



AGENT OF CHANGE

by Matt German

Change is in the air. Can you sense it? It is time for revival. It is time for restoration. It is time for re-creation.

Hosea 6:2 Come, and let us return to Yahweh; For He has torn us to pieces, And He will heal us; He has injured us, And He will bind up our wounds. After two days will He revive us. On the third day He will raise us up, And we will live before Him. Let us acknowledge Yahweh. Let us press on to know Yahweh. As surely as the sun rises, Yahweh will appear. He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain that waters the earth.

We are two prophetic days (2000 years) removed from the days that Yahshua walked this earth. We are in the third day and it is time to revive, to be raised up and to live before Him.

Yahweh isn't satisfied with the "status quo", and neither should we be! He sent His Son to bring radical change to the destiny of mankind, because without Him we're lost, condemned, and as good as dead.

Yahshua was the original "Change Agent". In modern vernacular a change agent is "a person whose presence or thought processes cause a change from the traditional way of handling or thinking about a problem." Yahshua came to deal – once and for all – with the problem of sin.

Things changed when He arose from the dead, but they also changed during His earthly ministry. Everywhere He went He brought change to those around Him: He cast out demons, healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, raised the dead, and preached good news to the poor. That's truly "change you can believe in"!

Mark 9:1-9 And [Yahshua] said to them, "Most assuredly I tell you, there are some standing here who will in no way taste death, until they see the kingdom of Yahweh come with power." ² After six days Yahshua took with Him Peter, James, and John, and brought them up onto a high mountain privately by themselves, and He was transfigured before them. ³ His

clothing became glistening, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. ⁴ Elijah and Moses appeared to them, and they were talking with Yahshua. ⁵ Peter answered Yahshua, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let's make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ For he didn't know what to say, for they were very afraid. ⁷ A cloud came, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son. Hear Him." ⁸ Suddenly looking around, they saw no one with them any more, except Yahshua only. ⁹ As they were coming down from the mountain, He charged them that they should tell no one what things they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen again from the dead.

This was a very profound event. Yahshua was transfigured before Peter, James, and John. The word transfigured is translated from the Greek *metamorphó-oh*, the same word from which we get the English word 'metamorphosis'. What is striking about this event is that Yahshua didn't really change on this "Mount of Transfiguration" – He was just revealed for Who He truly was. He is "the same, yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebr. 13:8).

Another important point is this: Peter, James, and John saw Moses and Elijah speaking with Yahshua. Moses, of course, represents the Torah; Elijah, the Prophets. Many people in the Hebraic roots/Messianic community put a great emphasis on the "Old Testament" (the Torah and the Prophets) – and with great reason, as they have been neglected and ignored by so many churches for so long. But as these three disciples saw Yahshua speaking to Moses and Elijah, notice what Yahweh said: "This is my beloved Son. Hear Him." And then, suddenly, they saw no one except Yahshua Himself. It is critical for the believer in Messiah to always to bear this in mind: as important as the Torah and the Prophets are, the most important thing is Yahshua Himself – hearing Him. He IS the Word made flesh; He IS the living Torah; He IS the Spirit of prophecy.

People want Yahweh to change, to adapt, to conform to their concept of Him. But He doesn't change. He doesn't adapt. He doesn't conform! He doesn't change with the times; neither do His precepts. "I am Yahweh – I change not" (Malachi 3:6).

In general people are creatures of habit and don't like change – unless it is superficial or inconsequential. In fact, there are certain laws in nature that support the concept of inertia. In physics, Newton's First Law of Motion states that a body at rest tends to stay at rest unless acted upon by an outside force; and a body in motion tends to stay in motion unless acted upon by an outside force.

Change is necessary, and it brings opportunity. People will change their hair, their clothes, and their cars, thinking they'll feel better about themselves and their lives. They'll change their houses, their jobs, and even their spouses, thinking that they will then find fulfillment. Some will even change religions. The problem is – few people are willing to change themselves!

True change hurts, and people don't tend to change until the pain of remaining where they are exceeds the pain required to change. But in order to experience true spiritual change, you've got to DIE!

