

MAKE CHANGES COUNT

Sometimes our fate resembles a fruit tree in winter. Who would think that those branches would turn green again and blossom, but we hope it, we know it.

~Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

When things go wrong in our lives, when they become extremely difficult, we have a tendency to feel that nothing will change. We feel stuck and think our situations won't get better. With this kind of thinking, we have a difficult time to take the steps we need to take that might create the change we want. We remember only the bad times, when we really need to see both the good and bad, for they are part of life's journey. Somehow, we survived the bad times, moved forward and eventually our lives balance out and get better as we tell ourselves that this too would pass. The passing of time helps, but we must also focus upon positive thoughts and changes. We must learn to make wiser choices.

The enemy loves to come along side us with his lies, deception and doubts that push us into the miry pit; a place of complaining and fear. "*Stinking thinking*" comes in when events in our lives upset us and we start believing that we will never feel better again, and the devil tries to sell us his negative bag of goods. But remember, we may not be able to control many of the things that happen to us, but we can control how we react to them as we enlist the Lord's help. We have God's weapons available for our use in fighting the powers of darkness. We may have to go through some bad times, but we will be the overcomers if we do not weary in well doing and keep our trust in the Lord; He should be our focus.

As a farmer was gathering prairie chicken eggs one day, He picked up an eagle egg in the process and putting them all together took them home. The eggs hatched and the little eaglet was raised as a prairie chicken. He scratched in the dirt and did all the things the other prairie chickens did.

One day he saw an awesome bird fly over the farm. *Wow*, he said, *what kind of bird is that?* The other prairie chickens told him it was a great eagle—the greatest of all birds.

I wish I was an eagle and then I could soar high in the sky like him! He said.

The other prairie chicken laughed at him and told him that would never happen and he needed to be content in being a prairie chicken and enjoy his life on the farm.

Now the poor little eagle, not knowing the truth of who he was, believed that he was a prairie chicken and spent the rest of his life scratching in the dirt and he died without ever reaching his potential.

We too have been called to soar as the eagle and the devil would lie to you as to who you are and what you can do. He'll keep you grounded for life if you listen to him! Stop listening to his lies and move in the truth of who you are in Christ and walk in His power and authority. Soar daily in His love!

If I but remember this truth, then I am assured of victory. Jesus is the missing piece in the puzzle of life. Life can never be complete without Him. Jesus is still the Light of the world. He provides light in the midst of the darkness. He is God's amazing gift—Creator come to earth—redeemer and friend. In keeping proper perspective, God's perspective, we will be able to work through the difficult times. Let us remember that as His children, we have it pretty good after all. Therefore, we can rejoice and count our blessings as we soar high in our Lord Jesus.

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:5)

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. (John 12:46)

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (1 John 1:6-7)

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’” (John 8:12)

G. K. Chesterton made this statement, “The issue is now clear. It is between light and darkness, and everyone must choose his side.”

Make the right choices and walk in the light. Enjoy the good times when you are going through them and when the bad times come purpose to walk through them with the Lord by your side. Get through those times the best that you can and your todays, tomorrows and the days after that will change. Give yourself time to appreciate God's beautiful sunrise, a full tummy, the joy of a baby's laughter, a warm bed or whatever your life holds today; God is always in the things that touch your life.

Thomas Edison once said that opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work. Opportunities at work or in your personal life will always be knocking at your door; don't be afraid to open the door and let them in. Don't let God given opportunities pass you by. Look for them, embrace them and thank God for them. They are all along your path. One step at a time, one step at a time—that's all we can do, but if God has ordered your steps—and He has—then that will be more than

enough to make changes that count! I once read that time doesn't change things. It's the work we do while time is passing that change things. We have choices—pray, seek God's wisdom and choose wisely.

Father, open the eyes of my heart. Move me out of the way, that Your Will be done in my life. Let me really see with my heart the wonderful changes You have set in place for me; I will follow! Amen!