Help me change my personality!

**Experience a positive change in who you are**

**Monday**

Read Matthew 18:1-5

* *The question isn’t if you need to change something about yourself, but what you need God to change about you.* ***Ask God*** *to show you how you need to become more ‘lowly.’*

**Tuesday**

Read Matthew 4:19, Romans 8:29, Philippians 3:10-21

* *Stop ‘doing’ and start ‘being’ who God wants you to be. It’s not about your performance; it’s about your personality.* ***Journalize*** *how these scriptures help you understand God’s molding and changing your life.*

**Wednesday**

Read Mark 3:14

* *There are three things required for our personalities to change: 1. Accept that Jesus chooses us without perfect performance 2. We spend enjoyable time with Jesus 3. We live purpose-driven lives versus performance-driven lives.* ***Meditate*** *on these truths.*

**Thursday**

Read Luke 10:38-42

* ***Write down*** *all the obstacles Martha faced which kept her from experiencing a change in personality. There are at least 6 obstacles she faced.*

**Friday**

Read 1 Timothy 4:16

* *If you will watch the example of your personality as you spend time with God, you can be sure that you and those who follow your personality will be saved. That is sobering.* ***Think about*** *what part of your personality needs to be changed by God.*

Help me change my personality!

Matthew 18

**18**At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

**2**He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. **3**And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **4**Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5**And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

**Jesus was saying:**

You need to change

It’s not that you need to change what you do, its that who you are needs to change

‘unless you change and become…’

ESV Matthew 4:19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Literal - ‘I will make you fisherman of men.’

Not:

your accomplishment will be saving thousands and thousands of men and that will make you into something special

What Jesus did say:

I will change you and make you into who you into who you need to be.

I am more interested in your personality than your performance.

Holiness is about about your character, not your behavior. You can fake behavior (for a while), but your character…your personality, is who you really are.

I heard a preacher say:

**Stop ‘doing’ and start ‘being’**

If I am trying to get to know someone, the conversation almost always leads to what they do or to what they have accomplished, even failures.

If someone is hard to get to know, often it is because they feel that they haven’t accomplished much or failed at something. Neither success or failure defines who we really are. Our being does not have to do with our doing.

How did Jesus go about transforming the identities of people who fish for fish, into a new identity of fishermen of men?

**Mark 3:14 New International Version (NIV)**

**14**He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.

Their personality changed when:

* They accepted they were chosen by Jesus
* Spend enjoyable time with Jesus
  + - Who you hang out with affects your very personality!
* They became purpose-driven instead of results-driven
  + God gives us a life-long purpose and we do it because we were created for it…we do it because of enjoyment not because of results

Obstacles to changing your personality

**Luke 10:38**As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. **39**She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. **40**But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made (performance, doing, meeting other’s perceived expectations, succumbing to her approval addiction). She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

**41**“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things,

**42**but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Obstacles to changing my personality:

* Not opening my heart to Jesus
* Being to busy to spend quality time listening to Jesus (be with Jesus)
* Distracted by performance (we are distracted because we are trying to prove something about ourselves based on what we do)
* Complaining and blaming - blaming deflects personal responsibility
* Fixating on fixing someone else instead of being willing to change yourself

During my first three years of marriage, I was fixated on changing a thing or two about my wife. It produced a certain level of obsession at times, angered me, frustrated me. After three years, Holy Spirit showed me my heart, and God changed me! I remember being so excited about the change in me, that I couldn’t wait for a situation to arise that would have normally set me off, to show her that I was a changed person.

* Worried and upset by many things. Irritated all the time, anxiety all the time, stress all the time

Stress, anxiety and irritation come from one thing and one thing alone…you are performance-based, instead of grace-based. You are looking at yourself, or someone else, or a situation and it doesn’t meet some predetermined measurement. I am learning that people and situations do not cause me stress, anxiety and irritation, I do it to myself.

There was a situation that I had for years that would cause me a flare up of frustration, annoyance and anger. I remember thinking it was like sandpaper that was rubbed on the same spot of my body. I asked God, when is this situation being to be taken away. God told me, ‘when you change.’

Ishamael didn’t cause Abraham and Sarah stress.  Abraham and Sarah’s lack of trust in God is what caused them stress. As soon as I start taking things in my own hands, doing what I think is best, stress immediately enters into the equation.

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Nothing is more personal than to address someone’s personality. To say something negative or positive about someone’s personality can have a huge affect on a friendship.

A friend of mine said something I’ll never forget. God was dealing with him about the way he was acting, and

he told God, ‘but that is my personality.’

God answered, ‘Yes, but your personality is sinful.’

God wants to change who we are

But change us in to what???

**Romans 8:29 New International Version (NIV)**

**29**For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Conform - sýmmorphos – altered by sharing the same inner essence-identity (form); .  Sym - together with  morphos - form, shape.  God wants to re-shape my very personality to be ‘like’ Christ’s personality

Yesterday as I was praying and thanking God that I finally more fully understood the concept of waiting on God. It is such a pleasure to no longer push God or pull God, but simply wait on God.

God told me, you have always understood this, but you finally accepted what you have understood all along.

I was brittle, hardened, a non-conformist to Christ’s image until I accepted God’s approach to things.  What freedom! What peace!…where is my stress? Where is my irritation with God’s timing? Where are all my questions and doubts?

What happens when we embrace personality change versus performance-based living:

**1 Timothy 4:16 New International Version (NIV)**

**16**Watch your life (not someone else’s) and doctrine closely. Persevere (a character word) in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Watch - to heed, to wait or to stop long enough to pay attention so you can learn something. To delay (action and decisions until you have all of God’s input)

Stop…..doing so that you can start being……….. who God wants you to be

How can we objectively watch our life?

Spend time with Jesus…Jesus had His disciples ‘be with Him.’

Doctrine - your teaching, I am a teacher because my life is an example for those who know me

**If I will watch the example of my personality as I spend time with God, I can be sure that I and those who follow my personality will be saved.**

If on the other hand, I define my life by my achievements or failures and this way of life is my example for those around me, neither I nor those I care about will stand much of a chance of being saved.

If I’ll start being, God will start doing