

# CHANGING TO BECOME A BETTER SPOUSE

Sylvester Onyemalechi

Change means to turn from something and take on something new. It means to put off the old and put on the new. It means to abandon the old and embrace the new.

Change means to abandon the normal and usual way, method, lifestyle and attitude, and take on a new better, successful, proven and effective way, method, lifestyle and attitude.

Change is a sign of maturity. Change is a proof that one can handle life. Change is a proof that one is teachable - that one is constantly learning and applying what has been learnt to his or her life. Change is an evidence of an open heart.

Change shows one's acceptance of his or her imperfections and a willingness to become better.

Change reveals one's selflessness - realizing that your attitude, habits and character is causing another pain, and deciding to change to promote love, peace, harmony and acceptance (not wanting to hurt others).

Change promotes peace with God and man. Change displays wisdom and discretion. Change is the road to progress and prosperity.

Change is a demonstration of your willingness to live in harmony with your spouse and a commitment to making your marriage work.

Change is part of the circle of life. You cannot do without it. You are created to change from one glory to the other.

*"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, and being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit". (2 Cor. 3:18)*

You are expected to be affected and transformed by the word of truth (God's word) and by the experiences of life.

*"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (Jn. 8:32)*

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will". (Rom. 12:2)*

Life is a teacher. There are lessons from every experience of life which we are supposed to learn, and make the necessary corrections and adjustment in order to improve our lives. In marriage, we have conflicts from time to time as our spouse complains about certain things in our lives that offend and make them uncomfortable. It will be proper for us to look into these areas of complain and deal with them so that peace will reign supreme in our homes. Failure to change has brought a lot of fights, bitterness, led to many other problems, brought about separation and divorce.

There is a breaking point for every man. There is a point when every man or woman seems to lose his or her patience. That your spouse has been calm and tolerant does not mean that you should continue in what you know is offensive and painful to

your spouse. A genuine love will look into the area of complain of the one he or she loves. To claim to love me and keep doing what I have told you time without number that I don't like, is a lie. Genuine love feels the hurt of his partner, and makes effort to change in order to please him or her.

If you have not learnt from the experience in your marriage so far, then, your marriage has no hope. Many times we point the accusing finger. We never want to look at our own direction. We believe and want to keep believing that our spouse is the problem, and as a result we close our eyes and ears to their cry and complains. This has never solved any problem and will never solve any problem in your relationship. Take a good look at yourself, especially this New Year, and identify the things that offend your spouse that he or she has been crying about all these years. Go to work on yourself and change with God's help all that needs to be changed, and you will see how God will turn your marriage around for the better. The peace you have not known will eventually reign in your marriage. CHANGE!

### **FOCUS ON YOURSELF**

*"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye". (Matt 7:3-5 NIV)*

Don't focus on your spouse's weakness, rather, focus on yours. When you work on yourself, God will help you by working on him or her. First, attend to your person. See yourself as the one with the main and only problem. If you attend to yourself with this mindset, you will make a remarkable change in your life, and this will in turn provoke your partner to make a change in his or her own life.

Change is inevitable if marriage must work smoothly and peace maintained. Change is inevitable if love must be kept fresh and the dream of living together till death is to be realized. If separation and divorce is to be avoided, change when necessary is essential and must not be overlooked. Go to work on yourself now.

Give the word of God that you read and hear daily a chance in your life. God gave his word to change man. To refuse to be changed is to be stubborn or stiff-necked. To refuse change is to rebel against the authority and wisdom of God. And you know every rebel will face the music.

### **THE DANGER OF RESISTING CHANGE**

He that will not change will be destroyed by his bad habits, sins, mistakes and stubbornness.

*"He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded." (Prov. 13:13)*

A man who will not take correction does not like progress, and will not progress. A man who does not want change will eat frustration as his food. Those that resist

change are those that are wise in their own eyes. And anyone that is wise in his own eyes is a proud fool - he has a small mind.

*"Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die. (Prov. 15:10).*

Change is inevitable. You can't do without it. A man who is always failing or suffering loss because of his methods, and refuses to change his methods certainly does not want progress.

A man who does not want to change his evil ways, has pitched his tent against God. Such a one has made himself an enemy of God, and has positioned himself for curses rather than blessings.

