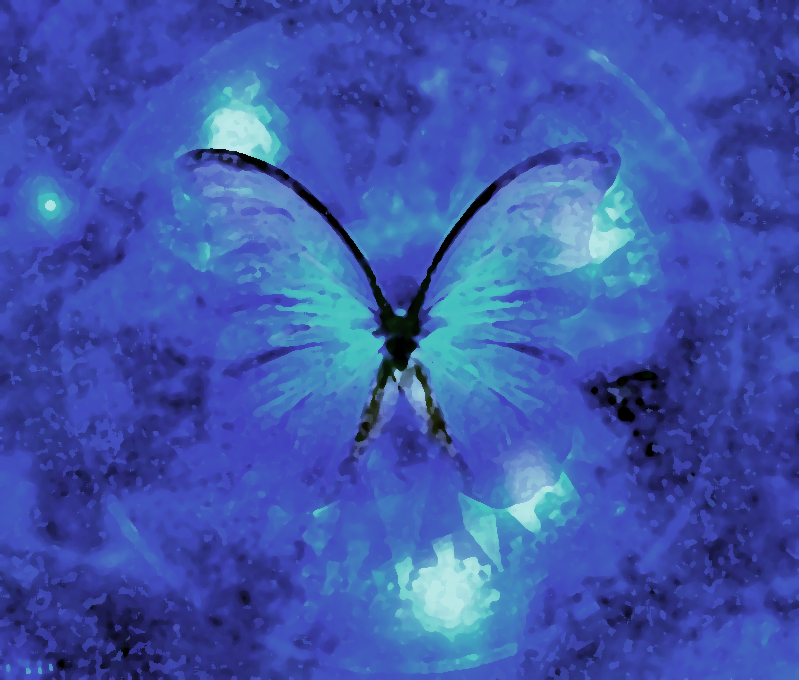
METAMORPHOSIS



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WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHANGE & METAMORPHOSIS?

CHANGE- MAKE OR BECOME DIFFERENT

METAMORPHOSIS- Metamorphosis is a biological process by which an animal physically develops after birth or hatching, involving a conspicuous and relatively abrupt change in the animal's body structure through cell growth and differentiation.

change of physical form, structure, or substance especially by [supernatural](about:blank) means

a typically marked and more or less abrupt developmental change in the form or structure of an animal (such as a butterfly or a frog) occurring subsequent to birth or hatching

WHEN WE LOOK AT LIFE THROUGH THE LENSE OF CHANGE, WE OFTEN RESIST IT BECAUSE CHANGE IS 1 DIMENTIONAL. MEANING, IF IT DOESN’T LOOK OR PRESENT ITSELF THE WAY WE IMAGINED, WE CONSIDER IT BAD OR AT THE VERY LEAST, INDIFFERENT.

MATTHEW 2:3 HEROD DISTURBED-

* Descendant of Esau
* Ruthless, paranoid, murderer
* Another king was a threat to Herod

Luke 4:18; 21; 22;23-27; 28-29

V18 Jesus quotes Isaiah prophetic utterance of himself

V21 Jesus proclaims himself as the one spoken of in the prophecy

V22 The people spoke well of him as long as they identified him as Joseph’s son

V23-27 Jesus foretells their approval RIGHT NOW is temporary. Soon their prejudices will show. The people will expect special favoritism based on their geographical location

V28 People approval quickly changed to anger

V29 People attempt to throw Jesus out

ANYTIME WE SEE OURSELVES OR OTHER PEOPLE AS 1 DIMENSIONAL, WE RESIST CHANGE

* Loss of control- more vulnerable; loss of self- determination
* Excess uncertainty- fear of the unknown; lack of a feeling of safety
* Surprise- less time to get used to new ideas; knee- jerk reactions;

easier to say no than yes

* Everything different- we don’t mind different, but in doses; creatures of habit; lots of differences can feel confusing
* Departure from your past- people may feel left behind & become defensive; loss of dignity
* Questions of competency- Can I do it? Some are not willing to be the student again; become skeptical or overly critical to mask feelings of insecurity
* Increased work- letting go of the old, while learning the new (at the same time); often ‘on the job training’; feelings of failure (nothing to measure success by because everything is new)
* Ripple effect- change effects more than just you & can be far reaching (family, finances, employment, beliefs, habits & patterns). Can be difficult to foretell how many people will be affected by change & how they will receive it or react
* Real threats- some change does cut or strain jobs, positions, relationships

Examples of change scripturally

* Abraham- changed location, family & culture
  + Some things you can’t take with you; even family
* Moses- total identity. Hebrew baby; Egyptian; Midianite; back to Egypt as a Hebrew; wilderness
* Joshua- changed positions (background to foreground)
  + Never stop learning
  + Learn in the background as if you were already upfront
  + Joshua 1:5 Don’t try to be Moses
* Samuel- Witnessed change from Eli to himself & from Saul to David
  + Important to not assume things as you witness change (Samuel assumed another of Jesse’s sons would be king)

Metamorphosis

* Recognizes more than 1 dimension & allows us to perceive change as a process & not a sudden jerk
* Explore the definition:
  + A biological process- that’s life! Happens to everybody
  + Develops after birth- has been happening since before you were able to either recognize it or resist it
  + Conspicuous- clearly visible; cannot be hidden
  + Abrupt- not fast, but definite. Ex- I know I’ve been changed!
  + Change of physical form, structure & substance- NOT 1 DIMENSIONAL. Many areas changing at the same time. Far reaching effects.
  + By supernatural means- God is with me! God is doing the work!
  + Developmental- though it feels awkward, metamorphosis is not going backward, but forward

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RUTH