

FAITH FORWARD 

**2 WEEKS
TO EMBRACING
CHANGE AND
ACHIEVING YOUR
POTENTIAL**

WITH
BILLY EPPERHART

INTRODUCTION:

Whether we choose it or it chooses us, change is an inevitable part of life. You cannot progress from season to season without changing. In fact, every good thing is on the other side of change. So, you must be willing to step into something new if you want to experience God's best for your life.

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) says,
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is
a new creation; old things have passed
away; behold, all things have become
new."*

When you became a Christian, you said yes to transformation. God's grace made you new, but you have to take the initiative to align yourself with that truth. This two-week devotional will help you do just that. We hope that you will be inspired to take bold steps of faith and embrace change. The best version of yourself is on the other side, as is more of God's power and presence. So, let's get started!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Billy & Becky Epperhart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the names "Billy" and "Becky" written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Epperhart" written in a smaller, more compact script.

Billy & Becky Epperhart

DAY 1:

NEW VS. OLD

Verses for Reflection: Luke 5:36-39, NKJV

Every change begins with a loss. You must leave something behind in order to move into something new. Even good changes like graduating school, getting married, and starting a business come with the need to process the rhythms and lifestyle you are leaving behind. When Jesus came down to earth, He ushered in one of the biggest changes of all time— the New Covenant. No longer would the Jewish people be bound to the law and have to offer sacrifices for their sins. Jesus paid the price as the ultimate sacrifice, and now Jews and Gentiles (everyone) alike could partake in the gospel of grace.

Despite how amazing the news of the New Covenant was, it upset a lot of people who were committed to their traditions. When the Pharisees, the dominant Jewish religious group at the time, asked Jesus why His disciples didn't fast, He responded:

“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, ‘The old is better.’” (Luke 5:36-39, NKJV)

In the Bible, new wine represents the Holy Spirit. To get the new wine, you have to offer God a new wineskin. How? By changing!

When God leads you to make a change, it's always to unleash more of His presence and power into your life. As Christians, we should see that new wine pour out in every aspect of our lives. It should

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overflow into our finances, jobs, relationships, and everything we put our hands to.

**Yet, the last verse of this passage strikes me—
“And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately
desires new; for he says, ‘The old is better.’”**

This makes sense— the longer wine is fermented, the more expensive it is and the better it’s supposed to taste. Yet, the Holy Spirit often defies our logical thinking. One of the main things that causes people to miss out on God’s purpose for their lives is becoming attached to their expectations of how God is going to move. Then, they get disappointed or don’t obey when God asks them to do something different than they expected.

So, as you prepare to step into change, a few things are important:

1. Recognize any hesitations you have towards change.
2. As you give God a new wineskin, expect Him to fill that area of your life with more of His peace and presence.
3. Then, release your expectations of how God is going to move.

The new is better. Our job is to trust God and be flexible as we change to move towards His plans and purposes for our lives.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, thank you for filling me with new wine—more of your power and presence—as I make the changes you lead me to make. Please reveal what those are, as well as any hesitations that may be holding me back from your will. I trust your plans for me; I am willing to submit to both the methods and the outcome.

DAY 2:

**DO YOU WANT TO BE
MADE WELL?**

Verses for Reflection: John 5:1-6, 2 Peter 1:3

Sometimes God will call you to change something that's been a part of your life for a long time. We can get so used to our condition that it can be difficult to let go, even when that thing is hurting us. A prime example of this is people who struggle with an alcohol or drug addiction. Though the substance inevitably damages their quality of life, they can't let go.

Though extenuating circumstances may happen that force change upon you, Jesus never makes you change internally. The Holy Spirit will ask permission, which is exactly what Jesus modeled in John 5:1-6 (NKJV):

“After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”

What a powerful question—do you want to be made well? It may seem obvious, as thirty-eight years is a long time to be sick. But Jesus knew that the longer you deal with something, the harder it is to change. That man's life would completely alter if he was healed. The blessing would come with burdens

like getting a job and more responsibilities.

