

**D. L. Nicely Ministries
Teaching Newsletter**

Secret

place

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Issue 3...God's Promise of Change

A study was done on several thousand men and women who lived beyond the average life expectancy of 70 years. Some of these people were in their 90's glory to God. Others were even past 100 years of age.

To figure out the main asset that all these people were doing that created their longevity they looked at various habits the people were practicing. They checked their dietary habits, personalities, and whether or not they physically exercised. Did they abuse their bodies when they were younger with substances like tobacco and alcohol? All of these things were considered in the study.

This was all important because we live in an age where physical exercise and dieting and drinking gallons of water from pure mountain streams is what is highly recommended and promoted by most. Others recommend taking vitamins and supplements as a way to prolong your life. But the study showed something quite amazing- at least it is amazing to me. It showed that the common denominator was not determined by what they ate or drank or the lack of it. In fact the honest fact is that the people who lived to be over 90 years old put very few restrictions on their diets at all. If they wanted a hot fudge Sunday at midnight they ate it.

But the one thing that was a common denominator in all the people was that they had this incredible ability to adapt to change quickly and smoothly. These people lived long lives because they had the ability to change without much effort. They adapted quickly to the different seasons of life like the death of their parents, or the death of a spouse. When their income went down as they got older they just rolled with the punches. In other words they didn't stress over every little thing in life. Change was not a problem to them- not even major change.

Now how do you rate in the change department? Change to me is like the weather. We have a running joke; "us Ohioans" we say this about our weather to visitors; "*if you don't like the weather today, stay until tomorrow because it will be different.*"

In other words we never have two days in a row of the same weather.

Friends change is a way of life for us humans. Imagine the changes a hundred year old person has had to endure as we went from the 20th century to the 21st century. In business if you don't change every couple years you soon find yourself obsolete. Marriages must endure changes or the couple will soon find that they have nothing in common. That's why Susie and I worked hard on our relationship while the kids were home because we knew the day that we live in today with no kids at home would come and we wanted to make sure their was still an "us" without the kids around.

Now that I've spent some time discussing physical change and how we must endure it, I want to spend some time talking about spiritual change and things we can look forward to facing.

Since the first Adam fell from grace God found it necessary to send another Adam that He calls the last Adam (Jesus) to bring about a radical change in our spiritual lives. Look at this powerful promise from God's word.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Now to totally understand that promise of change you must understand that God wants to remove our heart of stone from our unsaved lives and replace it with a heart of flesh. He wants to give us a new heart and a new spirit

and change our spiritual standing to “In Christ.” This is the starting point for major change in our lives and is a spiritual transformation that we all must go through if we want to possess eternal life.

Although we must understand that we are not re-formed, rehabilitated, or re-programmed, but instead we experience a “new birth.”

John 3:3 (NKJV) ³Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

What this means is that we now live in a vital union “with Christ” and He has now become our master.

Colossians 2:6 (NKJV) ⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

Friends when you become in Christ everything about your life changes. Although you may still look the same on the outside and maybe the circumstances of your life has not changed much, but inwardly you are shining the new life of Jesus. This means that three major changes have taken place in your life.

1— First the inward change begins to show outwardly. If you are transformed inwardly the old things must pass away. Soon those worldly desires for the old life will begin to fade away. Amazingly you will begin to desire the things of God.

2— Now you must be patient with yourself because outward change does not happen quickly. Some old desires drop off quickly and others hang around. Maybe a person will clean up their language, and stop some bad habits immediately, but other habits just seem to hang on and harass them. Remember it is a process. Lingering old attitudes like anger, greed, pride, selfishness, lust, jealousy, to name a few are harder to delete. Please be patient with yourself and other new Christians.

3— Lastly remember that change is a constant process. Change is neither good or bad. You are either growing in faith and knowledge or slipping back to old ways and old habits and old attitudes.

So why not begin today asking God for His help. Ask Him to fill you with His supernatural power to conform you to the image of His son. Then tomorrow when you get up ask God again for His power to change you one more day.

Fight hard to make sure that the old ways don’t creep back into your life. You must understand that the battle for Godly change is a constant. And this is an ongoing fight that all us Christians must face every day of our lives.

Continued Next Month