

HOW TO BE A CHANGE CATALYST

PART 1 // Full Transcript

Brian Head Welch is an American musician best known for being one of the guitarists of the new metal band Korn. His life was deeply impacted by drug addiction, depression, and the demanding lifestyle of the on-the-road music industry. He was clearly living the rock and roll lifestyle. But you know what? A pivotal moment came in his life when he was invited to church by a friend. This led to an incredible spiritual awakening and a subsequent, complete transformation of his life. He left the band and now serves others. In fact, he's a vibrant evangelist for Jesus today, retelling the story of what God has done in his life.

One of the interesting paradoxes of being a change agent in the world is that we often think of guys like Brian. We think about the fact that he's making a huge impact, and you and me, we might want to be that person. But behind every Brian Welch, there's an individual like you, like me, who took the step out to invite them to come to church, to engage them into the community.

Welcome to How To Be a Change Catalyst. This is a four-part experience, and you're in part one. Every time we're together, we're going to look at a small piece of scripture together, something that we think is really important for you and I to wrestle with, and we're going to ask what difference does that passage make, and then we're going to give you one small challenge to complete in the days after. So let's jump in.

We're going to look today at, and we're asking the question, what is the catalyst for change in our own lives? Why would we be the kind of people that want to ultimately be the catalyst for change in other people's lives? So if you've got a Bible, I'd love for you to flip in your phone or turn in your Bible to Ephesians 2:8-10. Let me read this for you. "God saved you by His grace because you believed, and you can't take credit for this. It's a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." Now listen to this, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus so we can do good things He planned for us long ago."

Listen, friends, if you want to make a difference in your community, if you want to make a difference in the lives of the people you know, it starts with a clear understanding of God's grace. It starts with a clear understanding that God has done something amazing in your life.

I love this passage for a number of reasons. The first part there, very early on, it talks about how we've been saved by grace, that you and I can do nothing to earn it, to take credit for it. It is all because of Jesus. Salvation is not a reward. But then in verse 10, He talks about you and I. He talks about the fact that we are God's masterpiece. Do you know what that means? So actually, in the original language, one way to translate that is that you and I are poetry in motion, God's poetry in motion. See, you're not a masterpiece that sits on a wall somewhere. You're not a marble stone that's been chipped away and stands there and looks pretty like David. No, you are in motion. You are making a difference in your community. See, we reach out to the people around us. We want to be a catalyst for change because of what God has done in our lives.

We've deliberately called this experience Catalyst for Change because what is a catalyst? A catalyst is a small thing. It's a small movement that, when ignited in the right direction, makes a huge difference. And we believe that inviting people to our church will make a huge difference in the lives of the people around us. Now you don't need to be someone like Brian Welch, who gets to stand in front of thousands of people and tell the story of Jesus. You can take a step by simply inviting one person.

There was a study done recently that found that 82% of people who don't attend church, unchurched people, would attend church if a friend invited them. Think about that for a second. 82% are likely to come if a friend

invited them. Now there are a couple of things there. There are two action words. One, it's if a friend invited them. This whole course, this experience, this challenge is about you reaching out to people that you know. And we know that that's God's intention for how the message of Jesus is transmitted from one person to another. It's about reaching out to friends. But then the second part of that statistic is that we have actually to do the invite. We have actually to ask. But you know the sad part of that? So 82% of unchurched people would attend if someone invited them, but only 2% of people in an average church in the country today have been invited in the last year. What a crime that is. That is crazy.

And so over these coming sessions, we're going to attack that together, and every week we're going to give you a challenge, something that you can do between now and when the next video arrives in your inbox. And so what I want you to do is I want you actually to find an odd object around your house. Now it needs to be a little bit odd, so not something that you would normally carry around. So for me, that is a domino piece. Why would I carry a domino piece? Well, this is what we want you to do. We want you to take this odd object and put it in your pocket. And this week, between now and when the next video comes, every time you bump into that object, we want you to stop and thank God for His grace in your life. We want you to stop and ask God for how you could potentially take a step forward on this whole invite culture. But we stop by thanking God this week. That is the step we're going to take.

The other reason why I picked a domino is that I know that your life, one life, is in a series with a whole bunch of other people, and when the domino of one invite falls and hits another person's life, it can lead to an incredible chain reaction. It can make a huge difference.

Thanks so much, friends. We're so honored that you're a part of this four-part challenge. We look forward to seeing you in the next video. Stay tuned. Watch your inbox for more information. Thanks, friends. Thanks for being a part of this.