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Foundations of Biblical Change

In the last column, we learned that we must use God's Word for discipleship because it is higher than man's wisdom, it is inspired, there is power in God's Word, it has the answer for all of life's problems, and because obedience results in God's blessings. Now, we will discuss how we implement Biblical principles into our life through Biblical change. The following steps are necessary for lasting Biblical change:

- 1. Salvation. Proverbs 1:7 says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Therefore, the first step in Biblical change is salvation. To deal effectively with your problems, you must realize your inadequacy and turn to the power of God for salvation. Then, you will be able to make the necessary biblical changes that characterize a child of God as you reverently depend on God and His Word. Once we have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, then the discipleship process begins. Discipleship is a process which enables you to grow up in the Lord Jesus Christ and equips you to overcome joyfully the pressures and trials of this present life. Man's solutions to dealing with difficulties will ultimately fail because they do not deal with the source of the problem which is your heart. However, God's solutions get to the heart of the difficulty where permanent Biblical change can be accomplished. As a result, at the moment of spiritual birth, your focus for living changes from one of living for self to one of dying to self and living for God's glory.**
- 2. Being a hearer of the Word. Romans 10:17 says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Through regular Bible study, we learn what God's Word says about how to live our lives in a manner pleasing to Him.**
- 3. Renewing your mind. 2 Cor. 4:16 says that we are to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. Renewing your mind is the process by which your thoughts and your will become more Christlike. The renewal of your mind is recognized by an increasingly faithful and obedient response to God's Word.**
- 4. Being a doer of the Word. James 1:22 says that we are to be a doer of the Word. A committed life of obedience to God's Word will ensure that your mind will be continually renewed to increasing Christlikeness. You need to become a doer of the Word (be obedient to Scripture) in order to mature in Christ. Your love for Jesus is evidenced by your obedience to God's Word. Blessings for obedience and judgment leading to discipline for disobedience have always been part of God's eternal plan. Out of love for His children, God warns and disciplines those who are disobedient to His Word so that they may be restored to His righteous path.**
- 5. Accountability. Lamentations 3:40 says we are to examine our ways. Effective and lasting biblical change is a continuing process. You are to obey the commands and guidelines in God's Word for every area of your life (your thoughts, words, and actions).**

As you stop (put off) the old continuing pattern of sin and begin (put on) the new practice of righteousness and holiness, you are renewed in the spirit of your mind. Discipleship requires constant self examination that is in accordance with God's Word.

We must understand that God is sovereign over biblical change for every believer. Romans 8:29 tells us that the goal of discipleship is to be conformed to the image of Christ. Therefore, Biblical change involves implementing biblical principles into your life so that you will become more conformed to the image of Christ in every area of your life.

I encourage you to read the Bible verses referenced in this article. If you or someone you know is struggling with life issues, please reach out for help at watersedgebiblechurch.com. God Bless!