

“HONESTY WRAPPED IN HUMILITY”

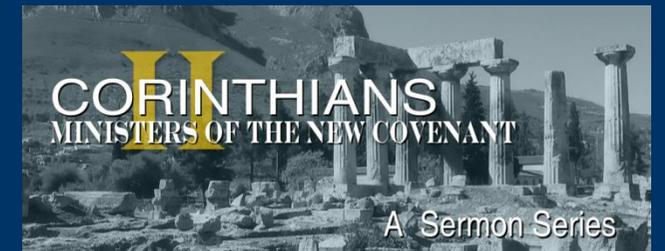
(2 Corinthians 12:7-18)

Expository Sermon of II Corinthians - Sermon 25

Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: June 3, 2018

Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



INTRODUCTION:

Little by little everyday
Little by little in every way
Jesus is changing me,
He's changing me.
Since I made that turn-about face
I've been growing in His grace
Jesus is changing me.

He's changing me, my precious Saviour
I'm not the same person that I used to be
Well, it's been slow going
But still there's knowing
That someday perfect I will be.

Jesus wants me to
BECOME
more like Him



INTRODUCTION:

We are changing every day...



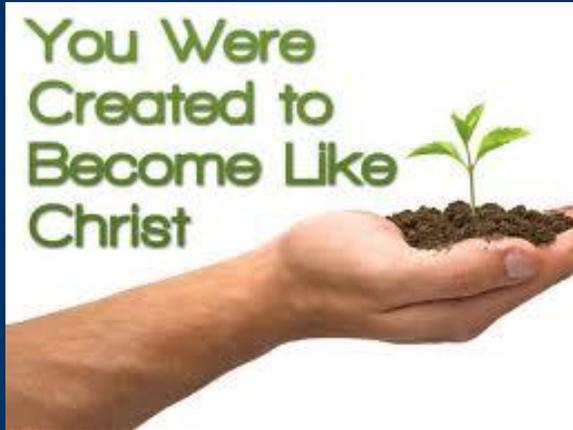
but it is a slow growing process.

Rom 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

29 *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.*

Phil. 1:6b *He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

I. SOME WAYS GOD EMPLOYS TO TEACH HIS CHILDREN



- A) By meeting our needs when we are helpless, He teaches us trust.*
- B) By making us wait for what we need or want, He teaches us patience.*
- C) By stretching us beyond the realm of the familiar, He teaches us vision.*
- D) By taking us through the consequences of wrong choices, He teaches us values.*

I. SOME WAYS GOD EMPLOYS TO TEACH HIS CHILDREN



E) By allowing us to fail and make terrible mistakes, He teaches us wisdom.

F) By sustaining pain and affliction, He teaches us humility.

G) By involving us in the lives of difficult people, He teaches us unselfishness.

II. GOD'S WAYS OF TEACHING PAUL

The Vertical Message

A) Through Pain: A Lesson of Humility

2 Cor 12:7 *"Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me."*

2 Cor 12:9 *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. **10** That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong*



II. GOD'S WAYS OF TEACHING PAUL



The Horizontal Test

B) Through Relationship: A Lesson of Unselfishness

2 Cor 12:11 *I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the "super-apostles," even though I am nothing.*

12 *I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles.*

13 *How were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was never a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong!*



II. GOD'S WAYS OF TEACHING PAUL

The Horizontal Test

B) Through Relationship: A Lesson of Unselfishness

2 Cor 12:11 *I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the "super-apostles," even though **I am nothing.***

1) He has no image to protect.



II. GOD'S WAYS OF TEACHING PAUL

The Horizontal Test

B) Through Relationship: A Lesson of Unselfishness

2 Cor 12:14 *Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.*

2) He does not keep score.



II. GOD'S WAYS OF TEACHING PAUL

The Horizontal Test

B) Through Relationship: A Lesson of Unselfishness

2 Cor 12:15 So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less?

3) He has a servant's heart.



II. GOD'S WAYS OF TEACHING PAUL

The Horizontal Test

B) Through Relationship: A Lesson of Unselfishness

2 Cor 12:16 *Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you. Yet, crafty fellow that I am, I caught you by trickery! ¹⁷ Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent to you? ^{18a} I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he?*

4) He refuses to take unfair advantage of them.



II. GOD'S WAYS OF TEACHING PAUL

The Horizontal Test

B) Through Relationship: A Lesson of Unselfishness

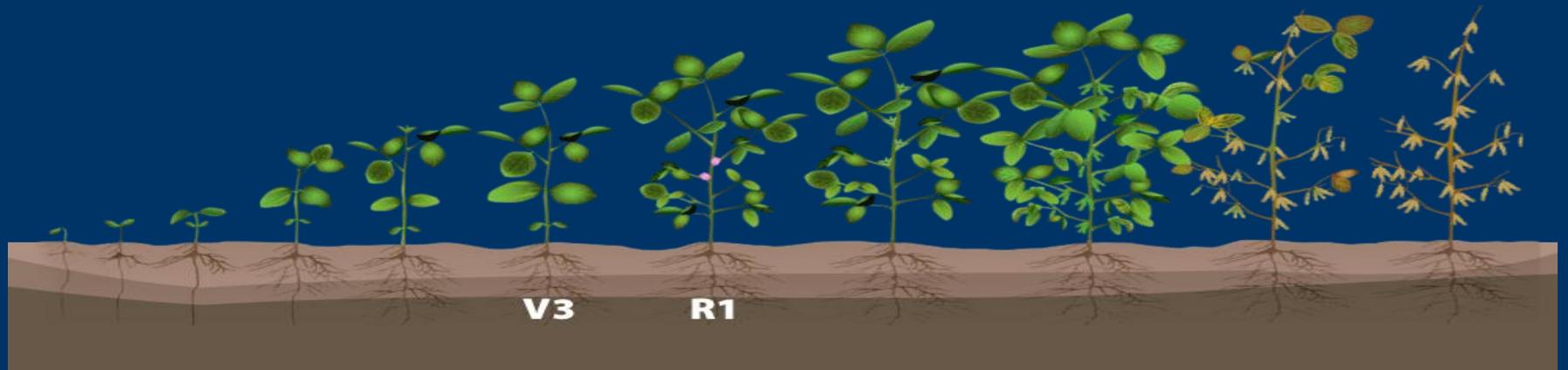
2 Cor 12:18b *Did we not walk in the same footsteps by the same Spirit?*

5) He models what he expects of others.

- 1. Is my image a little too important to me?*
- 2. Am I falling into the trap of keeping score?*
- 3. Do I have a servant's heart?*
- 4. Am I taking advantage of the other person?*
- 5. Have I been modeling what I am expecting?*

III. SEVERAL WAYS WE CAN ACCELERATE THE LEARNING PROCESS

- A) Instead of reacting to pain as an enemy, remain teachable.*
- B) Rather than resenting everyone because of a few who've offended you, stay involved.*
- C) In place of becoming offended and resentful, trust God even when He doesn't explain why.*



CONCLUSION:



Remember, God never wastes any experience we go through. He wants us to grow spiritually. How?



- 1. He uses pain to teach us to be meek and humble.***
- 2. He also used people to cultivate in us the character traits of His dear Son, Jesus Christ.***



CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Describe some turning points in your life that help you to grow over the years. What are some growing pains in your life?*
- 2. Why does God use pain as an agent to teach us humility?*
- 3. Why does God put us in a test? How does God use relationship to teach us unselfishness?*
- 4. What are some ways that God used to accelerate our learning and growing process?*



Scripture References:

2 Corinthians 12:7-18