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## **GOD'S GRACE IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE**

By Pastor Sherry Gregory

The Key to being established in your faith so that you have God's grace and joy in the midst of changes in your life.

### 1. Introduction:

Jesus is the Lord of Stability! The scriptures constantly refer to Jesus our Lord and Savior as being: The Rock, Our Strong Tower, Our High Priest, Shepherd and Bishop of our Souls, Chief Cornerstone, our Governor, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings, the Great I Am, El Shaddai... and many other names are given Him. Jesus is the Lord Over Change also, because he stays the same-yesterday, today and forever! (Hebrews 13:8)

What an assurance we have, that things can be changing all around us, and yet we have one who never changes, whom we can always rely on to be stable and fixed, to provide grounding and firm footing for us. We can even change because of WHO Jesus is to and for us! This study will take you into the deep secrets of how you can tap into and pull on the Stability that Jesus is, and that resides on the inside of you already as a born-again believer! You can draw up and out of your re-born spirit the ROCK Who will cause you to BE FREE and operate in great freedom (liberty and assurance) in every circumstance! Hallelujah!

### 2. Scripture references:

- A. Change: Hebrews 7:12, Hebrews 1:12, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Philippians 3:21, Psalm 15:4, Hebrews 13:5b-6, 8-9, 1 Corinthians 15:52, Genesis 35:2, Proverbs 24:2, Isaiah 9:10, Jeremiah 2:36, Acts 6:14, Romans 1:26, Galatians 4:20, Romans 1:23, Isaiah 3:22, Psalm 102:26, Psalm 106:20
- B. Definition of change from the Strong's Concordance Greek and Hebrew:
  - Greek 3346 (Hebrews 7:12): methatithemi: transport, transfer, exchange, change sides, carry over, remove, translate, turn.
  - Greek 236 (Hebrews 1:12, Acts 6:14, Galatians 4:20, Romans 1:23, 1 Corinthians 15:52): allasso: to make different, to change, allos (prime root word) "else" ie: different-more, one-another.
  - Greek 3339 (2 Corinthians 3:18) metamorphoo: to transform, change, transfigure.

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Greek 3331 (Hebrews 7:12) metathesis: transposition, transferral (to heaven), disestablishment of law, change, removing, and translation.

Greek 3345 (Philippians 3:21) metaschematizo: to transfigure or disguise, to apply by accomodation, tranfere, transform (self) to change.

- C. What is the normal human reaction to change? Our human flesh does not normally like change. We prefer to get comfortable in our daily life. We like stability and security. So, when changes happen there is a normal reaction: fight or flight response. But we can pull on the stability and unchangeableness of Christ with-in us to comfort us and re-assure us that we are OK and that everything is going to work out OK. The scriptures encourage us not to worry, but to trust in Him Who created us, has a plan for us and who loves and cares for us.
- D. What steps can we take in the midst of changes to stabilize our minds and our flesh?
- 1.) We first of all need to pray and ask for God to comfort us and fill us with His peace.
  - 2.) Then we need to read the Word concerning the situation and re-orient our minds (renew) of the truth and the Covenant that we have in Him.
  - 3.) We speak out loud those scriptures daily, or even minute by minute to build up our faith and to re-focus us on Him, our Rock.
- E. Read over the above scriptures referring to change. Pull out those assurances that are in them and speak them to yourself, then write them down and make them a part of your daily devotions and private time with Him, speaking of them to Him and allowing them to sink into your heart as you speak them.

For example:

Father in Jesus Name, I come to you right now. I am asking for your Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen me today. Your Word in Hebrews 7:12 that Jesus was the first Priest after the order of Melchizedek, that He was the Change in the Priesthood of old, from mans tradition, yet you planned it from the beginning! Therefore God, I take on the same anointing that you gave Jesus because I am IN HIM. This anointing covers me, shores me up and enables me great victory in the changes that I am going through in my life right now, by way of my High Priest Jesus Christ. Your Word God, in Hebrews 1:12 that things may change all around me, roll up and be replaced by others, yet I can lean on, cling to and rely on You to cause me to triumph (2 Corinthians 2:14, and Philippians 4:13) because you never change and your years will never end or come to failure. Therefore I accept your stability and success in my life right now! Father in 2 Corinthians 3:18, you said that we are constantly being changed into your very own image, being transfigured into ever increasing splendor from one degree of glory to another, so I trust you Lord that these changes that I'm experiencing will be turned for my good that I might have great success in my life for the purpose of giving you glory. Oh God your Word in Hebrew 13:5b-6 and 8-9 says that You will not in any way fail me, give up on me, or leave me without support, and that You will not, will not, will not, in any degree leave me helpless, forsake me or let me down or relax your hold on me, as long as I Love You first, and seek you in all my ways, you will be there for me!

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Thank you Father God! I receive this great promise of your Word right now God and I praise You for Your love and Your faithfulness toward me, because of the Blood of Jesus that covers and has cleansed me!

F. Homework:

1. Write a confession for your devotional time with Jesus, that includes the rest of the scriptures that refer to change. Create a faith confession for yourself that will strengthen you by the Truth of God's Word. (You are encouraged to recite the above confession that we gave you as an example, every day, and also the one that you create from the other above scriptures).
2. Write on the backside of this homework page, or on a separate sheet of paper a duplicate of the homework confession. Send us the duplicate of the new one that you write and state which scriptures they include so that we can see if you are understanding this practical way to cause your faith to rise up on the inside of you.
3. Journal the results of your daily confession practice relating it to the every day situations while you are incarcerated, or if you have been released and are on parole or probation, in your daily dealings with the world as you make your way into a new life. Deliberately apply the truth of God's Word to your every day living, and write us and tell us about it. (Your journal should include at least two weeks of daily practice.)
4. Post the homework confession and the one we provided you in your room, or keep them somewhere that you can refer to them in tough situations. Then let us know if you have questions on the practical living skills that you have need of. It is all on the inside of you, because Jesus has given you himself, exchanged places with you!

Have a great time experiencing the joy that God gives us as a gift when we are stable, established and fixed in our faith no matter what the outside circumstances may be, no matter what changes might come in your life. You can be at peace in the midst of any storm.

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