

THE CHANGE OF LIFE

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim Parsons was called into ministry in the fall of 1981, while studying at Liberty University, in Lynchburg, Virginia. Tim has served as a pastor to students in several locations since that time. He and his family presently reside in Lexington, Kentucky where he now serves as pastor to *Center Point Church*.

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PREFACE

The Change of Life that comes through meeting Jesus Christ is the most amazing transformation ever. This book is dedicated to those who have taught me that lesson through many meetings with me and through allowing me the privilege of watching God change them!

In this book we will be discussing the change of life that happens when a person comes into a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ. A person cannot meet a life-changing Jesus and remain the same.

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Week 1: The Change of Direction

Salvation



DAY 1

(Date)

World's Easiest Quiz

1. How long did the Hundred Years War last?
2. Which country makes Panama hats?
3. From which animal do we get catgut?
4. In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
5. What is a camel's hair brush made of?
6. The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
7. What was King George VI's first name?
8. What color is a purple finch?
9. Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
10. How long did the Thirty Years War last?

What are some areas in which you have observed change?

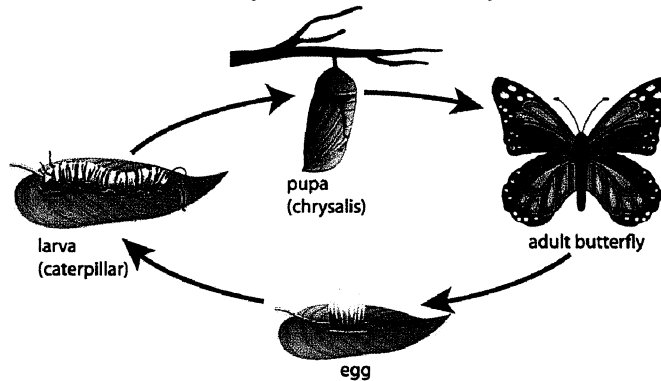
"Everything continues in a state of rest unless it is compelled to change by forces impressed upon it."

STUFF THAT WAS SAID IN THE 1950S:

1. "That drive-through restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on. Who would want to order something at a window while still in your car?"
2. "There is no sense going to Lincoln or Omaha anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly \$15 a night to stay in a hotel."
3. "Anymore, no one can afford to be sick. \$35 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood."
4. "If a few idiots want to risk their necks flying across the country that's fine, but nothing will ever replace trains."
5. "I don't know about you but if they raise the price of coffee to 15 cents, I'll just have to drink mine at home."
6. "If they think I'll pay 50 cents for a hair cut, forget it. I'll have my wife learn to cut hair."
7. "We won't be going out much anymore. Our baby sitter informed us she wants 50 cents an hour. Kids think money grows on trees."
8. "Cars that dim their lights by sensors, automatic transmissions, and who knows what else? Pretty soon they will drive themselves."

METAMORPHOSIS: GREEK WORD THAT MEANS CHANGE OF LIFE. BIOLOGISTS USE THIS WORD TO DESCRIBE THE EXTREME CHANGES IN FORM AND APPEARANCE THAT OCCUR IN LOWER ANIMALS BETWEEN THE GROWING PHASE OF LIFE AND THE MATURE ADULT PHASE.

Life Cycle of a Butterfly



An example of metamorphosis:
a caterpillar becoming a butterfly

What changes does the caterpillar have to go through to become a butterfly?

Is change always fun?

Why do we resist change?

TRANSFORMATION: TO CHANGE IN FORM
OR APPEARANCE; TO CHANGE IN CONDI-
TION, NATURE OR CHARACTER.

DAY 2

(Date)

What have you seen transformed since you received Christ?

With your family?

With your friends?

With your church?

With you?

