

# 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 3:19-20, "\_\_\_\_\_, 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!"