



## How Jesus Changes Lives Colossians 1:9-12

The Lord can transform your life, if you will \_\_\_\_\_ Him. Jesus can make a \_\_\_\_\_ in your life, a difference you can \_\_\_\_\_ on! Jesus can give you the \_\_\_\_\_ to make some changes in your life by providing for your basic \_\_\_\_\_ needs. When you're willing to give your \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_ to Him, He can work in you things that you never imagined. You don't have to be trapped in \_\_\_\_\_. You don't have to be filled with despair over the \_\_\_\_\_. You don't have to live in \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord can \_\_\_\_\_ you; and He wants to \_\_\_\_\_ your life.

I have watched the power of God \_\_\_\_\_ people's lives around. Criminals become \_\_\_\_\_, atheists become strong \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, sinners become saints, and addicted people become \_\_\_\_\_. The power of God can \_\_\_\_\_ in your life, because the Lord Jesus is everything that He \_\_\_\_\_ to be. The New Testament records how He walked on \_\_\_\_\_, turned water into \_\_\_\_\_, calmed the \_\_\_\_\_, healed the \_\_\_\_\_, set the captives \_\_\_\_\_, gave sight to the \_\_\_\_\_, gave hearing to the \_\_\_\_\_, gave speech to the \_\_\_\_\_, and gave \_\_\_\_\_ to the despondent. Wherever He went, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ people up and gave them a \_\_\_\_\_ start in life. He opened the door with His \_\_\_\_\_ and His death on the cross for people to be \_\_\_\_\_ again, freed from all the trappings of their old man of sin. He was God's true \_\_\_\_\_ in a world darkened by sin and bound for hell.

But Jesus did \_\_\_\_\_ than this. Jesus lived in a day when the \_\_\_\_\_ traditions and teaching of the time convinced many that God would never \_\_\_\_\_ them. The Pharisees had made and observed many man-made \_\_\_\_\_ that God didn't give and they \_\_\_\_\_ them on other people. Even to this day various denominations and religious groups believe and practice things that they \_\_\_\_\_ but the Lord Jesus never taught. We believe that Jesus is Lord, and the \_\_\_\_\_ Lord. Only the Lord Jesus has the \_\_\_\_\_ to legislate to His church what they are to believe and practice. He didn't \_\_\_\_\_ that authority to anyone (Matthew 28:18). There's no authority in heaven or on earth \_\_\_\_\_ than His authority (Ephesians 1:20-23). Jesus is truly Lord of \_\_\_\_\_ and He has \_\_\_\_\_ authority. We should not think that He will \_\_\_\_\_ have authority on earth. He is \_\_\_\_\_ Lord and King. He has all authority \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot have \_\_\_\_\_ authority than He already has.



If we \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus “Lord,” we need to \_\_\_\_\_ Him as Lord (Matthew 7:21-23). Serving the Lord means \_\_\_\_\_ His laws and commandments.

In our culture we \_\_\_\_\_ to determine our \_\_\_\_\_ way. We don't fully appreciate what it \_\_\_\_\_ to have a Lord and to belong to a Master. In ancient times, masters had \_\_\_\_\_ authority over their servants. Many today think the \_\_\_\_\_ world should be subservient to them and to their desires. But when we take on the name of Jesus and we become His disciples, we \_\_\_\_\_ our lives to His service and we become His slaves (Matthew 10:24-25). If we're going to \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord Jesus, we must be obedient to Him just as He was obedient to the Father (Hebrews 5:8-9).

As Lord, Christ can \_\_\_\_\_ our lives around. He has the \_\_\_\_\_; He has the \_\_\_\_\_; and He has the \_\_\_\_\_ to make a difference in our lives. He will \_\_\_\_\_ us make changes, but He won't \_\_\_\_\_ us to change. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ transform our lives, but we have to \_\_\_\_\_ Him. Some people think Christ \_\_\_\_\_ miraculous power to make these changes and He makes them irresistibly, but they're \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord rather reasons with us and \_\_\_\_\_ on our \_\_\_\_\_, and He does that through His \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 1:18-20). The Lord God wants what is \_\_\_\_\_ for you and for me, but we have to be \_\_\_\_\_ to trust and obey Him. The power of Christ is not \_\_\_\_\_ mysterious or irresistible force. God doesn't arbitrarily choose some folks to be \_\_\_\_\_ and others to be \_\_\_\_\_ and then mysteriously force His will on us. That's a terrible doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_, and it's an unscriptural doctrine. God rather helps whosoever will to \_\_\_\_\_ when they accept Him and obey His teaching, when they \_\_\_\_\_ themselves and follow Him according to the teaching of the Word.

What power does the Lord use to \_\_\_\_\_ our lives? The power is in the simple \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel. How much it changes our lives \_\_\_\_\_ upon our hearts and whether we're \_\_\_\_\_ to listen and to follow God's Word or not.

### **Where is the power of God?**

**First**, it's in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. The Word of God brings us to \_\_\_\_\_. Read Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 1:21; John chapter 20:30-31. The Word of God \_\_\_\_\_ us to believe Jesus is the Christ, and that faith leads us to eternal \_\_\_\_\_.