Since the paralyzed man was sitting by the healing pool, he probably thought Jesus was wondering why he wasn't in the water. So, his response to Jesus' question was, "I can't, sir. For I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me."

Even though the man was by a healing pool, he was not expecting to be healed. When we undergo the same problems for a long time, layers of disappointment can unconsciously keep us from receiving from God. We can adopt a victim mentality and wait for someone else to take action on our behalf because we don't want to be disappointed again.

The voice of the Holy Spirit is always empowering. In response to the man's disappointment, he said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!" (John 5:8) God has given us everything we need to live a holy life (2 Peter 1:3). As He leads you to make a change, know that the work it takes to get there is so worth it!

QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

1. Is there anywhere in your life where God is asking you, "Do you want to be made well? Do you want to change?"
2. Are there any areas of your life where change feels hopeless? Invite God into those spaces.
3. How can you "get up and walk" to exercise your faith this week? In other words, how can you partner with the change you want to see?

DAY 3:

YOUR TRUE IDENTITY

Verses for Reflection: 2 Corinthians 5:17, John
5:7-8, NKJV)

Who are you?

It's a deep question. You'll probably start to answer with surface level responses such as your name, age, and occupation. But before long, you may share things like your beliefs, traditions, and family heritage. Yet, when you become a Christian, you receive a completely new identity. All of the characteristics that once defined you are secondary to who you are in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV) says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, God automatically sees us as brand new and without sin. However, getting our flesh to catch up with that revelation is a lifelong process. We must be willing to change and align ourselves with the truth of what scripture has already revealed.

We can't place our identity in how we do things. We can't even place our identity in our lifestyle. God is bigger than you think, and so are His plans for you.

Yesterday, we talked about the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda. He was sick for 38 years, and Jesus knew that in some shape or form, the man had come to identify with His sickness. That's why Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be made well?" Remember that his response was, "I can't, sir."

The man was right— he didn't have the ability to

heal himself. However, Jesus showed Him that God did! In the same way, we cannot afford to identify with limiting beliefs when we serve a limitless God. You have to weigh everything you believe about yourself with scripture.

Do you feel like an anxious person? 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) says, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

Do you feel unwanted? Psalm 139:16-17 (NIV) says,

**“Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written
in your book
before one of them came to be.
How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!”**

Do you feel too incapable or stupid to achieve your goals? 1 Corinthians 1:30 (NLT) says, “God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself,” and Deuteronomy 8:18 says, “Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.”

Here’s the point: Jesus is the only one who can identify us. All we have to do is be willing to assume a new identity, calling, and assignment as we follow Him. As your knowledge of God expands, your knowledge of who truly you are will shift and

change, too. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. You're not going to lose yourself, but you may just find yourself.

I can promise you, His way is better!

QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

1. To embrace change God's way, you must be willing to let God identify you (and nobody or nothing else.) Pause and ask Him what He says about you.

Write it here.

2. Do you have any limiting beliefs keeping you from assuming your new identity in Christ? List them here.

3. Are there any lifestyle changes you need to make in order to reach your goals, financial or otherwise?

DAY 4:
**TWO KEYS TO
CHANGE**

Verses for Reflection: Isaiah 1:19, 1 Samuel
15:22, Psalm 51:12

From the Garden of Eden, which had “every seed-bearing plant” and the Promised Land, “a land flowing with milk and honey,” God’s will has always been for His people to flourish in fruitful places.

He wants to equip you with every resource you need to fulfill His will and experience life to the full. Yet, if we want to walk in this level of abundance with God, there are two things we have to be.

Isaiah 1:19 (ESV) says, “If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.”

Adam and Eve were not obedient, so they got kicked out of the land. Generations of Israelites were not willing to go into the land because of giants. Similarly, we have a choice before us today:

- 1) Change our mindset until we are willing to do the Lord’s will.
- 2) Obediently take action.

