



Last Friday as I was going along in a normal work day, about 7:30 in the morning, I step out of my truck and right in front of me is this tree. Now I park near this tree every day and walk within a few feet of it many times every week. Yet, I have never just stopped and looked at it. How funny it is that we seldom notice anything in our lives until it changes.

Usually beneath the branches of this tree is a carpet of manicured grass, thick and well kept. And above the grass the limbs are hidden from view by hundreds of green leaves. But today was different; you could hardly see the grass because it is covered by the leaves that gravity has dragged to the ground. Something else has changed, the leaves are no longer green, but are now a mixture of reds, yellows and orange.

What happened to this poor tree? Yesterday, it was comfortable as it rested in its green carpeting. Yesterday, its branches seemed so strong and full of life. Where has the tree of my comfort zone gone? As I look into the mirror of this tree before me, I realize that what I am seeing is really just the reflection of my life. Just like Mr. Tree, I am changing. I have watched many of the leaves of my life fall to the ground. The home of my childhood has vanished. Mom and Dad are no longer here. My life has changed.

Yet, with change come strength, maturity and commitment. It is often through great changes in our lives that we realize what is truly important. Change brings many blessings to us we could never experience had we been allowed to continue like we have always been. Today, let us welcome change. Let us determine to do our best no matter the circumstances we find ourselves in, because tomorrow, they too will change.

Something to think about:

- ❖ If we try to resist loss and change or to hold on to blessings and joy belonging to a past which must drop away from us, we postpone all the new blessings awaiting us on a higher level and find ourselves left in a barren, bleak winter of sorrow and loneliness.
- ❖ If you're going through difficult times today, hold steady. It will change soon. If you are experiencing smooth sailing and easy times now, brace yourself. It will change soon. The only thing you can be certain of is change.
- ❖ In this life we will encounter hurts and trials that we will not be able to change; we are just going to have to allow them to change us.
- ❖ Nothing is really important in life, not even the relationships that blossom in a healthy home. In time, we must release our grip on everything we hold dear.
- ❖ God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.

Still Changing
Rickey Moore