give us the help we need if we acknowledge our need for His help and for change.**

Experiencing Positive And Powerful Life Changes Requires:

BELIEVING THAT <u>GOD</u> CAN CHANGE US

- **Sometimes we believe that we or others are beyond help and hope.**
- *"I pray you will begin to understand how incredibly great His power is to help those who believe Him . . . the same power that raised Christ from the dead."* (Ephesians 1:19-20 TLB)
- **God uses His power that resurrected Jesus to change us and others.**
- Jesus - *"What is impossible for people is possible with God."* (Luke 18:27)
- *"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Experiencing Positive And Powerful Life Changes Requires:

<u>COMMITTING</u> TO LET GOD CHANGE US

- *"Give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind He will find acceptable. . . . Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person . . ."* (Romans 12:1-2)
- **The Lord brings transformation to our lives when we *Commit to Daily Prayer*.**
    - "The principal cause of my leanness and unfruitfulness is owing to an unaccountable backwardness to pray. I can write or read or converse or hear with a ready heart; but prayer is more spiritual and inward than any of these, and the more spiritual any duty is the more my carnal heart is apt to stay from it. Prayer and patience and faith are never disappointed. When I can find my heart in frame and liberty for prayer, everything else is comparatively easy." (Richard Newton)
    - *"All the believers devoted themselves to . . . prayer."* (Acts 2:42)
    - **When we really pray we encounter God's presence, experience His peace and power, and have our perspectives changed.**
    - "The power of prayer can never be overrated. They who cannot serve God by preaching need not regret. If a man can but pray, he can do anything. He who knows how to overcome with God in prayer has Heaven and earth at his disposal." (Charles Spurgeon)
- **The Lord brings transformation to our lives as we *Learn from His Word*.**
    - *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
    - **God equips us through His Word as we hear it, read it, study it, meditate on it and apply it to our lives.**

    - *"Oh, the joys of those who . . . delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do."* (Psalm 1:1-3)
- **The Lord brings transformation to our lives as we *Connect with His People.***
    - **There are no strong and successful "Lone Ranger Christians."**
    - *"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. , , , A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
    - **There are no strong and successful "Lone Ranger Christians", which is why being in a Life Group or on a Serve Team will help us stay strong and experience positive changes in our lives.**
- **The Lord brings transformation to our lives as we *Submit to His Spirit*.**
    - *"Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. . . . The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."* (Galatians 5:16, 22-23)
    - **In IT'S TIME TO CHANGE we're going to learn how to submit to God's Spirit so that He can bring the positive changes that we need to experience in our lives, circumstances and relationships.**

Experiencing Positive And Powerful Life Changes Requires:

DETERMINING TO GIVE OUR BEST <u>EFFORT</u>

- Jesus - *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."* (Matthew 6:33)
- *"Run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize."* (1 Corinthians 9:24-25)
- *"Train yourself to be godly."* (1 Timothy 4:7)

- ***Why wouldn't we want the Lord to help us make some positive changes in our character and relationships in 2024?***
- *"Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. . . . Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."* (Galatians 5:16, 25)
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and what steps am I going to take to respond to it?***