You can be obedient but still have a stronghold in your head that keeps you from being willing. On the other hand, you can be willing and refuse to follow the actions God asks you to take. Learning or receiving anything new requires these two attributes.

For example, adopting a new skill or advancing your business acumen starts in your will. However, it can’t stay there. To progress, you must take action. Many people ask God for wis-

dom, but few are willing to go through the refining process of getting knowledge and understanding first. When you ask for wisdom, God often responds with an opportunity. You are responsible for saying yes!

To change, you will need to start new habits until they turn into natural rhythms in your life. It will feel uncomfortable at first, but God honors obedience. As 1 Samuel 15:22 (NLT) says, “Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.”

So, don’t stop at willingness. Move forward into obedience, and give God a new wineskin! When you do, He will pour out new wine in the land that He has for you.

QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

1. Go back to the last thing God asked you to do. Are you being obedient?

2. What proactive changes do you want to make in the next six months? Where is the Holy Spirit leading you to make a shift in your:

- Lifestyle

- Spiritual journey

- Finances

- Career and business dreams

- Hobbies or skill sets

3. Are you willing and obedient to make those changes? What actions are necessary to see necessary changes come to pass?

DAY 5:

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO BECOME?

Verses for Reflection: Psalm 16:4, Psalm 139:16

What are your dreams in life?

Where do you hope to be in five, ten, or twenty years?

What kind of legacy do you want to leave?

These are all big questions, and they are important ones. God never wants you to stop dreaming with Him. Of course, even better questions are “What does God dream for my life?” “What does He want me to give to the next generation?” and so forth and so on. However, a lot of people get hung up there. They think God’s dreams for their life and their own dreams are completely separate things.

On the contrary, as we get to know God more, He deposits His dreams into our hearts. Psalm 37:4 (ESV) says, “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

So, pray and ask God what He thinks about your goals and heart’s desires. If there is peace in your spirit, move forward until God directs differently or closes a door. Don’t sit on the sidelines when there is so much that God wants to create and build with you!

He has a good, pleasing, and perfect will for your life (Romans 12:2). Psalm 139:16 (NLT) says, “You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.”

The big question we are getting at here is this: What do I have to become to do everything God created me to do? In other words, how do I have to change to do everything God put inside of me from

the beginning of time?

Sit with those questions for a minute. Once you have your answer, aggressively invest in yourself and learn everything you can about the areas you feel called to. This is more than acquiring knowledge. In addition, it's about surrendering to the process of becoming and being willing to be transformed by the Lord.

Get around mentors and leaders who are living the dreams that you aspire to. Let them speak into your life and offend your head. In other words, be willing to change your mindset! Before long, you will see your dreams start to grow before your eyes.

QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

1. Do you believe that God is for your dreams? Why or why not?
2. What do you need to become to do everything God created you to do?

It can help to think categorically– how would you answer this question in terms of career, finances, family, ministry, etc?
3. How can you take steps now to invest in yourself?

DAY 6:

COMMIT TO THE PROCESS

Verses for Reflection: Mark 4:26-29, Psalm 1:1-4

There is something we haven't talked too much about yet when it comes to change— the need for patience. Change takes time, so there is a great need for patience with yourself and the process. Only by exercising this vital fruit of the spirit can you have the endurance it takes to come out on the other side transformed.

You can't change your destination overnight, but you can change your direction. For most, this is a paradigm shift. Rather than only focusing on the ultimate goal, learn to celebrate the small wins and commit to the process! Every step forward is a step toward success.

In Mark 4:26-29 (NKJV), Jesus describes how change works in The Kingdom of God:

“The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

You can view change through the lens of partnering with God. As you read scripture and take steps of faith, you are doing your part. You are like the sower scattering seeds. Then, God does His part by transforming you from the inside out! Ultimately, He is the only one who can cause something to grow.

Anything significant is not immediate. Yet, if you are faithful to commit to the process, you will see growth little by little and survey God doing mini miracles all throughout your life. Before you know it, you'll see the 'full grain' of change and be amazed at your transformation.

