

# The Basics of the Process of Change

## Introduction

How many of you know that we live in times that have been foretold for centuries—the last days of this age. The last days began with the resurrection of Jesus. From that point forward we have been anticipating His return, His *parousia* or appearing, which initiates the physical Kingdom of God in the earth, the Millennial Kingdom. The end of the Millennial Kingdom brings to a culmination or a completion of the purposes of God and closes out this age and brings in the future age of the new heavens and earth.

The scriptures give us two principles that operate during this age:

1. first, that which is natural then that which is spiritual (1Cor. 15:46);
2. second, to the Jew first and then to the Greek (Rom. 1:16; 2:0-10).

Because God has designed things so that both the natural and the Jew are first, we can use the natural and the Jew as a yardstick to understand what is happening in the spiritual realm. God has shown forth His plan and purpose in the natural with the Jews as object lessons for us.

### 1 Corinthians 10:11 NASB

- (11) Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

In the natural one of the signs of the last days is an increase in earthquakes. What causes earthquakes is pressure on the tectonic plates in the earth, which cause them to shift to release the pressure. The same is true in the spiritual realm. The work of the Enemy and our own traditions have caused pressure to be built up in the spiritual realm that is causing spiritual quakes. God is going to adjust those according to His own will. In the times of the restoration of all things God is going to shake and adjust all things so that what is not of His will will be shaken away.

### Hebrews 12:26-27 NASB

- (26) And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN."  
(27) This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Everything in our life is going to be shaken. It is the promise of God. Only that which the Lord has put into our life, the things of the Kingdom of God, will remain unshaken. When all of the preliminary shaking occurs, it causes us to be forced into a process of change. Change is elemental to God and to the things of God and we have to be willing to embrace change or we will be shaken apart at the final

shaking.

Over the last several years you have probably heard or watched something on TV or read a book about the end time events and all that the enemy is going to be doing—the rise of the Antichrist, 666, persecution, etc and have probably gotten concerned about all of it. In all of that you have probably lost sight of the fact that it doesn't matter what the enemy is doing God has His own agenda and His agenda is the one that is going to happen. All end time events are structured by God, prophesied many years ago.

## Three End Time Objectives—Why Change is Necessary

The Lord has three primary end time objectives that He will accomplish before the close of this age. They are 1) the end time harvest, 2) the preparation of the Bride for the Bridegroom, and 3) the restraining and casting down of Satan. Each of these three objectives has its own requirements.

### The End Time Harvest

The end time harvest must have workers to labor in the field for the crop is ready. This was true when Jesus walked the earth and it is even more true today.

Luke 10:2 NASB

- (2) And He was saying to them, "**The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**"

Notice that from what Jesus said the laborers don't decide to go to work in the harvest but the Lord of the harvest *sends* His laborers. To have a worker that is available, willing, dependable, and qualified takes some amount of training in *what to do and how to do it*. We don't know what to do nor how to do it the way that God wants it done. We must learn what to do and be trained in how to do it.

We know from the natural that the more important and the more delicate the job is the more detailed the training is. Why would it be any different for a worker in the Lord's vineyard? In order to get there we must subject ourselves to the process of change and learn how to become a qualified worker.

### Preparation of the Bride

The Lord is returning for a spotless, holy, blameless, and non-blemished Bride.

Ephesians 5:25-27 NASB

- (25) . . . Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,  
(26) so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,  
(27) that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

When you look at the church today, do you see a Bride that is qualified? I don't think so. It would

seem then that a whole lot of change has to occur in God's people for them to be a prepared Bride. The Lord prepares His Bride by setting her apart and washing her with the water of the word. Too many of God's people today are not set apart and are not yielding to the cleansing of the word. We must embrace the process of change in order to become the purified, qualified Bride of Christ.

## The Casting Down of Satan

Today, Satan and the angels that rose in rebellion with him are still operating in the heavens (the heavens, not the throne room of God). We struggle against these fallen spiritual forces.

### Ephesians 6:12 NASB

- (12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

However, there is coming a day when this will change. The struggle will be completed in heaven and the Devil and his angels will be routed and cast out of the heavens and into the earth.

