

# TRUSTING GOD FOR A CHANGE Pt.3

## “Positioning for Blessing”

### I. Coming to the Intersection of God’s Power and Human Responsibility

#### A. Review

1. The deep, inner change we seek only comes from God.
2. Superficial attempts at lasting change by trusting in willpower, education, human gifting and skill only go so far and ultimately frustrate us.
3. We’re *trusting God for a change*. We’re learning how it works.

#### B. The Other Side of God’s Power

1. We saw that God’s “change system” starts with salvation, or *justification*.
  - a. God calls us.
  - b. There is power in the call that draws us to Him. The term for this is “irresistible grace.” Not that we *cannot* resist, but that *we don’t desire* to resist because a work of grace has already prepared our hearts for obedience.
2. Once we are justified (or “saved”), we enter into a life-long process of being “conformed to the image of Christ” (Romans 8:28-30), being “transformed by the renewing of our mind.” (Romans 12:1-2)
3. You can’t be sanctified without first being justified.

#### C. How Sanctification Works

1. Salvation, at every step, is the work of God.
2. Humankind has eternally struggled with this:
  - a. Man tries to “save” himself through good works or religion.
  - b. Even those who have given up their trust in the flesh for *justification* slip into trusting the flesh for *sanctification*.
3. These themes run throughout the epistles of the New Testament:

#### Justification

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:  
Not of works, lest any man should boast.  
Ephesians 2: 8-9 KJV

*(But the danger of trusting the flesh or human ability does not end there!)*

## Sanctification

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

I marvel that you are **turning away** so soon **from Him who called you in the grace of Christ**, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to **pervert the gospel of Christ**.

Excerpts from Galatians 1:3-6 KJV

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?** Are you so foolish? **Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?**

Excerpts from Gal 3:1-4 KJV

4. From the beginning, those who want to find God have struggled with the balance of God's sovereignty and human responsibility.

- a. God causes regeneration. (You cannot get yourself "born again" in any more than you can get yourself "born!")
- b. God does the calling, the saving, and the transformation into the image of Christ.
- c. We do have a part to play: in justification, we *respond* to the call; in sanctification, we can *position* ourselves for a change.
- d. The same *faith in the work of Christ on the cross* for our justification works in the process of sanctification.

5. Consider the following changes—they do not happen through the power of the person, but as the person "positions" himself for the change!

- Someone lies in a tanning bed. The change happens!
- Someone puts a sail on a sailboat. It is the wind that moves the boat.

Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts...  
There the majestic *One*, the Lord, shall be for us  
A place of rivers *and* wide canals,  
*On which no boat with oars shall go,*  
And on which no mighty ship shall pass —  
For the Lord is our judge,  
The Lord is our lawgiver,  
The Lord is our king;  
Isaiah 33:20-22 NAS

- The farmer sows a seed and waters it, but God makes it grow!

And (Jesus) said, "So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

Mark 4:26-28 KJV

*(Paul the Apostle understood this parable regarding local churches)*

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

I have planted; Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:3-9 KJV

## II. Application

### A. Positioning Ourselves for God's Transforming Power

1. In 2 Corinthians Chapter 3, Paul speaks of change, comparing Moses' experience in the Old Testament with you and me in the New Testament experience.

2. When Moses returned from being in the presence of God, his face reflected God's glory so much that he had to cover it with a veil!

And Moses said, "I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt."

Exodus 3:3 KJV

(He "positioned" himself before the Lord and change took place.)

3. Paul says that glory **FADED**, because Old Testament glory did not have the power to render permanent change!

### B. Supernatural Change for You and Me

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:18 KJV

- *We all* refers to believers (Paul is writing to the church at Corinth)
- *With open face* refers to the removal of the "veil" that had kept us from seeing Christ before we were saved
- *Beholding*-consistent focus, a "gaze", as if staring into a mirror
- *The glory of the Lord*- "seeing" Him in His word, in His people, meditating on Him
- *Are changed*- "metamorphoo" (Greek): deep, radical change, not superficial
- *From glory to glory*- to be changed into the glorious image we are beholding!
- *By the Spirit of the Lord*- the change is done supernaturally by GOD!

1. God made us of wet *dust, conformable, impressionable*.

## ***WE BECOME WHAT WE BEHOLD!!!***

2. I can study myself in a mirror and walk away unchanged. But I can't "behold" the glory of the Lord and stay the same!

### **III. Boiling It Down and Making It Real**

#### **A. I want to talk straight with you about money.**

*67% of Americans are in debt and will never get out!*

1. The flesh tends to selfishness, not to "giving." When we get in trouble, the flesh will tell us to hold on to our money.
2. We can "force" ourselves to give, but we really need a *change of heart!*

#### **B. God's Kingdom Order for Your Finances**

1. The five uses of money:
  - Tithe
  - Give
  - Save
  - Pay taxes
  - Take care of your personal needs and wants
2. "Beholding" God's provision for His people by meditating on His promises supernaturally changes our hearts to trust Him!
3. When we align our finances with the kingdom, we POSITION ourselves for a release of God's supernatural power in finances!

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the Lord of hosts.

Mal 3:10-12 KJV

4. YOUR part is to POSITION yourself, "bring all the tithes" into the local church. THEN God does the SUPERNATURAL, "opening the windows of heaven" and pouring out a blessing you "won't have room to receive!"
5. This principle works in EVERY dimension of human experience.

***When we do what we can do, God does what only He can do!***

***Don't you want this kind of change in your life???***