

Plan to Resist Change

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

To change means to make something different in some way. Often, it implies a process. Seasons change, relationships change, values change. Change is good if we are talking about growing and maturing in our walk with God. Yet, change is never good if it includes turning back from following after God. Satan's attacks on believers are designed to make them change—that is, to prevent them from practically applying the truth of the Word of God.

God has not left us to fend for ourselves in this present evil world. God wants us to be strong in Him and in the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10). He will never leave us nor forsake us. His Word gives light, and it will guide our steps if we let it. He has set up landmarks; He has made a way for us to cross over the Jordan into the Promised Land. That means that God has taken care of the sin issue for us, making a clear path to victory through His death on the

Cross.

In this booklet, we study how we can resist Satan's pressure for change. We will see how God's still, small voice can lead us into a glorious life full of His inspiration, integrity, and manifestation.

Chapter One

OLD PATHS AND ANCIENT
LANDMARKS

“He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel” (Psalm 103:7).

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein” (Jeremiah 6:16).

“Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set” (Proverbs 22:28).

Psalm 103:7 says that Moses personally knew God’s ways, but the children of Israel only knew God’s acts. God’s ways speak of His essence, His mind. God’s nature is revealed by His habitual characteristics on a consistent basis of integrity. Jesus Christ embodied those characteristics as the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). So Moses knew God’s ways—who God really is—but the rest of Israel only saw the effects

of what God was doing without knowing His heart.

In Jeremiah 6:16, the Lord said to Israel, "Stand ye in the ways, and see." We stand in God's grace (Romans 5:2). Then, it says, "ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But [Israel] said, We will not walk therein."

In Proverbs 22:28 the old path is referred to as "the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." God said, "Don't remove that landmark. Find it, stand in grace, and there you will find the old path. You will know where to walk and find rest for your souls." But what did Israel say? "No. We will not."

Meddling with Change

Proverbs 24:21 says, "Meddle not with change." To "meddle" speaks of mentally playing around with a thought until it becomes a reality. One of the problems a pastor often sees in his ministry is when people change their convictions from the Bible and allow themselves to be removed from the ancient landmarks. When that happens, it becomes all too easy for a spouse to say, "I am going to leave my partner." The minute that attitude manifests itself, that

person will begin to add sin unto sin to mask the changes that he has allowed into his life.

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23).

I must guard my heart by keeping it in the old paths and the ancient landmarks. If I become careless in my thoughts, in my words, and in my decisions, over a period of time I will begin to make “adjustments”—changes that do not include the whole truth and the Cross in their process of operation. These changes are not evident immediately. For example, if a clock lost a minute a day, after sixty days it would be an hour slow. The changes are slow and gradual, but the effects can be drastic.

Meddling with change almost always includes hanging around the wrong people and receiving the wrong influences. Satan brings in that “friend” to reinforce the ways of change. Then, a person starts to turn against precise doctrines in the Word of God and continues to change. Eventually, the process reaches its zenith in terms of a final decision either to leave God or to leave the call of God.

Keeping the Standard

A good housekeeper hates the slightest bit of

dirt in the house. A clean mechanic doesn't like to leave grease all over the place when he has finished his work. A reputable landscaper hates to see weeds in his gardens. The impartial judge detests crime and will judge those who do it to the fullest extent of the law. A careful writer prevents grammatical errors from getting into his writing. And, a godly preacher hates to see sin creeping into people's lives.

The Word of God is very clear. God has a standard, and His standard does not change. His standard is the Holy Spirit and the Word of God (Isaiah 59:19*b*). This standard will cause the enemy to flee. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He doesn't all of a sudden agree that it is all right to indulge in sin, to indulge in something that is not scriptural.

Because a self-destructive pattern develops very slowly, as with the clock that is losing time, it is important for every Christian to have a carefully planned program to detect and resist deceitfulness and deception. There is no way to keep change from affecting us unless we have a carefully planned program to draw close to God, to go to church often to hear the Word, to be around godly people, and to have a practical Christian life.