5 KINDS OF ATTITUDE ABOUT CHANGE

1. Early innovators (2.6%), run with new ideas
2. Early adaptors (13.4%), influenced by early innovators, but not initiators
3. Slow Majority (34%), the herd-followers
4. Reluctant Majority (34%)
5. Antagonistic (16%), they will never change

Howard Hendricks, in *The Monday Morning Mission*

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

MY TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

OLD THINGS THAT ARE GOING

NEW THINGS THAT ARE COMING

2 Corinthians 5:17

*“Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!”*

DAY 3

(Date)

TO TRULY CHANGE DIRECTION YOU MUST BE *IN CHRIST*

What do you think it means to be *in Christ*?

What does it mean to *know about Christ*?

What does it mean to be *in* something (in a room or a club)?

How do you enter a room?

How does Revelation 3:20 say that Christ comes in?

What about John 14:6?

How about Romans 10:9-10 and 13 ?

**“The greatest thing in the world is not so much where we
stand as in what direction we’re moving.”**

Oliver Wendell Holmes

2 Corinthians 5:17

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!”*

DAY 4

(Date)

TO TRULY CHANGE DIRECTION YOU MUST BECOME *A NEW CREATION*

What does it mean to *create* something?

- Does it mean to *remodel it*?

- Does it mean to *rebuild it*?

- Does it mean to *repair it*?

- Read Genesis 1 and see if this sheds some light on it...

- How did God create?

Read the account of David after committing his terrible sin with Bathsheba in Psalm 51:1-10.

- Did David want God to *remodel his heart*?

- Did he want Him to *rebuild it*?

- Did he want Him to *repair it*?

- What did David want God to do?

Read Ephesians 2:10 and record what you think it says:

Three Stages people go through when confronted with change:

1. _____ to change
2. _____ of change
3. _____ the change

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

DAY 5

(Date)

TO TRULY CHANGE DIRECTION, *THE OLD MUST GO*

What *old* has gone from your life since receiving Christ?

Were you changed or simply stirred?

A person cannot come into contact with the resurrected Lord and remain unchanged!

Read 1 Peter 1:14-16. What does this passage say about our “old way of life”?

What does it say our behavior should be like as Christians?

Read Romans 6:6-7. What does this passage say about our “old self”?

“When you delight yourself in the Lord, then He delights in you... and, He plans for you the things that will satisfy the desires of your heart, because those desires delight Him.”

Warren Wiersbe

2 Corinthians 5:17

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!”*

DAY 6

(Date)

TO TRULY CHANGE DIRECTION *THE NEW MUST COME*

What *new things* have come into your life since receiving Christ?

What do you do now that you didn't do before?

How has receiving Christ affected your language? Thoughts?
Attitudes?

Read Ephesians 4:22-24. What do you think it means to “*put on
a new self*”? What are some ways to do that?

Read Ephesians 4:25-32. List as many of the “*new things*” listed
here as you can come up with:

“Some people will change when they see the light.
Others change only when they feel the heat.”

Source unknown

THE BIG 5

1. Bible Study

Read Meditate Memorize

2. Prayer

3. Witnessing

Sharing Christ with others

4. Serving God

5. Attending Church

DAY 7

(Date)

Asking the hard questions...

Reflect on this week and answer the following questions:

According to God's definition, are you *in Christ*? How have you seen this?

Have you allowed God to make you into a *new creation*? How has *the old gone*?

What *new* things have come?

Maybe you have been trying to do this on your own power either without allowing Christ to remake you (Galatians 2:20) or without really knowing Christ as your Savior, allowing Him to be your power.

Where does the power come from? (See Romans 1:16)

As Christ followers ,we receive power from the Holy Spirit living in us. Read Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:22-23 and John 14:16-17. How has the Holy Spirit been at work in your life change?

Week 2: The Change of Mind

Purification



DAY 1

Romans 12:1-2

(Date)

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Why does what you think matter?

“Let the mind of the Master be the master of your mind.”

Source unknown

How does what you think control your:

Attitudes:

Desires:

Behavior:

“I can read your mind and you ought to be ashamed of yourself!”

