

The Five R's Part 5 Replace

I hope this message finds you well. Today, we continue our exploration of the Five R's, focusing on the fourth stage: Replace. This teaching aims to guide us in becoming effective individuals and vessels for God's purpose by addressing areas in our lives that are not "working properly."

Recap of the Five R's Journey:

1. **Reveal:** Acknowledging the need for change by allowing the Holy Spirit to expose root problems in our lives (Psalm 139:23-24).
2. **Repent:** Turning away from those issues with genuine repentance, as supported by Proverbs 28:13 and Matthew 3:8.
3. **Remove:** Taking active steps to cast off wrong behaviors or attitudes (Ephesians 4:31, Colossians 3:8-9, Romans 13:12).

Stage Four: Replace

Once we have removed harmful habits or attitudes, it is essential to replace them with Godly qualities. Without replacement, we risk reverting to old behaviors or leaving room for other issues to take root.

Personal Testimony:

In my own life, the Holy Spirit revealed self-centeredness as a root problem. This issue manifested in neglecting my wife's needs, such as forgetting her in a grocery store parking lot due to my preoccupation. God used this situation to show me how self-centeredness can lead to unnecessary problems and relational strain.

To address this, I not only removed self-centeredness but replaced it with availability—making myself present and attentive to my wife's needs. This shift required obedience and intentionality, emphasizing the importance of serving others as Jesus did (Matthew 20:27-28).

Practical Steps for Replacement:

- Identify the Opposite Virtue: For every negative trait removed, replace it with a Christ-like quality. For example:
 - Replace bitterness with forgiveness.
 - Replace anger with patience.
 - Replace self-centeredness with availability.
- Embrace Servanthood: Jesus exemplified greatness through service (Matthew 20:28). As believers, we are called to serve others, including our spouses, families, and communities.
- Commit to Prayer: A life of prayer strengthens our ability to replace old habits with new ones and aligns us with God's will (Matthew 21:13).

Warnings Against Hindrances:

The process of applying the Five R's can be hindered by disobedience, rejection, and unwillingness. These attitudes prevent us from allowing God to work in our lives and can lead to ongoing struggles (Acts 7:39-40). On the other hand, willingness and obedience open the door for transformation (Isaiah 1:19-20).

Encouragement for Application:

As we move forward, let us strive to:

1. Be willing for the Holy Spirit to **reveal** areas that need change.
2. **Repent** sincerely and demonstrate proof of repentance through our actions.
3. **Remove** harmful behaviors and attitudes from our lives.
4. **Replace** them with Godly virtues, embracing a servant-hearted approach to life.

By doing so, we allow God to work through us effectively and fulfill His purpose in our lives.

Thank you for dedicating time to reflecting on these teachings. May we continue to grow in obedience and faithfulness as we apply the Five R's in our daily walk.

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