

## “Change and More Change” John 9:8-12

Raindrops keep falling on my head, and just like the guy whose feet are too big for his bed,  
Nothing seems to fit, those raindrops are falling on my head, they keep falling...

B.J. Thomas

What a difference you made in my life, what a difference you made in my life!  
You're my Sunshine, day, and night, what a difference you made in my life!

B.J. Thomas

### I. *He is hardly recognized and it's a good thing –*

<sup>8</sup> Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, “Is not this he who sat and begged?” <sup>9</sup> Some said, “This is he.” Others said, “He is like him.” He said, “I am *he*.” John 9:8–9 (NKJV)

1. *He is not recognized because he is moving and not begging, because now he can see –*  
...**One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.” John 9:25**

*There was a certain young man I remember from Reformed Theological Seminary  
He had tattoos all over his arms, he looked like a biker...*

*But a nice one 😊*

*One day he showed me a picture and he said, “this is what I used to look like” ...  
In many ways he was the SAME (must have been only a couple / few years before)  
But he was dramatically different!*

2. *Christ always makes a difference in the lives of those He saves. Not always physical, but always moral and spiritual.*

3. *We are new creations –*

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

4. *We always have new eyes because with our old eyes we cannot see God's Kingdom –*

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**” John 3:3 (NKJV)

A. *When I first became a Christian, a true Bible-believing Christian, this was the first and biggest change I saw in my life. I understood the BIBLE!*

B. *I read it before without understanding.*

<sup>14</sup> But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

*Suddenly it all had meaning.*

C. *It told me I was a sinner, but I could be saved –*

*“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me,  
I once was lost, but now I am found, was blind but now I see!”*

*John Newton*

D. *My entire life had meaning and direction –*

<sup>33</sup> **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)**

E. *I was to seek His kingdom, and live for His glory –*

<sup>31</sup> **Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)**

*“The glory of God is a silver thread which must run through all our actions.”*

*Thomas Watson*

5. *We are changed by Christ; and we continue to change –*

<sup>16</sup> **And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. John 1:16 (NKJV)**

II. *He is enabled to see, move, walk and live –*

<sup>8</sup> **Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, “Is not this he who sat and begged?” John 9:8 (NKJV)**

*The reason they are not sure it is him is he is seeing, he is moving, walking, he is no longer sitting and begging!*

*Again, this has spiritual application –*

1. *We are to be doers of the Word –*

<sup>22</sup> **But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22 (NKJV)**

A. *Without Christ we can do nothing –*

... **for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 B (NKJV)**

B. *With Him, abiding in Him, we bear much fruit –*

<sup>5</sup> **“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; ... John 15:5 A (NKJV)**

2. *Waiting on the Lord, praying enables dynamic action –*

<sup>31</sup> **But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)**

A. *The word translated “renew” in Isaiah 40:31 can also be translated “change” or “exchange” meaning God’s people trade in their weaker and weaker human strength for God’s strength.*

B. *It is because of our depending upon God’s unlimited strength we are able to mount up, run and walk as we should. God’s strength is needed for spiritual battles –*

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.  
Ephesians 6:10–11 (NKJV)

3. *Seeing is still the first part of action, and spiritual sight, even from believers is still weak –*

<sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

4. *Change includes continued prayer for enlightened eyes, even after we first become believers -*

*Paul's prayer for the Ephesians –*

<sup>15</sup> Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, <sup>18</sup> the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,  
Ephesians 1:15–18 (NKJV)

A. *Note Paul's fervent prayers for the Ephesians start "after" his hearing of their faith - :15*

B. *:18 the eyes of their understanding he prays for*

C. *That they would know both the hope and their inheritance :18*

*Hope and inheritance, riches of glory are all things that are future for us now, glorious things, that the better we'd know them, the more we would want to know them better and have them!*

*Seeing HEAVENLY things NOW is meant to motivate us! The more we KNOW them, the more we'd love and live for them!*

5. *We are enabled to live and move beyond the challenges we face in this life on earth – John 9:13-34 shows us some of the challenges the blind man had to face after he received his sight...*

*The challenges which he faced we will consider or at least start considering NEXT WEEK, Lord willing!*

*What are our challenges?*

A. *To walk worthy of our calling –*

**4** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.  
Ephesians 4:1–3 (NKJV)

B. *To walk DIFFERENTLY as those who can SEE, have learned, know the difference –*

<sup>17</sup> This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup> having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; <sup>19</sup> who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. <sup>20</sup> But you have not so learned Christ, <sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup> that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:17–24 (NKJV)

*Consider how they ungodly are described: futile minds, darkened understanding, alienated from God's life, ignorant, blind, past feeling, given over to lewdness, unclean, greedy ... "because of the blindness of their heart;" Ephesians 4:18 B (NKJV)*

<sup>20</sup> But you have not so learned Christ, Ephesians 4:20 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: Ephesians 4:21 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22–24 (NKJV)

### *III. He is just beginning –*

<sup>12</sup> Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." John 9:12 (NKJV)

1. *He did not know where Jesus was ...*

2. *He did not fully know Who or What Jesus was either –*

<sup>17</sup> They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." John 9:17 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner *or not* I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." John 9:25 (NKJV)

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "**Do you believe in the Son of God?**" <sup>36</sup> He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" <sup>37</sup> And Jesus said to him, "**You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.**" <sup>38</sup> Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him. John 9:35–38 (NKJV)

3. *Even the Apostle Paul, even after he was accomplished in ministry still had room to learn, grow –*

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12–14 (NKJV)

*Christ changes us, and He will continue to do so ...*

<sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV)

*Arnold A. Brevick*