

Change

A quick Google search reveals nearly everyone is interested in changing something about themselves, and nearly everybody has 5 to 30 ways to change you. Change is necessary because something is wrong. The good news is there's hope for change. David Powlison outlines five sources for change in your life.

God himself changes you. "It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). David Powlison writes, "He intervenes in your life, turning you from suicidal self-will to the kingdom of life. He raises you in Christ when you are dead in trespasses and sins. He restores hearing when you are deaf (you could not hear him otherwise). He gives sight when you are blind (you could not see him otherwise). He is immediately and personally present, a life-creating voice, a strong and strengthening hand." Jesus Christ has done and continues to do what is necessary for your salvation and your sanctification. And he gives you the Spirit to work out the fruit of Christ in your life (Galatians 5:22-24).

The Word of truth changes you. "The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." (Ps. 19:7) David Powlison writes, "In Scripture, God comes in person. We participate by hearing and responding. Of course Scripture and God work in harmony. In fact, all five dimensions are complementary—and all ultimately depend on the hand of God. One lovely expression of the interplay between the Word of God and the God of the Word occurs in Romans 15. Paul first points out how Scripture changes us: "Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Rom. 15:3). A few sentences later, Paul asks God himself to change us, to give us the very things that his Word calls for and calls forth: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" (Rom. 15:13).

Wise people change you. "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise" (Prov. 13:20).

David Powlison writes, "Godly growth is most frequently mediated through the gifts and graces of brothers and sisters in Christ. At the most basic corporate level, you can't call on God unless you believe in him; you can't believe in him unless you hear of him; you can't hear of him unless someone proclaims him (Rom. 10:14). Good worship, preaching, teaching, prayer, and sacraments have radiant, fruitful effects.

Similarly, the honesty and graciousness, humility and clarity, good sense and convictions of others have radiant, fruitful effects (James 3:17-18). Good role models make a huge difference (2 Tim. 3:10-11). It is a great mercy to know people who deal gently with your ignorance and waywardness, because they know their own weakness and sinfulness, and they know the mercies of Christ (Heb. 5:2-3). It makes a huge difference when other people are able to comfort you in your afflictions, because God is bringing comfort into their afflictions (2 Cor. 1:4)."

Suffering, struggle, and troubles change you. "Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered" (Heb. 5:8). Powlison writes, "The difficulties that we experience necessitate grace by awakening a true sense of weakness and need. This is where the Spirit is working. People change because something is hard, not because everything goes well; something—including myself—is off. Ministry traffics in trouble because Christ enters trouble, lives through trouble, is unafraid of trouble, speaks and acts into trouble. Struggles force us to need God. And we learn to love the way Christ loves only by experiencing the hard things that he experienced in loving us.

You change. "You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God" (1 Thess. 1:9). Finally, Powlison says, "We turn—from darkness to light, from false gods to the only true God, from death to life, from unbelief to faith. You ask for help because you need help. You repent. You believe, trust, seek, take refuge. You are honest. You remember, listen, obey, fear, hope, love, give thanks, weep, confess, praise, delight, walk. Notice all these active verbs; they speak of wholehearted, whole-person action. These are the fruitful characteristics of a flourishing life. No one does any of this for you. You are not passive. You are not a puppet or a robot. You are 100 percent responsible, and yet you are 100 percent dependent on outside help."

Catalyst 2019

Catalyst 2019 is a plan designed to spark conversations, encourage prayer, and build community around the Christ Covenant vision and mission for re-planting a church through a movement of the gospel at 3100 Covenant Road.

Catalyst Prayer

Catalyst Prayer is a season (April - June) of corporate and private prayer for the Vision and Mission of CCC, and her future planning. Please pray with us privately and corporately by using the weekly "Catalyst Prayer Theme". Sign up to pray during the two Days of Prayer, April 17th and May 22nd. The sign up sheets on the Catalyst table in the Narthex at the Barnwell Street property.

Catalyst Prayer Theme #3 - Worship Together

The Mission and Vision of Christ Covenant Church are centered in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our Mission - what we do, and our Vision - what we long to see, cannot be understood or realized outside of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, our Mission is: Living in and Living Out the Gospel in Worship, Life, and Ministry Together

What we do - **Worship Together** - is not possible without the gospel. Therefore, we pray that we will experience gospel renewal that we may **Worship Together**. We can pray the following that God may give us grace to Worship Together at CCC:

- ❖ In our Worship Together that the Triune God would glorify his name among us by his words and works. Every service of worship we are dependent upon God to glorify himself to us, and by his grace, enlighten our hearts to see his glory - *Hallowed by your name.* - Matthew 6:9
- ❖ In our worship together at Christ Covenant that we would worship around the centrality of the gospel. Every service of worship is centered around this truth of the gospel - *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* - Romans 5:8
- ❖ In our worship together at Christ Covenant that we would do what God commands. Every service of worship we are dependent upon the Spirit of God to come down and lead us into all truth by his truth prayed, sung, and heard from his Word and Sacraments - *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.* - John 4:24
- ❖ In our worship together at Christ Covenant that we would love one another. Every service of we worship we are dependent upon God to manifest the fruit of his gospel in expressions of love - *I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* - Ephesians 4:1-3
- ❖ In our worship together at Christ Covenant that we would love our neighbor. Every service of worship we are dependent upon God to love others through his church as we are faithful to God's truth striving for deep and meaningful practices according to God's word while our neighbors feel welcomed, valued, respected and included in our worship together. - *Let all things be done for building up.* - 1 Corinthians 14:26