Here's what's cool— one discipline affects another. Progress begets progress. As you are fruitful in one area, it may compel you to implement change in another. Keep the process going! If you do, you'll be "like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season" (Psalm 1:3, NLT).

You can celebrate the 'full grain' of change in marriage while celebrating the 'blade' in your finances and 'head' in your physical fitness. The more you undergo change, the easier it is to have faith in the process. You can praise God for small gains because you have faith that "he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ!" (Philippians 1:6, ESV)

PRAYER

God, thank you for your process at work within me. Please give me the patience and endurance to commit to change. Your faithfulness empowers me to be faithful, and I am so grateful that transformation is always possible with you!

DAY 7:
**SMASHING
STRONGHOLDS**

Verses for Reflection: Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Change starts in your mind. However, it's not enough to pour new information into your head or to begin new habits. First, we have to survey what's already taking up our mental real estate. It's like constructing a house— you can't build on a faulty foundation. God won't give you a temporary Band-Aid solution. Instead, He wants to completely transform you into a beautiful mansion where His Spirit can dwell.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) says, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

As you renew your mind, you will be able to better discern God's will for your life. The question is, how do you do this important work?

It starts with reading the Word of God. As you do, it will shine a light on the areas of your thinking and heart that are misaligned with truth. Then, your job is to tear down the lies! 2 Corinthians 10:4 (AMPC) says, “For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds.”

The word stronghold in the Bible translates as follows:

- 1) A castle, fortress, fastness
- 2) Anything on which one relies

Praise God that He gives us every weapon we need to pull down strongholds! It's important to note that these strongholds aren't just demonic things in The Heavenlies—in a sense, it would be easier to detach ourselves from those things. Who wants a demon on their back?! No, strongholds can come in the form of our very own mindsets. They are built when we lean on human reasoning rather than Godly wisdom. They are anything we've come to rely on other than God, such as material comforts or our 'productivity.'

Let's circle back to our home renovation metaphor. Have you ever removed a load-bearing wall from a house? Load-bearing walls support the floor or roof structure, and they're responsible for a lot of weight. Sometimes you need to remove load-bearing walls, but usually you take every measure possible to avoid doing so. It's expensive and messy!

Here's the thing—you probably have strongholds in the areas where you feel the most self-sufficient. And you've probably taken every measure possible to keep God from working in those areas (whether you know it or not.)

The areas that feel the weightiest are the areas where God wants to partner with you. If you already have natural strength there, imagine what you and God can do together! He wants to help you lead in your family. He wants to help you build wealth for the Kingdom of God. He wants to help you excel in your job. He wants to help you serve others through your giftings. Every time you commit to change with God, you exchange your limitations for His limitless power. That's good news!

QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

1. Consider areas where change has been difficult for you. Could you have a stronghold in this area?
2. Is pride or human reasoning keeping you from changing? Are there any topics in God's Word that you find difficult to believe— healing, prosperity, grace, miracles, etc?
3. As the Holy Spirit reveals strongholds and wrong thinking, replace it with the Word of God. 2 Corinthians 10:5 (NLT) says, "We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ." Every time the wrong mindset comes up, take your thoughts captive and reflect on the truth of the Word of God.

DAY 8:
**PRESSING
AHEAD**

Verses for reflection: Philippians 3:13-14

Your past is important because it makes you who you are. Every person you have met, every sermon you have heard, every situation you lived through, every lesson learned, and every book read are part of who you are. And in the life of a believer, you can trust those things have been orchestrated by God. What's more, He is constantly preparing you for the next thing—the plans and purposes He created specifically for you. God uses all the mistakes and failures as well as the victories and successes to equip you for this present moment. Having a heart of gratitude for His Hand in your life is crucial, and rest assured, it doesn't contradict what Paul says in Philippians about his major focus—forgetting the past and looking to the future.

