

"GOD'S PART & MY PART IN CHANGING ME"

The Power To Change Your Life, Part 2

March 20th, 2011

There is natural fruit, biological fruit, and spiritual fruit
Galatians 5:22,23 (NIV) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

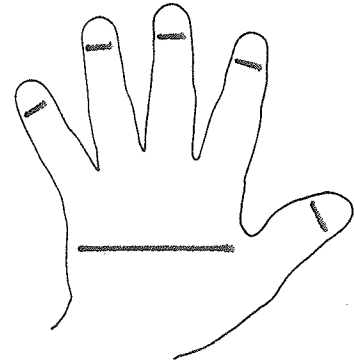
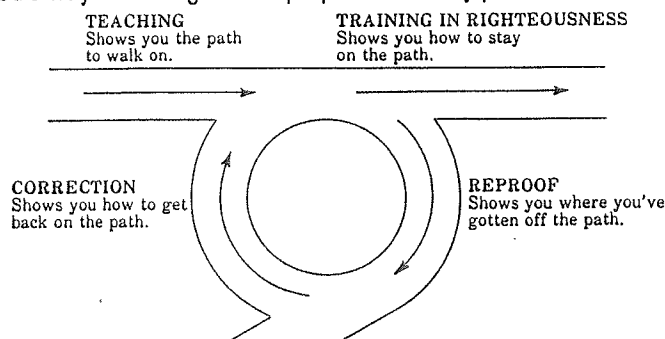
God has a part in changing me, and I have a part in the process
Philippians 2:12,13 (NIV) "...work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose."

The Bible doesn't say work for your salvation but to work out (cultivate) your salvation

God's Part In The Process To Change Me

1. God uses the Bible to change me

God gave us the Bible to teach us how to live
2 Timothy 3:16,17 (LB) "The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point."



If you are serious about changing your life, you must get into the Bible
Romans 10:17 (KJ) "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

2. God uses His Spirit to change me

Romans 8:9-11 (NLT) "But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you."

The Spirit of God gives us new strength & vitality and the desire and the power to do what is right

God's #1 purpose in your life is to make you like Jesus
Romans 8:29 (GN) "Those whom God had already chosen He also set apart to become like His Son..."

3. God uses circumstances to change me

The source of the circumstances makes no difference to God
Romans 8:28,29 (Ph) "To those who love God, who are called according to His plan, everything that happens fits into a pattern for good. For God...chose them to bear the family likeness of His Son."

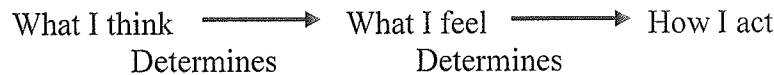
We change when our fear of change is exceeded by our pain
Proverbs 20:30 (NIV) "Blows and wounds cleanse away evil, and beatings purge the inmost being."

My Part In The Process To Change Me

Spiritual growth is not automatic; change is a matter of choice

1. I must carefully choose what I think about
Proverbs 4:23 (GN) "Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts."

Change always begins with a new way of thinking
Romans 12:2 (NIV) "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."



When you base your life on truth, you will be set free
John 8:32 (NIV) "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

God gives us His Word (the Bible), but we've got to use it
Psalms 1:1-3 (NCV) "Happy are those who don't listen to the wicked, who don't go where sinners go, who don't do what evil people do. They love the Lord's teachings, and they think [meditate] about those teachings day and night. They are strong, like a tree planted by a river. The tree produces fruit in season, and its leaves don't die. Everything they do will succeed [prosper]."

God is specific in telling us what to think about
Philippians 4:8 (GN) "...Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable."

2. I must choose to depend on God's Spirit

All Christians have God's Spirit, but not all Christians have God's power
John 15:5 (NIV) "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing."

Fruit producing is an inside job

Whatever you don't pray about is what you're trying to do on your power

The secret of dependency on God's Spirit is to be incessantly in prayer

3. I must respond wisely to circumstances

We can choose how we Respond to the circumstances in our lives

What matters in life is not what happens to me but what happens in me
Romans 5:3-5 (Ph) "...we can be full of joy here and now even in our trials and troubles. These very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character, and a character of this sort produces a steady hope, a hope that will never disappoint us."

God also uses situations that others mean for bad in my life
Genesis 50:20 (GN) "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good."

God produces the fruit of the Spirit in us by allowing us to encounter situations and people full of exactly the opposite qualities

Remember: It takes time for fruit to ripen; there is no instant maturity

My Next Step Today

- Tell God, "I want to be a productive, fruitful Christian, & I will cooperate with Your plan."
- I will read, study, memorize, and meditate on Scripture & ask God to use His Word to change the way I think.
- I will begin to pray and talk with God about everything.
- I accept my circumstances as part of God's plan to change my life.
- I will memorize Galatians 5:22,23