

WEEK 8 DAY 4

MAIN POINT:

God is in the business of transformation; He can change you. Hang in there and work on knowing Him more.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

(2 Peter 3:9)

CAN I REALLY CHANGE?

PRAYER: God, change me.

Do you ever wonder if *re:generation* will work for you? Have you told yourself, “I’m too old to change, too broken, too far gone.” “God hasn’t fixed me yet, why would he now?” These are all common thoughts, but they are not taking into consideration the God whom we serve. God is in the business of transforming people, and he wants to change you too.

There are several examples in the Bible of God changing people who were once enemies of Christ. The apostle Paul is an excellent one. Before encountering Jesus face-to-face on the road to Damascus, Paul was a chief persecutor of Christians, even standing by as one of the first Christian martyrs was stoned. But Paul’s encounter with Jesus transformed him. He became one of the world’s best-known advocates for Christ, spending 30 years evangelizing and suffering persecution himself. Even more surprising, much of the New Testament was written by this former enemy of Christ!

Another example of God changing people is Peter, one of Christ’s own disciples. Though Peter pledged his loyalty to Jesus, when Christ was arrested to be put on trial and killed, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. After rising from the grave, Jesus made it a point to restore Peter and even asked Peter to care for his people. Peter went on to become the head of the first church and eventually died as a martyr for his faith.

Finally, think of the *re:generation* stories you hear every week. These people are your contemporaries, all of whom have struggled and failed too. Yet, their lives have been radically changed by God and he is now using them in your life.

What do all of these people have in common? They all fall short of God’s standard and have struggled to maintain faithfulness to God. But when they failed, a perfectly faithful and powerful God drew them to himself and restored them for a purpose.

God wants to restore you too. He wants all of you, the good and the ugly. When you bring yourself to him and begin to trust him for change, healing can begin in all aspects of your life. A word of caution: Healing might not look how you would like it to or happen on your time, but He can and will transform you, if you are willing.

DRAFT

APPLICATION: Listen to some *re:generation* testimonies this week at www.regenerationrecovery.org. Hear how God has transformed lives just like yours. Commit to keep attending and trust that God can and will change you.