



Lesson 10 Reformation: The Willingness to Grow and Change

Is there ever a time when we are not changing?

- The better question is: Is there ever a time we are not growing?
- Can we grow in the wrong direction?
- The question is not whether we are growing or not, the question is into what likeness are we growing/changing.
- We are changing and growing, whether we like it or not.

Read the Memory Verse:

- James 4:6-7 (NKJV)
 - a. But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."
- Why does God resist the proud?
 - a. Is it because he is "a jealous God" and he will "have no other gods before" Him?
 - b. Is it against God's law?
 - c. Is it because it is not in our best interest to be proud?
 - d. One of my main tasks as a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon is to monitor my patients bone growth.

It is upsetting to me, if I see one of their bones growing crooked.

Many times it is nothing they directly did to cause it, but other times it is.

Why am I concerned?

I want the best for "my kids."

- We will self-destruct if we continue into our own selfish and proud direction.
- We will grow into beings that are terminal by our condition.
- We are God's children and He wants the best for His kids.
- How does He give grace to the humble?
 - a. Is this an arbitrary imposition on God's part?
 - b. Scenario #1: We fulfill certain requirements and conditions; therefore, we are given (rewarded) with gifts which we otherwise would not be eligible to receive. It is at this point that we are given a quantity of grace. (How do we measure that? A cup full?, etc) If we get enough of this good stuff along with other good stuff called faith, and it is then that we are declared righteous and thereby saved.
- "To be pardoned in the way that Christ pardons, is not only to be forgiven, but to be renewed in the spirit of our mind. The Lord says, "A new heart will I give unto thee." The image of Christ is to be stamped upon the very mind, heart, and soul. The apostle says, "But we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16). Without the transforming process which can come alone through divine power, the original propensities to sin are left in the heart in all their strength, to



forge new chains, to impose a slavery that can never be broken by human power." – {3SM 190.2}

When you read this memory text, what do you understand the phrase "submit to God" means.

- Is this a command to 'arbitrarily' give up your desires and submit to someone else's (God) desires or plans for you?
- Could this not be that your desires are so in harmony with God that you are doing "God's will."
- See Friday's quote: second paragraph, DA 668 "All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us." – {DA 668.3}
- Reading the same memory text from a different translation and reading one prior text that gives a reason for our actions.
 - a. James 4:5-7 (God's Word) "Do you think this passage means nothing? It says, "The Spirit that lives in us wants us to be his own." But God shows us even more kindness. Scripture says, "God opposes arrogant people, but he is kind to humble people." So place yourselves under God's authority. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you.
 - b. The reason that God shows us this kindness and wishes us to be changed from arrogant people into humble people is that He wants us to be His own.
 - c. The way we were designed and created to be his humans.
 - d. This was the design template, the original plan, and Christ's work was to come to this earth that we might be re-created into His likeness and once again be like Him.
 - e. That is an amazing reality.

SABBATH

READ THE FIRST PARAGRAPH: "Before Pentecost. . ."

Was this any different after Pentecost?

Acts 1:6-8 (NASBStr) "So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

What was the result of the Pentecost experience?

So, if that was the result, what was the purpose of the Pentecost experience and transformation?



So was the purpose of the Pentecost outpouring of the Holy Spirit for the believers or for the unbelievers?

- God's gifts **to** us are not **for** us.
- It is not about us, it is about **OTHERS/HIM**.
- We are so polluted and changed by this infection of selfishness, that we (most of the time) think about how God's gifts are given to us for our purposes or wishes.
- The gifts of the Spirit are not about us.

Read second paragraph: But the emphasis should not be on our own growth, development or changes.

As we work for others we grow. The focus should not be on our own growth and change. It should always be on our service for others. But as we work for others. As we work for God with others, we will grow and change into His likeness.

SUNDAY

The disciples growth and changes:

- Luke 9:54 (NKJV) "And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"
- Matthew 20:21 (NKJV) "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."

Read the bottom pink section for Sunday's lesson:

- How do we know that our feelings of discouragement are not reality in God's Kingdom?
- Samuel 12:22 (KJV)"For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the Lord to make you his people."
- Hebrews 13:5-8 (GW)God has said, "I will never abandon you or leave you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper. I will not be afraid. What can mortals do to me?". . . . Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

How can you measure spiritual growth?

- Tests and trials are a way for God to reveal to us our
- spiritual condition and needs.
- Are there any other ways?
- What are your thoughts?
- "In the kingdom of God, position is not gained through favoritism. It is not earned, nor is it received through an arbitrary bestowal. It is the result of character. The crown and the throne are the tokens of a condition attained—tokens of self-conquest through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ." – {AA 543.1}



MONDAY

Read the first paragraph: "Change comes. . ."

The lesson asks us to read Phillipians 2:12-14

Do you have a favorite translation?

This usually is not one of my favorites, but the Amplified Version has a great rendering for this passage.

