

## **The Blessed Promise Of Biblical Change**

### **Philippians 1:6**

What would you say to someone you are witnessing to if they said, “I want to be a Christian, but I don’t want anything to change?” I would hope we would say (at least to ourselves) “oops, we have a problem here.” This is what Jesus said in Luke 18:18-23 when the rich young ruler in essence said, “I want to be a Christian but I don’t want any change.”

So, what about a professing believer who says “I don’t need to change.” If that is our attitude, we are in trouble. Sometimes we use that old excuse, “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks” for saying we cannot change. And some people just simply say “all change is bad.”

That is not thinking biblically. The Apostle Paul was around 40 years old when he was converted and he changed continually until he died. He tells us in Philippians 1:6 that change for the better, biblical change, begins at conversion and continues until we see Jesus face to face. Note the past, present and future of biblical change in Philippians 1:6:

“Begun” – Past – salvation.

“Will perform it until” – Present – sanctification.

“The day of Jesus Christ – Future – glorification.

So, the process of biblical change begins when we repent of our sin and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. From that point on, God has given us everything we need to make changes in our life that will please and glorify Him. As we continue to obey God’s Word, biblical change toward spiritual maturity will occur in our lives. This change will take place until we see Jesus face to face. At that moment, the goal of biblical change will be fully accomplished – we will be like Him.

Let’s talk about biblical change tonight.

## **I. After Conversion We Can Change Biblically Because We Have A New Nature and Relationship With God.**

### **A. A new nature.**

1. II Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*
2. Romans 6:6, 14 – no longer slaves to sin.
3. Romans 6:17-18, 22 – we are slaves to righteousness.

### **B. A new relationship.**

1. Romans 8:14-16 – we are placed in God’s family as His children.
2. Romans 8:17 – we are joint heirs with Jesus Christ.
3. Romans 8:31-39 – and thus, nothing can separate us from the love of God.

### **C. A new work in us.**

1. Philippians 1:6.
2. Jude 24 - *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.*

### **D. A new confidence of His help.**

1. Romans 8:32 - *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*
2. Hebrews 4:14-16 - *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

## **II. After Conversion We Can Change Biblically Because Of God's Divine Power Available To Us.**

### **A. The Holy Spirit is in us.**

1. John 14:16-17 - *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever. The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*
2. Romans 8:9, 11, 13 – by the Spirit we change, put to death the old habits of the flesh.
3. Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23 – He helps us put on Christ-like character.

### **B. The Word of God is for us.**

1. I Thessalonians 2:13 – it works in us to change us.
2. II Timothy 3:16-17 – it is sufficient and fully equips us for serving God.

### **C. The Lord Jesus remains with us.**

1. Matthew 28:20 – “I am with you always – to the very end.”
2. Hebrews 13:5 – “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
3. John 10:27-29 - *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

## **III. After Conversion We Can Change Biblically By Obeying The Directives Of Scripture.**

### **A. Biblical change is always linked to obeying God's Word.**

1. Luke 6:46-49 – change for the better, a life that stands in adversity, is the result of obeying the Lord's teachings.
2. James 1:22-25 – Hear and obey.

B. Obedience to His Word is based on a grateful response to His love for us in Christ Jesus.

1. John 14:15 - *If you love Me, keep My commandments.*
2. I John 5:3 - *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.*

C. Obedience to His Word is not based on our feelings or what other people think.

1. I Peter 4:1-4.

D. A commitment to please God begins with biblical self-confrontation.

1. Matthew 7:3-5.
2. Confronting ourselves biblically will enable us to confront unbiblical thoughts – II Corinthians 10:5 - *Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ* - and words – Ephesians 4:29 - *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

#### **IV. Some Suggestions For Making Biblical Changes In Our Lives.**

A. Humbly submit to God and to what His Word says to us – James 1:21 -*Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

B. Ask God for wisdom to change biblically – James 1:5 - *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

C. Conduct a thorough self-examination and make a list of the ways we are not thinking, speaking and acting biblically –

Colossians 3:8-9 - *But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.*

D. Confess those unbiblical thoughts, words and actions to the Lord – I John 1:9 - *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

E. Make a list of biblical “put-ons” to replace those unbiblical thoughts, words and actions – Ephesians 4:24 – *And that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

F. Develop a basic plan for practicing a changed life on a daily basis – Ephesians 4:1 - *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called*

Some suggestions:

1. Make yourself accountable to someone for biblical change.
2. Continually evaluate your thoughts, words and actions to see that they are changing.
3. Commit ourselves to approaching Scripture with the commitment of changing biblically.

Note James 1:25 – The one who practices the Word is blessed in what he does. Biblical change is a blessed promise. Let’s commit ourselves to it!