Chapter Two

HIS EYES ARE UPON US

“A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year” (Deuteronomy 11:12).

The land that God promised to Israel was now in sight. This land would be so different, compared to what God’s people had known. But to get there, they had to deal with many obstacles and distractions along the way. It was the flood season when Israel was finally ready to go over the Jordan River. In Joshua 3:15-16, the people had to wait till the priests stood in the river with the Ark of the Covenant on their shoulders. After this happened, “the waters...stood and rose up upon a heap very far from the city of Adam.” In a spiritual sense, it means that what had kept us out of heaven was effectively pushed back because of Calvary. All the people passed over the Jordan as the priests who bore

the Ark of the Covenant “stood firm on dry ground” (Joshua 3:17).

This is what Christians must do when facing sorrowful situations in the details of life. There is no other provision but to stand in the presence of God on the banks of the flood. Sadly, many times people going through problems do not operate in the confidence of the Lord and in the quietness of trusting God. In the midst of a difficult time, they do not have peace. Furthermore, they will not stand in the presence of God for somebody else.

The Red Sea typifies Christ dying for us, and the Jordan River typifies us dying with Christ at Salvation. Christ’s death secured a place for us in heaven, but only after we die with Christ can we experience our position. As beautiful as the land of Canaan must have looked to those who entered in, it still cannot compare to heaven, where there will be *no* enemies to fight.

Delivered unto Death

Second Corinthians 4 confirms the practical truth that we are always being delivered unto the death of the Jordan River so that the life of Christ can be manifested through our Spirit-filled lives. As we take up our Cross daily, there

is no need to express self-reaction, self-occupation, or negative energy because we stand in the presence of the Lord. Just as the Ark of the Covenant rested upon the shoulders of the priest, each of us is a believer-priest standing before God under the New Covenant. We take up the Cross to bring the Gospel to people who are drowning in the effects of sin and death, people who are afraid and don't know that a way has been made for them.

The only way Israel could have crossed over the Jordan was by the hand of God. The priests had to walk into the flood waters and resist the temptation to turn back, which would change the plan of God. There was no other way over to the other side. The Jordan never would have gone back far from Adam if the priests had tried to do it another way.

That very year, the Jordan went back, and Israel took over Canaan. There was, however, a defeat at Ai because of the sin of Achan (see Joshua 7). But the consequent victories were magnificent and beautiful because of the leadership of Joshua and Caleb.

A Beautiful Conclusion

Moses prepared Joshua to lead during the

last nine months of his life. Moses had sinned in Numbers 20 and God told him he would not set foot in the Promised Land. Yet, Moses repented and enjoyed a beautiful nine months, during which he wrote the book of Deuteronomy and also trained Joshua to take his place. It is a beautiful story that God did not just take Moses home to heaven right away. Instead, God gave Moses the most beautiful months of his life. The result is Deuteronomy—a book like no other in the Old Testament.

The eyes of the Lord were upon Moses, and the eyes of the Lord are upon every one of us. It is important for teenagers to understand that the eyes of the Lord are upon them. It doesn't matter whether they want to hear the Word of God or not, or whether they do or do not rebel. The things that they do with their bodies are being recorded in certain books that will be read in eternity. The eyes of the Lord see these things and record the deeds that are done.

The eyes of God are upon marriages, families, and businesses. The omnipresence of God's eyes, the omniscience of His wisdom, and the omnipotence of His power are always there. He is constantly watching over His creation and watching over us. We belong to God, and our

bodies are the temples of His Holy Spirit.

Chapter Three

FROM MEDITATION TO MATURITY

“Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth” (Psalm 46:10).

“And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice” (1 Kings 19:12).

It is very important for us to learn how to be mature in our silence. Meditation upon the Word of God produces divine silence. A person living in divine silence has an openness to hear God’s still, small voice. No one fully understands what the still, small voice is saying unless he has entered into divine quietness.