Philippians 2:12-14 (AMP) "Therefore, my dear ones, as you have always obeyed [my suggestions], so now, not only [with the enthusiasm you would show] in my presence but much more because I am absent, work out (cultivate, carry out to the goal, and fully complete) your own salvation with reverence and awe and trembling (self- distrust, with serious caution, tenderness of conscience, watchfulness against temptation, timidly shrinking from whatever might offend God and discredit the name of Christ). [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight. Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves]."

The fifth paragraph: "God will not rip some selfish thought out of our minds." Read on to the end of the paragraph.

How is it that we are changed?

Also read 2 Corinthians 3:18 (TEV) "All of us, then, reflect the glory of the Lord with uncovered faces; and that same glory, coming from the Lord, who is the Spirit, transforms us into his likeness in an ever greater degree of glory."

We change into what we look at and admire.

- If we are looking at the wrong things, we will become the wrong people.
- If we look at the true Christ, we will become Christlike.

TUESDAY

Read the second paragraph: "Both Peter and Thomas had one striking feature. . ."

This discusses human judgment.

- Can we use any other judgement?
- After Pentecost, were they less human?
- Was Adam more or less human after the fall?
- What are we talking about when we discuss human judgment?



- What does the Holy Spirit (God, Jesus, God the Father) do to us when we are filled with their presence?
- How do we know that we are using good judgment?
- In a meeting with some powerful people this week, I was told that I was blind to reality.
 - a. How do we have discernment?
 - b. How do we know if what we are sensing or hearing is reality?
 - c. When it says in the Bible, "Thy word is truth."

What does it mean?

How are we to know in our daily lives what is truth?

WEDNESDAY

Read the first introduction to Wednesday's lesson:

Why did the Prodigal Son decide to return?

He was hungry/starving.

- There was food at home.
- The slaves at home had food.
- He realized his need.
- He realized there was something better somewhere else.
- When did he realize what his father was really like?
 - a. Prior to his departure?
 - b. In the pig pen?
 - c. After his return?
 - d. It wasn't until he came back home that he realized how gracious his father truly was.
 - e. It was only after the son looked at the father in "new eyes" that he was able to see what his father was really like.
 - f. We are not sure just how far his understanding truly went. It is not part of the story. All we know is that he came home.
 - g. We hope the son got to the point the he understood his father's love and character. All we know is that he came home for the food and that he participated in a party.
 - h. We maybe do not seldom come to many of our foundational realizations at the time things are happening. It is only after the events have occurred, that we often realize their true meaning. That is what it means at this time to be human. We may develop differently in heaven, but for now, it is only after the fact that most of us have true insight. This is true whether we are contemplating prophecies, doctrines or our personal relationships.
 - i. Jesus's instructions to Peter before his fall. (See Luke 22:31)
 - j. Jesus's statements on why he gave prophecies. (See John 13:19, 20 and John 16:4)
 - k. This may be a later time.



1. 2 Peter 3:18 (GW)"But grow in the good will and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory belongs to him now and for that eternal day! Amen."

Read the highlighted sentence in the last paragraph.

- "Revival occurs when God's love breaks our hearts. Reformation occurs when we chose to respond to a love that will not let us go."

THURSDAY

Read the first paragraph:

- Is this true? (I think so.)
- Do you have another explanation?
- But...

Christ also healed the man, because that is what God is like. Christ did not have an ulterior motive. That is the kind of being God is! He wished he could have healed everyone of them, but that would probably have created such a crisis, that his life on earth would have been cut short. He didn't heal everyone, not because he couldn't or didn't want to, but because the Jewish leaders were so deformed of mind that he dare not. (See Desire of Ages, chapter)

Read the first question of the day: "Why do you think Jesus asked . . ."

- Christ asked him if he truly wanted to get well. The man heard an accusation of 'why are you still here after 38 years.'
- It is not true that all who suffer want to be healed.
 - a. I have met many who do not want to be healed.
 - b. That is their identity and source of personhood.
 - c. They receive some identity from their disease and they play a role.
 - d. This also goes to the point of Christ's later admonition to (v.14) "stop sinning."

Stop acting in a way that continues the sin/disease problem.

This was not an arbitrary command.

The man was not punished for his sins with this disease.

The laws of God that were broken, were not arbitrarily meted out punishment. There are many reasons why bad things happen to people good or bad. Christ was not telling him, "Stop the in or I or my Father will punish you with a worse evil." God wishes the best for His children and guides them with infinite love and compassion.

Read the pink paragraph at the bottom of the page:

- It is to experience who God is.
- It is not about us, it is about Him.



- On the cross Christ forgave those who nailed him there, but without their understanding of **Who. He. Was.** They are not going to accept what He gives.

FRIDAY

Read the last question, the last sentence: "What principles can we find in the Bible that will enable us to have the victories that we are promised?"

For me it is not a principle, **it is a person.** When you realize who God is and what He is really like, then you will trust **H.I.M.** for the victories that are promised. You are trusting Him for the strength, and the victories because you have come to know Him and Jesus Christ who He has sent. (This is true faith.)

The Bible is not about principles or rules or laws or guidelines. Although one can find plenty of all of these in the Bible. The Bible is truly about God. Who is God and what is He like. That is the fundamental message of all inspired scripture.