DAY 2

(Date)

Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Read Romans 8:6-7 and compare the differences between the mind set on ourselves (flesh) and the mind set on the Spirit:

Flesh: _____

Spirit: _____

What does Romans 7:23 say about this subject?

How have you seen someone's thoughts (maybe your own) wage war against them?

DAY 3 Read James 1:13-15 and describe the process of sin shown here:

(Date)

Sow a Thought... Reap a Deed

Sow a Deed... Reap a Habit

Sow a Habit... Reap a Destiny

According to James 1, what part does the mind play in sinning?

Look up Galatians 6:7. What does this verse say about sowing and reaping?

“A man is what he thinks about all day long.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Watch out!

- Watch your thoughts; they become words.
- Watch your words; they become actions.
- Watch your actions; they become habits.
- Watch your habits; they become character.
- Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

“A man can alter his life by altering his thinking.”

William James

DAY 4

Romans 12:2

(Date)

“But be *transformed* by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

How can I change my mind?

1. You must begin to seek out and welcome the changes that God is making to your mind.

How have you changed in your thinking since knowing Christ?

What are some opinions, attitudes, and incorrect thoughts that you used to have that are different now?

When was the last time you noticed a change?

2. You must focus on your love for God as your number one priority.

Carefully read Jesus' words in Matthew 22:36-38. What did He say the greatest commandment is?

What does your mind have to do with this?

DAY 5

(Date)

Romans 12:2

“But be *transformed* by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

How can I change my mind?

3. You must set your mind on heavenly things, not on earthly things.

Read Colossians 3:2 and write out what it is saying in your own words.

Give some examples of earthly things:

What are some things you set your mind on?

What do you think it means to “set your mind on things above”?

Give some examples of “things above”:

DAY 6

Romans 12:2

(Date)

“But be *transformed* by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

How can I change my mind?

4. You must ask God to test your mind frequently.

Read Psalm 26:2 and write out what it is saying in your own words:

If God were to test your mind at this moment, what would He find?

If He were to run the test over the last week, what would His summary be?

When was the last time you asked God to run a test of your mind and update you with the results?

Read Ephesians 4:23 and write out what it is saying in your own words:

5. You must renew your mind.

How do you renew something?

If your cell phone runs dead, how do you renew it to work again?

How do you think you can renew your mind?

Consider what John 15:3 and Psalm 119:9 says about this:

DAY 7

(Date)

Asking the hard questions...

Reflect on this week and answer the following questions:

How have you changed in your way of thinking since Christ has come in ?

If you have not noticed a change, can you see how destructive this is in the building of your relationship to Christ?

What are some practical ways you can change in your mind ?

How do you still think like a lost person?

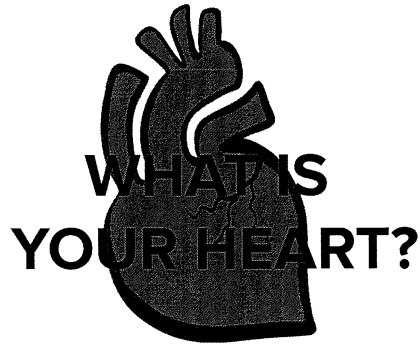
How will you make yourself accountable to this?

Week 3: The Change of Heart

Sanctification

DAY 1

(Date)



When we say God changes your heart, what do we mean? What does the heart symbolize?

Read Romans 10:9-11. How have you seen God change a heart?

What are some ways you have seen God change *your* heart?

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment of all was, He quoted Deuteronomy 6:5-6. What did Jesus mean in this passage? What is a change of heart like?

Some Heart Change Principles...

1. When my heart truly changes, my love changes, too.

DAY 2

(Date)

Read 1 John 2:15-17 and answer the following questions:

What are we told *not* to love

How does John describe what is “*in* the world”

Why is the love of the world so unreliable

What is the profit in doing the will of the Lord?

