

Welcome to a word on Wednesday on Thursday – proof of the fact that even though you make a plan for the day – you can't control the day.

“Change is Good” 6/22/23

LORD, I know people's lives are not their own; it is not for them to direct their steps. (Jer 10:23)

I talk about this a lot, it may be as a pay attention or as a reminder, whatever or however we hear these words, we need to recognize the idea, or, the truth, that things don't go as planned. We adjust and adapt and find comfort in the new normal, and then get tossed into the fray, yet again. But what we learn on these unexpected detours often makes yesterday look like a walk in the park and always prepares us for our new journey.

Philosopher, author, speaker, and all-around wise man, Joseph Campbell, puts it this way, “We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the one that is waiting for us.”

I was in a friend's car yesterday and, like most of us, she has a bunch of coins in a cubby; only hers was in a dish with a message around the rim. It read, “Change is good.” And I thought, that'll preach.

We learn to crawl, then walk, then run. Soon we skip and we dance. Each learned, each a new thing. Each a different way we move our feet and our hearts, each a new way we hear the music. In all things we learn new stuff, we use what we learn to accomplish new things. Each person we meet, each conversation we hold, every word we read, every piece of music we listen to expands our mind, increases our knowledge, changes our attitude, our day, our life.

Every trip, every fall, every crash changes us – our health, our physical abilities, our view of life, of others, of God. Bad things happen. We pass out, we fall down, we receive a bad diagnosis, we age. How now do we face life? How do we see God in this? Can we ask for help? Do we continue to do what we can do? Do we change course and try new things? Or do we curse God and hope to die?

Our employer has to downsize – and we've been there 20 years! New technology comes along and we just don't get it. We are forced to retire. We need to move to a new location. Do we adjust and adapt or curse God and hope to die?

Life happens, the ways of the world change, but God remains the same. We are not in control of the world, of the weather, or life, but God is.

It's easy to think when there are changes in our lives, when we face difficulties, God has abandoned us. But God will never leave us. God's loving kindness, His mercy, His forgiveness, His love, His presence is forever and ever, amen.

Please pray with me:

God of eternity, we thank You for Your presence, for strengthening us to face and accept change, to go around the corner into the unknown – knowing You are with us. Help us to give up our control of life and put it in Your capable and loving hands. Give healing and comfort to the sick, peace to those making difficult decisions, and strength to those facing change.

Amen.