

Change me, Lord ... Please!

ROMANS 12: 1-2

1 JOHN 3: 1-3



What changed in 2020?

- pandemic
- political upheaval
- economic crisis
-
-
-

What changed in your life during 2020 ?



What changed in you during 2020 ?



God designed and expects us to change

² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ... (1 Peter 2: 2)

¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3: 18)

¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. (1 Cor. 13: 11)

What changed in you during 2020 ?

How have you “grown” in 2020 ?



External (outside) change is hard!

Internal change is even harder!

Sometimes, we don't actually want to change

(Don't actually want to "grow up")

Other times, we really do want to change

... but just feel “stuck” in a rut

4 “C” words for those feeling “stuck”

- Consider
- Confess
- Commit
- Continue

Consider

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
Point out anything in me that offends you,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

(Psalm 139: 23-24; NLT)

Consider

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. ²³ For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

(James 1: 22-25; NLT)

Confess

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.
Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
(Psalm 51: 3-4, 10)

Commit

- Must take action
- Need workable plan to get to where God wants us to be

Action Plan must include ...

WHAT?	HOW to get there?	WHO?	WHEN?	HOW will I know?
Goal	Actions steps	Person (or people) responsible – ME	Deadline for completion	Results

Commit

- need “community” to keep commitment – accountability
- need “holy habits” to break “old (bad/unhealthy) habits”
- need ongoing “godly encouragement”

Think of one thing you've been wanting to change (but haven't)

- “I really want to finally _____”

WHY I haven't made it happen yet (be as honest as possible)

○

○

○

Accountability

- Developing “new habit” takes time
- Time takes consistency
- Consistency takes discipline
- Discipline needs accountability
- *“Our level of commitment to ourselves is of no consequence without accountability.”*
- Caroline Zook, *How to Keep Yourself Accountable to Your Commitments*; <https://wanderingaimfully.com/accountability/>

Accountability + godly encouragement

- ¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. (James 5: 16; NLT)
- Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. ² Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. (Galatians 6: 1-2; NLT)
- So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. (1 Thess. 5: 11; NLT)

4 “C” words

- Consider (needs accountability)
- Confess (needs accountability)
- Commit (needs accountability)
- Continue

Continue

- Inward change - continuous process
- Life process, not one-time event
- Easy to be discouraged and side-tracked
- Continue to consider. Continue to confess. Continue to commit. Continue to continue.
- Don't do it alone. Won't be able to continue for long if alone

Want the Lord to change you in 2021?

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Rom. 12: 2; NLT)

- Time + Holy Habits + Godly Encouragement = Spiritual Growth
- **T + HH + GE = SG**

David by Michelangelo



Our Father loves us very much He is making us more and more like Jesus Christ

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. ² Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. ³ And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure. (1 John 3: 1-3; NLT)