

## ***Recognizing the Requirements of Change***

(NLT) II Sam: 21:15-17 - Once again the Philistines were at war with Israel. And when David and his men were in the thick of battle, David became weak and exhausted. 16 Ishbi-benob was a descendant of the giants; his bronze spearhead weighed more than seven pounds, and he was armed with a new sword. He had cornered David and was about to kill him. 17 But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to his rescue and killed the Philistine. After that, David's men declared, "You are not going out to battle again! Why should we risk snuffing *(((KJV) Quench)* out the light of Israel?"

### **“Change Your Course!”**

On a foggy night at sea, the ship's captain saw what appeared to be the lights of another ship heading toward them. He instructed his signalman to contact the other ship by signal light.

He sent the message, "**Change your course** ten degrees to the north."

The reply came, " Change **your** course ten degrees to the south."

The captain responded, "**I am a captain.** Change **your** course ten degrees to the north."

Response: " I am a seaman first class. You change **your** course ten degrees to the south."

The captain was furious. He had his signalman reply,

" **I am a battleship.** You change **your** course ten degrees to the north."

Reply: "**I am a lighthouse.** → You change **your** course ten degrees to the south."

***Some people will change when they see the light. Others only change when they feel the heat.***

→ As maturing individuals who want to be successful in the enterprise of our earthly existence, we must be prepared to undergo continuous TRANSFORMATION throughout our lives!

→ Personal Change is necessary if we are to continue to be EFFECTIVE and make an IMPACT upon our present Generation!

→ The actions of '**Altering**', '**Adjusting**', & '**Amending**' are fundamental aspects of life to the aspiring Christian!

☞ *When it comes to the issue of 'Change', there is a problem that often exists with all of us and it is this:*

The **older** we become, the more **set in our ways** we become.

The more set in our ways we become, the more **comfortable** we become with the idea that **very little personal change is really needed!**

☞ **Positive Change** for the purpose of **individual growth** meets with **resistance** when it is forced to 'square off' with our present **Personal Comforts** by demanding that we leave behind certain patterns of behavior to which we have become accustomed!

***The general thought may be:*** "I realize that my life is a mess, but at least it is my mess!"

### ◆ ***How do you recognize that change must come about?***

→ Often times it's like the tires on our automobiles:

~ We notice that the tire is low on air and is in need of a **fix** or a **replacement!**

~ We hear the **sound** of 'change' as it **blows out** and demands our **immediate attention!**

~ We feel the **struggle** as we **strive to steer** in a desired direction only to be resisted by a sluggish response!

→ ***In other words, indications thru various means of information lead us towards an inclination for change!***

***Change comes about with us like it does with a baby's diaper, when the stink is unbearable and we can't deny it any longer...change must happen!***

→ ***In our text,*** *If David kept doing what he was doing w/o the consideration of a change he would have soon died in his refusal to make that change!*

We will arrive at certain points when we are **forced to deal** with the **cold hard reality** that if we don't make some changes in our life → *It may cost us our life!*

**If not our very lives...**

- Maybe our Spiritual lives
- Maybe the home life that we presently enjoy
- Maybe the job life that we currently engage
- ~ *Decisions that if left unmade will destroy us!*
- ~ *Decisions that once made will develop us to be better equipped to reach our destinies!*

**True Fact:** *There come those times when we realize that we are not able to accomplish the same things that we used to do with ease... **Life teaches us that things change!***

- ~ The aged archeologist who can no longer dig but now turns to teaching others.
- ~ The 40 year old who once weighed 185 lbs and could bench press 265, but now weighs 265 and can barely lift 185lbs.
- ~ **Mohamed Ali** couldn't fight in a heavy weight bout today...age/health has knocked him out!

- ☉ Davis WAS a man of War – **Acquainted** with battle
- **Accustomed** to challenge
- Now, painfully **Aware** of his limitations

☞ Thru King David we learn:

**Positive Change** can come when we allow Wisdom to Wield its Weight in our Ways!

- King David found that he now needed to leave off waging war and **move on** to taking charge in **other areas**.
- Applying his skills on other fronts that would still grant him success.

*There are three Catalysts for Change in our human nature:*

**1<sup>st</sup> – Reactive Response:**

- *Danger is present and life is threatened*
- ~ As was the case w/David in our opening scripture
- *In the World*, it would be reflected in the action of the man who learned that he was at risk for high blood pressure and he then made strict dietary/exercise changes.
- *Spiritually*, we realize that to stay on a self-destructive course of action (to continue doing what we are disobediently doing) will lead to ruin, so we choose to change!

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Elective Response:**

- *Alternatives are presented and choices are made based on needs or desires*
- ~ As was the case w/Ruth, who left Moab for Judah, thus leaving famine for a feast.
- *Today*, we might choose to move to another city for a career change.
- *Spiritually*, it could be that we may be standing at a crossroads of convictions and we wisely choose to follow the Lord instead of indulging our own desires of personal gratification!

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Proactive Response:**

- *Future requirements are anticipated and present adjustments are prepared.*
- ~ As was the case w/Moses\* (Only it was God who was making the preparations)
- *Moses spent 40 yrs. in the Pharaoh's kingdom & 40 yrs. on the backside of the desert herding sheep in order to learn how to lead God's people out from the Pharaoh's kingdom and shepherd them for 40 yrs. in the desert.*
- **From a practical standpoint** you might change your spending habits in order to be prepared for retirement!
- **Spiritually**, we see that doing things the same old way lead to the same old results and we desire change...so we voluntarily 'step our game' and move into a higher level of commitment!