‘Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 3:13-14, NKJV)

Paul is not saying the past is unimportant; he is saying don't hold onto it, don't think you have arrived, and don't let what **has** happened keep you from moving toward what **will** happen. God has done amazing things in your life, but He isn't done. Paul is saying it is necessary to let go of what holds you to the past in order to move forward into the future.

This situation is a bit like a monkey trap. As the story goes, if a monkey reaches into a jar to grab a treat, it can't pull back out while holding onto it. The trap is that the monkey will not let go of the treat to

free itself. Likewise, when you hold onto your former patterns of thinking, your past goals, or even your greatest triumphs, you cannot reach for what is ahead. Your new wine (the prize of the upward call of God) will burst your old wineskin (the things which are behind).

Change requires a deliberate decision on your part. The word decision literally means de (from), cision (to cut), to cut from. Your deliberate decision to change generates the cutting away from your past and what's holding you back. This cutting from allows you to move forward into the next steps related to the call of God on your life. Change, growth, and development all begin with a decision to press toward something new.

QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

1. Think about what has come before in your life. Are you holding on to where you have been and who you once were?
2. If you are stuck in a monkey trap and unwilling to release what you have to reach for what is to come, how will you get free?
3. Are you ready to make a decision?
What will you choose?

DAY 9:

TAKE TIME TO SEE WHAT'S AHEAD

Verses for reflection: Psalm 78:41,
Genesis 11:1-9

Mastering change requires the ability to look beyond your current circumstances toward a future full of the promises of God. This may seem like a simple thing—to believe you have a future and a hope—but your immediate circumstances can often hinder your ability to see ahead. The children of Israel allowed the desert to be a hindrance that blinded them to God’s promises and prevented Him from blessing them.

‘Again and again they limited God, preventing him from blessing them. Continually they turned back from him and provoked the Holy One of Israel!’ (Psalms 78:41 TPT)

The first step to taking the limits off of God is to let go of your past and look beyond your present circumstances. Then, you will be able to look upward toward the call of Christ Jesus. Your focus will begin to shift away from the status quo and toward the new things God has for you. You will begin to dream.

Now, take a look at the Tower of Babel. The story is an interesting study into the power of unity, but it also speaks to the power of decision and possibility. The people of Babel thought anything was possible, but they unfortunately neglected to submit their decisions to God. In response, God confused their language and scattered the people throughout the earth. Why? Their decisions had been based on their own strength.

‘And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they

**propose to do will be withheld from them.’
(Genesis 11:6 NKJV)**

The statement, **now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them** emphasizes the power of decision. When your vision is submitted to the Lord, your decision to move forward means anything is possible. Ask the Lord if your image of what is ahead in your life matches His plan. Bear in mind, if you can accomplish your vision in your own strength (by yourself), your vision is too small. A heart willing to obey God’s direction opens up the path to learning and conquering new things in His strength.

You don’t know what you don’t know. So, allow the Lord to open your eyes to the possibilities in front of you. Take time to reach out and touch your dreams. When you remember His promises, you gain the ability to turn away from your past and step toward your calling.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for watching over me and guiding me in the past, the present, and the future. Your goodness is always drawing me closer to You and deeper into Your Word. Thank you Lord for opening my eyes to the plans You made for me in my mother's womb. Help me to be willing and obedient in all my decisions. I want everything You have for me.

DAY 10:

**SHUT UP AND
GET UP**

Verses for reflection: Genesis 15:1-6

Sometimes you need a good, solid kick in the pants to jumpstart change in your life. Complacency sneaks in through different means, but one of the most common is through waiting. Often there is a long time frame between vision and fulfillment. During that time, it's all too easy to give into the voices of discouragement or disappointment, which inevitably temper the zeal you felt when you first received the vision. This occurs so frequently in Scripture that you would almost think the waiting is part of the process to bring a vision to fulfillment. Well, it is! But a difficult part of waiting is dealing with the feeling you have been forgotten or overlooked.

