

**Life Change from the Heart**  
**“Step 3: Surrendering to a New Life”**  
**Ephesians 2:1-10**  
**For the Week of October 16, 2016**  
**New City Church of LA**

**GROW & SERVE GROUP GUIDE AND HOMEWORK**

**Get to know one another**

- What is your favorite song? (It could be a worship song or any song.)

**Pray**

**Sermon Reflection**

“Life Change from the Heart” is a sermon series on how God changes us from the heart through the gospel. Step 1 is admitting that we are powerless to fix ourselves. Step 2 is about a quest to find power greater than ourselves to help us. Now, step 3 is about surrendering our lives to God.

Kevin shared a message from Ephesians 2:1-10. That passage tells us that we can go from powerlessness to a changed life. But, how does that happen? The passage tells us that it starts with *grace*, which leads to *faith*, which leads to *work*. Grace comes first. Grace means an undeserved gift. Grace has the power to wake us up. Grace is God kissing us when we were in a death sleep. And faith is our response to God’s grace. It is grabbing hold of the one who kissed us, the one who woke us up. But, it doesn’t stop here. It is only the beginning. Faith now leads to work. We are God’s masterpiece in progress. When we put our faith in the grace of Jesus, we don’t get zapped into perfection. It is only the beginning of the process in which God change us. How does God change us? That’s what steps 4-12 are about. We go through the process of self-examination, confession, repentance, and experiencing God’s grace. This is the start of living by the Spirit. When we live by the Spirit and start bearing the fruit of the Spirit, God calls us to do good work, which he has prepared in advance for us to do.

**Bible Study**

1. **Read Ephesians 2:1-10.**
2. How does the passage describe our state before God’s grace entered our lives? (Focus on verses 1-3) (Examine each phrase)
3. How does the passage describe the new position we have in Christ? (Focus on verses 4-7)

4. How do we get from the condition described in verses 1-3 to the condition described in verses 4-7? (Focus on verses 8-10)
5. What does it mean to say that we are saved by grace? What is grace? How is it different from work?
6. How have you experienced God's grace?
7. What is faith in relation to grace?
8. When did you surrender your life to God? If you have not, do you want to surrender your life to God and start a new life?
9. What does it mean that we are God's handiwork? Are we a completed handiwork or are we in progress of being completed? How does the difference between our position (our identity in Christ) and our condition (our continuing character defects) help us understand this better?
10. Why might some people think that if we just say the sinner's prayer, God will zap us into all the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, . . . and self-control) and get disappointed when they relapse? What are some misunderstandings they have about how God changes us?
11. Kevin gave a quick preview of how God works on us as his handiwork: He takes us on a process of cleaning our hearts by a process of self-examination, confession, repentance, and applying God's grace. This is essentially steps 4-7. Why do you think it is important to clean our hearts? Why can't we just focus on changing our behavior?

**Share how you are doing this week with one another**

**Pray for one another, the church, and our neighborhood**