

The Fear of Change

Do you experience as most of us at times the fear of impending changes in your life? We all feel comfortable with the known, but when we face the unknown it is then that fear can sweep over us.

Think for a moment about that time in your life that you were confronted by Jesus Christ to accept Him into your life. On one hand you knew it was something you must do, but on the other hand it was going to require changes in your life that would be costly. You had to be willing to rise above the fear of the unknown to make the most important decision in your life, that of accepting Jesus Christ into your life as Lord and Savior.

Let's talk about some other changes we face throughout our lives. Just the changes in growing through childhood and facing adulthood can be very frightening. I remember as a teenager in High School I was asked to be senior class president. Instantaneously the fear of change swept over me. Shortly after this change I faced induction into the U.S. Army in World War II. Again the fear of change; I had never traveled that road before. What would be required of me? Would I fail in making the change? Probably the biggest change was to consider marriage. How would I cope with the impending changes that would be required of me? After all I had been single for twenty years and felt very comfortable in my singleness. How about becoming a parent for the first time? The responsibility of being a parent would require a great change. When God directed me out of the aircraft business into a Christian television ministry, I realized that everything I knew did not relate to my responsibilities in the ministry. Yes, I had Jesus, but how would I handle the change, the unknown. Again a fear of failure swept over me. How about the aging process? Here is a change we can't do anything about. We all would probably like to say no to this change, but it is inevitable. How do we cope with it?

These are just a few of the changes that we all face in life in one way or another. Let's take a look at what God has to say about change that we might walk in complete fellowship with Him free from any fear of change.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."

The Word teaches that after the born again experience takes place, this starts into action a process of change in our lives.

2 Cor. 3:18 - "But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."

A practical explanation of how this is all to take place is found in a process of replacing wrong habits with right habits and renewing the mind.

Ephesians 4:22-24 - "Lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

This begins a process of dying to self.

Matthew 16:24 - "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

In turn He begins a complete change in our attitudes. (Colossians 3:1-14)

What about the fears we have concerning change? First of all it has been proven that 90% of all our fears never take place. So, what do I do about fear? God says in 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity (fear) but of power and love and discipline." If God is not the author of fear what do I do with the fear I am experiencing? The Word says in Psalm 34:4 "I sought the Lord, and He answered me. And delivered me from all my fears." If this is so, then all we need to do is to give our fears of change to the Lord and He will deliver us and help us to make the necessary changes in our lives. At this point we must trust God with all the changes that we face in life. Hebrews 2:13 - "I will put my trust in Him."

May the Lord deliver us all from the fear of change in our lives and use each change as an opportunity for us to grow in the Lord and glorify Him.