

Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

October-November 2011

We Can Be Changed!

Every year when the time changes I have to stop and think. Do we fall back and spring forward or do we spring back and fall forward? Who would know? I usually can't remember.

Frequently, change is difficult and remembering the "newness" is challenging. If we buy a new jacket, often we are out of the house in our old blazer before we remember we treated ourselves to something new. We tend to repeat the same recipes over and over again because the new recipes require ingredients and preparation that are not familiar to us. We just do what we have always done, the way it has always been done, and rest satisfied. We pretend to be content.

A few years ago, while enjoying the mountains (our usual vacation) we acquired a recipe for peanut butter pound cake. Now, I love peanut butter – so "why not?" We gathered the ingredients, measured, stirred and baked. Ordinarily, we would bake a sour cream pound cake. But again, I like peanut better. Ah, the effort was worth everything. Here is another 'exceedingly abundantly above' feast to insure that we digest as much sugar as possible. Oh, dear!

In God's Kingdom, change is incredibly important and yes, it requires effort. Miraculously, the process of change begins when God the Holy Spirit makes us a new creation, a new person. However, we cannot stand still in the glory of that moment. We must "spring forward." The Word of God instructs us "as newborn babes, [to] desire the sincere milk of the word, that [we] may grow thereby."¹ This growth begins by feeding our

In God's Kingdom, change is incredibly important and yes, it requires effort.

spirit, that new creation, on the Word of God. The psalmist encourages us to "meditate day and night" because continual meditation enables us to grow up in God.²

Paul explained the perimeters of growth to the church at Ephesus. He declared that we must measure "up to the full stature of Christ."³ The Contemporary English Version lifts any fog in our understanding of Paul's words when it proclaims, "Then we will be mature, just as Christ is, and we will be completely like him." The New Century Version further testifies, "We become like Christ and have his perfection."

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorted us to grow to perfection. He said, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”⁴ I am so glad that this wonderful word “perfect” does not mean to be without fault or flaw! Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words defines it as "fully grown" or "mature." Through the Word of God, we mature, or “grow up into [Christ] in all things.”⁵ We become “more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.”⁶ No longer are we children, influenced by false doctrine, bombarded by deception, and tormented by imposters.⁷ We know Christ, we know His Word and we follow diligently.

The Holy Spirit teaches us God's Word and thereby orchestrates change in our lives. We cannot know Christ or understand the Word of God without Him. He instructs us, guides us, and reminds us of truth. He is the anointing who enables us “to know all things.”⁸ Without His work in our lives, we will not mature. But as we yield to Him, we are changed and transformed with “ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”⁹ The Contemporary English Version masterfully proclaims, “The Lord's Spirit makes us more and more like our glorious Lord.” What magnificent truth! “As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him.”¹⁰ We are changed!

It is absolutely amazing, isn't it, that our great God commands us to change, to grow up, and then provides the source of that maturity through His Word and His Spirit. In the Old Testament, Pharaoh forced Israel to make bricks but he refused to provide the necessary raw materials. When they could not comply with their quota, he had them beaten.¹¹ But our

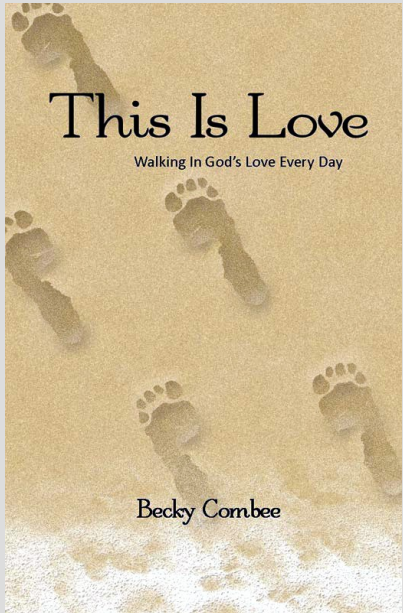
God is a wonderful Father! Daily, He comes to us with words of doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction.”¹²

He says, “Hear this, obey this, change that, walk here.”

Confidently we say, “I will.” And by His Spirit, we can! God has provided us “all things pertaining to life and godliness.”¹³ Through Him, we can be changed!

¹ 1Pe 2:2 ² Ps 1:2 ³ Eph 4:13 NLT ⁴ Mt 5:48 ⁵ Eph 4:15 ⁶ NLT ⁷ Eph 4:14 ⁸ 1Jn 2:20 ⁹ 2Co 3:18 NIV ¹⁰ 2 Co 3:18 NLT ¹¹ Ex 5:15 ¹² 2Ti 3:16 ¹³ 2Pe 1:3 author's paraphrase

NEW!



\$15.00*

Becky Combee's debut book!
Illustrations by Wayne Combee.
Foreword written by Suzanne Williams.

**Also available in digital formats for \$7.99.
Email combee@beckycombeeministries.com for more information.*