### Revelation 12:7-9 NASB

- (7) And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,  
(8) and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.  
(9) And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

This was a rejoicing to the heavens but it is tragedy or woe for the earth and its inhabitants.

### Revelation 12:11-12 NASB

- (11) "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.  
(12) "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time."

At this point we have only three ways to overcome the Devil: 1) the blood of the Lamb; 2) the word of our testimony (probably about what the blood has done for us); and 3) not loving our life more than the Lord even when faced with death.

We have to learn not to love our life to death. We tend to love that which we value—if it valuable to us we love it and nothing is more valuable to us than our own life and that is why we love it. That's why we have to learn to have God's kind of love because we have to learn to value our life the way that God does.

Natural life is not important to God in that sense because it is the eternal life that he is concerned with. Jesus did not love his life more than the will of the Father. He was able to lay it down because of God's kind of love. We have to have the same mindset for that to occur in us.

What has to happen? We have to have some changes occur. If we are going to participate in any of the three areas of god's objectives of the last days, we have to change. God's three objectives are already in process, if we are going to get on with God's purpose for us, we must get on with the necessary changes or we will be left behind in the things of God.

## The Way We Were

Now, let's start off by looking at where we were—our condition before we met the lord.

### Ephesians 2:12 NASB

- (12) *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

This is our condition:

1. We were separate from Christ;
2. We were excluded from the people of God;
3. We were strangers to God's covenant promises;
4. We without God and had no hope.

Before knowing Christ, we had no ability to change our condition. While we could possibly change our circumstances in this world, we were unable to partake of any aspect of God's promise or provision. And we had no hope of ever being able to change any of this.

The scriptures also tell us why we stay in this condition.

### 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NASB

- (3) And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,  
(4) in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Who is the god of this world? Satan. What has he done? Blinded our minds. Blinded them to what? God and all of the things of God. The mind is not blind to education or science or anything else of this world but it is blind to the things of god. Therefore, without Christ we have a heathen mind—a mind that thinks like the world because it is blind to things of God.

A heathen mind thinks like a heathen. Right? How does the heathen think? “I am number one”. To a heathen nothing is more important than himself. Right? What is the second most important thing to a

heathen? Satisfying his desires—if I want it, I want it. All he is concerned about is me, mine, what I want and what I have to do to get it, and how do I get more of it.

Previously, we had a heathen mind, lost and far from god. Then we were born again and we began to function with a carnal mind. What is a carnal mind? Some of our traditions give differing definitions of “carnal” but the scriptures define it for us.

### 1 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV

- (3) for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

Behaving like men, that is, the natural, earthly man, is the mark of carnality. After knowing Jesus, we are not to behave like mere men anymore. We are now a child of God and should behave as such. So, another way of saying this is that *a carnal person is a born again person who is still behaving according to the ways of the world instead of the ways of God.*

We even see this in Peter, one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus.

### Matthew 16:21-23 NASB

- (21) From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.
- (22) Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You."
- (23) But He turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.**"

Jesus was telling them what was to happen to Him. We know that as the Lamb of God, this was perfectly within the purposes of the Father. However, Peter didn't like what was being said by Jesus and rebuked Him. Jesus immediately rebuked Peter and his mindset. Peter was behaving as a carnal person with his mind on man's interests rather than any thought of God's interests. This was a Satanic thinking process and created a stumbling block for Jesus.

We have a lesson in this for us. Whenever the carnal mindset is being expressed as it relates to the purposes of God, it creates stumbling blocks, hindrances, to those who are seeking to do the will of God. Why is this? Because the thinking processes, the mindset, of the world is contrary to the things of God because it is blind to them.

Our problem is that we don't understand how serious this is. Our modern church provides little or no teaching that helps us put off the worldly mindset and begin to move on into the thinking processes of the mind of Christ. As a result, our modern church thinks and behaves like the world thinks and behaves. It is a tragedy.

## What Jesus did

Our god is a god of processes. He didn't re-create the earth in Genesis in one day or in one moment. He did it in seven days—a process. He does the same thing with us—a process. A process takes time.

