

The Principles and Benefits of Change

The Unchanging God

I. Introduction

- A. This week we will begin a new series. It is based on the book, "The Principles and Benefits of Change" by Myles Munroe.
- B. Few things are more constant than change. That is a oxy-moron. Everything in creation is in a state of change. Change is inevitable.
- C. There are four types of change
 - 1. Change that happens around us
 - 2. Change that happens to us
 - 3. Change that happens in us
 - 4. Change we make happen
- D. Since change happens to everyone even if we do not want it or like it, we must learn to deal with it. There will be three constants - death, taxes, and change!
- E. Some changes seem positive and some seem negative. However, we can be blessed, bettered, and promoted by both kinds of changes if we learn to handle them right.
- F. If we do not learn how to properly handle change we can become victims of change- ex. waves overcoming you and dragging under vs. riding them!

II. Key #1 to overcoming change- Trust in God who is unchanging

- A. God is the only person or thing that is not subject to change. His nature never changes
 - 1. [**Malachi 3:6**]- For I, the Lord, do not change...
 - 2. [**Hebrews 13:8**]- Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow
- B. God's Covenant in Christ will never change. Because of the New Covenant God's Presence is permanently with us.
 - 1. [**Hebrews 13:5**]
- C. God's Presence with a believer is what makes him/her successful, prosperous, fruitfulness, health, and longevity- It is not our works, smarts, looks, ability.
- D. There was a person in the Old Testament that probably experienced the greatest gamut of changes but He was successful

because of His trust in the unchanging Presence of God that was constantly with Him. This person was Joseph.

III. Joseph

A. Joseph grew up a favored child

1. His dad gave him a tunic of many colors- This represented a favored person who did not have to work in the fields. His job was to attend to His Father, give Him joy, and to do His personal bidding.

2. Joseph became comfortable with his place in life. He took it for granted. His father Jacob taught Him about the Covenant of Abraham and his favored position due to this covenant. Since he believed this God's manifest presence was with Joseph.

B. Joseph experienced a rude awakening to the reality of change when his brothers threw him into a cavern and then sold him to some slave traders!

C. Joseph found himself as a 17 year old standing naked in chains in a slave market being sold to Potiphar.

D. Now he found himself in Potiphar's house but he resisted a mistake most people make. He resisted the temptation to view God's nature and His attitude towards him based upon circumstances. He kept His faith and focus upon His covenant with God and His presence being with him.

E. [**Gen. 39:1-3**]- Joseph owned nothing. He had no position, no possessions, and no accomplishments, but the scripture says that Joseph was a successful man because the Lord with him! God sees success not from what you have or accomplish but by who you know and having His presence with you! Joseph was a success before he ever prospered and experienced success in the natural. This can be the same with us! You are a success now because of the Presence of the Lord is with you right now! If you acknowledge and trust in His Presence in every circumstance even if it is negative then you will experience success!

F. The Lord blessed Joseph so much in Potiphar's house he soon was placed over the entire house!

G. Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph but he refused her and was thrown into prison. He found himself in chains in a lower dungeon!.

H. Once again he refused to determine God's nature and attitude towards him by his circumstances. He kept his faith in the covenant of God and His Presence with Him.

I. [**Gen. 39:21**]- The Lord with Joseph and gave him favor in prison and soon was ruling the prison! Joseph learned to ride on the waves of change instead of being swallowed by them!

J. Joseph interpreted the dreams of the baker and the butler. Because of this he had the opportunity to interpret the dream of Pharaoh.

K. Joseph finally ruled over all of Egypt because God was with him.

L. Never make the mistake of getting mad at God or evaluating God's nature or attitude towards you by your circumstances! If you will cultivate and practice the Presence of the Lord then His Presence will cause all that you do will prosper and you will find favor with those around you and with all you do. We are the seed of Abraham and have the same blessing of Abraham that Joseph had!

1. [**Gal. 3:29**]

2. [**Gal. 3:13-14**]