

## You as a Change Agent

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An imperative is a word that demands personal attention or a required action that is unavoidable if a preferred outcome is to come to pass. According to God's plan, sanctification cannot happen without the participation or cooperation of the individual who is changing. The New Testament is full of commands that the believer is asked to follow. Ephesians 4 is a good example:

-Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life (4:22)

-Let no complaining talk come out of your mouth (4:32)

-Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another (4:32)

Tim Keller gives wise counsel on personal responsibility: *"God's mercy comes to us without conditions, but does not proceed without our cooperation. So too our aid must begin freely, regardless of the recipient's merits. But our mercy must increasingly demand change or it is not really love."*

### **Our Responsibility**

The most effective part of a counseling session is typically outside the session. It is outside the counseling that opportunity knocks. That is so because it is the grind of our daily lives where we are called upon to respond to what God is doing.

It is the same mentality as a person who goes to Church and thinks that an hour of listening to preaching is somehow going to magically bring about transformation in their lives. Without APPLICATION of truth, there will be no sustainable change.

1. If God's grace is sufficient
2. If God is able to bring about change
3. If the Spirit is able to empower me to change
4. If God's Word is sufficient

**THEN THE BIG QUESTION IS.....**

Why do I not change? A big part of the change responsibility rests on us and on whether we are going to start each day fresh with new repentance, new faith, and new obedience.