

# TALKING POINTS

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY - HOW GOD CHANGES A LIFE

### LEANING IN

Life change is what it's all about - but how does that happen?

There are spiritual processes which are *ongoing* in our lives (not one-time things) which God uses to affect change in us. The truth is, not only have our lives been changed by these things, they continue to be changed - present tense.

These genuine spiritual processes continue to move us closer to Jesus, and they continue to help us discover the power of Christ for our lives.

However, no matter what God does, there's always a worldly counterfeit to it. The counterfeit of how God changes a life is *religion* - *man's attempt to reach to God*. Our attempt to somehow, somehow try to please God on our own merits.

There are three things which demonstrate a counterfeit methodology:

**Tradition** - we establish traditions in our lives where we believe somehow when we practice those traditions, somehow, somehow God is going to draw closer to us.

**Legalism** - we believe we can perform for God in such a way which will cause Him to smile on us, to be pleased with us. Rules, regulations and disciplines can be beneficial in their right perspective. But, when they become the primary way we approach God, they become counterfeit. Oftentimes, we don't have the humility before God we need to, so we approach Him with a prideful spirit, thinking somehow we deserve something from God. We don't.

**Pride** - The tower of babel is a prime example of man's attempt at religion. Religion always starts with the same premise -- man building his way toward God, and rejecting what God has already revealed.

Read Luke 11:43-44

How do we avoid having a counterfeit relationship with God?

### LIVING IT OUT

So how does God cut through all of that and change a life? There are three means which God uses to change our lives:

**God Removes Our Blindness** - God removes the blindness from our eyes and our hearts. Without exception, we were all born blinded to the things of God. The strategy of our enemy is to blind us from seeing the truth. The enemy doesn't have to destroy us, *simply render us useless*.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:4, Acts 26:18

Can you share a time when the gospel suddenly made sense to you - as though you could see it for the first time?

**God Delivers Us From Sin** - God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves by taking on our sin and rescuing us by paying the ultimate price.

Read Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 2:2

Why is it impossible to save ourselves?

**God Empowers Us To Serve** - a famous event in the gospel occurs when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. Jesus took on a role of a lowly servant to show the disciples how they (and we) should treat others. Once God reveals Himself to us, He empowers and calls us to serve Him and others.

Read John 13:12-17

Whose "feet" might you need to "wash" today?