➔ We all should come to points in our life when we realize that we must advance to another **level of living!**  
 ➔ Paul said it this way (I Cor. 13:11) *“When I was a child...BUT when I became a man, I put away childish things.”*

☉ In our ever-maturing Christian walk God will bring us to the point that we understand that we can **No Longer Live** like something we are not!  
 Paul was an adult → *Not a child...*even though he once was!  
 David was king → *Not a warrior...*even though he once was!  
 As Born-again believers → *We should not be in bondage to habitual sinfulness...*even though we once were!

☞ David had come to a “Point of Change”

Once Famous → Now Faint!

Once Advancing → Now requiring the Aid of others!

Once Leading the Battle → Now leaving the Battlefield!

❖ ***How do you know when you have come to a “Point of Change”***

*It is time for a change when:*

**#1. When you can no longer do what you used to do!**

➔ David went to **war** and the **fight** was gone!

~ His Weakness had become **obvious** to those around him.

In the Natural: We must always be aware of our limitations and live wisely within them!

In the Supernatural: We must allow the Holy Spirit to **transform** us when...

A. ***We come to the Point that we can no longer condone wrong activity!***

– Our desire is Godliness and we no longer want anything to do with Worldliness!

B. ***We realize that we are not killing any Giants anymore!***

– Our spiritual temperature has plummeted off the scale and we are in danger of ***Spiritual Hypothermia!***

➔ *Look at the change in David’s life:* Killing a giant led him to being able to lead the Armies of God and then later, nearly getting killed by a giant, led him away from directly leading the armies of God.

✓ *Proving that we may not always excel in the things that we have enjoyed past victory in!*

➔ As Christians we must **constantly** assess our strengths and weakness to know where we stand, so that we don’t mistakenly put ourselves in jeopardy by assuming that nothing has changed in our lives!

➔ *(Judges 16:20) Samson thought that he could do as he had done before – But – Not So!  
 He didn’t realize that the Spirit of the Lord had left him!*

*You know that it is time for a change when:*

**#2. When people that you TRUST urge you to make a change!**

*Vs. 17 “...Then the men of David swore unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle...”*

➔ When people around you have seen you on better days they will be sure to comment on the comparison...

*“You don’t look too good today.”*

*“Have you gained weight?”*

*“Is your shower not working?”*

➔ I realize that most people have **no problem** being a **critic**...BUT when people that LOVE you and people that you TRUST start saying things (*especially when they are saying the SAME things*) – it is time to consider **Making a Change!**

~ *“Sweetheart, you don’t tell me that you love me anymore.”*

~ *“Daddy, we don’t go to church like we used to.”*

~ *“Honey, are you praying like you used to.”*

➔ Even the insults of your enemy may be an honest assessment of your current condition!

✓ **Take particular notice as you sense the Holy Ghost speaking to you about making necessary changes...you can be guaranteed that HIS is sound council for the purpose of making you better!**

*You know that it is time for a change when:*

### #3. When the refusal to ‘change’ threatens to “Quench your light!”

vs.17 – “...Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel.”

Mat. 18:9 – Jesus said: *“If thy right eye offends thee, pluck it out!”*

➔ If what you are doing or how you are living, carries with it the potential of **extinguishing** your flame or **dousing** your light ➔ **It IS time to MAKE A CHANGE!**

✓ **In vs17 – David’s men were concerned about his being able to continue to lead their nation...something that he could not do if he were dead!**

➔ *They understood that the oil of the Lord’s anointing caused the king to shine.*

➔ *You can’t be a light if something drains your oil out!*

~ If you quit growing...

➔ *What is stunting your growth?*

~ If you no longer have the ‘Joy of the Lord’...

➔ *What has robbed you blind?*

~ If you seem Dead & Dry...

➔ *How did you get in that Grave?*

☞ **Plain & Simple:** *If you are currently involved in any endeavor that is threatening to cut short your spiritual life...there are three things that you need to do RIGHT NOW!*

1. Re-evaluate your **priorities** and respond accordingly!
2. **Quit** pursuing foolish activities and start doing something more productive!
3. Agree to **Wisely Guard** your light from anything that could extinguish it!

## Is it time for change?

\* **Don't be afraid to move on into change!** (*It does have its benefits*)

→ *Because of your willingness to make necessary changes...*

- I. You'll **live** to see **Another** day & **Other** victories!
- II. You'll **gain** the respect of those around you & **increase** your ability to lead!
- III. You'll be **able** to continue to lift up **praise** to your God!

### The Requirements of Change:

★ Personal Change **WILL NOT** take place UNTIL CERTAIN CRITERIA is met!

~ In the **natural** and/or the **supernatural**, REAL CHANGE comes thru a process...

**First:** **Discovery** of the need to change

→ *Observation of what is lacking!*

**Secondly:** **Development** of the **Desire** to change

→ *The desire to change must be driven by a vision of what **could be** and what **should be** in your future!*

**Thirdly:** **Discipline** of self in order to bring change

→ *The result will benefit the individual and the environment in which they live!*

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### In Closing:

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It is important that you understand that 'change' is both desirable and achievable!

→ *What God calls you to He will equip you for!*

❖ If you don't make the change while you have the chance – there may come a day when the chance is gone and the only change that will come will be one that you wouldn't have chosen!

☞ A change is coming...

*Phil 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

...what changes do you need to make before that day!