*"A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed-without remedy." (Prov. 29:1)*

### **KNOW THIS**

1. Your experience in life is a product of your faithfulness to God and his instructions.
2. What you were yesterday, what you are today, and what you will be tomorrow are determined by your faithfulness to God.
3. God's blessings in your life are determined by your faithfulness to his instructions.
4. Your level of obedience determines your level of promotion and upliftment in Christ, in business and society.
5. You are the one who chooses the cup with which you are to be blessed - the cup is determined by your level of obedience.
6. You are where you are by choice. And you can also decide to move from where you are. It is a matter of choice.
7. Disobedience is the root of agony and oppression. The devil's attack on you and your marriage will never work when you are in obedience to God's word.

*"In righteousness you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed; it will not come near you. If anyone does attack you, it will not be my doing; whoever attacks you will surrender to you-----no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me, declares the LORD". (Isa. 54:14,15,17)*

Walking in righteousness will deliver all these to you. And obedience is the foundation and road of righteous living.

Change brings one into the part of greatness. Change takes you from the wrong way of doing a thing to the right way where success and prosperity is sure.

Change positions you for blessings, while hardness of heart closes the door against you.

## **DO NOT RESIST CHANGE**

To be stiff-necked is to be hard-hearted or to be stubborn and rebellious. If you refuse to bend, you will be broken by God. When He applies a heavy hand to discipline you, you will be bruised badly.

If you do not bend, you will break. Read I Cor. 1-13; Prov. 1:20-33. To resist change is to resist progress. To resist change is to resist blessing. To resist change is to resist promotion. To resist change is to resist good and welcome evil and misfortune in your life and family. To resist change is to resist God and his Holy Spirit. To resist Change is to reject truth. To resist change is to reject an open door. To resist change is to resist breakthrough. To resist change is to resist the answer to your prayers. To resist change is to resist peace and harmony in your home. To resist change is an invitation to crisis, separation and divorce.

Embrace instruction and follow instruction. Take advice and work with good counsel. Repent of all the evils in your life. Get rid of all the attitudes, habits and character that hinder, and are contrary to God and progress. Read Proverbs 4.

## **CONCLUSION**

Jesus came to change us. Therefore, don't resist change. It pays to change. A woman, who is always fighting, disobeying her husband or making the home uncomfortable, will soon discover she has no more home. A man, who doesn't give a damn about his children and wife, will soon discover that his children are total strangers to his person and he has lost affection for his wife and his wife is losing interest in him.

A sinner who refuses to repent of his sins will live to regret it in hell. A pretender or hypocrite who refuses to repent and deal with his deceit will end up in hell gnashing his teeth. It doesn't pay to be stubborn.

If you refuse to change your mental attitude towards your spouse, your method of doing things, and your wrong beliefs, you will pay dearly for it. The reason the word of God came to you is to change you and bring you into the perfect will, way and life of God. Let the word work in you and on you. Accept change.

I charge you in the name of Christ to change. Effect change from today where necessary and you will be happy you did. Accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and serve him with all your heart in total submission and faithfulness.

Deal with that sin that God had been speaking to you about. Make that correction the Spirit has been laying in your heart. Do not play with it. Don't postpone action either. Make that change now! Kill that pride now, and stop being wise in your own eyes. Accept truth and make the necessary changes. Stubbornness does not pay but kills. It turns one into an enemy of God. Don't postpone that decision, make that change now and see your marital experience change for the better. Give your life to Christ. Correct every wrong in your life. Straighten your life. Work by God's methods and principles. Live by the Holy book.

# WORD OF WISDOM

1. **Marriage is commitment to a person you dearly love to share your lives together till death do you part.**
2. **It takes your all to make marriage succeed. Your whole heart, love, money, energy, creativity and entire personality are required.**
3. **For your marriage to work, don't concentrate on what your spouse can give or buy for you, but concentrate on what you can give to make your spouse happy.**
4. **No relationship will succeed when only one party is giving and making input for the success of the relationship. It takes two to succeed in a relationship.**
5. **If the two of you will attempt to outdo each other in showing love, caring and buying of gifts, I assure you, your relationship will stand the test of time.**
6. **Sincerity is the ingredient that heals hurts in relationships. It enables one to accept responsibility of mistakes and offenses committed within the relationship, apologize and make amends.**
7. **Selfishness, greed and secrecy are destroyers of relationship any day, any time anywhere.**
8. **Becoming like Christ takes away stress from marriage.**
9. **Submission is the key to greater love.**
10. **Freedom of sex expressions in marriage strengthens the bond of love and oneness.**