

MONDAY DEVOTION - GATEKEEPERS WORKCAMP 2018

2 Corinthians 5:17: So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Welcome to Gatekeepers Workcamp 2018! You are now a part of an 27-year tradition of churches coming together to assist homeowners in the Rocky Mount community. This week you will help to build, not only homes, but also relationships, love, and hope. In the end, you will know that you have shared God's love and given much of yourself for the sake of a neighbor—to make changes in their home and in their lives, and perhaps to change your life as well. Inspired by Paul's words in his second letter to the Church at Corinth, this week we will think about the challenges, the joys, and the necessity of change.

Journalist and author, Gail Sheehy, said, "If we don't change, we don't grow; and if we don't grow, we aren't really living." Change is an inevitable part of life. As teens, you are changing and growing every day, not only physically, but also in your knowledge, experiences, relationships, and perspectives. Each school year, each sports season, each birthday, each person we meet, each new thing we learn becomes a part of who we are and means we will never be the same. Though all of these experiences can bring change, how we respond to them and incorporate them into our lives can be positive or negative depending on how we respond to it.

Paul's words to the Corinthians remind us that change is not only about the things that happen around us but also what happens on the inside. When we become followers of Christ, we may make changes in how we dress, the people we hang out with, the things we do, and in our views about certain issues; or there may be very few visible changes on the outside. But Paul says that when we encounter Christ, the most important change happens within us. Our whole being—heart, soul, mind, and strength—is transformed. We aren't just a better version of the old self. Christ changes us so completely that we become a whole new creation!

This week, we will think about the blessings and challenges of change: Changes in the houses you are repairing, changes in the lives of the homeowners, changes in our community, and changes in you. We will consider why change is sometimes hard, why it is always necessary, and how we can help, as much as possible, to make it positive.

In what ways can change be difficult or challenging? (Ask for examples).

What are some of the times change is good or exciting? (Ask for examples).

Why can change be hard for us, even when the changes themselves might be good?

What happens to us (to houses, to a community, to people) if we resist or refuse to change?

Pray for the week ahead. Pray that your crew will be safe and accomplish its work. Pray that God will help you to develop new friendships and to gain new insights. Pray that you will be open to allowing God to change you through the work you are doing and the relationships you are building. Pray that through the work of Gatekeepers, God will begin to change the hearts and minds of everyone involved. Pray for your homeowner, that God will bless them and help them to see God's love at work in their lives this week and in the future. (Have someone close in prayer.)