

Obtaining the Change you Want to See

If you wrote a wish list of what you would want to see in your new marriage and family what would you write? Maybe:

1. a spouse who values my opinion,
2. appreciation of who I am and what I do,
3. an obedient child,
4. respect among all family members,
5. unity in my home,
6. (add your own) -
7. (add your own) -
8. (add your own) -

We all know that we cannot change people. I know I have tried to convince others (family and business associates) to make changes. But the change seems to never happen, or maybe only for a short time, because people tend to gravitate back to old habits.

People only make consistent positive change when they want to, when it is their idea, or when the pain to change becomes less than the pain to stay the same.

We influence, but we are also influenced.

The message here is that our words, actions, and inactions influence others, and another person's words, actions, or inactions influence us.

All influence eventually creates like responses.

Consistent authoritative or demanding words and actions will eventually bring forth resistance. People avoid aggressive, pushy people. We often damage the very thing we are trying to build.

Consistent loving, nurturing, accepting words and actions will eventually bring forth loving responses. People gravitate to people who are loving and encouraging.

It is important to become conscious of the feelings you send to other people, as well as the responses you get from others. The responses are an indicator of the influence you are having on people, and the influence people are having on you.

If your influence is creating negative responses, change how you are interacting with people.

If another person's influence is affecting you in a negative way, don't be quick to abandon your relationship. Create positive communication so that person understands how their words or actions are damaging your relationship.

Be the change - initiate the change you want to see! I know this is difficult, and goes against human nature that wants to give back like responses (eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, wound for a wound, etc.). But we must realize:

1. we have the power to influence positive responses and create positive change,

2. if we don't do it, nothing will change.

Give out of what you need to receive

There is a key principle that repeats itself throughout the Bible. Invest what you have in what you want to receive.

- To save himself and his family, Noah believed God and built an ark first. (Genesis Chapters 6 & 7)
- To defeat their enemies, King Jehoshaphat inquired of God first. (2Chronicles 20:12)
- If we need forgiveness, we need to forgive first. (Luke 6:37)
- If we desire respect, we have to show respect first. (Genesis 4:4)
- If we need finances, we need to be givers first. (Luke 6:38)
- If we need peace in our environment, we need to be peace-makers first. (Matthew 5:9)
- If we need the walls that hinder our relationships to fall, we need to obey God and praise God first. (Joshua Chapter 6)
- If we want the power of God in every need and decision of our life, we need to stay in His Presence first. (Matthew 6:33)
- If we need God's wisdom and understanding in a matter, we need to ask for it first. We will hear God's Voice when we are in His Presence. (James 1:5)
- If we want God in the hearts of our spouse and children, we need to let the fruit of the Spirit of God flow out of us first. (Galatians 5:22-23)

P.S. If you believe you have already taken the high road and have seen no change, consider how consistent you have been. Has frustration caused you to stop doing good? Has disrespect caused you to stop edifying and encouraging those around you.

It takes consistency, tenacity, and courage to serve others who do not serve us - yet.

We need the power and strength of God to overcome.

Do not let the thief convince you that your situation is hopeless, or that it is not worth the effort. Never give up!

God is with you.

God's Holy Spirit is in you.

God is on your side. Jesus gave all He had – even His life – to redeem you.

In His Presence all things are made brand new.

God is the strength in your weakness.

Be BOLD in His love and grace.

Allow God to do a work in you, so He can then do a work in your family through you.

God is the air you breathe.

God is the Breath of Life for you and your family.

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