

Life = Change

2 Corinthians 1-2

James 3:13-15

Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, soulish, demonic.

6 Kinds of Change:

+ Int. → Ext.

#1

- Ego

חלף

(chalaph)

Image/Identity

Genesis 35:2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves, and **change** your garments.”

Genesis 45:22 To each of them he gave **changes** of garments, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred *pieces of* silver and five **changes** of garments.

Isaiah 2:18 But the idols will completely **vanish**.

+ Comfort follows
affliction.

- Seek comfort
instead of
change.

#2

נחם = "comfort"

(nacham)

Attitude

"Noah" = "Rest"

Genesis 50:21 "So therefore, do not be afraid. I will provide for you and your little ones." So, he **comforted** them and spoke kindly to them."

Exodus 13:17 Now it came about when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near, for God said, "Lest the people **change** their minds when they see war, and they return to Egypt."

Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should **repent**. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

+ Picture frame
for a changed life

#3

— "Let's leave!"

סבב = "to go around"
(savav)

Surroundings

Exodus 39:6 They made the onyx stones, **en-closed** in settings of gold filigree, and engraved like the engravings of a signet, according to the names of the sons of Israel.

2 Samuel 14:20 "In order to **change** the appearance of things your servant Joab has done this thing..."

Zechariah 14:10 All the land will be **changed** into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem, but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site ...

+ "Give it time!" #4
שנה → "Year"
→ "Second" (2nd)
- "Give it time!" (shanah)
Season

Malachi 3:6 "For I, Adonai, do not **change**. Therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."

Psalms 89:34 "My covenant I will not violate, nor will I **alter** the utterance of My lips."

Daniel 7:25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to **change** the times and the law...

+ Replace "good"
with "best"

#5

- Change for
the sake of
change.

מור

(mur)

Substitution

Leviticus 27:33 He is not to be concerned whether it is good or bad, nor shall he **ex-change** it. Or if he does **exchange** it, then both it and its **substitute** shall become holy...

Jeremiah 2:11 Has a nation **changed** its gods, even though they are no gods? But My people have **changed** their glory for that which does not profit.

Hosea 4:7 The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me. I will **change** their glory into shame.

+ World to Come #6

→ Commitment to
a bad idea.

הפך

(haphach)

Permanence

Jeremiah 13:23 Can the Ethiopian **change** his skin or the leopard his spots?

Genesis 19:25 And He **overthrew** those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

Zephaniah 3:9 For at that time I will **change** the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of Adonai and serve Him with one accord.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Yeshua the Messiah is in you — unless indeed you fail the test?

God can, and indeed does change lives. But only we change ourselves.

Anon.

Short of martyrdom, change may be the ultimate act of faith.

Athol Dickson

The key is to understand that prayer is *not* directed at changing God at all, it is directed at changing *you*. The idea is that the work of *tefilla* ... is work on the self. A *tefilla* that does not change you is a failure.

R' Akiva Tatz

Prayer doesn't change Hashem's mind; it changes us, and that changes everything.

R' Heshy Kleinman

We have to change our way of thinking. Why does HaShem bring problems? It's His way of saying to us, "I miss you. I'd like you to talk to Me a little bit. Open your heart to Me. Say something. Pray to me! I am the One who is giving you this problem."

R' Yaakov Hillel

Everything that happens in our lives is in order to develop and prompt our spiritual growth. If we forget this, we may fall into a false belief that there is a lack of Divine supervision and a complete concealment of the Creator.

R' Michael Laitman

In times of great change [which is always], learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped for a world that no longer exists.

Eric Hoffer

You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.

C.S. Lewis

Discussion Questions:

- What is the change of tone between 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians?
 - According to James 3:13-15, what are the characteristics of earthly wisdom?
 - Identify a negative change you made in your life. How did you finally recognize your error and repair it?
 - Identify a positive change you have made in your life. How did it come about?
 - What do you sense God telling you to change in your life now?
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NOTES:

James 3:13-15 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, soulish, demonic.

Philippians 1:15-18 Some, to be sure, are preaching Messiah even from envy and strife, but some also from good will. The latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Messiah out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Messiah is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice.

1 Timothy 6:5 ...and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

חלף (chaliph)

Genesis 35:2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves, and **change** your garments."

Genesis 45:22 To each of them he gave **changes** of garments, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred *pieces of silver* and five **changes** of garments.

Psalms 55:19 God will hear and answer them – even the one who sits enthroned from of old-- Selah. With whom there is no **change**, and who do not fear God.

Psalms 90:5 You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep. In the morning they are like grass which sprouts **anew**.

Psalms 102:26 Even they will perish, but You endure. And all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing You will **change** them, and they will be changed.

Isaiah 2:18 But the idols will completely vanish.

נחם (nacham)

Genesis 50:21 "So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he **comforted** them and spoke kindly to them."

Exodus 13:17 Now it came about when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near, for God said, "Lest the people **change** their minds when they see war, and they return to Egypt."

Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should **repent**. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

סבב (savav)

2 Samuel 14:20 "...in order to **change** the appearance of things your servant Joab has done this thing. But my lord is wise, like the wisdom of the angel of God, to know all that is in the earth."

Genesis 42:24 And he **turned away** from them and wept. But when he returned to them and spoke to them, he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

Proverbs 26:14 As the door **turns** on its hinges, so *does* the sluggard on his bed.

Exodus 39:6 They made the onyx stones, **enclosed** in settings of gold filigree, and engraved like the engravings of a signet, according to the names of the sons of Israel.

Zechariah 14:10 All the land will be **changed** into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site ...

שנה (*shanah*)

Malachi 3:6 “For I, Adonai, do not **change**. Therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”

Ecclesiastes 8:1 Who is like the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man’s wisdom makes his face shine, and the hardness of his face is **changed**.

Psalms 89:34 “My covenant I will not violate, nor will I **alter** the utterance of My lips.”

Daniel 2:9 “...that if you do not make the dream known to me, there is only one decree for you. For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation is **changed**. Therefore, tell me the dream, that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation.”

Daniel 7:25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to **change** the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

Job 14:20 You [God] prevail forever against him, and he passes. You **change** his countenance and send him away.

גור (*mur*)

Leviticus 27:33 He is not to be concerned whether *it is* good or bad, nor shall he **exchange** it; or if he does **exchange** it, then both it and its **substitute** shall become holy...

Psalms 15:4 In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, but who honors those who fear Adonai. He swears to his own hurt, and does not **change**.

Hosea 4:7 The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me; I will **change** their glory into shame.

Micah 2:4 In that day they shall take up a taunt song against you and moan bitterly, and say, “We are utterly ruined. He **changes** the portion of my people. How he removes it from me! To an apostate he allots our fields.”

Psalms 46:2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should **change** and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea.

Psalms 106:20 Thus they **exchanged** their glory for the image of an ox that eats grass.

Jeremiah 2:11 Has a nation **changed** its gods, even though they are no gods? But My people have **changed** their glory for that which does not profit.

Hosea 4:7 The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me. I will **change** their glory into shame.

הִפָּךְ (*haphach*)

Jeremiah 13:23 Can the Ethiopian **change** his skin or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good who are accustomed to doing evil.

Deuteronomy 32:20 And he said, 'I will hide my face from them; I will see what their end will be, for they are a **perverse** generation, children in whom is no faithfulness.

Psalms 78:9 The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, **turned back** on the day of battle.

Genesis 19:25 And He **overthrew** those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

Proverbs 12:7 The wicked are **overthrown** and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.

Zephaniah 3:9 For at that time I will **change** the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of Adonai and serve Him with one accord.