

PROCLAIMING TRUTH MINISTRIES
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INFORMATION PAPER
THE WINDS OF CHANGE
FEBRUARY 24, 2025

The current political climate in the United States is characterized by tumultuous change and division. With a new president in office, the country has entered a period of uncertainty and upheaval. This has led to a diminished faith in God and a feeling of being unprepared for the winds of change. As Christians, it is essential that we take a step back and evaluate our relationship with God during these times of transition. The story of the Pharisees in the Bible provides valuable insight into behaviors and attitudes that demonstrate a lack of faith in God. By examining five specific traits of the Pharisees and applying them to modern-day examples, we can gain a better understanding of our own actions and how to support those who struggle with change and react emotionally instead of faithfully.

The first trait of the Pharisees that reflects a lack of faith in God is hypocrisy. In Matthew 23:27-28, Jesus condemns the Pharisees for their outward displays of righteousness, while their hearts are filled with hypocrisy and wickedness. Similarly, in today's society, we observe this trait in those who claim to be followers of God yet lead lives that do not reflect His teachings. For instance, a politician might assert that they are devout Christians, but their actions and policies may contradict the values and morals of the Bible. This hypocrisy can lead to diminished trust in God and His Word, making it difficult to distinguish between true followers of God and those merely putting on a facade.

The second trait of the Pharisees is a legalistic approach to faith. In Luke 11:42, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for adhering strictly to the letter of the law while neglecting the more significant matters of justice and love. Similarly, in modern times, this legalistic mindset can be observed in those who focus solely on following religious rules and

traditions rather than cultivating a personal relationship with God. This can lead to a lack of understanding and connection with God, causing individuals to feel unprepared for the winds of change.

The third trait of the Pharisees is a lack of compassion and mercy. In Luke 18:9-14, Jesus narrates the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, emphasizing the Pharisee's absence of compassion and mercy towards the tax collector. In today's world, this can be seen in those who are quick to judge and condemn others, rather than showing love and mercy. This creates a toxic and divisive environment, causing individuals to feel disconnected from God and unprepared for change.

The fourth trait of the Pharisees is a focus on external appearances. In Matthew 23:25-26, Jesus warns against the Pharisees' obsession with outward cleanliness while neglecting inner purity. Similarly, some individuals may prioritize outward appearances, such as material possessions and status, over nurturing their relationship with God. This can lead to a superficial faith and a lack of preparedness for the winds of change, as true faith is built on a solid foundation of inner values and beliefs.

The fifth and final trait of the Pharisees is their resistance to change. In Mark 7:8-9, Jesus criticizes them for clinging to traditions while ignoring God's commandments. This resistance can also be observed in individuals who hold on to their traditions and ways of thinking, even when they conflict with God's teachings. Such resistance may result in a lack of openness and adaptability, making it challenging to navigate periods of change faithfully.

As Christians, it is our duty to minister to those who are challenged by change and show a lack of faith in God. Although this can be a daunting task, it is essential to approach it with love, compassion, and understanding. The first step is to recognize and acknowledge our own behaviors and attitudes that may reflect a lack of faith in God. We should strive to build a personal relationship with God

instead of solely focusing on adhering to rules and appearances. By doing this, we can lead by example and inspire others to follow suit. In ministering to those who struggle with change, it is also crucial to address their emotional reactions. This can be done by reminding them of God's promises and His unwavering love for us. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us not to be anxious but to present our concerns to God in prayer, and He will grant us peace. By relying on God's strength and grace, we can navigate change with faith and trust.

The current political climate in the United States has fostered a diminished faith in God and a sense of being unprepared for the winds of change. By examining the story of the Pharisees in the Bible, we can identify five traits that reflect this lack of faith and apply them to modern-day examples. As Christians, we are responsible for self-evaluating and ministering to those who struggle with change and react emotionally. By cultivating a personal relationship with God and relying on His strength, we can navigate the challenges of change faithfully and offer guidance and support to those around us.