Romans 8:13 For if you live after the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

John 11:25 Yahshua said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he die, yet will he live."

John 3:1-10 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² The same came to Him by night, and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from Yahweh, for no one can do these signs that you do, unless Yahweh is with him." ³ Yahshua answered him, "Most assuredly, I tell you, unless one is born anew, he can't see the kingdom of Yahweh." ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" ⁵ Yahshua answered, "Most assuredly I tell you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he can't enter into the kingdom of Yahweh! ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Don't marvel that I said to you, "You must be born anew." ⁸ The wind blows where it wants to, and you hear its sound, but don't know where it comes from and where it is going. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus answered him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Yahshua answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and don't understand these things?"

To experience true change, one must be born again (anew). Without partaking of the reality of the new birth, we cannot see nor enter into the Kingdom.

Romans 12:1-8 Therefore I beg you, brothers, by the mercies of Yahweh, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to Yahweh, which is your spiritual service. ² Don't be fashioned according to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of Yahweh. ³ For I say, through the grace that was given me, to every man who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think reasonably, as Yahweh has apportioned to each person a measure of faith. ⁴

For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members don't have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Messiah, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us, if prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of our faith; ⁷ or service, let us give ourselves to service; or he who teaches, to his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, to his exhorting: he who gives, let him do it with liberality; he who rules, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

In order to experience true change, we must be transformed. This word 'transformed' is translated from the exact same Greek word – *metamorphó-oh* – as we saw in Mark 9:2, where Yahshua was 'transfigured'. Notice that this transformation comes through the renewing of the mind. This is not a humanistic renewal or transformation; it is accomplished through the power of the Spirit in the "inner man" (Eph. 3:16).

The Amplified Bible reads this way: "Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]."

This passage tells us that you've got to change your thinking before you can truly be transformed. You've got to put on the mind of Messiah. You've got to believe that change is truly possible – for YOU. Yahshua said "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." (**Mar 9:23**)

Change can often come from unlikely sources. And even when we truly desire change and ask Yahweh to change us, it often doesn't happen when or how we think it will. He will use people and circumstances as catalysts of change in our lives.

I heard a saying many years ago that has stayed with me: "Change isn't change until it's change." In other words, true change doesn't occur just by talking about it, planning it, or even pursuing it. Change is only change when change has truly occurred. Until then it's just wishing thinking.

Luke 3:8a "Bear fruits that are deserving and consistent with [your] repentance [that is, [a]conduct worthy of a heart changed, a heart abhorring sin]." (Amplified Bible)

Yahshua was the original "Change Agent". But we're supposed to be bringing the change to our worlds, too! That's what the Great Commission is all about – "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation..." In fact, if Yahshua is in us, then we are carrying the Change Agent wherever we go!

2 Cor. 3:4-18 Such confidence we have through Messiah toward Yahweh; ⁵ not that we are sufficient of ourselves, to account anything as from ourselves; but our sufficiency is from Yahweh; ⁶ who also made us sufficient as servants of a new covenant; not of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷ But if the service of death, written engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the children of Israel could not look steadfastly on the face of Moses for the glory of his face; which was passing away: ⁸ won't service of the Spirit be with much more glory? ⁹ For if the service of condemnation has glory, the service of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. ¹⁰ For most assuredly that which has been made glorious has not been made glorious in this respect, by reason of the glory that surpasses. ¹¹ For if that which passes away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory. ¹² Having therefore such a hope, we use great boldness of speech, ¹³ and not as Moses, who put a veil on his face, that the children of Israel wouldn't look steadfastly on the end of that which was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened, for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains, because in Messiah it passes away. ¹⁵ But to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶ But whenever one turns to Yahweh, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now Yahweh is the Spirit and where the Spirit of Yahweh is, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of Yahweh, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit.

We are not sufficient in ourselves – our sufficiency comes from Yahweh (v5). In fact, we are more than sufficient in Yahweh. We are full and complete in Yahshua, if Messiah truly dwells in us.