Divine quietness is not passivity. Divine quietness means that you are totally cleansed, that you are studying to be quiet so the Holy Spirit can inspire meditation.

Meditation on the Word of God starts in-

wardly with a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great value (1 Peter 3:4). An inner reflection of every word of God and every promise of God begins to develop in your unconscious, subconscious, and conscious mind. Your silence begins to control your inner thoughts. The transformation of your inner man becomes evident because of an attitude of respect for the Word, because of the application of faith, because of the motivation of love, and because of a hunger and thirst to know God. As a result, you have an amazing inner peace (Isaiah 26:3) and your mind is stayed upon God.

As this happens, you become swift to hear, but slow to speak, according to James chapter one. Please learn to be swift to hear and slow to speak. The enemy of our souls wants us to speak out in reaction to everything we hear. We always hear things that could make us react or trap us into a rut of dialogue that is not edifying or profitable.

Inspired Imaginations

This all leads to categorical inspiration, which gives us the visionary track of God's purpose, God's Person, and God's Spirit through divine imaginations.*

This happened to me years ago at Worthly Pond, Maine. My meditation on God's Word and His Person brought in God's inspiration with a divine imagination. It was as if pictures were developing in the darkroom of my soul. God showed me that we would have Christian schools, radio and television ministries, and worldwide missionary operations, while I had only a small country church. All these things have come to pass. That vision imparted by God began as positive impressions that were developed by the Holy Spirit in the darkroom of my soul. But then they become reality in the plan of God.

Visionary imaginations are directed by our quietness before God, which enables us to receive His thoughts as we live in His presence with our feet in the Jordan. We are now completely cleared of judgment because of the Cross. Now, the waters are parted, and whosoever will may enter into the joy of the Lord without tasting death.

Visitation and Manifestation

"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:7-8).

When God imparts a heavenly vision, He gives us a divine imagination. That way, we can receive an ongoing visitation of beautiful thoughts that only God can give us. They are very edifying thoughts. And, the visitation expands into a glorious and divinely directed manifestation of the love of God.

Nothing arouses Satan’s anger more than a Christian entering into the manifestation of God’s life. Just thinking will not do it. Just praying will not do it. Simply quoting scriptures will not do it. There must be the inspiration of meditation reflected when a visitation in a divine imagination becomes the manifestation of God’s life. Once this manifestation is established, we have a process of growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through divine revelation.

Revelation comes because you are hungry and thirsty after God. You are not occupied with your problems. You are free to receive from God and His servants and to have the Holy Spirit

teach you. Revelation is simply the result of practical obedience to God's impartation. When we enter into the heavenly impartation of a vision by the revelation and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, then Satan has to flee. We are prepared with a plan to resist any change that the devil may try to cultivate. Instead, we are changed by Christ's life, from glory to glory.

**Read Imaginations of the Heart and Categorical Meditation: The One Answer to All Problems, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1998.*

CONCLUSION

The eyes of the Lord are upon us from the beginning of the year to the end of it. They are not on us to condemn us. They are not upon us to find fault. It is for our sake, because the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit will intercede on our behalf when we need it. His eyes are upon us because He loves us.

As a mother keeps her eyes on her newborn baby, the Lord keeps His eyes upon each of his children. Just as the mom guides her child through the normal processes of growth with protection and provision, so does God guide His children.

God's provision is always greater than any problem we encounter. His power always surpasses our weaknesses. His wisdom always inspires our knowledge. And, His love always helps us overcome any self-destructing self-image.

Resist the changes Satan wants to bring your

way. Do it by understanding that you are always in the presence of God. Do it by daily recognizing the fact that you were crucified with Christ two thousand years ago. God will bring us through each situation. He always sees us through, and He always watches over us. He will never ever leave us.

Dear Lord, make these words a practical reality in our lives as we grow more aware of your inspiration and revelation. More than anything, may You help us to express Your character, as we desire to manifest Your life and Your ways to the lost through our lives. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.