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
4. God can work His WILL even through traumatic, unpredictable, and unfair change.

We have a promise in Romans 8:28-29 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

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 truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is regenerate.”

In Acts 16:30-32 the Philippian jailer witnessed a miracle and asked Peter and John “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.”

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 possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone out of anything, I will pay back four 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 command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

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 foundation stands sure, sealed with this promise: “The Lord will rescue those who are his,” and, “Everyone who call 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 ____________. Whoever __________ 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; ___________, ___________, ___________, ___________. 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!”