

*The Tyranny of the Familiar*  
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**Introduction:** Each of us have a “comfort zone”.

- A. It is normal to develop these familiar paths to walk.
  - 1. What are your favorite things?
  - 2. If things change constantly we would be unhappy.
  - 3. New things require time and effort.
  - 4. Our confidence is slow to come with new things.
- B. There are times where must learn something that is new to us!
  - 1. Our Christian growth will commonly involve this. **(Phil 1:9)**
  - 2. Here is where many fail in their faith. It is always easier to return to the comfortable chair of the familiar! (Ex. Those who start a diet)
  - 3. It is true hard to make the changes that will be life long.

***I. Examples of Those Who Were Destroyed by the Familiar***

- A. **The Children of Israel.**
  - 1. The children of Israel were given a new life by Moses. **(1 Cor 10:1-4)**
  - 2. Consider the great blessings, they were delivered from bondage and were heading to the promised land! What could stop them?
  - 3. Their hearts were not converted to the Lord. **(1 Cor 10:5-6)**
  - 4. What were the evil things that they turned to? They were: fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic. **(Num 11:4-6)**
  - 5. How could these things destroy them? The familiar was more important than the eternal.
- B. **The Jews who would come to Christ.**
  - 1. The Jews persisted in attacking both Jesus and John the Baptist, why?
  - 2. Their hearts were not prepared to accept the New Covenant! **(Luke 5:33-39)**
  - 3. If they were to come to God major changes would have to take place. What did they do? They chose to be hyper critical of Jesus to destroy His influence.
- C. **Some who begin the Christian Life.**
  - 1. The Christian life is described as a complete change. **(Gal 2:20)**
  - 2. There is a great temptation to return to what we know. **(Luke 9:57-62)**
  - 3. What is best? What does God want? Or what am I used to?

***II. Some New Things We Must Learn in Christ***

- A. **How to have a new heart.**
  - 1. All those converted to the Lord have had their hearts crushed to be replaced by a new one. **(Ezk 36:25-27; Psa 51:10)**
  - 2. How do I know I have such a heart? All things have become new! **(2 Cor 5:17)**
  - 3. Have you become tired of the gospel? Are you excited about working in the kingdom of God? (Ex. First day on a new job.)

4. Now each day we must renew it! (**Rom 12:2**)

**B. How to worship each day.**

1. God is seeking a certain kind of people, is this you? (**John 4:23-24**)
2. A man lectured on “the baby boom generation within churches of Christ” and concluded: “change the worship”. There is another alternative, change the heart.
3. Worship must be taught. (**Luke 11:1-3**)
4. We must learn things new to us that are old to God, prayer, meditation, application, and how to worship daily. Worship is work!

**C. How to work with other people.**

1. The early Christians were closely associated with one another. (**Acts 2:42, 46-47; 9:27-28**)
2. We must learn a difficult lesson when we work with others, how to deal with hurt and disappointment. (**Eph 4:31-32**)
3. It is easy to go back to the “dog eat dog” approach of the workplace and of the world.
4. Do not go back to the familiar! Let us help others. (**Heb 12:12-13, 15**)

**D. How to maintain the morals God has given.**

1. It has never been more difficult to maintain moral convictions in this country, there is so much peer pressure.
2. We must “unlearn” the world’s standards and learn God’s. (**1 Pet 4:3-4; Eph 4:25-28**)
3. It is easy to go back to the familiar! (Ex. Lies)

**E. How to be strengthened by the one hope.**

1. God has given us a tremendous hope based on strong evidence. (**1 Pet 1:3-5**)
2. This hope can change our live if we would focus on it and not the familiar!

**F. How to develop new talents in the Lords service.**

1. Often God will increase our ability if we would seek to work. (**1 Cor 15:58**)
2. Once you become a Christian you must move forward, not back to the familiar.

**III. How to Overcome the Familiar**

**A. Seek and hold onto that which is true. (1 Thess 5:21; 2 Thess 2:15)**

1. Always be seeking God’s will.
2. Once you know it is right, do not let go!

**B. Be determined to make your change permanent. (Heb 10:35-39)**

1. The Jewish Christian has to learn this. It was hard!
2. If you will hold on, the change will become part of you. (ex. New job I hated.)

**C. Do not give up because of setbacks. (John 21:15-17; 1 John 1:7-9)**

**D. Make your heart right with God each day. (Psa 119:11)**

**Conclusion:** Are you afraid of change? We all are.

- A. If the Lord tells you to change then we can trust Him. (**Heb 11:6**)
- B. Christian are you looking for greater opportunities of service?