

# CHANGE

***“For I am the Lord, I do not change.” [Malachi 3:6]***

**I Timothy 4:14-16 [LB]** – *Be sure to use the abilities God has given you through his prophets when the elders of the church laid their hands upon your head. <sup>15</sup>Put these abilities to work; throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone may notice your improvement and progress. <sup>16</sup>Keep a close watch on all you do and think. Stay true to what is right and God will bless you and use you to help others.*

## Not all change is good

**Proverbs 24:21, 22 [AMP]** – *My son, [reverently] fear the Lord and the king, and do not associate with those who are given to change [of allegiance, and are revolutionary], <sup>22</sup> For their calamity shall rise suddenly, and who knows the punishment and ruin which both [the Lord and the king] will bring upon [the rebellious]?*

## Why do people resist change?

- “Any change at any time for any reason is to be deplored.” (Duke of Cambridge in the late 1800s)
- **Threatened by the loss of something valuable.** (1) security; (2) money; (3) control.
- **Satisfaction** – where they are. (illustration: not willing to take a better job because you’re satisfied with the way things are)
- **Tradition**

**Change happens when people hurt enough that they have to, learn enough that they want to, receive enough that they are able to.**

## They hurt enough that they have to

**Luke 10:19** – *Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

**Philippians 3:10, 11** – *that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup>if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

**I Corinthians 11:27-31** – *Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup>But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup>For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. <sup>30</sup>For this reason many are weak*

and sick among you, and many sleep. <sup>31</sup>For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

**Conclusion:** don't wait for the pain to get unbearable. Be honest (aware) of where you are. Determine to change your heart beliefs.

### They learn enough that they want to

**II Timothy 3:16, 17 [AMP]** – *Every scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and is profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose and action), <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- **Profitable** – advantageous; from a root meaning to heap up, accumulate or benefit.
- **Instruction [NKJV: doctrine]** – to impart instruction.

**Proverbs 4:20-22** – *My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. <sup>21</sup>Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; <sup>22</sup>For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.*

**Mark 4:13-25** – parable of the sower.

**II Corinthians 10:5** – casting down arguments (imagination).

**Philippians 4:8** – meditate on these things.

### They receive enough that they're able to

**Titus 2:11 [NLT]** – *For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. [Hebrews 4:16]*

**Romans 10:8-10** – *But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): <sup>9</sup>that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

**Ephesians 4:20-24** – *But you have not so learned Christ, <sup>21</sup>if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup>that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup>and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup>and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*