We are all supposed to be transformed – changed, transfigured – into the same image as Yahshua, from glory to glory. How does this come? It comes by the Spirit. Before you can bring the change you've got to become the change. We ask Yahweh to change our circumstances; He wants to change our hearts through our circumstances. Pressure is the catalyst for change. In his book Are You a Third Day Christian?, Pastor and author Sammy Rodriguez wrote the following:

“When we are most in stress, we produce the greatest anointing. When we are most tested, most stressed and most challenged, we produce the greatest anointing. The greatest anointing comes from the greatest pressure, the greatest confrontation, the greatest tribulation and the greatest circumstance. The reason you are going through what you are going through right now is not merely because the devil wants to destroy you. More importantly, it is because God wants to produce a greater anointing out of you.

In the third day, the outflow of circumstances and challenges in our lives is not an indication of what the devil is doing against us – it is an indicator of what God is doing for us and through us. We are not fixated with Satan's activities in our lives, but we are obsessed with God's work in our lives. The greater the sweat, the greater the anointing.”

We as believers often give the defeated one – satan – too much credit. While he is a real threat, he is not omniscient, omnipresence, nor omnipotent. Sometimes Yahweh will allow him to test us, but it is never to destroy us or cause us to fail. Instead, it is so that He can show Himself strong on our behalf.

Yahweh isn't interested in leaving you where you're at. The question is, are you interested in moving on?

Col. 1:25-29 ...I was made a servant, according to the stewardship of Yahweh which was given me toward you, to fulfill the word of Yahweh, ²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden for ages and generations. But now it has been revealed to His saints, ²⁷ to whom Yahweh was pleased to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Messiah in you, the hope of glory; ²⁸ whom we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Messiah Yahshua; ²⁹ for which I also labor, striving according to His working, which works in me mightily.

The apostle Paul sometimes wrote about some very heady stuff. Here, he is speaking of a “mystery... hidden for ages and generations... (that now) has been revealed to (Yahweh's) saints.” This mystery is “Messiah in you, the hope of glory”. This isn't some vague hope that Messiah will one day show up in glory in our lives. The word ‘hope’ is translated from the Greek *elpis*, which carries the sense of anticipation. In fact, it comes from the root word *elpo*, ‘to anticipate, usually with pleasure.’ So this mystery that has been hidden from generations is “Messiah in you, the expectation and anticipation of glory” – **NOW**.

Do we expect and anticipate the manifestation of Yahshua Himself in us and through us – in every situation and circumstance in our lives? Do we expect Him to be changing us daily “from glory to glory”, from the inside out? Do we expect Him to show up in power in our corporate gatherings?

Change is here. You can fight the change, try to ignore it, be indifferent to it – or you can embrace it. In your world, in your family, in your job, and in your neighborhood, are you a change agent or a change inhibitor? I challenge you to come the change agent in your sphere of influence. Let people see Messiah in you, the expectation of glory.

Recent Sermons

- Agent of Change (4/28/12)
- Prepare Your Hearts and Your Lives (3/24/12)
- Revival (3/10/12)

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Recommended Video of the Month

This is a new feature of Kingdom Vantage Point – recommendations for impactful, edifying, and faith-building movies. This month's recommendation is: **Courageous** Provident Music Distribution / DVD (note: PG-13)

“The latest movie from the creators of Fireproof! Police officers Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes, and their partners are brave men well-equipped to deal with hardened criminals. But when they remove their badges, they face a more daunting challenge – fatherhood. As their children drift away from them, can these stalwarts find a way to defend and protect those nearest and dearest to them – and draw closer to God?”

Available at many of your favorite retailers.

Yahweh's Feast Calendar – 2012

We understand that people have different understandings of Yahweh's calendar. These are the feast dates for 2012 as observed by Lion of Judah Family Worship Center:

Passover*	Apr. 5 th (Thu.)
Days of Unleavened Bread	Apr. 6 th – 12 th (Fri. – Thu.)
Pentecost	May 27 th (Sun.)
Trumpets	Sep. 16 th (Su.)
Day of Atonement	Sep. 25 th (Tue.)
Feast of Tabernacles	Sep. 30 th – Oct. 6 th (Su. – Sab.)
Last Great Day	October 7 th (Su.)

** observed the evening before*

Bear in mind that the Biblical day begins at sunset the night before.

Contact us:

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