

40 Days of Real Change – Week 1

Change

I. Paul's expectation for the Christians – fruit of Jesus character displayed our lives.

"I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. ¹⁰ For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return ¹¹ May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God." Philippians 1:9-11

II. What are the key factors in bringing change?

1. Our relationship with Jesus Christ

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes." Ephesians 1:4

"Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. ⁹ For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body." Colossians 2:8-9

"Jesus is not a vending machine that dispenses what we want to feel good about ourselves. He is the Holy One who comes to cleanse us. Fill us, and change us. He does not do this according to our agendas. He will not serve our wayward needs. He loves us too much to merely make us happy. He comes to make us holy. There will be many occasions when he will not give us what we think we need, but rather, he will give us what he knows we need." Paul Tripp (How people change)

2. Our relationship with other Christians

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works." Hebrews 10:24

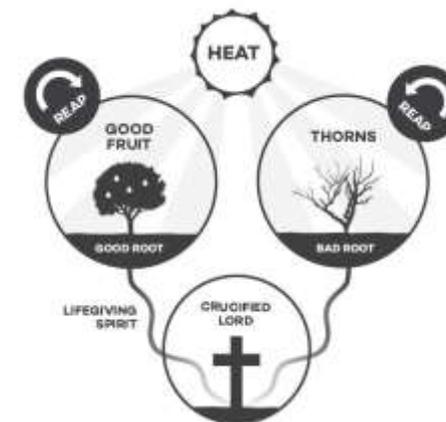
3. The daily happenings of life

III. The Biblical model for understanding change

Jeremiah 17:5-10

- **Heat** – "Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought." v 8
- **Thorns** – "They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future. They will live in the barren wilderness, in an uninhabited salty land." v 6
- **Cross** – "But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence." v 7
- **Fruit** – "Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit." v 8b

(Example of how this works out in life of Paul 2 Corinthians 1:3-12)



For Reflection this week: Ask God to show you where you are responding to your circumstances in ways that concern you, and where you need to change. To tune your heart into your HEAT and jot down a few notes to of the details of what happens in this area this week.