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# Words of Life News

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Volume 28 Number 2

March—April 2021

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## Change: What The World Needs Now

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This piece, dated April 6, 1994, was written for a weekly column in the Digger Post. The title came from a popular song in that era. The only change is correcting grammar.

Now it can be told. It is official. College basketball is over and professional baseball has arrived. Records are kept and cherished for trivia games when we change again.

Change. We change from one sport to another, and get excited. We change mental gears and prepare for another type activity.

We sloshed before the television screen all winter, now we will take our chairs out to the park and stretch out in the sunshine and doze through slow-motion games.

Sometimes change is noticeable. Sometimes people can tell by our actions that we have changed.

We change our activities or our mental outlook when something happens to us or in us. Saul of Tarsus is an excellent example. The record is in Acts chapter nine.

Call him the Mad Man, mad with tradition and loyalty. Mad with keeping his religion “clean” and “pure” as he had learned from the law and the prophets.

Saul was a complex person. He was very religious and very sincere in his loyalty to his Jewish heritage. Saul was a Roman citizen, born in Tarsus. He later described himself as a “Hebrew of Hebrews” and again as a “Pharisee of Pharisees.”

Saul is described as, “The most self-righteous person ever.” He was destined to become a great leader of believers in Jesus. He had all the marks of leadership: education, rank, courage, desire and focus.

Saul's sincerity led to persecution of believers in Jesus. His loyalty to tradition led to attacks on anybody who claimed to have new insight into the teachings of God. Sincerity was persistent. And wrong.

Saul later described himself as the chief sinner against God because he persecuted the church of God. He was the worst enemy of the church, but became the greatest servant of Jesus Christ – after something happened to him.

The change was immediately evident. Historians suggest that Saul probably suffered more for Jesus, worked harder for Jesus and won more souls to Jesus than any other believer.

Much of the New Testament writings come from his pen. God had a place for Saul of Tarsus whose name was changed to Paul, the apostle of Jesus Christ.

He was a mad man as he went about destroying the church of Jesus Christ. Then he changed. What happened?

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What happened? He met Jesus.

Saul arrived at the outskirts of Damascus, with permission to find and arrest any who believed that Jesus was the Messiah of God. Saul is sincere, but loyal anger masks a growing realization that something was not right within.

Saul has been confronted with the proof of Jesus. He has watched the followers accept punishment and death without cringing. He witnessed strong faith in the resurrected Christ. He knows too much to ignore, but he cannot accept change. His agony increases.

On the Damascus Road, God moves and Saul is changed. Blinded by a light that stops his group and a voice from heaven that is heard by the group but understood only by Saul. Saul yields to Jesus. The change has begun.

In Damascus God tells Ananias to go to a certain house and instruct Saul. Ananias is shocked. He knows Saul's reputation, but he obeys God and goes to Saul.

That meeting is beautiful, and emotional. The mad man, now a trembling heap, his fierce loyalty in shambles, his arrogant pride only a shell, his confidence a burden of guilt. He waits on the Lord.

Ananias, full of faith and love, enters the house, lays his hand on Saul's shoulder and says, "Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Is that all? Saul is changed?

Examine the evidence.

Saul, the enemy of believers is allowed to see again. He gets up and is baptized, eats food and soon is about the business of protecting the name of God. He immediately begins "To preach in the synagogue that Jesus is the Son of God."

The killer of Christians has become a Christian. He goes to the heart of the religious setting – the synagogue – to confess his understanding, his yielding to Jesus Christ.

Saul changed sides and immediately becomes the target of persecution. Following Jesus cost Saul everything he held dear: family, friendship, religious position.

What Saul found was his longed-for Messiah and new friends of like precious faith in Jesus.

The change was complete. The proof evident to the world. The result a most encouraging lift to believers. When the gospel of Jesus changed Saul of Tarsus, believers knew that God could change the hearts of the worst of sinners.

Change. That is what the world needs now. Change that yields to Jesus Christ as Lord of Life. That is the only record that will count in eternity. Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

In His great love,  
Buford Smith

## Africa Letters

I am a listener of this wonderful program (Words of Life) on Radio Africa. This program which has helped me to be what I am in my Christian Life as a pastor. You have been a source of help in teaching the Word of God.

May God bless you and thanks.

Anboagye Andrrrews, Arise Chapel Int. Hq., P. O. Box OK 200, Kasoa Ghana, W. Af., Dec. 10, 2020.

Many thanks for continually coming to my home with your program, Words of Life, on Radio Africa. The messages have remained timely and have blessed my heart.

May God continue to bless and prosper you for giving me these wonderful messages. Thank you all, yours faithful in Christ.

Kingsley Asamoah Boatens, P. O. Box AN 19222, Accra-North, Ghana, January 10, 2021

I am so blessed each time I listen to Words of Life on Radio Africa. This broadcast has caused a change in me, helping me each day to become more God conscious.

May God richly bless the program as you serve His people. Thank you so much for your life-giving messages.

Mr. Victor Abedi, GH. Int. Sch. Box GP 2856, Accra, Ghana. Dec. 8, 2020

May God Almighty abundantly bless you for giving us this powerful program, Words of Life on Radio Africa every week on Thursday.

Thank you for these life changing messages which bring me closer to Christ, and I'm much grateful. Hope to continue listening and win more souls for Christ. God bless you all.

Bro. Stephen Kumi, United Pentecostal Ch. Int., , Vision Chapel, P. O. Box OS 111g, OSU-Accra Ghana, November 13, 2020.

Thank you for giving me such a faithful program called Words of Life on Radio Africa. I am grateful for the life-giving messages that I continue to listen to help me in my work for the Lord. Thank you so much. Christ our Lord is coming soon. God bless you for good work.

Rev. Peter Andoh, Believers Bible Church, P. O. Box AN 12402, Accra-North, Ghana, Dec. 17, 2020

Thank you so much for your continuous coming to my home with these life-changing messages from Words of Life on Radio Africa. May God continue to bless you as for help me to grow in Christ. Thank you and hope too continue listening.

Bro. Affram Mawuli, P. O. Box DK F3, Darkman—Accra, Ghana WAFR, Jan. 16, 2021

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## Have You Remembered “Words of Life” in Your Will?

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“Words of Life” News is published bimonthly and is sent free of charge to our contributors and other interested individuals.

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**HAVE YOU SENT YOUR  
MONTHLY GIFT FOR  
“WORDS OF LIFE”?**

**Radio Messages**

Speaker—David Johnson unless indicated otherwise.

Prog.#	Date	Title
2115	04/11/21	Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil
2116	04/18/21	God Made a Woman
2117	04/25/21	Did God Really Say?
2118	05/02/21	What is This You Have Done?
2119	05/09/21	God banished Him
2120	05/16/21	You Must Master It
2121	05/23/21	Am I My Brother’s Keeper?
2122	05/30/21	Lamech Married Two Women
2123	06/06/21	Those Who Will Believe
2124	06/13/21	Do Even Greater Things
2125	06/20/21	Must Be Killed
2126	06/27/21	Become Like Little Children
2127	07/04/21	The Greatest Commandment
2128	07/11/21	But Some Doubted

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