**Second**, the Lord uses the power of \_\_\_\_\_ to reach into our hearts. The story of what Jesus did on the cross reaches \_\_\_\_\_ into our hearts and moves us to love God (John 12:32). The cross demonstrates in undeniable \_\_\_\_\_ the unfailing love of our Lord Jesus and the Father (John 15:13). Jesus showed the \_\_\_\_\_ kind of love towards us in dying for our sins, suffering the punishment that we deserved. Such love is \_\_\_\_\_ full understanding. People are willing to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves, and \_\_\_\_\_ their crosses daily, and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus as Lord, because they \_\_\_\_\_ Him. They've \_\_\_\_\_ His love in the Word and they want to love in return (1 John 4:19). People are grateful for all of God's wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ and they know Romans 8:32 is really true. We're not enslaved to God \_\_\_\_\_ our will. We serve God by \_\_\_\_\_, because we know our Lord Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_ master who will do us good and give us an abundant life (John 10:10). In addition to the forgiveness of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ blessings we receive from Him, He also adds us to His \_\_\_\_\_ and gives us a family to strengthen and encourage us. The church is a great blessing, and the Lord knew that we would \_\_\_\_\_ each other to grow in faith. The love of our brothers and sisters in Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ to our spiritual growth. They stir us to \_\_\_\_\_ and good \_\_\_\_\_.

**Third**, another way the Lord works His power on us is that the Lord uses the power of the \_\_\_\_\_ to reach into our hearts. He is lovingly \_\_\_\_\_ and straight with us about our sins and about righteousness. He uses the truth that's in the Word like a \_\_\_\_\_ for us to see ourselves as we \_\_\_\_\_ are and as God sees us. Such honesty may \_\_\_\_\_ deep and hurt, but it is better to be hurt temporarily by the truth than to believe a \_\_\_\_\_ and suffer much greater pain for eternity. The Lord gives us the truth that \_\_\_\_\_ for a time but \_\_\_\_\_ us. He corrects us in order to make our lives \_\_\_\_\_ and to help us to avoid the pitfalls of life. Some people think that when the Lord condemns \_\_\_\_\_ He is mean and harsh. Some people say that if you \_\_\_\_\_ certain sins sinful, you're "unchristian." There seems to be in this day a kind of a knee-jerk reaction that if we \_\_\_\_\_ anything is morally or spiritually wrong that we've done something \_\_\_\_\_. The best known \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible for some people today is "Judge ye not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1). The Lord Jesus also said in John 7:24, "Do not judge according to \_\_\_\_\_, but judge with righteous judgment." Honesty means that we hear \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus says not merely what we \_\_\_\_\_ to hear. The same \_\_\_\_\_ that condemns murder and rape also condemns covetousness, lying, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and drunkenness. Christianity is not a pick-and-choose \_\_\_\_\_ that allows us to tell God what we feel rather than to listen to His Word.



The Lord greatly \_\_\_\_\_ His Word as truth (John 8:31-32). When we deceive ourselves by failing to \_\_\_\_\_ what the Lord says, we remain enslaved to sin and death. But when we \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord's words and \_\_\_\_\_ Him, we are set \_\_\_\_\_ from sin and become true disciples. It is the Lord who determines who are \_\_\_\_\_ disciples on the basis of whether they \_\_\_\_\_ in His Word. The Lord has \_\_\_\_\_ that He has clearly communicated and uses to make distinctions between true disciples and how they're different from deceived disciples. It is a Christian kindness to \_\_\_\_\_ the truth about sin and what one needs to do to be saved. It's the work of Satan and very \_\_\_\_\_ to let people think they're saved, when they're really lost. The Bible still says that \_\_\_\_\_ "does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:6).

**Fourth**, the Lord gives us the power of \_\_\_\_\_. We need hope to live \_\_\_\_\_ as much as we need air to live \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus blesses His people with \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. We have all the blessing of God in this \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, too (1 Peter 1:3-4). Thank God

Jesus can transform your \_\_\_\_\_, if you will let Him; but you \_\_\_\_\_ to let Him. You have to give yourself to Him completely: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

The Father invested His Son in you, and the Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ His life so that you might be redeemed from sin and \_\_\_\_\_ a new and righteous life. God does not think that you are \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 1:18-19). But if you want the \_\_\_\_\_, that purchased and redeemed you, to apply to your soul, you must \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel. You must allow the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to \_\_\_\_\_ in your life. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ with all your \_\_\_\_\_, and out of love repent of every \_\_\_\_\_, confess Jesus as the Christ and as your \_\_\_\_\_, and be baptized in water to be \_\_\_\_\_. When you're immersed in water, the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ away your sins (Acts 22:16) and adds you to His family (Acts 2:47). That family is His kingdom, the \_\_\_\_\_. You're purchased with His blood, and you \_\_\_\_\_ to Him when you are baptized and Him alone. Humble yourselves, and \_\_\_\_\_ your hearts, and \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.