God meets us where we are. As the scriptures say, God loved us not that we loved Him. He demonstrated this love by sending His Son who died for us while we were still sinners, undeserving.

### 1 John 4:10 NASB

(10) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

### Romans 5:8 NASB

(8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

He didn't wait until we got good enough. Jesus died for us while we were the worst heathen imaginable. He died for us because he loves us. He meets us right where we are; but he doesn't intend to leave us where we are, but he intends to take us to the fullness of something else that he has for us.

### Romans 8:29-30 NASB

(29) For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

(30) and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

He did predestine us to be conformed to the image of his son. When he forgives you, it begins a process where the end result is that you look like Jesus. He starts where you are but he is going to take you to a new place. That is predestined—you have no choice. That is, if you are going to walk with Him, you are going to become like His Son or you will cease to walk with him.

Let me explain predestination this way. If I get on an airplane going to New York and they close the door and we get into the air, do I have any further choice about where that plane is going? I am going to go to New York. By getting on the plane, I started the process.

Now, inside the airplane, I can eat, drink, move around, chat with people and do all sorts of things. I have free will inside the airplane but when I exercised my free will to get on the airplane, I then fell under the rules of predestination—now I am going to New York. The moment we choose to be born again—to become a follower of Christ—at that moment we got on the airplane. We are now predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son whether we like it or not. Now, inside of that we are free to do all sorts of things, but that is where we are going. The only way not to get there is to jump out of the airplane. People do it all of the time. They decide that they don't want to pay the price to be like Jesus. They abandon it. That is why the scriptures talk about enduring to the end.

## Four Stages of Spiritual Growth

Let me give you four stages of spiritual growth.

1. get out;
2. get through;
3. get in;
4. dwell.

That sounds simplistic but it is not. It is based on the pattern of the children of Israel that were in Egypt and God's promise of the Promised Land. First get out of Egypt. God has a process of doing that—apply the blood to the door post in obedience and then follow Moses out of there. Then to the red sea for baptism and then the wilderness.

Once the children of Israel got into the wilderness, they were to learn some things. It took them 40 years to learn those things. The length of time in the wilderness was determined by them. It was only a two week journey between Egypt and Canaan but it took them 40 years. It took 40 years because they had 40 years of garbage that had to be worked out of their heart before they were ready to enter the Promised Land.

Our time in the wilderness is determined by us and our willingness to yield to change by the Spirit of God. We can take two weeks, two months, two years, 40 years, or the rest of our life. It's determined by how flexible we are to yield to the holy spirit for change.

Once the Children of Israel got out of Egypt and passed through the Red Sea, they were now “predestined” for the Promised Land. Although they desired on numerous occasions to turn back, that was really not an option. God was protecting them from the elements of the wilderness and the inhabitants. He made provision for food and water. If anyone turned back, they were no longer eligible to receive the protection and the provision—the wilderness would destroy them.

The first stage, getting out, is relatively easy. God has done all of the work. We simply need to be obedient.

The second stage, getting through, is very hard on us. God has to get Egypt out of our mindset, which is the purpose of the wilderness. We have to learn to rely on God for protection and provision and trust Him as our God and Father who loves us.

The third stage, getting in, is an expression of our dependency and cooperation with Him. We learn to become a worker with the Lord. The wilderness prepared us to participate in the plans and purposes of God and now we put it into practice.

The fourth stage, dwelling, is a testimony to the King and His Kingdom. Once we are in the land we must dwell, which requires a different mindset than we used to have. The Promised Land operates by a different set of rules than either Egypt or the wilderness.

The process of change takes us through the four stages of growth. As we move from one to the other, change is mandatory. Each stage provides the procedures for the changes that are necessary for the next stage. If we neglect the process, we will not be ready to enter the Land. Once we are through the wilderness, we either “stand and enter” or we become “bleached bones” in the wilderness.

## The Purpose of the Wilderness

The majority of change is to occur in the wilderness. As we move into the wilderness, God begins to work in us on many levels. It is in the wilderness that we experience the renewing of our minds. Our thinking processes are changed.

### Deuteronomy 8:2 NASB

- (2) "You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

### Deuteronomy 8:16 NASB

- (16) "In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.