THE LOVE TEST

Want to know what you really love and not just what you say you love? Some simple questions will reveal your true loves:

- What do you spend most of your time thinking about?
- What do you spend most of your free time doing?
- What would you fight for? Give up sleep for? Pay out money for?
- What do you talk most to your friends about?
- If I were to ask anyone who knows you what is important to you, what would they tell me?

Is your true love God?

I *do* the things that I *love*.

2. When my heart truly changes, joy comes.

DAY 3

(Date)

What is joy? Is it the same as happiness ?

Here's a HARD question: do you have joy? _____
Why or Why not?

If not, maybe you haven't allowed God to truly change your heart.

Read Psalm 4:7-8 and answer the following questions...

Who gives gladness to your heart?

How does it compare to traditional happiness?

How does it effect your peace?

How does it effect your sleep?

Do you know anyone who has trouble sleeping?

3. When my heart truly changes, it becomes pure.

DAY 4 What does a pure heart look like?

(Date)

In what ways is your heart pure?

In what ways is it impure?

Read 2 Timothy 2:22

How does this verse describe a pure heart?

Read 1 Timothy 1:5

What is the goal?

Read Psalm 24:4

In what ways do you think that clean hands correlate with a pure heart?

Read about Paul's struggle with a pure heart in Romans 7 and record your observations:

4. When my heart truly changes, I want to serve God.

DAY 5

(Date)

Read Joshua 22:5 and answer the following questions...

How does my heart affect my desire to serve God?

What does it mean to serve Him with all of my heart?

Now read Ephesians 6:5-6 and answer the following questions...

Where does pure service come from?

How does your heart affect you doing God's will?

Do you have a desire to serve God?

What are you going to do about it?

Be careful, your heart can...

Become Hard

DAY 6

Read Exodus 7:13. What does a hard heart look like?

(Date)

Ever had one? _____

**“If you live in a graveyard too long,
you stop crying when someone dies.”**

Source unknown

Be Deceived

Read James 1:26. How can you deceive your own heart?

Ever done that? _____

Harbor Evil

Read James 3:14 and 1 Corinthians 14:25. What does harboring evil in your heart look like ?

Ever done that? _____

DAY 7

(Date)

Asking the hard questions...

Reflect on this week and answer the following questions:

How have your loves changed since Christ has come into your life?

Do you have joy in all circumstances?

Reflect on your heart. In what ways is your heart pure? Impure?

Do you love to serve or do you just do it out of obligation?

Do you think you show signs of hardness? Being deceived? Harboring evil?

Do you have secrets that you think God doesn't know about?

Week 4: The Change of Life

Regeneration



DAY 1

(Date)

Leo Tolstoy, in his great epic *War and Peace*,
lists the following stages of life:

BIRTH
CHILDHOOD
ADOLESCENCE
ADULTHOOD
OLD AGE

What are some different stages of life?

Chances are, you've lived through several of these life stages.

What do you remember about each?

Birth: _____

Childhood: _____

Adolescence: _____

Adulthood: _____

Old Age: _____

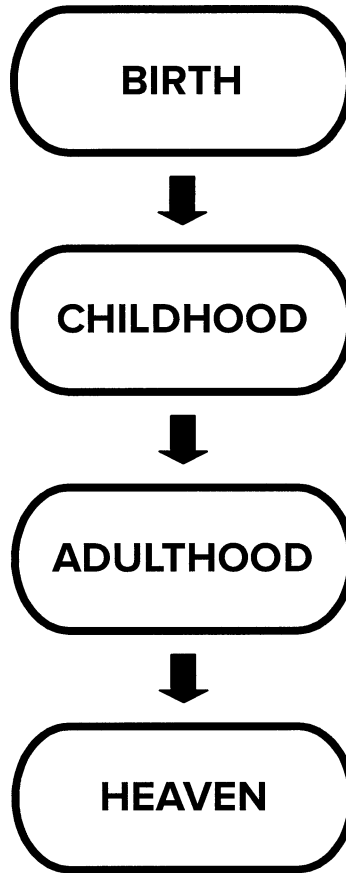
Death

What causes us to move from one stage to another?

