

CHANGE: PRAYER DARE!

Scripture used: Proverbs 3:5-7 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

In this series, we are learning how, as Christians, life-size change is possible! But it is not something that we can change on our own. It can ONLY happen through God. We are reminded this week that we have the capacity to learn how to trust in God through Prov 3:5-7. Because we can learn trust, we can grow, and growth leads to change. This is proven through 2 Cor 5:17 which says that if we are in Christ, we are changed into a new creation. God IS change. The principle of the path tells us that a path leads us to the same place every time, but when we pray and fix our eyes on God, He leads us down NEW paths (Isaiah 43:18-19).

KEY POINTS

The Big Idea: Change is Possible! Change = Grow = Learn. We need to Adopt a New Pattern

- 1) Decide to grow my faith! - In order to get on a path where God leads, we have to decide to let God grow our trust in Him. When we choose to let God grow us, we will learn to lean into God.
- 2) Ask - Routinely Pray: "Lord, show me the right path, give me wisdom to know the next step, and give me the courage to take it."
- 3) Expect: God wants to respond and WILL respond. - God uses anything to speak to us and cause us to change. We need to use our mind, but we should never let our mind have the last word. When we expect God to respond, we teach ourselves to listen for God's voice.
- 4) Acknowledge and Act! Acknowledge what I can't do, and act on what I can! - vs 6 We need to acknowledge God in everything. We should learn to stop, seek God and ask Him. As we actively listen for God's voice, we can pray and pursue our paths, but we need to surrender the things that we simply cannot do.
- 5) Anticipate: Delays, setbacks and challenges! - God uses everything for His purpose, but we need to learn to be patient for Him to work.
- 6) Look for open doors (opportunities), but also be willing to adjust. - We have to be prepared to make adjustments. Sometimes, what we think is the path that God is leading us down may actually lead to a "no" answer. But in these circumstances, we have to surrender to His lead. And we should live this way in each area of our lives, e.g. parenting, work, finances and relationships. When this happens, we should ask for next steps.
 - o "Experiments leads to experience" - Sometimes, God wants for us to just "be quiet" and listen to His voice. When we learn how to listen, the "daring" decisions we make can be lead by God and will lead us to a greater faith experience!
- 7) Overcome Old Obstacles: Private Envy and Personal Competence (vs 7) - We should not envy those who we may consider as "godly" because we are ALL messed up. *Those who are set apart are those who are willing to be lead by God.* We also should not rely upon our own competence and think that we are so wise that we don't need God.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** We heard about obstacles that prevent us from leaning on God versus our understanding. What are some areas in your life that are preventing you from experiencing God's trustworthiness?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** Share with the group a time when you either experienced God by trusting Him versus leaning on yourself. Or is there an area where you need to seek God's path through prayer versus taking control of the situation yourself?
- 3) **DO and PRAY** Identify one area in your life (or in someone else's life) where there is a crossroads to choose. DARE TO PRAY and ask for Godly wisdom. Intentionally schedule the same time every day to intentionally pray for God's voice and direction to be heard. Trust in the Lord and He will direct your path!