These verses reveal God's intentions for us and tell us why the wilderness is necessary. The purpose is

1. to humble us;
2. to test us or prove us;
3. to know what is in our hearts if we would be obedient or not; and
4. to do us good at the end.

With the children of Israel or with us, don't you think God knows what was in the heart? He is God, of course he knows. Who has to know what was in the heart? They did; we do. Jeremiah tells us the heart is desperately wicked who can know it. We don't know our own heart. God has to show it to us. He knows it and He uses the wilderness experiences to show us our heart. In verse 16, He tells us the outcome of it—to do us good at the end.

The purpose of what God is doing with us in the wilderness is to do us good at the end. That means that all of the humbling and proving and testing of our hearts is for our own good. We need to remember that because when we get in the middle of the humbling , proving, testing, its hard to remember why we are there. We have to remember that God intends to do us good. That is why it is so important for Romans 8:28 to become a part of us. And the place where it is worked into our heart is in the wilderness.

### Romans 8:28 NASB

- (28) And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

God puts us into circumstances to humble us, prove us, show us our hearts so that he can do us good. So we have to get out Egypt and then get through the wilderness—that's the hard part. Once through the wilderness we have to get in to the promised land. They had a physical land—the promised land. We have a spiritual land of promises.

The scriptures say that the promises of God are “yes and amen”. Yet, how many of us would say that we live daily in every promise of God. Why not? Because there are promises that we have never experienced. Why? All of the promises of God are conditional, even salvation is conditional on believing and repenting and every other promise of God is conditional too. We legally have every promise. We experientially do not. So, getting into the land is getting into the promises experientially.

### Joshua 1:2-3 NASB

- (2) "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.
- (3) "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.

They legally owned the land because God had given it to them. However they had to walk on it to possess it—every place that you step—experiential position. There were giants there that thought they owned it. Walking on it wasn't easy—they had to kill a few giants in order to do it. We have the same problem with the promises of God. When God promises us healing there is a devil there with sickness. Legally, healing is the children's bread—it belongs to us; it was in the covenant when Jesus hung on the cross—part of the atonement. However, we all have been sick at one time or another. So experientially we don't live every day in the promise that God has given us. We have to learn how to walk on the promises.

After entering the land and killing the giants you have to learn how to dwell in the land. It has different rules than the wilderness and the wilderness has different rules than Egypt. Even God's method of provision changed. His provisional level in Egypt was meager—survival level. In the wilderness, the provision level was just what was needed—just enough. The manna was good for one day, except for the Sabbath. Only enough for the needs of the moment. When they got in the land, the day that they ate the first meal of the produce of the land was the day the manna stopped coming. After that, it was the law of sowing and reaping. As we grow in God in these different areas, his methods of dealing with us changes, his provision for us changes, and the rules under which we are operating in God changes.

These 4 stages are also reflected in our minds. I want to relate each of these stages to our minds. The heathen mind is tied up in Egypt. The carnal mind is in the wilderness. The spiritual mind deals with getting in the land. The corporate mind is about dwelling in the land. As we grow we will go through these type of changes in our minds.

## Qualifying for the Inheritance

When the children of Israel left Egypt they weren't capable of entering the land. God didn't allow them to travel by the caravan route because they would have to engage in fighting so He took them through

the wilderness in order to make them capable, qualified to receive their inheritance in the Promised Land. They had been in Egypt as slaves long enough that they, as a people, had a slave mentality or mindset—their thinking processes were those of a slave. By the time that they reached the Promised Land their mentality would have to be changed to that of a warrior—they would have to fight giants in order to possess their inheritance. So, the wilderness was to qualify them by changing their mindsets, their thinking processes, from slave to warrior.

We have a similar spiritual journey to qualify for our inheritance—the Kingdom of God.

### Colossians 1:12 NASB

(12) giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

The Father has qualified us legally through Jesus. Now, we must experientially enter in. Paul encouraged believers with these words:

### Acts 14:22 NASB

(22) strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

The children of Israel were made capable in the wilderness of being able to receive the inheritance in the promised land. God has made us capable through Him of being able to receive the inheritance of the promises. He has given them to us and made us capable of experiencing them—if we will only learn to walk in them.

