



Newsletter

Creating Change

Year after year on New Year's Eve, we reflect on our lives and do an assessment of all that's wrong with it; or so we believe. Usually all the superficial things about ourselves; our weight, our bad habits, all the things that we think we lack discipline to do. Somehow, magically, at the stroke of midnight, we believe that the long list of changes we want will happen. Sometimes we feel ashamed that we

don't make it through one week of being successful with all the great changes we "need" or want to happen. And every year we fail.

Looking back on the reasons, we analyze that we lack the discipline to stick to it, or it wasn't the right diet or exercise for me. We are inundated by the media with the notion that a New Year is reason enough to change and that it's the right time for

change. Then we ask ourselves "why is it that I am never able to make the changes I need to make."

So what's missing in this annual scenario? Could it be that we are trying to "create" lasting change without our Creator? Who more than God, the one who created us knows what is best for us? He knows our thoughts, our motives and He wants what's best for us. And sometimes, that is not exactly what the world is telling us will make

us happy and successful. Psalm 139, confirms that God "knows" us. David says, O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down. And are acquainted with all my ways.

If we purchased a new computer and needed to know how to properly operate it for its intended purpose, wouldn't it seem silly to check the operating manual of a new car for the answers? But isn't that exactly what we do when decide to make changes without consulting our operating manual (Bible) and our God (who lovingly provided us with the operating manual)?

So perhaps we need to ask ourselves, "Is what

Woman of the Kingdom Spotlight



Name: Vera Funderburk
Birthday: February 11
Favorite Color: Purple

Most women start the new year off with resolutions. What advice would you give to a woman trying to make a new start in their relationship with God?

The advice I would give to a woman trying to make a new start in their relationship with God is to confess your sins and He is faithful and just

to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9) and to make a fresh start by asking Him daily to teach, lead and show us the proper path we should go (Psalms 25).

How do you plan to live renewed in Christ this year?

I plan to live renewed in Christ this year by

believing that I've been forgiven and asking God to transform and renew my mind daily. Also to seek God one prayer at a time, one day at a time and knowing it's all a process one step at a time.

Creating Change, *cont.*

I want what God wants for me?" Am I more concerned with my wants than God's will for my life? Who more than God knows what's best for us? He cares about the things we care about, but He tells us in His word that we are not to worry about these things, but that we should "seek first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt 6:33). It would seem that we as Christians would naturally seek our Creator in everything, but many times we seek Him about the "spiritual" things and think we can handle the rest.

So what things are we talking about? I believe God cares about our desire for change but He is also concerned with the motive for the change we desire. Do we want change that will make us appear to "fit in" with the world's view of what we should be? Or do we want change that draws us closer to God and is pleasing to Him. Will this "change" help us build His kingdom?

The most lasting change we can ever make is to give our lives to Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away;

behold, all things have become new." Wow. What a relief that we don't have to worry about the annual ritual of trying to create some change just because it's a New Year and that's what the world says we need to do.

Trust in your Creator, your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to "create" lasting and beautiful change that is pleasing to Him and that glorifies His kingdom.

~Peggy Ferguson

First Lady's Corner-Sanctify & Experience

"...Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." Joshua 3:5

The month of January is usually a great time to think about new beginnings, fresh starts, and future plans for the year. For some, January can be frightening because they cannot see what lies ahead. One important factor we must keep in mind: Whether you are the one excited and expecting or the one frustrated and fearful of the unknown in 2012, you must prepare yourself to experience God and His fullness.

We all want God to do something in our lives, but only a few of us will do what is needed to experience Him. In Joshua 3:5, the Lord said to Joshua, "Say to the people, 'Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.'" The Lord made this command before they crossed over the Jordan River. Throughout the Bible on several occasions, the Lord made commands of sanctification (making one's self morally and ceremonially clean) before He would do wonders in the Israelites' lives. And it wasn't until the

sanctification process was done before they experienced the Lord and His awesomeness. They experienced the death angel passing their homes and preserving their first born sons (Ex 13); seeing the glory of the Lord above Mount Sinai (Ex 19); and the anointing of the called of God (I Sam 16), and the list goes on. So ladies, as we are in this month of fasting and consecration, purpose in your heart to sanctify yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

Love, First Lady

Upcoming Events

February

Friday, February 3

Marriage Enrichment Seminar
7pm-9pm, Education Building

Friday, February 17

Singles Fellowship
7pm-9pm
Education Building

Saturday, February 25

WOK Bible Study
10:30am-12:30pm
Education Building

****DON'T FORGET YOU CAN START MAKING PAYMENTS FOR WOK'S RETREAT! Last Day is Sunday, June 3, 2012**