



ALL THINGS NEW

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week 3: New

QUESTION 1

Happy New Year. This week, we continued our sermon series “All Things New.” The theme verse of our sermon series is: **Revelation 21:5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”** One of the first ideas presented in the sermon was that Jesus wants to bring about change, making things new. In fact, this is one of the central commands of the New Testament. **Ephesians 4:22–24 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.** Do you agree that Jesus desires to change us, helping us to put on the new self?

Tell the story of the time when God made it very clear to you that you needed to change. How did you respond?

QUESTION 2

The central scripture for our sermon this past weekend was: **2 Corinthians 4:16–18 Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.** Please, each member of the group, share what from the scripture is relevant to your life right now and why.

QUESTION 3

Let's take a moment to examine verse 18. **2 Corinthians 4:18** says, "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." The phrase "fix our eyes" in this verse comes from a single Greek word that means to look at something intently or with purpose. The verse teaches us not to focus on the temporary troubles and pleasures of this life, but to concentrate on the eternal, most important things. These things are often unseen. Temporary things that can become a consuming focus include events in the 24-hour news cycle, the trials and victories of local sports teams, frustrating moments from our day, and the sinful temptations around us. Do you think a first step to change is to shift our focus to what is most important in life? To the things of God?

Do you find it difficult to focus on the things that are truly eternal?

How do you think someone shifts their focus?

QUESTION 4

Let's examine verse 16: **2 Corinthians 4:16** **Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed day by day.** When Paul writes this verse, he is going through a time of great adversity; he is literally wasting away from hunger and persecution. But he is not discouraged or losing heart, because God is renewing him by the Holy Spirit every day. Take a moment to share a time in your life when you also faced tremendous adversity, and in that season, you discovered that God was with you, desiring to renew you every day.

I believe this verse illustrates one way Jesus changes our lives. He renews us, or makes us new through the daily choices we make. Paul and his team were allowing time for the Spirit to renew them day by day. We also need to set aside time for God every day so He can transform us from the inside out. I believe that change, including classic spiritual growth, is less about one big decision and more about thousands of small everyday decisions. I am not dismissing the importance of making a big decision—such decisions might include choosing to do everything within your power to mend a broken relationship, creating a budget for the first time, or fully surrendering your life to God once again. What I am saying is that all these big decisions must be supported by thousands of small, daily choices that keep our hearts aligned with the change God desires to bring. Do you think it's possible that we change one day at a time, one step at a time, one breath at a time as we make small choices that align us with the heart of God and His will for us? Process this idea together as a group.

End this time by sharing one area of your life where you would like Jesus to bring change and make things new. Also, share the small decisions you need to make to allow this change to happen.