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**If God can change you —then God can use you to change some part of this world.**

That this fallen world needs changing is beyond question. When our newspapers and films glamourise immorality, undermine traditional family values and encourage selfishness, greed and rebelliousness; when criminals escape justice by legal technicalities and “clever lawyers”; when one half of this world is under totalitarian dictatorships and persecution; when perversion and venereal disease, divorces and abortions, pornography and the occult, terrorism and suicides are increasing — then we know that this world needs to be changed.

As John Wesley declared:

“Give me 100 men who love God with all their hearts and who fear nothing except sin — and I will move the world.”

ELIJAH dared to stand alone against the 450 false prophets of Baal and the 400 false prophets of Asherah, and challenge their heresy and idolatry. Elijah’s faith in God made him strong and bold enough to oppose the majority who were wrong. And Elijah changed history that day on Mount Carmel — by exposing falsehood and turning the people of Israel back to God. (1 Kings 18).

WYCLIFFE, HUSS, LUTHER and CALVIN changed the course of human history by daring to study the Bible, and by boldly speaking out against the unBiblical teachings and corrupt abuses of the medieval Roman Church.

Missionaries like WILLIAM CAREY changed history by taking the Gospel to India, translating the Bible into numerous local dialects and by ending the Hindu practise of burning alive the widow of each deceased man on their funeral pyre. HUDSON TAYLOR launched a movement that sent thousands of missionaries to China. DAVID LIVINGSTONE boldly blazed a trail through the uncharted regions of Central Africa, which ended the Islamic slave trade, inter-tribal warfare and the grip of witchcraft over those tribes. C.T. STUDD galvanised hundreds into the mission field and thousands into the Kingdom of God in the Congo.

Eastern and tribal thought has a cyclical view of history. Repetition and the “inevitability of history” is so ingrained in non-Christian thought that they see themselves as suffering history rather than affecting or making history. They see themselves as caught up in the process of history and at the mercy of the forces of nature/the spirits/or the ancestors (all external forces), and only a part of the community.

This is the contrast to the Christian world view which sees a linear development of history which starts at creation, goes through the flood, the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai, the incarnation of Christ, His crucifixion and resurrection, pentecost and will culminate in the Second Coming of Christ and the Judgement. Hence Christians say: “Only one life, it will soon be past — only what’s done for Christ will last”.

Each day is unique, every opportunity must be used. Time is limited in the Christian world view. The Christian sees himself as significant because he is an individual created by God with a purpose. This emphasis on the individual is unique to Christianity among the major world religions. We must each individually stand before God on the day of Judgement and give an account of our faith and conduct. Each of us must repent for our own sins and exercise personal faith in Christ for forgiveness and freedom. The personal relationship of the individual to Christ is at the heart of Christianity.

In Christian thought nature is subject to us, able to be developed and used. We are able to change the course of history because our Sovereign God is Almighty and He has endowed us with a free will. We believe that through the power of God’s answers to our prayers and through our obedience to His commands and principles in Scripture — we can change this world.

The Bible teaches us to have a holy dissatisfaction with second best, a bold faith to trust God for great things, to step out and change what is wrong, and establish what is right.

It is this faith that ennobled Christians to step out and change history, ending the child sacrifices, cannibalism, voodooism, polygamy, slavery and widow-burning of heathen religions. Such Christians changed their world.

Are you such a Christian who claims: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."  
Phillipians 4:13.

If you are, remember: **YOU CANNOT HAVE VICTORY WITHOUT A BATTLE.** Sacrifice and risk are essential. We can never win if we keep avoiding problems — we must solve problems by facing them and dealing with them. The Future belongs to the Brave and the Bold.

May God find us faithful to His Word and His Work.

Peter Hammond

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