## The Beginning of the Process

We have been delivered from Egypt by the mighty hand of God.

### Colossians 1:13 NASB

(13) For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

We have been rescued from the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of His dear Son. We have been taken out from under the god of this world and moved into the kingdom of God. We have changed rulers. The god of this world ruled over us while we were heathens. We thought like heathens; we acted like heathens. But now we have changed rulers. Now Jesus rules us as our king. His words are not suggestions that we take under consideration but commands that we obey.

We are rescued by the redemption in His blood. This process is given to us in the book of Acts. Remember that Jesus told Peter that he was giving him the keys to the Kingdom of God. He never said what the keys were but He said that he was giving them to him. I am sure that Peter wanted to show forth the keys to the kingdom of God at his first opportunity. Acts 2:37 is Peter's first chance.

Peter preached his famous sermon and the response was “what shall we do”. The first step of the

process here is the point of belief. They had to believe what was said about the Son of God. Then Peter showed the keys to the kingdom—repent, be baptized, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. These are the three keys to the Kingdom. This moves us from a heathen mind to at least a carnal mind. This is the process. A process is not completed by one step. It has multiple steps and takes some measure of time.

We have broken this process into pieces and preached the pieces separately rather than one complete process. We have lost sight of the correct objectives and substituted other lesser objectives. We have so confused the message that we don't give a clear objective anymore.

The objective is the Lord Jesus. There is a new king in town. That is what upset the Caesars so much. If we really preached that there is a new king in town, it would upset our own judicial and legislative system as well. The King of the kingdom of God says something different than what our government says.

We have reduced the objective to “going to Heaven” when we die. That is so far short of God's intention as to be almost ridiculous. God has something in mind that requires a process that involves this life. Otherwise, we should make sure that a person is “saved” and then shoot them before they have a chance to backslide.

We are building something in the Kingdom of God and we are doing it now, under the rulership of the King. We have to become workers together with Him to accomplish this. We must become a qualified worker. The first step to get qualified is to get out of the heathen world.

God has given everything that we need for the future in this process. If we have repented, been baptized and received the Holy Spirit, we have partaken of the blood, the cross, and the Holy Spirit. This is everything that we need. It is resident in us, now we need to move on and make all of this experiential—make it real in our life.

What occurs in this process? God starts right where we are. It doesn't matter how far in the slime of this heathen world we were, God meets us there. Then, He starts pulling us out of that—He delivers us from the power of darkness and translates us into the Kingdom of His dear Son. He starts to work on us. He wants to move us from where we were to the objective that he has for us, which is to be conformed to the image of His Son.

### 1 John 3:2-3 NASB

- (2) Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.
- (3) And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

How could John say that he knew we would be like him? Because we have been predestined to be like Him. Unless we have short circuited the process we are going to get there.

The starting point is being born again. Our spirits are born again, a new spirit is birthed in us. We don't get a new soul or mind. We have to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

If I had a heathen mind before being born again, I still have a heathen mind after being born again. Only now we call it a carnal mind because we have the life of God in the spirit. However, we still have the heathen thinking process. The process of sanctification is the process of renewing our minds. Carnal simply means that we have the spirit of God in us but we still think like the world.

It is the Word of God, active and powerful through the Holy Spirit, that begins to renew our minds.

#### Hebrews 4:12 NASB

- (12) For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

It is the Word that divides soul and spirit and discerns or judges the thoughts and intentions of our heart. Change comes back to the word of God because only the Word by the anointing of the Spirit can divide our soul and spirit.

During the process of change we have to learn:

1. to think Gods thoughts, Isa. 55:8-9—His thoughts are far higher than ours, our thinking processes must change.
2. to feel God's emotions, Matt 15:8—for example: how to have righteous indignation
3. to desire God's plan—the heathen and carnal minds can't understand spiritual things
4. speak His Word—requires a person commitment to the things of God
5. do God's work, John 5:19—heathen mind doesn't see the Father doing anything.

*Now that we have laid this foundation, the upcoming lessons will build on it to explain the process in detail so that we can co-operate with the Lord and make the changes easier.*