

We spend a lot of our time and prayers trying to convince the Lord to change our circumstances and the Lord can and will do so, but often we find that our prayers are not being answered because the Lord wants to change US and not necessarily our circumstances.

In the scriptures it is clear that the Lord want to change us rather than our circumstances and his promise in 1 Cor 15:51 that "...we will all be changed – in a flash..." is also the last thing that will happen to us before we are taken up in glory.

But it should also be the first thing in our lives, as stated in Rom 12:2 : "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."

The examples of the champions of the faith in the book Hebrews make us realise that they went through very difficult circumstances without complaining.

But the greatest example of all is the Lord Jesus himself - Hebr 12:2 : "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him **endured the cross, scorning its shame**, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him **who endured such opposition from sinful men**, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

One of the greatest reasons why we cannot accept our circumstances is that we are not prepared to change. In my own life I have seen that the Lord first changes me before he changes my circumstances – and I have also seen that when I changed, it was not necessary for the Lord to change my circumstances, because my changed attitude automatically changed my circumstances – and where it did not change I received insight and wisdom to accept my bad circumstances.

To understand this I want to come back to the examples from the Old Testament.

In Judges 6:12 the Angel of the Lord tells Gideon, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." Gideon did not want to believe that in the eyes of the Lord he was a mighty warrior (due to his circumstances). In Judges 6:15 he says to the Angel, "My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." The Lord, however, had to change him first. The change was a long process but it culminated in him and Pura hearing the Midianite's dream about the barley bread that overturned the Midianites' tents, and the interpretation of the dream. (Judges 7:13.)

Looking at Judges 8:7, one cannot imagine it being the same Gideon because he says, " ...when the Lord has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will tear your flesh with desert thorns and briers."

In 2 Kings 6:17 Elisha prayed to the Lord to open his servant's eyes to see the army with horses and chariots of fire – something that Elisha had seen in faith.

My conclusion is that it is absolutely essential for us to be changed by the Lord so that we shall see our circumstances in the right light.

Our eyes must therefore be opened and our thinking changed so that we can see our circumstances in the right perspective and also how the Lord devotes himself to changing us as well as our circumstances.

**FRIEND**