

FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE STUDY



Change We Can REALLY Believe In

(All Scriptures from New International Version–NIV)

In a recent political campaign, the winning candidate ran on a platform of “Change We Can Believe In.” Political comment aside, let’s all agree there is a LOT of change taking place in our world and in our lives, some good and some bad. While change is a natural and inevitable part of the cycle of life, most of us find sudden or abrupt change difficult to deal with. In the past year, what has changed in your life that is bad? What good changes have taken place?

QUESTION? With all the change in our lives and in the world around us, how can the BIBLE help us keep it all together?

1. We can trust the CHARACTER of God to be unchanging and reliable.

Hebrews 1:12b; “But you remain the same, and your years will _____ end.”

Hebrews 13:8; “Jesus Christ is the same _____ and _____ and _____.”

2. We can place our FAITH in Jesus Christ and receive eternal life through Him.

John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the _____ that he gave his one and only _____, that whoever _____ in him shall not _____ but have _____ life.”

Romans 5:8 tells us, “God demonstrates his own _____ for us in this: While we were still _____, Christ _____ for us.”

Read Romans 10:9-10 & 13, which sums up our response to Jesus’ sacrifice, and describe it in your own words; _____

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 “For it is by _____ you have been saved, through _____-and this not from yourselves, it is the _____ of God - not by _____, so that no one can boast.”

3. We can build our lives on God’s WORD because it is TRUE and TIMELESS.

In Mark 13:31, Jesus says, “_____ and earth will pass away, but my _____ will never pass away.”

Our salvation is possible because of the enduring Word of God. 1 Peter 1:23 exclaims “For you have been born again, not of _____ seed, but of _____, through the living and _____ word of _____.”

Thousands of years after its writing, the scriptures are still applicable to our lives. Look at 2 Timothy 3:16-17, “All _____ is God-breathed and is useful for _____, _____, correcting and

_____ in _____, so that the man of God may be thoroughly _____ for every _____.”

4. God can work His **WILL** even through traumatic, unpredictable, and unfair change.

We have a promise in Romans 8:28-29 “And we _____ that in _____ things God works for the good of those who _____ him, who have been _____ according to his _____.”

God promises through Christ to keep us secure and in His care forever, which is an awesome comfort in changing circumstances. In fact, read Paul’s declaration in Romans 8:35-39

QUESTION? What can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord?

ANSWER: Nada. Nothing. Nobody! WOW! Let me say that backwards – WOW!

I know there are things in my life I **SHOULD** change, but how can I?

1. Change comes as a result of a spiritual **ENCOUNTER** and personal **RELATIONSHIP** with Jesus Christ.

Read John 3:3 “In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the _____, no one can see the _____ of _____ unless he is _____.”

In Acts 16:30-32 the Philippian jailer witnessed a miracle and asked Peter and John “Sirs, what must I _____ to be _____?” They replied, “_____ in the Lord _____, and you will be _____ - you and your _____.”

You too can be saved, if you are not already, by confessing your sin to God, turning from your sin, and asking Jesus Christ to come into your heart, i.e. believing in Him as your Savior (deliverer) and Lord (master).

2. God calls not only for a change of **HEART**, but also for a change of **BEHAVIOR**.

In Luke 19:8 a newly saved Zacchaeus says “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my _____ to the _____, and if I have _____ anybody out of _____, I will pay back _____ times the amount.”

Our love for one another is also a testimony of our love for Christ. Jesus tells us in John 13:34-35, “A new _____ I give you: _____ one another. As I have _____ you, so you must _____ one another. By this all men will know that you are my _____, if you _____ one _____.”

After we come to Jesus, Ephesians 2:10 says we are to do _____.

There’s a solemn warning from Paul in 2 Timothy 2:19, “Nevertheless, God’s solid _____ stands _____, sealed with this _____: “The Lord _____ those who are his,” and, “Every-one who _____ the name of the Lord must _____ away from _____.”

Romans 12:1-2 challenges us, “to offer our bodies as a _____, as an act of _____. Be transformed by the _____ of your _____. Thus proving God’s good, _____ and _____ will.”

3. We do not change in order to receive God’s **APPROVAL**; we change as a **RESPONSE** to God’s **LOVE**.

The Pharisees brought an adulterous woman and confronted Jesus on the Mount of Olives, hoping to trick Him so they could have Him arrested. After shaming them by turning their logic upside down, Jesus said to the woman in John 8:10 “Woman, where are they? Has no one _____ you?” “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I _____ you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and _____ your life of _____.” When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the _____ of the _____. Who-ever _____ me will never _____ in _____, but will have the _____ of _____.”

Jesus puts it very simply and succinctly in John 14:15 “If you _____ me, keep my _____.”

4. The truth of God's Word produces change only when it is allowed to PENETRATE deep into our hearts.

We read in Hebrews 4:12-13, "For the _____ of God is _____ and _____. _____ than any _____ - _____, it _____ even to dividing _____ and _____, joints and _____; it judges the _____ and _____ of the heart."

Read Galatians 5:19-23. List any three acts of the sinful nature; _____, _____, _____. Now name four of the fruits of the Spirit; _____, _____, _____, and _____. Which fruit of the Spirit is your strongest? Which one needs some attention?

Jesus explains the epitome of change in John 15:12-14, "My _____ is this: _____ each other as I have _____ you. Greater _____ has no one than this, to _____ down one's _____ for one's _____. You are my _____ if you _____ what I _____."

QUESTION? Who is that one person who always rubs you the wrong way and you find nearly impossible to love? After this study, how will you love them differently?

5. Change begins with honest CONFESSION and REPENTANCE, followed by a sincere desire to be a true DISCIPLE of Jesus Christ.

According to Timothy 6:11-12 believers should, "pursue _____, godliness, _____, love, _____ and gentleness. _____ the good _____ of the _____. Take _____ of the _____ life to which you were _____ when you made your good _____ in the presence of many _____."

Peter declares in Acts 2:19-20, " _____, then, and _____ to God, so that your _____ may be _____ out, that times of _____ may come from the _____, and that he may _____ the _____, who has been _____ for you-even _____."

Paul reminds us in Romans 10:10, "For it is with your _____ that you _____ and are _____, and it is with your _____ that you _____ and are _____."

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 and answer the following:

1. Anyone in Christ is a new sinner and an old saint? True or False?
2. Once reconciled to God we become
 - a. Representatives
 - b. Ambassadors
 - c. Pharisees
3. Jesus, who was sinless, became sin for us, so we "might become the _____ of _____."

Change is inevitable. Some change is good and exciting. Other change is bad and upsetting. When the change comes from within and is directed by God, it is always good. We can trust God and His Word to get us through any changing circumstance. Also remember that change of heart and change of behavior go hand in hand in relationship to Jesus Christ, because of the Holy Spirit of God that lives within us as believers.

Conduct an honest personal assessment of your attitudes, behaviors, and relationships. Now, what one thing will you ask God to help you change in an effort to be more like Christ? Trust me, with the help of the Holy Spirit, you can do it!

Verse to Remember: 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"