

Get Freedom,
Give Freedom



The Search for Significance
and Beyond

Ch 11: Agent of Change

“It is finished!”

Really?

The Truth about our Redemption

- It was made complete at Calvary
- We only need to hear the Word, accept it, and place hope and trust in Christ
- Why do we still struggle then?

Parable of the Sower

- Mark 4:3-20
- Reasons for lack of fruit
 - Satan takes away the Word
 - Persecution
 - Worries of the world
- The latter is the biggest issue for most of us
- Do you agree or disagree? Why?

There is hope

- We can be the seed sown on good soil
 - Base our lives on His Word
 - Allow His Spirit to develop our character
- We are given everything we need to lead a godly life (2 Peter 1:2-4)
- Christ lives in us!

Satan's Only Trick

- “Now redeemed, our rightful purpose to rule in life will only be denied if we continue to allow Satan to deceive us. If we fail to recognize our true position of worship and to exercise our new power and authority, we will remain trapped in the world's system. Satan's lies and schemes are designed to keep us from recognizing and experiencing these wonderful truths.”

Important Tools for Change

- 4 False Beliefs and God's Answer to each (see chart on pages 118-119)
- Objectivity and Affirmation of Others
- Continued Application

The Holy Spirit is Our Source of Change

- He is our Helper (John 14:16)
- His purpose is to glorify Christ (John 16:14)
- He is our Teacher (John 16:13)
- He empowers fruitfulness in us (John 7:37-39; 15:11)

Apart from Him = Nothing

- John 15:1-5
- “Anything done apart from the love and power of Christ amounts to nothing.”
- The Christian life is not a self-improvement program

Obstacles to Experiencing His Presence and Power

- Wrong motives
- Mechanical approach to Christian life
- Too mystical
- Lack of knowledge
- Harbored sin

Wrong Motives

- Why do you want spiritual growth?
 - Success or approval of others
 - Fear God won't accept you
 - Seeking greater comfort
- Our primary focus should be honoring Christ
- Seeking growth puts focus on ourselves instead of Christ

Too Mechanical

- Do you have a spiritual to-do list?
- Is your life too structured or regimented?
- While the activities we engage in may not be wrong, a performance-oriented perspective about them is
- “Christ wants us to receive our joy and acceptance from Him instead of merely following rules or schedules.”

Too Mystical

- Too dependent on feelings
- Wait for feelings to motivate us
- Believe emotions are primary means that God uses to communicate with us
- Our feelings are not reliable, God's Word is!

Lack of Knowledge

- We may not realize how rich and deep Christ's love for us and power in us is
- Meditate on the truths we have been studying:
 - We are completely forgiven and fully pleasing
 - We are totally accepted
 - We are deeply loved
 - We are absolutely complete in Christ

Harboring Sin

- Willful sin impedes our fellowship with God
- Both blatant and subtle sin must be addressed
- Confess and claim forgiveness as soon as you are aware of the sin

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Which of these obstacles hinder your relationship with Him?

Small Group Discussion Time

Next Steps

- Keep praying for the Spirit's work in your heart and mind
- Read Chapter 12 and work through Step 12
- Next meeting:
 - April 22nd