

The Introduction

Changing Your World!

Before Christ, the spiritual condition and description of our lives were coined in the phrase, “sinners by nature and nurture.” That is, we were born sinners into a sinful world. Listen to the cry of the Psalmist as he pleads for forgiveness in Psalms 51:5. “*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.*” Then Job wails the condition of his catastrophic circumstances from birth, shaped by conditions around him. “*Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil*” (Job 14:1).

In summary, the opening paragraph means that we can become products of our environments and the world around us can shape what we become. But that is not the prescription for the life of the believer. For the believer, it’s the opposite. **We shape the world around us, which is what the words, *thy Kingdom come* mean.**

Although some circumstances are out of our reach, we have the power to change those circumstances within our reach through ***decisions***, the ***spoken Word***, and the power of ***God’s Spirit***! But changing our world goes beyond merely attending church on Sunday morning. It’s about changing your circumstances beyond the four walls of the church, in the real world where you live. Also, biblical deliverance is not simply about being rescued from demonic forces, but having God deliver us from adverse toxic circumstances and people.

There was a time in my life when I thought going to church was enough to get by with God and experience smooth sailing as a Christian. I think we all can remember the “magic carpet” ride during those early years of our Christian life. We were swept off our feet by the Lord and we looked at life through “rose-colored” glasses. Then after a few years, we came down from the magic carpet ride and crashed. We realized that we were still living in the real world and had some of the same habits and problems. Frustration, and struggle set in and we became constantly disappointed with our expectations as a Christian. We either didn’t know or forgot that the Holy Spirit is present in every believer's life to enable them with the power of God to overcome the odds against them—in their flesh and the world around them.

Believing is More than “What” we Say

We must understand that faith is not feelings! *Like a train, the feeling is the coboose of our walk and faith, and faith is the engine.* Faith is based on the facts of God’s Word. Feelings are based on emotions. So, we must act by faith, not feelings, and become “Doers” of the Word.

“Faith is not in your talk but in your walk.” Romans 1:17b, “... *but the righteous man shall live by faith.*” However, our walk of faith does not negate the power of what we say, it confirms what we say. There is a paradox between what we say and what we do. **We must align our walk with our talk.** We talk a good talk on Sunday morning but at the end of the day, when we look in the mirror, nothing has changed. **God is One with His Word and when we are one with God, we can have what we say.**

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples (John 15:7-8).

What we say must coincide and align with God's Word. There's more to the Bible than just believing that God is good. "God Is Good ... All The Time, God Is Good" is a nice cliché that has become a trite expression among churchgoers, but it stops right there and doesn't go into practical application. God is better than good, He is magnanimous—generous in every way. He is *summum bonum*, "the highest good, especially as the ultimate goal according to which values and priorities are established in an ethical system."¹

God, in His goodness, desires to fulfill and manifest His promises in the life of believers that resound to His glory. To achieve that end, it's more than just going to church Sunday after Sunday to get an emotional high that will only last for a moment. It's more than worshipping and going through the antics of jumping, shouting, or even shedding tears. True worship produces transformation in the life of the believer. So, when the worship experience is over and the benediction is spoken, we should have a better grip on what needs to change in our lives that will ultimately change our circumstances. **When the believer changes internally, they are empowered to change their world externally.**

Unfortunately, for some of us, we continue to be harassed and tormented by people and circumstances which cause us to live beneath our privilege. It's not enough to say, I received a manifestation of the Spirit today in church or I was blessed. Our Father desires us to walk in the light of His Word, *granting* us victory after victory as we overcome the odds against us that reflect His glory. **He doesn't want us to be victims but victors!**

When we experience the new birth recorded in John 3, we receive a new nature and become citizens of heaven (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:15; Philippians 3:20). It means that we are no longer dominated by our carnal/natural nature and the world around us no longer dictates our

decisions and direction. In biblical terms, we are *sanctified*—set apart for God’s glory and our greater good. It means that things should progressively get better as we walk with the Lord. **Getting better means improving spiritually in the quality of our character which will change our outlook on our circumstances with a sense of the power of God to change things.**

Walk-in your New Nature

When we are “*born again,*” we are also *engrafted* into the Church, the Body of Christ. “*For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit*” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). It means that we are spiritually connected to every believer throughout the world which should give us a great sense of edification—being built up in the lord.

Our new birth through the power of the Spirit also endows us with authority as citizens of heaven. Our walk of faith should cause us to continue to grow in grace and the authority that comes from the Spirit. **We should be able to speak to the spiritual entities lurking behind people and circumstances and chase them away!** However, when we are not aligned under Christ’s authority we become like the seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19:11-16:

God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,

so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus,

saying, “I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.”

Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

And the evil spirit answered and said to them, “I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?”

And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

We inherited heaven on earth when we were born again, but hold on, we are not in heaven yet! We live on this earth and we can't be so “heavenly minded” that we are no “earthly good.” The obstacles that we encounter in the church are about people vying for position, attention, and recognition. The obstacles in the real world are different.

We live in the real world, not behind the four walls of a church. It means that our formidable battle with the enemy begins when we leave church on Sunday morning.

Has the worship experience empowered you for spiritual battle? Are you aware that every good thing that the Lord does for you will be challenged where you live, work, and spend your time? To change your world you must engage in spiritual warfare and confront your challenges! *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world”* (1 Peter 5:8-9).

“Don’t run from the roar, run to it because that’s where your blessing awaits you!”