

So here's the question for you. Is God calling you to take another step in your spiritual journey? When we experience God in our lives, we may have a sense of urgency that motivates us to change – not later, not tomorrow, not sometime, but beginning right now. God has given us direction and a path to follow to reach God's ultimate purpose. If we watch our step and walk with purpose, avoid dangerous spiritual pitfalls, and allow God's direction to guide us, we'll be led down the right path. We'll find our destination. We'll live out His purpose. But we must not wait to start. We need to be on that path right now. The time is now to make God the highest priority and to follow His way! It is a time to change and make God's purpose our purpose. God is leading us to change our lives right now!

How to Change Yourself: Self-Improvement

A Bible Pattern for Self-Help

1. Change Your Purpose in Life. (Romans 12:1-2)
2. Believe You Can Change with God's Help. (Proverbs 4:3, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Philippians 4:13)
3. Study the Bible about Your Habit. (Joshua 1:8, Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Matthew 4:1-11)
4. Repent of Sin. (Acts 8:22, Proverbs 28:13)
5. Develop a Plan of Action. (Proverbs 14:22)
6. Pray Regularly. (Matthew 6:13)
7. Seek Help from Other Christians. (James 5:16)
8. Diligently Practice What is Right. (1 Corinthians 15:58)
9. Substitute Good Habits for Bad Ones. (Ephesians 4:22-32, Matthew 12:43-45)
10. Avoid Temptation. (Matthew 6:13, 1 Corinthians 15:33)
11. Face One Day at a Time. (Matthew 6:33-34)
12. Be Patient. (Romans 2:7, Galatians 6:9, 2 Peter 3:18)

From: https://www.gospelway.com/christianlife/change_yourself.php

Experiencing God (6) **Joining God Leads to Change**

Exodus 4:18-31

Rev. Dr. Charles Yoon

Change is hard for many people to accept. But life is constantly changing. We might lose our jobs, lose loved ones, have to relocate unexpectedly, or have to find another way of life. Changing things happen to us, but these changes are just part of life. We might not like how society is changing and how our community is changing, but we need to be able to cope with these changes in a positive way. On the other hand, some people want to change. They are dissatisfied with something in their lives. They want to change things, like their weight, their hair color, and their jobs. Even beyond those types of things, they want to change something substantive in their lives, like developing a better attitude or spending more quality time with their loved ones. Luckily, there are many ways to view changes, to adjust them, and to ultimately accept them.

In today's text Moses required a major adjustment. God told Moses, *"Go back to Egypt, for all those who wanted to kill you are dead."* So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt." (4:19-20) When Moses asked Jethro for permission to leave, he was really taking a very important step. When he married Jethro's daughter, he was under the head of the household who was Jethro. Moses had to go to him to get permission.

Today's text says, *"So Moses took his wife and son and put them on donkey."* (4:20) He loaded up, he moved, and he went. It was a physical and relational change and adjustment. We can find other examples in the Bible. Noah had to discontinue his usual life to build an ark. Abram couldn't stay in Ur or Heron, as he decided to follow God's direction to Canaan. David had to leave his sheep to become King. Jonah had to leave his home and overcome a major

prejudice in order to preach in Nineveh. Peter, Andrew, James and John had to leave their fishing business in order to follow Jesus. Matthew also had to leave his tax collector's booth to follow Jesus. We are not going to make any further progress in our spiritual life until we deal with a foundational matter between us and God. If we are not going to progress a whole lot more, we are definitely not going to experience God. If we build without a foundation, anything we build from then on is not going to last very long. It's not going to be stable.

Jesus said, *"If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."* (Matthew 5:23-24) Jesus is saying, "It is a foundational matter before you continue in worship to go be reconciled to your brother or sister. Then come and offer your gift to God." He said the same thing when he was calling other people. One person said, *"Lord, first let me go and bury my father."* (Luke 9:59) And the other person said, *"I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."* (Luke 9:60) And Jesus had all kinds of answers and He said, *"You know what, nobody who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God."* (Luke 9:62) There is a foundational sense that we can't keep going unless we deal with key issues whatever they are in our life.

At times experiencing God will require us to make community adjustments. Today's text says, *"Moses and Aaron brought together all of the elders of the Israelites and Aaron told them everything the Lord had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people and they believed."* (29-31a) Look at all of the things that he had to do. He brought people together. He told them everything. He showed them what it was that God was saying. The call of God involves working with many other people. It involves necessary communication, submission to certain directions, and sharing certain resources.

We as a congregation need to know how to share the resources we have. We need to be aligned in the same direction. Moses aligned and adjusted himself in a communal sense so that the mission of God could move forward. Likewise, we need to keep focused on the value of the mission that God is calling us towards. As we move forward in mission, we need to be aware that things are changing and happening and it's going to change the landscape. So we are going to be challenged and called to community adjustments even more so that the mission can be fulfilled.

The end of verse 20 says *"He took the staff of God in his hand."* The staff of God was a symbol. It was a sign of God's presence. It was a tool. It was a reminder of how God had shown Moses how to deal with the crisis of belief and how to deal with the adjustments he was being called to make. When God said to Moses, *"What's that in your hand?"* Moses replied, *"A staff"* (4:2) And God said, *"Throw it down."* (4:3) It became a serpent and Moses ran from it. When we see a snake, most of us don't move toward it. We move away from it. God said, *"Moses, reach out your hand and take it by the tail."* (4:4) He just picked it up by the tail and it became a rod again. What is all that about? If we will move toward the thing that we fear and if we will give over to God the resources that we consider ours, and place them in His hands, we will be turned into something beautiful in a way that will make a difference for others.

We are being called to walk with God and to be adjusted to God's purpose. Don't wait or don't be afraid. Adjust to those changes you are facing and those that you are going to face. Experiencing God requires us to change what we used to do. It should change every step that we take. It should change how we look at and use our time. It requires allowing God to be Lord and Master over every aspect of our lives.