

God's Power and Your Change

1. God is **Powerful**.....and.....you can **change**!

If Christ has indeed conquered sin and death and hell, if He has forgiven all of our sins and set us free, if He has made us a new creation and given us the hope of eternal life, then why is it that we Christians struggle so much to conform our lives to His character?

Why is it that we are so entangled in our grave clothes that we just can't seem to overcome so many of the sins which plague us in our lives?

Could it be that we have resources in this struggle that we are unaware of?.....

Could it be that we are fighting the battles in human strength and all the while not realizing that the war has already been won by our strong Savior and God?

I would like to suggest that it is exactly that!

God's Purpose and Will for Christian Life

Let's consider for a moment God's purpose and His will for our lives. God's will and His purpose for our lives are very closely related. They are very similar.....

It is no secret to us that God has saved us with a very definite purpose in mind. Again and again we are enlightened by the scripture of the purposes and the benefits of our salvation. God has plainly told us in His Word everything that pertains to our lives, how to live, how to act, how to love...

2. Indeed God's Word is absolutely **sufficient** and **powerful** to bring about His good purpose in our lives!

The purpose of God in salvation I believe is the purpose for which God does everything. That would be what the scripture calls "the praise of His Glory." God delights in revealing the wonderful and infinite glory of his character. In other words, He saved us for the sake of His glory. How then is He glorified in our salvation?

3. God is **glorified** in our salvation as He reproduces His **character** in us!

I think this is most clearly expressed in the following verses.

4. Romans 8:28-29 - 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined **to be conformed to the likeness of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

5. 2 Corinthians 3:18 - 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, **are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. NIV

And then when we understand the purpose for which He saved us, it is important to understand His will for our lives. That is, what is it that God is willing for us to do? What is His desire for our life? This again is crystal clear throughout the scripture and very closely related to His purpose for us.

6. God desires that we be **holy** and **pure** even as He is holy and pure. This is what we call **Sanctification**. We are being made holy or we are being sanctified.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 - 3 **It is God's will that you should be sanctified**: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to **control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable**, 5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. 7 **For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life**. 8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit. NIV

Titus 2:11-14 - 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It **teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age**, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope-the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and **to purify for himself a people that are his very own**, eager to do what is good. NIV

7. God's **purpose** then is that we be **transformed** into His likeness for the sake of His Glory!

8. God's **will** is that we be **sanctified**, or made holy.

God's Power

Consider with me for a moment the power of God!

Colossians 1:16-17 - 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. NAS

God is Omnipotent-God possesses all power. Any power that is in the creation is granted by God. God had the creative power to make the universe from nothing, and He sustains the same universe by His power. He has power over life and death and every other thing. He made all things with a very purposeful will, and He possesses the power to execute His divine will and bring His intentions to an expected end. His creation is just a **small example** of his mighty power. Not only did He create the universe, but He is even now sustaining all things by his powerful Word. Since God therefore created all things, He also transcends them, and ***His power and dominion are infinitely greater than everything He created.*** Since God is actively sustaining everything in creation, He exercises His power in every moment of time, being sure to bring to pass "all His good pleasure." He began alone, and created all things out of nothing, and by this great truth is known as "The Almighty." He possesses all the might. He therefore establishes rulers and nations, according to the working of His purposes, grants authority to men and angels as He sees fit. There is no authority except that which God has established.

9. God is **ALL POWERFUL!** He is **OMNIPOTENT!** His power and dominion are infinitely **greater** than **everything** He created.

Although God has called us to this high and holy purpose, that is to be like Him, He has not left us to do this on our own. Indeed he has given us every resource that we need to do exactly what He has called us to. Paul praying for the church in Ephesians, speaks of God's power which is available to us...

Ephesians 1:18-23 - 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 **and his incomparably great power for us who believe.** That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. NIV

10. Jesus is **King** over your **circumstances**! He is the reigning Prince of Peace! **Nothing** is too **difficult** for Him, indeed all things are possible to them that believe! Mark 9:23

Consider with me for a moment Christ's perfect work!

In **1 Peter** He has born your sins in His body on the tree?

In **Psalms 103** He is a compassionate Father who has removed your sins as far as the east is from the west, even drowning them in the deepest part of the sea?

