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Agent of Change

The New Life in Jesus

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You may have heard the cliché, “*The definition of insanity is, doing the same thing while expecting different results.*” As strange as that may sound, countless multitudes begin and end each day with the desire for something different, but fear of the unknown keeps them shackled to who they are. Why do so many settle for less, when they can have the best? Why do many remain imprisoned in the past, when freedom is just one choice away. Jesus came to transform lives; to reveal to mankind the character and lives that they had longed for.

When Jesus began His earthly ministry He outlined the parameters of His mission. He brought relief to the poor and outcast; healing to the brokenhearted; freedom to those bound by the chains of sin; a restored vision to those whose eyes were dimmed by defeated dreams; and equality to those exploited by the ills of society. Jesus resisted the status quo in favor of uplifting the downtrodden. His mission was extended to every economic demographic. All that came in contact with Jesus left His presence restored, renewed, and revived.

Jesus came to restore in man the image that had been lost as a result of sin. Jesus came to take away the sin that had separated him from his creation. Jesus came to empower man to live a righteous life. Jesus came to equip us for every good work. None of the changes that we experience can be done in our own strength *Jesus is the Agent of change.*

THE CHANGES THAT JESUS OFFERS

- 2 Corinthians 5:17** - In Christ the old life is replaced with the new life.
- Isaiah 61:3** - Jesus takes away the bondage of past failures and disappointments.
- Exodus 34:6** - The Lord came to extend mercy, forgiveness, goodness, and truth.
- Ezekiel 11:19** - Jesus came to give us a new heart and new spirit.
- Romans 12:2** - Jesus came to transform our minds and our thinking.
- Romans 8:5** - Jesus came to change our focus from the flesh to the Spirit.
- 1 John 3:14** - Jesus came to rescue us from death and give us eternal life.
- John 3:7** - Jesus came to give us a New Birth.
- Matthew 1:21** - Jesus came to save us from our sins.
- John 1:29** - Jesus came to take away the sin of the world.
- John 4:23, 24** - Jesus came to lead us to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.
- Luke 22:42** - Jesus came to teach us to do the Father's Will not ours.
- Revelation 21:1** - Jesus came to prepare us for a new heaven and new earth.

THE CHANGES THAT WE NEED

- Isaiah 1:16** - Put away the evil that we have practiced.
- Proverbs 4:24** - Change our deceitful ways and our perverse talking.
- 1 Corinthians 13:11** - Put away childish things.
- Ephesians 4:31** - Get rid of wrath, anger, screaming, evil speaking, and malice.
- 1 Peter 2:1** - Lay aside, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and evil speaking.
- Hebrews 12:1** - Lay aside everything that hinders and the sins that easily bind us.

THE CHANGES THAT ARE MADE

- Psalms 51:10** - We need Divine aid to create in us a clean heart and a right spirit.
- Romans 3:24** - We are justified freely and redeemed by the grace of Jesus.
- 1 Corinthians 1:30** - We are righteous and redeemed only through Jesus.
- Galatians 2:16** - We are justified by faith in Jesus alone.
- Philippians 4:13** - We can accomplish all things through Jesus.
- John 15:5, 6** - We can't make any changes without Jesus.
- John 15:7** - Only as we abide in Jesus can the changes be made.
- John 1:12** - Those that accept Jesus receive the power to make the change.
- James 2:24** - Our works confirm that we are justified by faith.

THE METHOD BY WHICH THESE CHANGES ARE MADE

- Titus 2:11** - The grace of God that brings salvation is available to everyone.
- Ephesians 2:8-9** - We are saved by grace through faith and not by our own works.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21** - Jesus carried our sins so that we could become His righteousness.
- Romans 3:24, 25** - Jesus became the payment and the Substitute for our sins.
- Romans 4:6, 7** - Jesus forgave our iniquities and covered our sins with His shed blood.
- Romans 5:1** - By grace through faith in Jesus we are at peace with God.
- Romans 5:6-10** - We have been reconciled to God through Jesus and saved by His life.
- Galatians 2:20** - It is no longer us who live but Christ who lives in us.