

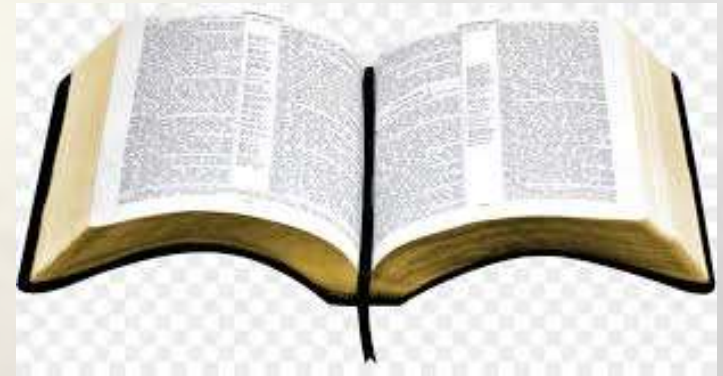


Transforming Power of the Gospel

Romans 6:1-14

Change happens constantly..

- Technology
- Political
- Social
- Individual



Why we need change..

Our condition before God..

Eph 2:1-3 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the [\[a\]](#)course of this world..

How this condition develops..

Matthew 15:10-11, 15-20 Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man. But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. ¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Why is it difficult to change..

Living in sin, we become comfortable..

John 3:19-20 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil..

We become enslaved to sin..

John 8:31-36 “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... ³⁴ Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin... ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Why is it difficult to change..

We live in denial (misperception, pride)..

Luke 15:11-16 the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. ¹⁴ But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything*.

When is it possible to change..

When we see our situation for what it is..

Luke 15:17-19 But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’

When is it possible to change..

When we begin submitting to God..

Luke 15:20-24 “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

How the gospel brings change..

As we see Jesus, we see our sin and God's mercy..

Acts 2:36-38 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..

With Jesus we continue to change Rom 6:1-4

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

How the gospel brings change..

God's word changes our thinking, will, and character..

Romans 6:12-18 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts...but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

Walking in the light, we depend on God's mercy..

1 John 1:5-10 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

How long does it take..

For Paul it was a lifetime process..

Phil 3:12-16 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

As we seek His will and make it our normal behavior..

Eph 4:17-5:2 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind.. But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus..

Allow God's power to work in us..

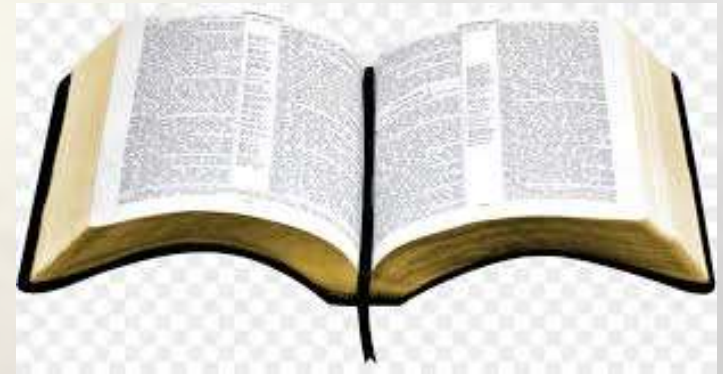
His power brings the transformation over lifetime..

Phil 2:12-16 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

Eph 3:14-21 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

God's mercy provides the change from enemy to friend..

- Technology
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