

HOPE-FILLED CHANGE

March 5, 2023 • Philippians 1:3-6 & 3:12-14

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I. INTRODUCTION:

A. We all like to think that we can "just do it ourselves." Especially when it comes to changing ourselves.

- God wants to transform us from the **inside** out.

B. When it comes to inner change, our tendency is to hold one of two beliefs:

- It is all up to God.
- It is all up to us.

C. The Bible teaches us that there is a God part and an us part:

- **God's** part is His power
- **Our** part is cooperating

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ returns. Philippians 1:6

I. SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS A PROCESS

A. Inner change, spiritual growth, is called the process of sanctification.

And the Lord – who is the Spirit – makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image. 2 Corinthians 3:18

B. We can relate to the Apostle Paul's image:

I press on to reach the end of the race (of a faithful life) and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus is calling us (cheering us). Philippians 3:14

C. How does God change us?

- The **start**

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17

- The **race**

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

II. ASK GOD TO HELP YOU AS YOU ENCOUNTER OBSTACLES

A. Our race is a steeple chase....things to run over, around, beyond

I have fought (I am fighting) the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. 2 Timothy 4:7

B. Lots of "outside" obstacles but the big challenging obstacles are "inside," truly what we "think"...about us and God.

- We think.....
- These thoughts slow or stop the Holy Spirit "change reaction."

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest...let me teach you..." Matthew 11:28-29

CONCLUSION: