

Preparing for “What on Earth Am I Here For?”

I. Introduction

A. II Corinthians 3:18 (NAS) *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

II. How God Changes Us

A. Change requires coaching

1. You need a coach in your life if you're serious about becoming better in your life!
2. II Timothy 2:2 (NAS) *The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*
3. The best place to find a spiritual mentor is in a Small Group!

B. Change requires learning the truth

1. John 17:17 (NLT) *“Make them holy by Your truth; teach them Your word, which is truth.”*
2. The truth is what changes us!
3. Ephesians 4:14-15 (NLT) ¹⁴ *Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.* ¹⁵ *Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.*
4. Every self-defeating behavior in your life is based on a lie you're believing.
5. John 14:6 (NAS) *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*
6. Truth is not simply a principle, it is a Person!

C. Change requires new thinking

1. The way you think determines the way you feel, and the way you feel determines the way you act.
2. Romans 12:2 (NAS) *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*
3. I'm asking you to commit to 3 things during this campaign:
 - a. Attend one of our weekend services every weekend during the campaign (6 weekends)
 - b. Join and attend a Small Group during the campaign
 - c. Do the daily devotions

D. Change requires cleaning house

1. Ephesians 4:22 (NAS) *In reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit.*
2. Why is it so hard to get rid of bad habits?
 - a. Because I've had them a long time
 - b. Because I identify with them
 - c. Because Satan fights against it

E. Change requires honest community

1. You need people in your life to help you change!
2. Ephesians 4:25 (NLT) *So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.*
3. Real friends walk in when everybody else walks out.

4. Our Small Group ground rules:
 - a. What's said in the group stays in the group.
 - b. Don't minimize others' pain. Just listen.
 - c. Don't try to fix people. Just listen.
 - d. Focus on my changes, not somebody else's.

III. Conclusion