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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 6:13
Lesson #46
A Theology of Change
07/01/2018

“What is your theology of change?”



Larry Crabb

1

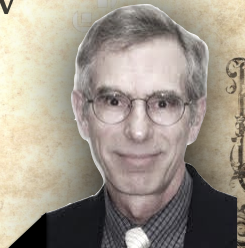
What changes

when a person becomes a Christian?

- ✓ **Some things will not change at all.**
(circumstances, temperament, etc.)
- ✓ **Some things will change immediately and completely.**
(legal position “in Christ” - forgiveness, etc.)
- ✓ **Some things will change gradually over time.**
(character, conduct, maturity, etc.)

2

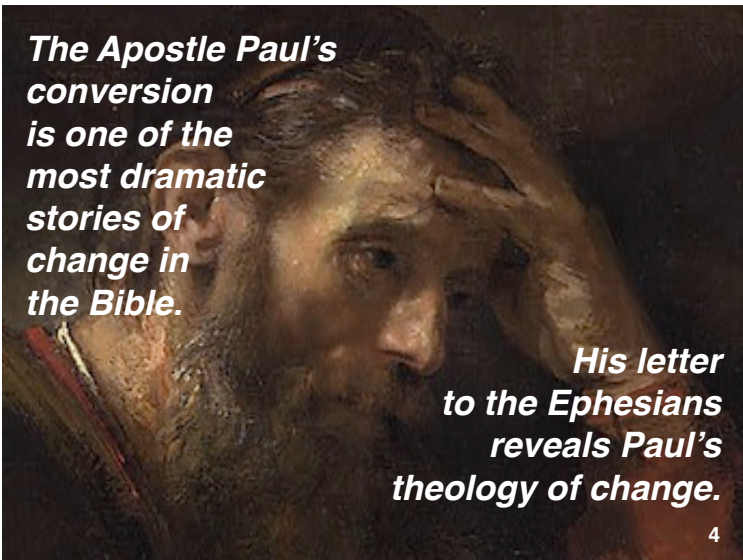
“My motives may not be pure but at least they are now mixed.”



Wright Doyle

3

The Apostle Paul's conversion is one of the most dramatic stories of change in the Bible.



His letter to the Ephesians reveals Paul's theology of change.

4

Ephesians

How do we change?

Stand	Resist
“Put on” the armor	
Walk	Repent 6:10-20
“Put on” the new life	
Sit	Remember ch.4-6
Positioned “in Christ”	

ch.1-3 5



Everyone who understands war knows that it is won or lost in the preparation.

Ephesians 6:13

“Therefore, **take up** the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.”

Intel. - knowing the enemy.

Expectations - anticipation of events.

Training - rules of engagement.

7

Ephesians 6

“¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the **schemes** (craftiness) of the devil. ¹² For our **struggle** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world **forces of this darkness**, against the **spiritual forces of wickedness** in the heavenly places.”

What are the forces of darkness that we are facing?

8



The schemes of the Devil?

1. **Distorted views of reality** telling us that our problems are outside our soul.

This gets us in trouble.

2. **Distorted view of redemption** telling us that God has abandoned us and we are alone, unloved, and without hope.

This keeps us in trouble.

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The objective of spiritual warfare?

Ephesians 6:13

“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to **resist** in the evil day, and having done everything, to **stand firm**.”

We need it to **“resist”** the pressure to live according to the “lusts of deceit” (4:22)

We need it to **“stand firm”** holding our ground, unwavering, not “backsliding” to our former life (apart from Christ).

10

“take up” - prepare for conflict

1. **Our responsibility** - This is not something done for us or through us but **by** us.
We can't be passive expecting an angel to come.
2. **“suit up”** - “Take up” is the term used to describe the last thing a soldier does before going into combat.
We must do certain things before we can fight.
3. **Replace** - In order to “take up” we must first “put down” those things that hinder us.

We can't stand without:

1. discarding our baggage (old life)
2. putting on our armor (new life).

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Develop a strategy in anticipation of conflict.

1. **Learn from experience** - Don't let mistakes go to waste.

“Good judgment comes from experience and experience comes from bad judgment.”

Fred Brooks



12

Develop a strategy in anticipation of conflict.

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“The key to success (as president of Yale University) is to grow antennae, not horns.”

James Rowland Angell



13

Develop a strategy in anticipation of conflict.

1. **Learn from experience** - Don't let mistakes go to waste.

Some things that can help:

- Look at every situation as an **opportunity**:
 - to **learn**,
 - to **develop** and/or **demonstrate** character.
- **Audit** past reactions.
- **Rehearse** future responses.
- Identify **triggers** and be on guard.

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Develop a strategy in anticipation of conflict.

1. **Learn from experience** - Don't let mistakes go to waste.

2. **Be gracious** - to yourself and others.

Our mistakes and the mistakes of others do not do us in so much as what we do in response.

3. **Replace** - In order to “take up” we must first “put down” those things that hinder us.
We can't stand without:

1. discarding our hidden baggage (old life)
2. putting on our armor (new life).

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Ephesians 6:11

“Put on the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”

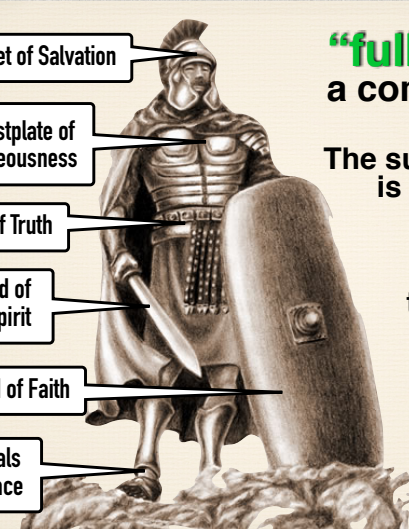


16

“full armor” - a complete set

- **Note that the armor is given to us for our use** - God has done His part and the ball is now in our court.
- **The whole is greater than the sum of its parts** - It is a system that functions as a unit with inner connected roles.

17



“full armor”
a complete set

The suit of a soldier is a **system** with many parts.

The **value** of the system is greater than the sum of its parts.

18

“full armor” - a complete set

- Note that the armor is given to us for our **use** - God has done His part and the ball is now in our court.
- The whole is greater than the sum of its parts - It is a system that functions as a unit with inner connected roles.
- **INTEGRATION** is a good term defining “spiritual maturity”. **“Getting it all together”**

James 2:20
“faith without works is useless.”

19

“of God” - being strong “in the Lord”

- **Embracing** God’s purposes, perspective, and priorities.
 - ✓ Character over comfort
 - ✓ Peace over winners and losers
 - ✓ Long term over short term
 - ✓ Big picture over narrow view
 - ✓ Body of Christ over self
 - ✓ His glory over mine
- **Remembering** what we have been given though our union with Christ.
Ephesians ch.1-3

20

2 Timothy 1:7

“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.”

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