

Are you willing to get out of God's way, to change?

It is a reality today, and it will be just as much a reality for you and me next year.

The reality is this: God wants to work a change in your life. Exciting isn't it? Think of the possibilities — they are endless.

As exciting as that is, we all know the challenge of change don't we? For many, change is a near-death experience! In order to progress, you must change. It reminds me of a story of two moose hunters.

Two moose hunters in northern Canada shot an unusually huge moose. The two hunters had a problem, however. They couldn't pack this trophy animal out of the woods; it was just too big for their packhorses.

But not to worry. Using their cellular phone, they called in a tiny seaplane.

When they tried to talk the pilot into ferrying out this huge bull moose, the pilot responded, "I don't



steve rains

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know if I can take off with that much weight."

"We've done this before," they reassured him. "Don't worry!"

So they strapped the moose on, draping it across both pontoons. But again the pilot begged, "Look how far we are sinking below the waterline," he objected. "I'm the pilot. I know how much it takes to lift off."

"Relax," the hunters persisted. "We've done this before. Trust us."

Finally, the pilot agreed. He gunned the engine, took off down his runway of water... and crashed into the treetops at the end of the lake. Debris flew everywhere and

the moose carcass was lodged in the branches of a tall pine tree.

Down the shoreline, one dazed hunter called out to the other, "Hey, George! How did we do?"

"Well," George replied, "We are about 50 feet farther than last year!"

What is the point you ask? What is true in flight can also be true spiritually. If we never change, we never advance. It might be only 50 feet, but small changes can bring big outcomes.

Why don't you right now ask the Lord if there is something that He wants to change in your life.

Here are a few truths about change. First, some change in life is inevitable. To live is to change. Secondly, any change requires adjustment and flexibility. It requires us to

be open. Finally, every change we consider making has to be examined in the light of Scripture. If the change you're making compromises Scripture, boycott the change.

With all that said, grab your Bibles and look at Acts 10:1-48. In this passage, God wants to do something new in the church. In order for that to happen, hearts have to be touched.

The topic in Acts 10 is reaching those who don't know Christ. Peter, a Jew, hasn't thought too highly of the Gentiles. So God works a change in Peter, and Peter doesn't resist it — He embraces it. As you look at this story, three things stick out concerning change.

First, Peter was prepared by God. Peter has been concerned with reaching his people, the Jews. There's nothing wrong with that; it is just God has a bigger picture. How many times do we find ourselves

doing things for the Lord, but it might be less than what God would like for us to do?

Just a side note, but I'm just looking at this passage, and verses 1-2 cause me to stop. Here is a guy named Cornelius, and he appears to be doing all the right things. He was praying, he gave generously, he feared God, but he wasn't born again.

What does that say to me? It tells me that you can be religious and have your list in place, but be missing a relationship with Christ? The good news — God is working to bring Cornelius to saving faith. He is setting up a divine encounter and He does the same with you and me.

Two more thoughts from this passage: Peter was prompted by God. Look at it in verses 17-20. God doesn't tell Peter the whole plan at once. He is prompting him and

nudging him. Peter had a choice to either yield or to get in the way. Lastly, Peter was prospered by God. God begins to bless him because he was willing to step out in faith and follow the nudgings (verse 23-48).

The best way to walk in God's will and know God's will is to do His will in the next five minutes. As we wrap this up, are you standing in God's way?

Peter asks in Acts 15, "Who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

What do we learn from this passage? The truth is this: if we aren't willing to change, then we are willing to stand in God's way. Can I encourage you to flow with God instead of standing against Him. Have a fantastic weekend, and we will see you in church.

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at calvarygospel.net or e-mail Rains at calvarycolumn@st-tel.net.

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