In **Hebrews** He has made us perfect forever by His sacrifice and is our great High Priest who has perfectly mediated between us and God.

In **Ezekiel** He has written His beautiful laws upon your hearts and minds, has taken from you the hard heart of stone and given to you the humble heart of flesh!

In **Romans** He has set you free from sin's power, given you His perfect righteousness, and is now working all things together for your good.

In **Colossians** He has circumcised your heart, made you alive when you were dead, forgiven you all your sins, and cancelled the written code of the law that was against you.

In **Ephesians** He has predestined you to be holy and blameless, adopted and accepted you as His beloved children, given you an inheritance with all the saints in heaven, and loved you with a love that surpasses knowledge.

In **2 Corinthians** He has given you an eternal house in heaven, granted you God's all surpassing power, made you a new creation, and given you His Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing what is to come.

In **John** He is the Lamb of God, the Light of the World, the Bread of Life, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life, the Way, the Truth and the Life, and the Savior of the World.

On top of all of this He has given you Joy unspeakable, a river of living water flowing from within you and greatest hope of all, eternal life.

Should not these things make it evident to us that we have all the resources of Divine Power to live a life that brings Him Glory? Indeed they should and indeed they do? In 2 Peter God has plainly told us this;

11. 2 Peter 1:2-4 - 2 Grace and peace be yours in **abundance** through the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has given us **everything** we need for life and **godliness** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious **promises**, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. NIV

If Christ is infinitely powerful, and able to bring all things under His submission, and He has already (past tense) completed the perfect work of salvation, than it is entirely possible for you and I to change and become like Him!

You Can Change

Friends, sin does not have dominion over us and we can change!

How long will we waller in the slop of our former life until we will let the Master change us?

How long will we let bitterness and unforgiveness brew in our hearts like a cancer and depression gloat over us like a dark cloud?

How long will we let anger and strife tear at our relationships and our marriages and families?

How long will we let the filthy media and entertainment industry stain our royal robes of righteousness before we stop setting the vile thing before our eyes?

How long will we grumble and complain about our circumstances to the gracious God who has done all these things for us?

We can change by God's power!

I want to give you 4 principles that you can employ to better cooperate with God as He changes your life.

12. Judge, Examine and Confront yourself with the Word of God

1 Corinthians 11:31- 31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. NIV

2 Corinthians 13:5 - 5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-unless, of course, you fail the test? NIV

Let it judge the thoughts and intentions of your heart. Hebrews 4:12

13. The Word is Sufficient – do what it says

James 1:22,25 - 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 25b not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-he will be blessed in what he does. NIV

Luke 11:28 - 28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." NIV

14. Rely on The Holy Spirit's power

1 Corinthians 6:11 - 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. NIV

15. Employ the basic disciplines of bible study, prayer and fellowship with spiritual Christians.

Acts 2:42 - 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. NIV

It is vital that we are in the Word and in prayer every day and regularly in fellowship with one another.

God's Values and Ours

You see friends, it's all about what you value. It's all about what you ascribe worth and value to. It's all about what you worship!

Is it God, and His holy Word? Don't kid yourself, what do you really value? What do you spend your time doing?

Men value things that are detestable to God. It might be a house, or a car, sports or work, it may be fishing or shopping, or God forbid, television? In Isaiah's day men would bow down to a rock, or a block of wood.

16. Luke 16:15 - 15 What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight. NIV

Think about friends, what do you really value?

If you long for peace, then put off strife.

If you value gentleness, then put off anger.

If you want to enter God's rest, then you must put off stress and worry!

If we will let Christ rule, we will find Him to be the Prince of Peace!

When we begin to value God above all other things in our lives, then we will begin to become like Him! When we value the things that are esteemed by God, we will then begin to change!

When we long for Peace, Justice, Joy, Patience, Love, Faithfulness, Compassion, Humility, when we cry aloud for God's wisdom and search for His understanding then we will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

God's Power and Your Change Questions

1. God is _____ and.....you can _____!
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7. God's _____ then is that we be _____ into His likeness for the sake of His Glory!
8. God's _____ is that we be _____, or made holy.
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