**Our Life is about** **Change**

**2 Corinthians 5 New International Version (NIV)**

**Awaiting the New Body**

**5**For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

**2**Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling,

**3**because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

**4**For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

**5**Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

**6**Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.

**7**For we live by faith, not by sight.

**8**We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

**9**So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

**10**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

**The Ministry of Reconciliation**

**11**Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

**12**We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.

**13**If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

**14**For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

**15**And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.

**16**So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

**17**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+5&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-28895a" \o "See footnote a)] The old has gone, the new is here!

**18**All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

**19**that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

**20**We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

**21**God made Him who had no sin to be sin[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+5&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28899b)] for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Change is something we all need.**

It is an ongoing part of life.

With life’s constant humdrum, life demands adjustments for our schedules and plans our busy-ness.

Essentially, you could say that change as Christians, is the new norm.

**But** people's spiritual lives call for more than slight changes to a calendar.

**Our lives are in need of transformation.**

*Dictionary meaning of Transformation is*

***transformation****. A****transformation****is a dramatic change in form or appearance.*

*An important event like getting your driver's license, going to college, or getting married can cause a****transformation****in your life.*

*A****transformation****is an extreme, radical change.*

***(3 points here)***

**Point I. Real change starts with new life, not just a new leaf**

The apostle Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 5:17 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

**17**Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], *he is* a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].

In the Old Testament, we see how this cycle played out in the life of Solomon.

He tried to change through human ingenuity when he needed divine intervention. And he was a pretty smart person. This is what he said

# **Ecclesiastes 1:12-18 Amplified Bible (AMP)**

**The Futility of Wisdom**

**12**I, the Preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

**13**And I set my mind to seek and explore by [man’s] [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes+1%3A12-18&version=AMP#fen-AMP-17329a)]wisdom all [human activity] that has been done under heaven. It is a miserable business *and* a burdensome task which [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes+1%3A12-18&version=AMP#fen-AMP-17329b)]God has given the sons of men with which to be busy *and* distressed.

**14**I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity, a futile grasping *and* chasing after the wind.

**15**What is crooked cannot be straightened and what is defective *and* lacking cannot be counted.

**16**I spoke with my heart, saying, “Behold, I have acquired great [human] wisdom *and* experience, more than all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has observed a wealth of [moral] wisdom and [scientific] knowledge.”

**17**And I set my mind to know [practical] wisdom and to discern [the character of] madness and folly [in which men seem to find satisfaction]; I realized that this too is a futile grasping *and* chasing after the wind.

**18**For in much [human] wisdom there is much displeasure *and* exasperation; increasing knowledge increases sorrow.

In **John 3:3** Jesus calls it being "born again."

**Point II. Real change is a process, not a destination**

"I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" **Philippians 1:6**

"By these He has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires" **2 Peter 1:4**

And in **2 Corinthians 3:18**

"We all, with unveiled faces, are reflecting the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit"

**Point III. Change is letting go and grabbing hold**

"Be holy as I am holy" sounds like an impossible task.

Its possibility comes by the work of God and not the work of man.

It says in **Ephesians 4:20-24.**

"But that is not how you learned about the Messiah, assuming you heard Him and were taught by Him, because the truth is in Jesus: you took off your former way of life, the old man that is corrupted by deceitful desires; you are being renewed in the spirit of your minds; you put on the new man, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth"

*Here are some of the reasons that change is difficult for people:*

a. Because we are stubborn
b. Because we are trapped
c. Because we are comfortable
d. Because we are afraid
d. Because change hurts
e. Because we lack power

**Transformation: Power for change**

**Ephesians 1:18-20**

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,"

And in **1 Corinthians 15:13-14**

"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is without foundation, and so is your faith"

**I. Transformation is from God's outside power**

"And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through His Spirit who lives in you" **Romans 8:11**

**II. We are changed, to change**

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" **(Colossians 3:1-2).**

**III. We present and are transformed**

"Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God" **Romans 12:1-2**

**IV. Transformation changes our focus**

**2 Corinthians 5:15**

"He died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died for them & was raised"

**Transformation: The community of change**

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

"And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near"

**I. Be concerned about community**

"And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works," **Hebrews 10:24**
"So then you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household"

**Ephesians 2:19**

**II. Be present in community**

"not staying away from our meetings, as some habitually do,"

**Hebrews 10:25**

**III. Be encouraging each other in community**

"but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near" **Hebrews 10:25**

And in **Hebrews 3:13**

"But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception"

**Lets Pray.**

Father, never let us become like a stagnant pool, doing no change,. Being too comfortable.

Always give us vision, because without a vision, we, the people perish, open our spiritual eyes Father, give us a deep mission in life, directed by Your Holy Spirit that lives within us. Father help us be aware of how all that works. Gives us insight, let us have visions and dream dreams.

We Love you Father. We ask this in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour - Amen

**Scripture List**

**Sermon-Our life is about Change**

2 Corinthians 5 (NIV)

2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMP)

Ecclesiastes 1: 12-18 (AMP)

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

Ephesians 4: 20-24 (NIV)

Ephesians 1: 18-20

1 Corinthians 15: 13-14

2 Corinthians 5:15

Hebrews 10: 24-25