

# CHANGING

**SERMON:**

Faith Changes Everything

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**2 Corinthians 5:17** – *Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!* – NLT

**SUGGESTED CHALLENGES:**

- #1 – Commit to take this entire spiritual journey.** – This means taking the time to read each daily scripture and figure out its current application in your life, memorizing the four memory verses, and completing at least one of the challenges each week.
- #2 – Identify what's next on God's agenda for you and partner with Him in it.** – Through prayer, identify the next spiritual focus God wants to bring about in your life (*area of service, sin to overcome, attitude to change, etc.*). And then commit yourself to partnering with Him until it is accomplished in your life.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**MONDAY – Changing My Eternal Destiny**

**1 Peter 1:3-5** – *It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.* – NLT

**TUESDAY – Changing My Earthly Behavior**

**Ephesians 4:21-24** – *Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.* – NLT

**WEDNESDAY – Changing My Earthly Purpose**

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15** – *Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. – NLT*

**THURSDAY – Changing My World**

**Romans 12:9-16** – *Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. – NLT*

**FRIDAY – Changing His World**

**Matthew 5:13-16** – *Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand — shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. – THE MESSAGE*



# CONNECTING

**SERMON:**

Faith Links Us

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**James 4:8** – *Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. — NIV*

**CHALLENGES:**

- #1 – Become a Christian.** – This doesn't just automatically happen if you come to church enough times. Becoming a Christian requires an intentional and personal response and some specific actions. If you haven't been led through that process, call the church office (765-0956) and we will make arrangements for one of our staff to personally guide you through making that decision.
- #2 – Enroll in the coming Entry Point Dinner/Class.** – One of the best ways to connect with New Life is to attend this two-hour dinner and class designed to give you an inside look at Christianity and New Life. Taught by Pastor Ron, the next Entry Point is on Sunday evening, January 24, from 6:00-8:00. You may sign up at the Information Table in the Lobby.
- #3 – Keep a daily appointment with God through the end of February.** – This Spiritual Journey runs through the end of January, but your personal journey with God should obviously last much longer. But the longest journey begins with the first step, so the challenge is for you to carry on these daily appointments with God through the end of February. Hopefully, by that time they will have become a permanent part of your life.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS:****MONDAY – Linking With God Through Salvation**

**John 1:2-13** — *He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word [Jesus] gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it...He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. — NLT*

**TUESDAY – Linking With God’s Church**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13** — *The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. — NLT*

**Ephesians 4:15-16** — *We speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.*

**WEDNESDAY – Linking With God Daily**

**Psalms 105:1-4** — *Give thanks to the LORD and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done. Sing to him; yes, sing his praises. Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds. Delight in his holy name; rejoice, you who worship the LORD. Search for the LORD and for his strength; continually seek him. — NLT*

**THURSDAY – Linking With God’s People**

**Romans 12:9-13** — *Don’t just pretend that you love others: really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and prayerful always. When God’s children are in need, you be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night. — TLB*

**FRIDAY – Linking With God’s Work**

**2 Corinthians 5:18-20** — *All of this [salvation] is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. — NLT*



# DEVELOPING

**SERMON:**

Faith Transforms Us

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**Romans 12:2** – *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect..* — NLT

**CHALLENGES:**

- #1 – Sign up for a LIFE Group.** – This week a whole new wave of LIFE Groups is launching. It is the perfect time to join one. Just call 765-0956 and ask for Bob. He is the pastor who oversees our LIFE Groups, and he will be glad to ask a few questions and get you matched up to a group that will work for you.
- #2 – Invite a friend to your LIFE Group.** – How could your LIFE Group possibly be better? By sharing it with a friend! Growing and developing as a follower of Jesus is an even greater experience when you do it side-by-side with a friend.
- #3 – Step up to a new role in the LIFE Group Ministry.** – If you've been participating in a LIFE Group for a while, why not take a step up? If you've just been attending, volunteer to be a host. If you've been hosting, volunteer to partner with someone else and lead a LIFE Group. If you've been leading and seeing fruit from your work, consider becoming a coach and helping others lead more successfully. If you step up, it makes room for someone else to take your place.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**MONDAY** – Transformation Through Grace

**1 Corinthians 15:10-11** — *Whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than [others]; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.* — NLT

**TUESDAY – Transformation Through God’s Spirit**

**Romans 8:1-7** — *There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death...Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. — NLT*

**WEDNESDAY – Transformation Through God’s Word**

**James 1:18-21** — *He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession...So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. — NLT*

**THURSDAY – Transformation Through God’s People**

**Hebrews 10:23-25** — *Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. — NLT*

**FRIDAY – Transformation Through God’s Work**

**Ephesians 2:9-10** — *Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. — NLT*



# SERVING

**SERMON:**

Faith Ignites Us

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**1 Corinthians 15:58** – *Be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.* — NLT

**CHALLENGES:**

- #1 – Try a First Serve.** – First Serves at New Life provide each of us with the opportunity to serve in a ministry for one day with no strings attached. An orientation with the Ministry Leader will be given prior to serving, and service will be done alongside an experienced ministry partner. To sign up, go to the First Serve/LIFE Group Table in the Lobby.
- #2 – Do a community service project.** – This could be anything from volunteering for a couple of hours at a local non-profit organization to just taking an afternoon to pick up debris at a park. The point is, it needs to be something done without recognition and from a desire to serve and bless.
- #3 – Do a family service project.** – Sometimes serving at home is the hardest. The challenge here is to pick a chore that we don't normally do, and then do it for the entire week out of a desire to lovingly serve the other members of our family.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS:****MONDAY – Passion To Serve In Our Family**

**Ephesians 5:22-6:4** — *Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ. The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing... Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church — a love marked by giving, not getting...This provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband...Children, do what your parents tell you. This is only right. "Honor your father and mother" is the first commandment that has a promise attached to it, namely, "so you will live well and have a long life." Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.* — THE MESSAGE

**TUESDAY – Passion To Serve In Our Church**

**1 Peter 5:5** — *All of you, serve each other in humility, for "God opposes the proud but favors the humble."* — NLT

**1 Peter 4:10** — *God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.* — NLT

**WEDNESDAY – Passion To Serve In Our Community**

**Galatians 6:9-10** — *Let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.* — NLT

**THURSDAY – Passion To Serve The Disadvantaged**

**James 1:27** — *Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.* — NLT

**1 John 3:16-18** — *We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.* — NLT

**FRIDAY – Passion To Please Our Savior**

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15** — *Since we believe that Christ died for all of us, we should also believe that we have died to the old life we used to live. He died for all so that all who live—having received eternal life from him—might live no longer for themselves, to please themselves, but to spend their lives pleasing Christ who died and rose again for them.* — TLB

