

Who's Afraid of...Change!

Hebrews 6:13-20

May 26, 2019

Most people prefer the familiar and predictable over the unfamiliar and unpredictable.

Familiar and predictable don't do change.

Change is the unfamiliar and unpredictable coming into our lives often uninvited.

We live in a constant changing culture and world. We do have a choice in some of the changes we experience in our personal lives. However, there are a lot of changes in life we have no control over...we can't always familiarize ourselves with, much less predict.

What are some changes in life that we can control, predict and have a major role implementing into our daily lives?

Change of pace...hairstyle/color (well most of you)...wardrobe... address...marital status...health...attitude...diet...lifestyle... schedule...plans...heart...job...???

We often fear the changes in life we have no control over. Fear of change effects us with anxiety. We fear the change into the unknowns of life. We fear failure in the new opportunity a change in life will bring to us. We fear the failure of loss...a loved one...a job...a house...a friend...creature comforts!

We fear that if we make a change in our lives we might upset our family members or close friends. We fear leaving a comfort zone or enjoyable stage in life. We fear change because we doubt ourselves. We fear change for our personal gain and good out of guilt that others won't get to experience the change.

Change freaks us out! Some change we realize is temporary. Some change is permanent. There are "game changers" in life. Major decisions or actions that change the whole direction our life was heading towards.

These "life changers" are both ones we can choose and others we have no control over. The more we like the comfortable, familiar and predictable the more difficult it will be for us to make a change. We will be afraid to make a "life changer" in our lives... no matter how young or old we might be.

I want us to take a look at a couple who made a huge change in their lives when they retired. They were comfortably living in their hometown. The only drawback or change they wish they could have made in their lives was to have children.

One day a "life-changing" opportunity came knocking. It was God! Now before you say, *"Who could refuse a 'life-changing' opportunity if God offers it?"* I want you to think back on your life. You knew times where God may have been challenging you to a radical life change and you were too afraid to step off your porch of comfort and head out to a new life.

The couple we are visiting with is Abram and Sarai. Abram was 75 when change came knocking. (Genesis 12:1-7) God promised that the change He was going to bring into their lives is that they would be the parents of a great nation. Sarai laughed at the radical change! (Genesis 18:10-15)

Yet, they trusted and sold their home and began a journey of change. This journey would be to a new country. No more familiar or predictable or comfortable. They would experience threats, famines, strains on their marriage and uncertainty for years.

It was 24 years of traveling before Abram and Sarai held their first born son, Isaac. Not only did God name their son, God also changed Abram and Sarai's names to Abraham and Sarah. Their names meant a father of a great nation. God affirmed their keeping the covenant that He had made with them. (Romans 4:1-5)

God made a rock solid guarantee with Abraham. God's promise was unchangeable.

In this journey with Abraham and Sarah we discover the "**unchangeable of God.**"

The two unchangeables of God are: His nature and His promises. God is the same...He doesn't change. (Malachi 3:6; Psalm 59:10; Hebrews 1:11-12)

God's promises are unchanging and trustworthy because God is unchanging and trustworthy.

In this constant changing culture we find ourselves waking up to each day there is one unchangeable we can be certain of: God's nature and promises.

How assuring it is that we don't have to wake up and wonder what God we will meet today. We don't have to second guess Him. We don't have to worry if He will change His mind and not keep His promises.

God is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8, James 1:17)

In a culture of constant change we find hope in the Unchangeable.

In a life of change we find our rock-solid guaranteed hope in the Unchangeable.

The One who never changes desires to change us!

The Unchangeable wants us to change...daily!

We fear this change because often it means getting off our front porch of comfort and taking a journey into an unfamiliar, unpredictable and out of our control life.

The oddity of this change is that most people want to change something about their lives but are discouraged to do so because of fears of self-doubt and not being able to see the change before they take that next step of faith towards the change.

Abraham took that step off the porch not focusing on the seen but on the unseen.

We are called to do the same. We are not to lose heart and fear change or give up. Hear God's unchanging promise to the Christians in Corinth through the Apostle Paul:

"So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever." (II Corinthians 4:16-18 Message bible)

It's easier to fear change and lose heart and quit. We face problems when change comes along in our relationships, job or life in general. We would rather retreat to the familiar and comfortable of our front porch of life than step out in faith with the Unchangeable God.

This is where we find The Unchangeable coming to us and extending His hand to us to make a change in life. The Apostle Paul experienced this change in His life and he wrote this, ***"God is kind but He's not soft. In kindness He takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change."*** (Romans 2:4 Message bible)

A couple of things we need to take note of here. The One who takes our hand. It is the hand of God whose nature and promises never change. Whatever change He is calling us to He will see us through it. It is not the uncertainty of our culture or people who we trust in this change.

The second thing we notice is that the change is not a subtle or easy change that will not have much of an impact on our lives. His change for us is a **RADICAL LIFE-CHANGE!**

In the Christian faith we call this radical life-change, "conversion or repentance."

It is a U-turn change and not a simple merge into the traffic of life, the direction of life you were already living.

A U-turn is a complete 180 to go in the opposite direction you were heading.

We are called by God to make a **YOU turn**...a radical change in our life. We are to head into a new direction in life...the direction God calls us to travel.

We fear that radical life change. We fear what we might have to give up in our lives. We forget the promises of life, joy, peace, strength and the rock solid hope we hold on to in this radical change of life. We tend to worry and have anxiety about the difference it may cause us to make here and now without focusing on the life eternal the Unchangeable promises to those who take His hand and accept His radical life-change; to those who trust this change of life in Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life in this radical life-change.

In a lot of the newer cars there is a warning system that alerts the driver when they are drifting out of their lane into another lane or worse yet off the road. It is called a "**lane departure warning**" system. Its purpose is to prevent an accident. It is great if the driver heeds its warning.

What if we had built into our lives a "life departure warning" spirit? We do! Jesus has given to us the Holy Spirit to guide us in this radical life-change. He will be with us in all the journeys of life. He will give us direction, strength, hope and discipline. He is awesome if we heed His guidance.

The Lord who called Abraham and Sarah has not changed. His faithfulness continues through all the generations. (Psalm 100:5)
The Unchangeable's promises, His word is eternal and stands firm. His faithfulness to His promises continues to you and me. (Psalm 119:89,90)

The Unchangeable is still reaching out His hand to us to make some radical life changes.

What changes do you believe He is inviting you to take today?
Is it a change in the way you feel about the direction your life is heading?

Is it a change in how you look at others who are not like you?

Is it forgiving someone who wronged you in life?

Is it loving others the way that God loves you?

Is it a change in the lifestyle you are living for you?

Is it a change to spend more time with God?

Is it a change to reach out more to your family and close friends?

Is it a change to simplify?

Is it a change to daily become more and more like Jesus?

What fear is keeping you from stepping off your "front porch" of the comfortable, familiar and predictable in your life?

What are you afraid of if you reach out and follow the lead of the Unchangeable?

God calls us to change...daily! Daily deny yourself, daily take up the cross and daily follow His lead. (Luke 9:23) Daily walk this journey of change in Christ.

That is the call to a radical life-change.

Who's afraid of this kind of change?

