

# REAL CHANGE

## From the Inside Out

Modern Christianity, in dramatic reversal of its biblical form, promises to relieve the pain of living in a fallen world.

The message, whether it's from fundamentalists requiring us to live by a favored set of rules or from charismatics urging a deeper surrender to the Spirit's power, is often the same:

The promise of bliss is for now! Complete satisfaction can be ours this side of heaven.

Either way, the point of living the Christian life has shifted from knowing and serving Christ till He returns to soothing, or at least learning to ignore, the ache in our soul.

The effect of such teaching is to blunt the painful reality of what it's like to live as part of an imperfect, and sometimes evil community. We learn to pretend that we feel now what we cannot feel until heaven.

Beneath the surface of everyone's life, especially the more mature, is an ache that will not go away. It cannot be ignored, disguised, mislabeled, or submerged by a torrent of activity, it will not disappear. And for good reason. We were designed to enjoy a better world than this. And until that better world comes along, we groan for what we do not have.

*An aching soul is evidence not of neurosis or spiritual immaturity, but of realism.*

Modern Christianity says it is within our power to arrange for the relief we long for. We learn to claim promises with more faith; we can classify sin into manageable categories and then scrupulously avoid it, thereby guaranteeing the blessings we covet; we can practice new forms of meditation; we can become more involved in church activities and Bible study.

It says, *Something we can do will advance us to a level of spirituality that eliminates pain and struggle as ongoing, deeply felt realities.*

But God wants to change us into people who are truly noble, people who reflect an unswerving confidence in who He is, which equips us to face all of life and still remain faithful.

**Real change** is painful, but it is worth the pain. It makes the Christian life possible. It frees us to groan without complaint, to love others in spite of our emptiness, and to wait for the complete satisfaction we so desperately desire.

Real change is only possible when you face the realities of your internal life and let God mold you into a person who is free to be honest, courageous, and loving. If you want a more vital union with God, a richer relationship with others, and a deeper sense of personal wholeness, let us help you look inside yourself and discover how God works real, liberating change when you live from the inside out.

Join us for the

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Life-shop Experience

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