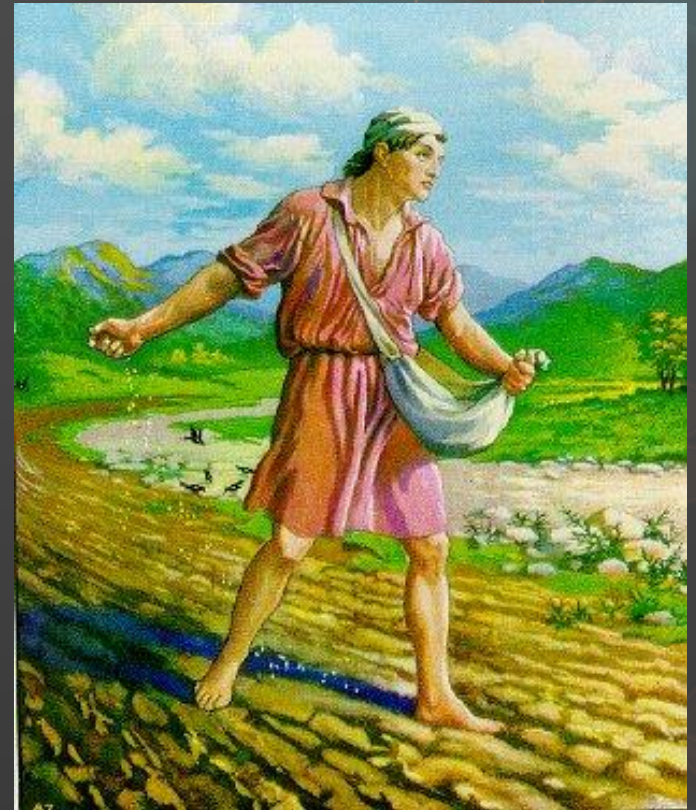


**“...having heard
the word with a
noble and good
heart, keep it and
bear fruit with
patience”**

Luke 8:15



Is it
possible
for a
ground to
change?



*"That which has been is what will be,
That which is done is what will be done,
And there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9)*

Highlights

1. Motives and factors supportive of the change
2. Hindrances and negative factors that suppress the transformation



Motives and factors supportive of the change



1. The negative impact of our choices

- Seeing the results of our poor choices on ourselves, our relationships, our marriages and our children might be the most effective motivation for change.
- It is only when he started to starve that the prodigal son thought to change his course



2. An interruption to life with a major incident

- An illness or a loss of a beloved one might call our attention to the vanity of this passing world.
- Nothing like tribulations can serve as a trumpet call to cause us turn to God.



3. The influence of a positive environment

- Our fellowship with the godly triggers and endorses our transformation: "And it happened when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, 'What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?'" *1 Samuel 10:11*
- "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another" *Hebrews 10:24*

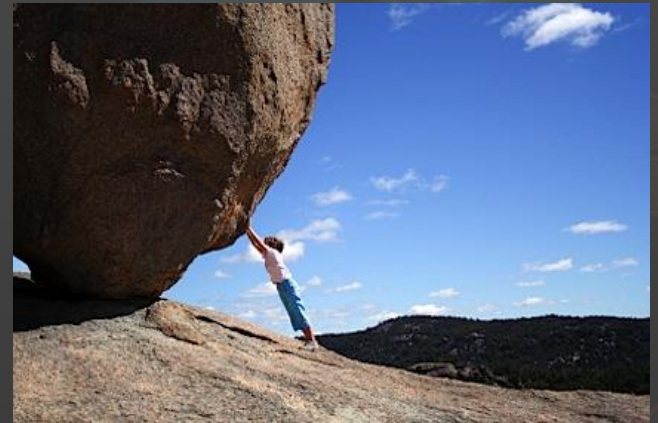


4. Experiencing God's love

- This was the main transforming power for the Samaritan woman and Zacheaus
- The story about the lonely man who was visited accidentally by a priest

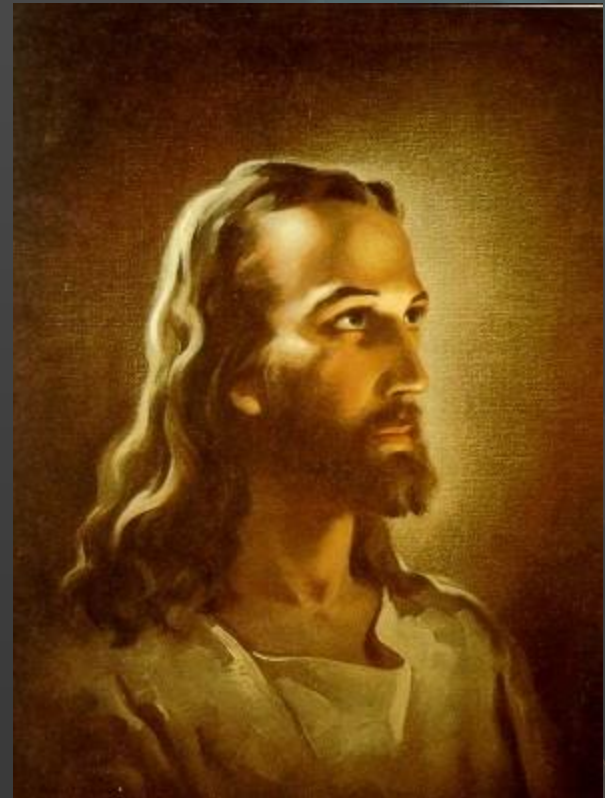


**Hindrances and
negative factors
that suppress
the
transformation**



1. Missing the “Image”

- Who is my role model in life?
- How do I value the image of God that we were created to be like?
Where is my heart?
- “But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” *2 Corinthians 10:12*



2. Avoiding the mirrors!

- “If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you do not like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself”

St. Augustine

- Whom should I believe?
- My confessor father



3. The “hidden master”

- The Ego is a master who resists any change towards God’s image.
- It shows when we blame others for our faults, being wise in our own eyes and depending upon our own efforts to make the change.



4. Lack of commitment

- Many fall along the way because they lack the seriousness to continue unto the end.
- Many desire the change, yet not everyone commits to do the work needed with God.



5. Use of “masks”

- Being content to live a double life
- Believing the picture of the mask and polishing it all times
- “having a form of godliness but denying its power” **2 Timothy 3:5**



6. The negative influence

- Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” *1 Corinthians 15:23*
- “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?” *2 Corinthians 6:14*



7. Giving up trying

- This is the last battle with the enemy: to lose hope.
- We are responsible for the struggle; the victory is God's gift.

