



“Embracing Change”

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“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHANGE

- Change is inevitable.
- Not all change is good, but God can use it for good.
- God can use my sin and mistakes to accomplish His purpose.
- Change is always a test of faith.

What does this mean?

1. That God is _____ over change.

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:16-17 (NIV)

2. That change is part of God’s _____ for us.

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

WHY DO WE RESIST CHANGE?

1. We haven’t prioritized _____.

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.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

2. We fear we have something to _____.

Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him.

Philippians 3:8-9 (NLT)

3. We want to maintain the illusion of _____.

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

4. We work to avoid any kind of _____.

I am not sorry that I sent that severe letter to you, though I was sorry at first, for I know it was painful to you for a little while. Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you, but because the pain caused you to repent and change your ways.

2 Corinthians 7:8-9 (NLT)

WHY SHOULD WE EMBRACE CHANGE?

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)

HOW DO WE EMBRACE CHANGE?

1. _____ the need to change.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)

2. Seek _____ and _____ on what you can change.

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:5 (NIV)

- God's will is our roadmap for life. Wisdom is our GPS.
- You can't change others.
- Small changes often lead to bigger changes.

3. Adopt a posture of _____.

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

James 4:6, 10 (NLT)

4. Remember _____.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8 (ESV)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Sources: *Embrace Change* by Simon Lawton at www.simonlawton.com, and various illustrations from Preaching Today.

ANSWER KEY:

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHANGE

1. That God is **LORD** over change.
2. That change is part of God's **PURPOSE** for us.

WHY DO WE RESIST CHANGE?

1. We haven't prioritized **GOD'S WORD**.
2. We fear we have something to **LOSE**.
3. We want to maintain the illusion of **CONTROL**.
4. We work to avoid any kind of **SUFFERING**.

WHY SHOULD WE EMBRACE CHANGE? **GOD'S UNMERITED GRACE.**

HOW DO WE EMBRACE CHANGE?

1. **RECOGNIZE** the need to change.
2. Seek **WISDOM** and **FOCUS** on what you can change.
3. Adopt a posture of **HUMILITY**.
4. Remember **WHO GOD IS**.