How are the stages similar?

How are they different?

What about spiritual stages of life?



Read John 3:1-7. Where does the spiritual life begin?

How does spiritual birth happen? What do you remember about your spiritual "birth day"?

CHILDHOOD

DAY 2
(Date)

Read 1 Peter 2:1-3. In what ways do you feel like a new spiritual baby?

What should you long for? What will make you grow up?

In what ways have you tasted the kindness of the Lord?

ADULTHOOD

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. Focus on verse 11. How do children act? How is that different from how adults act?

What do you think growing up *spiritually* looks like?

What changes do you think God wants to make in your life?

HEAVEN

DAY 3 Why is heaven the final stage for believers in Jesus?

(Date)

Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-58. Why does death lose its' sting for a believer in Jesus?

Let's read how the Bible describes heaven. Check out Revelation 21:22-27 and 22:1-5. Take a few minutes and record every detail you can about what heaven will be like for us:

What does Paul say about the beauty of heaven versus the struggles we have here on earth in Romans 8:18?

DAY 4

(Date)

Look back over each of the stages we talked about for the last few days. Which stage do you think you are in? Why?

How long do you think you have been in that stage?

What do you think it would take for you to move on to the next stage?

Read Ephesians 4:11-15. What tools does God use to “grow us up” in our faith?

How does my life change when I meet Jesus? Read each of these Biblical examples and discuss your findings:

Acts 19:1-31

Luke 19:1-10

John 11:1-34

Luke 24:13-32

**LIFESTYLE: A PERSON'S OR GROUP'S
CHARACTERISTIC MANNER OF LIVING;
ONE'S STYLE OF LIFE.**

DAY 5 How has your lifestyle changed since you've met Jesus?

(Date)

How do you live now that is different from others around you?

Review the verses we have based this book on—2 Corinthians
5:14-17. What brings about the change in us? (v. 14-15)

How do verses 16-17 describe the change of life?

DAY 6

(Date)

REGENERATION: THE REBIRTH OF THE SPIRIT

Consider the following story:

A raw countryman brought his gun to the gunsmith for repairs. The gunsmith examined it and found it almost too far gone for repairing. He said, "Your gun is in a very worn out, ruinous, good-for-nothing condition, what sort of repairing do you want for it?"

"Well," said the countryman, "I don't see as I can do with anything short of a new stock, lock and barrel. That ought to set it up again."

"Why," said the smith, "you might just as well have a new gun altogether."

"Ah!" was the reply. "I never thought of that, and it strikes that's just what I do want. A new lock, stock, and barrel. That's about equal to a new gun, and that's what I'll have."

Man's nature requires just this sort of repairing. The old nature cast aside as a complete wreck and good for nothing, and a new one imparted.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Read Matthew 4:18-20. What are the events recorded in this story?

What do you think of these men and their response to Jesus?

Jesus is *still* calling people to drop everything and follow Him!

Do you know anyone who has given their life to follow Jesus like that? Tell about them.

Do you know anyone who has answered the call of Jesus for full-time service (to minister as their vocation)? Tell about them.

What do you know about them? Do they seem happy? Fulfilled?

Do you think following Jesus in that way would be a change of life? How so?

Have you ever sensed that God may be calling *you* to follow Him in full-time service? How so?

Would you be willing if God called? Why or why not?

DAY 7

(Date)

Asking the hard questions...

Reflect on this week and answer the following questions:

Which spiritual stage of life are you in?

How long have you been there?

What would it take for you to move to the next stage?

In what ways has your lifestyle changed or been regenerated?

Have you ever felt like God might be calling you to serve Him
in full-time ministry?

Are you willing?