'After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.'
(Genesis 15:1-6 NKJV)

Abram had already waited a long time for his promise. Long enough to begin making other plans

to see the promise come to pass. You can almost hear his reasoning in this passage: God said this but He hasn't done that, time is running out, I am getting old, maybe the Lord really meant the other thing instead. You may have heard yourself using the same kind of reasoning at one time or another. Abram had been stuck in this thought pattern for so long, he actually said it out loud to the Lord.

In His kindness, the Lord restated His promise. Then, He followed up with a kick in the pants. 'Shut up and get up' is the short version of the Lord saying, 'Enough of this Abram, let Me remind you Who you are speaking to and what I have promised. There will be no work around. It will happen exactly like I said it!' Abram had needed a kick in the pants, but he didn't need it twice. He believed the Lord even when he had more waiting to do.

QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION:

1. Is the Lord giving me a kick in the pants about a change He wants to see?
How can I respond correctly?

2. What is the dream I have been waiting to see fulfilled? How has the waiting been a valuable part of the process?

3. Am I stuck in an unhealthy thought pattern because I believe God has forgotten me? What can I do to break the pattern—shut up and get up?

DAY 11:

CHANGE YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Verses for reflection: Exodus 2:11-15

Sometimes you need to change your environment in order to implement a change God is asking you to make in your life. Certainly there are better ways to do this than running from the law, but that's exactly what Moses did! God used Moses' circumstance to change more than his environment. He changed everything about Moses to prepare him for what was ahead.

'Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?" Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.' (Exodus 2:11-15 NKJV)

The details of Moses' life in Pharaoh's house are not part of this passage, but it seems obvious that he knew he was Hebrew and already had a desire to see his brethren freed from slavery. It is not surprising that God put this purpose into Moses' heart long before his training in the palace was complete. At the time of this passage, God needed to change Moses'

environment to begin the next part of his training.

The palace was not Moses' training ground to recognize the voice of God, but it was a place to learn the culture of a people he would eventually be in direct conflict with. Moses needed both sides of his training to complete the task God set before him. You may be completely content where you are, but the Lord knows exactly what you need to complete the task He has set before you. In addition, the Lord knows how to get you where you need to be, even if you can't see the full scope of His plan. And you rarely see the full scope of His plan before you are required to step out in faith.

Changing your environment, location, job, career, or anything else you are comfortable with is a daunting prospect. As a believer, you can have confidence that the Father gives His children good gifts and fully equips you for the path ahead.

PRAYER

God of the Universe, thank you for seeing me and knowing me and loving me.

Thank you for leading and guiding me toward everything I need to fulfill the plans and purposes you have for me.

Help me to be mindful of the road you have set before me and Your commitment to equip me for my future. You are good, and your mercy endures forever.

DAY 12:

YOU GET TO CHOOSE

Verses for reflection: Deuteronomy 30:19-20a

Have you ever thought about the risk God took when He gave you a free will? He risked His own sorrow at having to watch His children choose unwisely. He absolutely knows what is best for you and what will bring the most fruit in your life, but He will not force you to choose those things. When He gave the gift of a free will, He knew what it would cost Him. Even before He sent His Son to pay the price for all those wrong choices, He laid out the consequences in black and white.

‘I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days;...’ (Deuteronomy 30:19-20a NKJV)

In this passage, Moses provides a major clue for how to live life well. Life and death will be set before you in some way every single day. Moses says, “choose life.” God lets you choose, but in His mercy He shows you both sides of your choice before you make a decision.

It is the same in regard to change—you get to choose. You can certainly stay where you are, but you will most likely end up stuck in a rut before long. You were not created to stay in one place like stagnant water with no inlet or outlet. Between life and death, life is movement—forward motion heading for a

goal—and death is inaction—ceasing motion which causes indifference.

Choose life. Make the decision to let go of the things holding you back and press forward into the things which are part of your calling. Loving God and obeying His voice is life itself and will bring blessing to you and your family for all of your days.

