

Don't Try to Change Yourself

I've found that we can learn a great deal about the Lord by examining His many names found in the Bible. Each one reveals a unique aspect of His character along with a specific promise for our lives.

When we get to know God—*really know Him*—we are filled with hope and confidence because we realize He's greater than any situation we will ever encounter. Understanding God's character and amazing love for us allows us to relax and trust Him in every area of our lives.

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The Bible says He is *Jehovah Jireh*, or "Your Provider" (Gen. 22:14). He's *Jehovah Rapha*, "Your Healer" (Ex. 15:26) and *Jehovah Shalom*, "Your Peace" (Judg. 6:24).

The Lord is also referred to as *Jehovah M'Kaddesh*, which means "The Lord who sanctifies you" (Lev. 20:8, AMPC). This literally means He is the God who changes us. It's so encouraging to know we don't need to try to change ourselves, because when we attempt to change on our own, it only produces frustration and struggle.

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Philippians 2:12-13 (AMPC) says, "Work out ... your own salvation with reverence and awe and trembling. ... [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

You see, when you begin a relationship with Jesus Christ, the

Holy Spirit comes to live inside you. Now you have great things on the *inside*, but they need to be “worked out” to the *outside*. We need to learn how to think right, talk right and treat other people the way we should. And we can only do it through God’s strength and help.

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