

“THE TRANSFORMATION CHOICE”

Life’s Healing Choices – Part 5

May 2nd, 2010

5 Phases God Uses To Change Us

Phase 1: C onflict

God uses our struggles with other people to get our attention on Him

Genesis 31:1-2 (NIV) “Jacob heard that Laban’s sons were saying, ‘Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father.’ And Jacob noticed that Laban’s attitude toward him was not what it had been.”

Genesis 32:6-7 (NLT) “...the messengers returned to Jacob and reported, ‘We met your brother, Esau, and he is already on his way to meet you—with an army of 400 men!’ Jacob was terrified at the news.

Genesis 32:9-11 (NLT) “Then Jacob prayed, ‘O God...O Lord...I am not worthy of all the unfailing love and faithfulness you have shown to me...O LORD, please rescue me from the hand of my brother, Esau. I am afraid.’”

REALITY CHOICE: Realize I’m not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable.

Matthew 5:3 (NLT) “God blesses those who realize their need for Him.”

Phase 2: C RISIS

Genesis 32:23-25 (TM/NLT) “Jacob got them safely across the brook along with all his possessions. This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob’s hip and wrenched it out of its socket.

Jacob’s biggest struggle and our biggest struggle is with God

Hosea 12:3 (NLT) “Before Jacob was born, he struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God.”

The root of your conflicts is you want to be in charge; you want to be God

HOPE CHOICE: Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me.

Phase 3: C ommitment

Genesis 32:26 (NLT) “Then the man said, ‘Let me go, for it is dawn.’ But Jacob panted, ‘I won’t let you go unless you bless me.’”

Why doesn’t God answer my prayers immediately?

1. God wants to know if you’re really serious
2. God is not a vending machine

COMMITMENT CHOICE: Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ’s care and control

Most people miss God’s best because they give up too soon

Romans 6:13 (NLT) “Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God.”

Phase 4: C onfession

Genesis 32:27 (NIV) "The man asked him, 'What is your name?' 'Jacob,' he answered."

God wants Jacob to admit who he is; God wants the same thing from us

HOUSECLEANING CHOICE: Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.

Romans 9:13 (GN) "As the scripture says, 'I loved Jacob,...'"

Psalms 34:18 (NIV) "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Phase 5: C onversion

In conversion I get a new identity - who you are and how you see yourself

Genesis 32:28-30 (NIV) "Then the man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel'... Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face...'"

In conversion God blesses me

Matthew 5:6 (NIV) "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

TRANSFORMATION CHOICE - Making Changes: Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life, and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects

Thank God, I'm not what I use to be; thank God, I'm not what I'm going to be

Genesis 32:31 (NLT) "The sun rose as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip."

After you have a genuine encounter with God, you're going to have a limp

1. The limp means - no more running from your problems
2. The limp is a daily reminder to trust God
3. The limp causes us to emerge both stronger and weaker

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 (NIV) "To keep me from becoming conceited...there was given me a thorn in my flesh,... to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

My Next Step Today Is:

- God today, I voluntarily submit to every change You want to make in my life and humbly ask You to remove my character defects
- I will memorize Matthew 5:6
- I want to participate in the New Hope co-ed softball league beginning Sat, June 5th