PRAYER

Creator of the Universe, thank you for creating me with a free will. Thank you for giving me the gift of choice and for the wisdom to make healthy choices. Help me move forward in the plans You have for me. I do not want to be stuck in a rut; I want to fulfill every purpose you have prepared for me. Teach me to obey Your voice and to cling to You.

DAY 13:

**YOU GOTTA DIE
TO GROW**

Verses for reflection: John 12:24; Psalm 98:1;
Romans 6:11

Every true change in your life begins with an ending. Something old must stop before something new can start. There is simply no room for the new when every corner is stuffed with the old. In a different picture of the same principle, a seed must die to bear any fruit.

‘Let me make this clear: A single grain of wheat will never be more than a single grain of wheat unless it drops into the ground and dies. Because then it sprouts and produces a great harvest of wheat—all because one grain died.’ (John 12:24 TPT)

Again, the old is not necessarily bad; it is merely past its usefulness or is no longer relevant to the next thing God is calling you to do. For example: why does God encourage you to sing a new song? What is the matter with the old song? Think for a minute about being in the midst of corporate worship. When singing an old, familiar song you don’t even need to engage your brain. You can sing the song without paying attention, but singing is not worship without your engagement.

‘Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.’ (Psalms 98:1 NLT)

The Lord created man, and He knows how man functions. He knows how quickly a new thing can become a tiresome old thing. He also knows how familiarity can produce discontent and a tendency to take things for granted. In His wisdom, He encourages you to let go of the old and embrace the new,

to sing a new song, to enjoy every new day, and to delight in your new life.

You know. An old familiar song was a new song, once upon a time. An old song can, of course, still bless and encourage and be worship to the Lord. Letting go of the old is not dumping it in the trash, never to be spoken of again. Letting go is a matter of emptying a space to make room for something new. Letting go is dying to sin and self and becoming alive to God in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:11).

Change is part of the fabric of life. You were created to embrace change wholeheartedly and to be a forward-moving vessel that contains an image of God which is totally and uniquely YOU.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. Are you having trouble letting something die? What is it?
2. What are some things in your life that have become too familiar? How can you release them?
3. Do you embrace change or do you fight against it? What needs to die for you to become more fruitful?

DAY 14:

WHAT ARE YOU REACHING FOR?

Verses for reflection: Mark 11:24; Heb 11:6; 1
Corinthians 2:4 AMPC

Prayers can often remain quite superficial, almost as if you are simply acquaintances with the Lord and not intimately connected. You may tell Him your felt needs and maybe something happening in your family or your business, but these are things which only graze the surface of who you are, how you feel, and what you want to become. What if Jesus was talking about more than your physical needs when He said, whatever things you ask when you pray?

‘Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.’ (Mark 11:24 NKJV)

Your felt needs or physical needs are still important, and of course He wants you to ask for those things and the deeper things. Asking the Lord for wisdom in the context of change requires setting aside time for the Lord to really speak to you from His Word and through the Holy Spirit. Later, when you are walking through a waiting time or a transition time it will be much easier because you have heard the Lord. You can be confident that you are where He wants you to be and heading in the direction He wants you to go. In addition, it activates your faith!

‘But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.’ (Hebrews 11:6 NKJV)

Ask specifically, and with the power of His Word to encourage you, act like you’ve got it before you

get it! Know what you are reaching for and believe He will do what He says He will do. Then, by connecting your feelings to what you are asking for, it will ignite your faith even further. You will be engaging every part of yourself in the process, and you can enjoy the journey.

Change is not comfortable, not easy, and generally not something a person yearns for. Truth be told, most people would prefer not to change. However, life without **change** would be dull and colorless. Think of the way the Lord created the Earth. The seasons **change**, the weather **changes**, the sky **changes** from night to day, the oceans change with the tides, and on and on. Change is necessary, beautiful, and the Lord built the ability to embrace change with grace and confidence into your DNA.

PRAYER

Father God, thank You for the way You created me. Thank You for the way You created the world around me. I am in awe of Your wisdom and Your plan for my life. Help me to seek You in every aspect of my life, whether large or small, and show me how to embrace change well.