

The Grace-Given Power to Change (Part 5)

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Scripture References

Titus 2:12	Proverbs 21:2
John 5:5-7	Proverbs 10:11
2 Corinthians 4:13	Proverbs 21:23, <i>NLT</i>
Matthew 12:34-36	Proverbs 21:23, <i>MSG</i>
Proverbs 4:23-27	Proverbs 16:24
Ephesians 4:15	Proverbs 12:18
Proverbs 5:1	Hebrews 4:14, <i>NLT</i>
Romans 12:2	Psalms 19:14
Psalms 14:1	Job 22:28

Summary

*When we struggle with sins that hold us back in life, God's grace gives us the power to change. Grace does not just cover up sin, but changes us from the inside and completely washes sin away. However, we must **want** to change for any transformation to take place; some people would rather simply stay the same. We could talk about changing all day long, but nothing will happen until we take the first step in our transformation. This begins with what we believe. There is a definite connection between our beliefs and our speech; recognizing this helps us make the right confessions that lead to positive change. Using God's Word to guide us in our thinking and our speaking gives us success.*

A. Our transformation is up to us. If we accept the responsibility, God gives us the power.

1. Grace is not a license to continue sinning. It teaches us what we need to know to live godly lives; it changes us and delivers us from sin.
 - a. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world (Titus 2:12).
 - b. Change will not happen until we *want* to change. When Jesus met the man who had suffered from an infirmity for thirty-eight years, initially he made excuses (John 5:5-7).
 - c. We must stop making excuses for staying the same. We must also avoid procrastinating.
 - d. How we see ourselves is important; if we want to change, we must change our perception of ourselves. We must also never return to what God has delivered us from.
 - e. We must stop waiting for someone else to change us; we are responsible for our own changes. God is our source and our help in this area.
2. We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak (2 Corinthians 4:13).
 - a. The heart and the mouth can work together to bring about change.
 - b. Change is waiting on us—we have to *be* the change.

- c. What we say is based on what we believe; we must believe, first. Therefore, we sometimes have to evaluate what we really believe.
- d. If we are wavering in our faith, spending more time in the Word strengthens us and corrects the problem.

B. There is a connection between what is in our hearts and what comes out of our mouths.

1. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment (Matthew 12:34-36).
 - a. Jesus recognized that what a person believes, or does *not* believe, controls what they say.
 - b. Our verbal confessions bring forth what is in our hearts.
 - c. There is a connection between our speech and our belief; the mouth speaks out of the heart.
2. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil (Proverbs 4:23-27).
 - a. No matter how perfect and flawless we think we are, *everyone* has issues. We all need a Savior to help us with our issues.
 - b. If we feel something “off” inside us when we deal with someone, the issue may be with us, not with them. Prayer lets God reveal the issue to us.
 - c. Receiving feedback helps us to change. Constructive criticism may not feel good at the time, but it is necessary. We need to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).
 - d. We must be mindful of our speech; what we say affects our hearts. We need to speak in line with God’s Word.
 - e. We must also be careful of what we see; this, too, affects our hearts.
3. My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding (Proverbs 5:1).
 - a. Listening to what God tells us brings clarity.
 - b. Examining the relationship between the heart and the mouth brings change. We are changed when we renew our minds according to the Word (Romans 12:2).

C. Our words have real power; they have the potential to either build us up or destroy us.

1. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good (Psalm 14:1).
 - a. Just as verbally declaring something determines what we believe, what we say in our *hearts* has the same effect.
 - b. Religious people tend to say things they do not believe in their hearts. God weighs the hearts of men (Proverbs 21:2).
 - c. Words can change our lives, but they must be the *right* words spoken from our hearts.
2. We must choose our words carefully. An awareness of what is going on in our hearts can prevent us from uttering the wrong words.

- a. The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked (Proverbs 10:11).
- b. Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut, and you will stay out of trouble (Proverbs 21:23, *NLT*).
- c. Watch your words and hold your tongue; you'll save yourself a lot of grief (Proverbs 21:23, *MSG*).
- 3. The right words are powerful; they even affect our physical health.
 - a. Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones (Proverbs 16:24).
 - b. There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health (Proverbs 12:18).

D. Our speech reflects what is in our hearts; therefore, we must believe the right things.

- 1. So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe (Hebrews 4:14, *NLT*).
 - a. We must hold fast to our belief in the finished works of Jesus and the blood sacrifice He made for us. This is a sure thing.
- 2. Our words express what is in our hearts; therefore, we must examine what we are meditating on. Negative meditation is worry.
 - a. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer (Psalm 19:14).
- 3. Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways (Job 22:28).
 - a. We must decree the good that is in us because of Jesus Christ.

For more on how grace empowers us to change for the better, click on the link below for the DVD, *The Grace-Given Power to Change (Part 5)*.

<http://bit.ly/TheGraceGivenPowertoChangePart5DVD>

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