

A Change of Heart

Transformed Lives

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **August 04, 2024**



When we talk about spiritual heart change and life transformation, we need to understand the greatest need for change is not outside the Church—it's *inside* the Church. Typically, we look away from ourselves to the world around us, thinking, "If *they* would just change, our world would be better." We think that about our teachers, coaches, government leaders, and others. It's a regrettable response because, at the end of the day, the only place we ultimately have any authority is over our *own* behaviors. One of the greatest choices we can consistently make is to know, understand, and accept that there is objective truth and then lead our lives loving, seeking, and telling the truth. If those of us who consider ourselves Christ-followers cooperate with God's Spirit, He will bring changes that will transform our world. It will require the help of the Holy Spirit, and it will require a change of heart within us.

***We must be spiritual athletes. What are some consequences you see in our culture today, as the result of Christians taking a position of spectator?**

I. THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 ⁹*The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, ¹⁰and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹²and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.*

Romans 1:16 *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*

2 Timothy 3:5 ... *having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.*

***The Spirit of Antichrist is increasing in the earth. Where are you experiencing the greatest spread of evil and deception around you?**

II. TIME FOR CHANGE OF HEART

A. Transformed Lives

1 Peter 2:1–3 ¹*Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ²Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it **you may grow up in your salvation**, ³now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

1 Corinthians 3:1–3 ¹*Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³**You are still worldly.** For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?*

Ephesians 4:14–15 ¹⁴*Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.*

1 Corinthians 2:6 *We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not **the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.***

***In what ways can telling God's Truth lead to a spiritual heart change in others?**

***How would you respond to someone who is confused, calling issues "political" that are actually biblical?**

B. Another Power, Another Kingdom, Another Realm

Power

Zechariah 4:6–7 ⁶ So he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: **‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.** ⁷ “What are you, O mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of ‘God bless it! God bless it!’”

Ephesians 1:19–23 ... ¹⁹ and his **incomparably great power for us who believe**. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Kingdoms

John 18:36–37 ³⁶ Jesus said, “**My kingdom is not of this world.** If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.” ³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “**You are right in saying I am a king.** In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

Different Realms of Authority

2 Kings 6:17–18 ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes so he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸ As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, “Strike these people with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

Acts 13:10–12 ¹⁰ “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?” ¹¹ Now the hand of the Lord is against you. **You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun.** Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. ¹² When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

***Describe a time you felt you were awakened to God’s power and authority in your life. How did it change your relationship with the Lord?**

III. RESPONSES FROM GOD (TO OUR LIVES)

Zechariah 12:10 “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem **a spirit of grace and supplication.** They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”

Romans 11:8 ... as it is written: “God gave them **a spirit of stupor,** eyes so that they could not see and ears so that they could not hear, to this very day.”

Romans 15:5 *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you **a spirit of unity** among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus.*

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but **a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.***

***What are some ways you have seen God’s character revealed to you?**

PROCLAMATION

“When my life was ebbing away, I remembered You, Lord, and my prayer rose to You, to Your holy temple. ⁸ “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. ⁹ But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to You. What I have vowed, I will make good. Salvation comes from the Lord.” Jonah 2:7–9