



## **Crossover Ministries Scriptures from 8/5/07 Sermon**

### **“The Problem of Beginning Again”**

#### **Letting Go of the Old!**

- Why do we fail to do new things?

#### **The Painting**

*Over 2,000 years ago a young Greek artist named Timanthes studied under a respected tutor. After several years the teacher's efforts seemed to have paid off when Timanthes painted an exquisite work of art. Unfortunately, he became so enraptured with the painting that he spent days gazing at it.*

*One morning when he arrived to admire his work, he was shocked to find it blotted out with paint. Angry, Timanthes ran to his teacher, who admitted he had destroyed the painting. "I did it for your own good. That painting was retarding your progress. Start again and see if you can do better."*

*Timanthes took his teacher's advice and produced *Sacrifice of Iphigenia*, which is regarded as one of the finest paintings of antiquity.*

- We become enamored with the old and stagnate
- We can't begin again until we leave the old

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)**

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

#### **The Problem is That Beginning Again Challenges You.**

##### **Genesis 12:1-4 (NKJV) - FAITH**

1 Now the Lord had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country, from your family and your father's house, to a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and **IN YOU** all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

4 So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

### **Genesis 15:1-6 (NLT) – PHILOSOPHY**

1 Some time later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, “Do not be afraid, Abram for I will protect you, and your reward will be great.”

2 But Abram replied, “O Sovereign Lord, what good are all your blessings when I don’t even have a son? Since you’ve given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. 3 You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir.”

4 Then the Lord said to him, “No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.” 5 Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!”

6 And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith.

- The problem is we don’t believe and that’s what stops us from beginning again and getting blessed
- Don’t revert back to your old doubtful self, believe in the action you’ve taken to begin again and that action will produce a result.
- When you get rid of your old way of doing things—something must take its place—that something is called a **NEW Thing!**

### **Ephesians 4:17-24 (NIV) – FUTURE**

17 So I tell you this and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- **Colossians 3:1-10 (Reference)**

### **The Blessing of Beginning Again Is...that Challenges Your Faith – Genesis 12:1-4**

#### **Philosophy – Genesis 15:1-6**

#### **Future – Ephesians 4:17-24**

## **Conclusion: Beginning Again Is Not Conforming**

### **Romans 12:2 (NIV)**

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

### **Romans 12:2 (NLT)**

2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- Life starts when you are open to begin again, are you willing to begin again?