

## Where There's Change There's Life

**The future has a way of arriving unannounced.** George Will Pulitzer winning Journalist & Author

### ECCLESIASTES 3:1

**To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven**

We are living in a world that is accelerating and changing in every part of life. We have technology now that was not even in the day-dreams of inventors fifty or even twenty years ago. And those technologies are changing so rapidly that by the time they are exported off-shore to another country they are already out of date!

**Change is like the air we live in ... it is everywhere!**

I felt compelled to do some teaching on the whole subject of change because we are literally only 7-8 weeks from 2010 and for many, life is going to dramatically change in some way.

- Students are sitting exams ready for a change of Class or School.
- For some their jobs may be coming to an end because of seasonal changes.
- For some the job is starting ...or maybe it is simply changing.
- Throughout this year we as a Church family have faced issues that have been incredibly challenging because of the change they have brought about.
- Our School next year faces a HUGE change in staff. (Murray Ramsay and Aimee Campbell leaving)

In all of life there is no sitting still. Even if we physically stop ... everything around us continues to change.

We are right in the middle of one of the most visible seasons of change as we transition from Winter to Summer and there is nothing that will stop this transition. Not unusually cold weather, or more or less rain, or frosts ... the season change will happen!

Change is like that ...it is unavoidable.

One of the greatest disappointments in life is caused by a false expectation that things will remain the same!

There are FOUR Types of Change:

1. Change that happens TO us – this is change that affects us personally
2. Change that happens AROUND us – community, society, nationally
3. Change that happens WITHIN us – physical, emotional, mental, spiritual
4. Change that WE INITIATE

We are instructed about change in the Bible (being transformed, renewed, old things passing away, all things becoming new) and we are even warned about change.

Jesus wanted His disciples to be well aware that things were not going to remain as they were. He knew things were going to change so much that it was going to be difficult for His friends.

**John 16:1**

**NKJV - These things I have spoken to you that you should not be made to stumble**

**MSG - “I’ve told you these things to prepare you for rough times ahead.**

**NIV - “All this I have told you so that you will not go astray.**

**NLT - “I have told you these things so that you won’t fall away.**

**NCV - “I have told you these things to keep you from giving up.**

We cannot avoid or deny change yet change has the power to either strengthen or weaken our lives.

Q. Why is it that when we are surrounded by change we so often convince ourselves it will not or could never happen to us?

Five Principles of Change:

1. Change is guaranteed – nothing is permanent
2. Change is continual – it doesn’t stop for anything
3. Everything changes – knowledge, interests, values, priorities, our bodies ...etc.etc
4. It is inevitable – unavoidable
5. It is a principle of life – change is proof that there is still life of some form in you.

## **Change can be our enemy or our friend.**

We welcome change because we like convenience – yet we hate change when it is an inconvenience.

We have a ‘double-minded’ attitude towards change and that attitude needs to change!

### **JAMES 1:2-8 (NIV)**

**<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds (change), <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.**

The Apostle Peter is a good example for many things and we can read of just such a ‘double-minded’ example:

### **MATTHEW 16:13-23**

- Peter receives a perfect revelation of who Jesus is and gets hugely praised and blessed by Jesus.
- Then in the next breath totally blows it and Jesus calls him Satan!

Q. What was the stumbling block here for Peter?

**Vs: 23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”**

Our natural instinct is to speak before we think or react before we respond.

When we react instead of responding (reactions are almost always from a negative or self-preservation standpoint) we condition ourselves to live a life as a VICTIM.

A victim mentality has selfishness at its core and can become so powerful it can choke the life out of everything.

Change causes fear when there is no reference point – no unshakeable revelation.

Peter having received that unshakable revelation of who Jesus is almost immediately forgot it because he was thinking only of himself ... he did not want to lose Jesus.

**Q. Will you say a 'YES' so big to God that the 'yes' will take care of all following decisions?**

I must tell you that there is ONE who has never changed and will never change.

**MALACHI 3:6**

**“For I am the Lord, I do not change**

This is why the Apostle Paul truthfully instructs us to build our lives on the *unshakable foundation & revelation* of God.

**HEBREWS 12:28**

**Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.**

We must get used to and accept the truth that:

- Change is everywhere
- Change is unavoidable
- Change is proof of life
- With God on our side we do not need to fear change

Why can we be so secure in the midst of change with God?

1. God uses change to advance His purposes in our lives.
2. God has promised that nothing on Earth is permanent.
3. Nothing is permanent except God & His promises
4. God's Character & Nature are UNCHANGING!

**NEXT WEEK:**

THE BENEFITS OF CHANGE.