



Most people *want* something to change about themselves, and many people are *actively trying* to do something to make that change happen. **Is there something in your life like that? Write it below.**

Sadly, actual change can seem out of reach for many people. Why do you think that is? Write down some reasons below.

Which one of those do you feel the most? Circle that one.

CHANGED & CHANGING

Read **2 Corinthians 5:17**. What happens when a person becomes a Christian? They are a _____.

The full effects of that transformation don't come all at once, they get worked out over time. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 and fill in the blank. We are "_____ transformed...from one degree of glory to another."

According to Philippians 1:6, what will happen to everyone who has been saved? _____

Christians *have been* changed, *are* changing, and ultimately *will* change. **If you forget one of those aspects of the change process, what can happen in your Christian life?** _____

The theological term for the change process in the Christian life is sanctification. **Unlike our salvation (which is all God's work), who does Phil 2:12-13 say works in sancitification?** (Hint: it isn't just God)

Change in the Christian life is a cooperative work of God and Christians. **Look back over the three aspects of change above. Circle the part that includes your work.**

GRACE + TRUTH + TIME

Read **Luke 13:6-9**. As Jesus tells the parable of the barren fig tree, He shows us **three essential elements in the Christian growth process**. See if you can spot them on your own before you answer the questions below.

Though the fig tree deserves to be _____ (6-7) because it isn't bearing fruit, the vinedresser graciously provides not just a plan for restoration but also time and resources to carry it out.

Grace is God's undeserved favor and is the engine of change in the Christian life. (See also Titus 2:11-14)

The fig tree needed fertilizer at the root level. What does Psalm 1:2-3 say nourishes and guides growth? _____

God changes us as we learn His truth and live out His truth in practice and relationships. (Matthew 7:24, James 1:25, Proverbs 13:20)

When it comes to following Jesus, most people think change should happen immediately, but it usually doesn't. **Like the fig tree, we need _____ for God's grace and truth to bear fruit in our lives.**

Change takes a long time (ultimately, a lifetime) and alot of time (the more you put in, the more you get out). What do you think that means? _____ (Gal. 6:7-9)

Perservering isn't easy, but according to James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-4 and 1 Peter 1:6-7, what does God promise to use difficulty to do?



Write down 1 or 2 things in your Christian life you would like to see changed. _____
What do you think makes change in those areas so difficult?

CHANGED & CHANGING

Read **2 Corinthians 5:17**. When a person becomes a Christian, they are a _____.

The full effects of that transformation don't come all at once, they get worked out over time. We are "_____ transformed...from one degree of glory to another." (2 Cor. 3:18)

Philippians 1:6 says that God _____ the work He starts.

Christians also must change. In **Romans 12:1-2**, Christians are commanded to not "be _____...but to be _____."

Christians *have been* changed, *are* changing, ultimately *will* change, and *must* change. If you forget one of those, your Christian life can become...

The theological term for the change process in the Christian life is **sanctification**. Unlike our salvation (which is all God's work), **Philippians 2:12-13** says sanctification (changing to become like Jesus) is a cooperative work of _____ and _____.

GRACE + TRUTH + TIME

In **Luke 13:6-9**, Jesus tells the parable of the barren fig tree. In that story, we see three essential elements in the Christian growth process.

Though the fig tree deserves to be _____ (6-7) because it isn't bearing fruit, the vinedresser _____ provides not just a plan for restoration, but also time and resources to carry it out.

The fig tree needed fertilizer at the root level. **Psalm 1:2-3** say that _____ nourishes and guides growth like nutrients to a tree.

When it comes to following Jesus, most people think change should happen immediately, but it usually doesn't. **Like the fig tree, we need _____ for God's grace and truth to bear fruit in our lives.**

No one starts out as a blank slate in the Christian life.

According to **Romans 12:1-2**, we have become and are becoming a type of person through various influences in our lives—good and bad. (See also **Eph. 4:17-24**)

To change, these influences must be in line with God's plan of **grace+truth+time**.

