It Is Time for a Change

I. Time for a Change
Matthew 18:1–3 (NIV84®)
1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 He called a little child and had him stand among them. 3 And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

II. Transformational Faith, Not Transactional Faith
2 Corinthians 3:17–18 (NIV84®)
17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Colossians 2:21–23 (NIV84®)
21 “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? 22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

III. Invitations from Jesus
Rest; In Our Minds, Our Emotions, and Our Desires
Matthew 11:28–30 (NIV84®)
28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Streams of Living Water; Spirit-Filled Living
John 7:37–39 (NIV84®)
37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Following Jesus; An Investment
Mark 10:21–22 (NIV84®)
21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” 22 At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.
An Encounter with Jesus; What Do You Want?

Mark 10:47–52 (NIV®)

47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”
48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”
49 Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.”
50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.
51 “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”
52 “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Approach the Throne; Our Time of Need

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV®)

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

IV. Instructions from Jesus

Luke 18:1 (NIV®)

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Matthew 6:9–15 (NIV®)

9 “This, then, is how you should pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’

14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Our Need of Forgiveness
Our Assignment to Forgive Others

Prayer

Almighty God, forgive me of my sins. I have fallen short of what You created me to be. I acknowledge my rebellion and sin against You, I am without excuse. Cleanse me and I will be clean, pardon me and I will be free. I choose to forgive all those with whom I am entangled by unforgiveness and anger. I release them into your care and administration. I rejoice in my new freedom. All of Satan’s claims against me have been canceled, I am a child of the King. I have been justified, redeemed, sanctified, and now serve the Creator of All Things, amen.