

TRANSITIONS:  
TRUSTING GOD THROUGH  
THE TWENTY-SOMETHINGS

BY KEN WELIEVER

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*Spiritual “equipment” for the contest of life.*

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# CONTENTS

<b>#1</b>	<b>THE MORE THINGS CHANGE</b> TRUSTING GOD IN TRANSITION	8
<b>#2</b>	<b>MY IDENTITY</b> WHO AM I, LORD?	14
<b>#3</b>	<b>CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING VALUES</b> TRUSTING GOD'S VALUES FOR MY LIFE	20
<b>#4</b>	<b>MANAGING MY PDA/ PLANNER</b> OPERATING IN GOD'S TIME	26
<b>#5</b>	<b>THE STRESS OF SUCCESS</b> WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT MY JOB	32
<b>#6</b>	<b>ENJOYING THE AMERICAN DREAM</b> THE GOOD LIFE OR THE GOD LIFE?	38
<b>#7</b>	<b>INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE</b> GOD'S GUIDE TO MONEY MANAGEMENT	44
<b>#8</b>	<b>DEVELOPING HABITS FOR A LIFETIME</b> HOW TO EXPERIENCE GOD EVERY DAY	50
<b>#9</b>	<b>TOUGH CHOICES</b> HOW TO MAKE GODLY DECISIONS	56
<b>#10</b>	<b>FATAL DISTRACTIONS</b> DON'T FORGET GOD!	62
<b>#11</b>	<b>RELATIONSHIPS THAT WORK</b> GOD CREATED YOU FOR ASSOCIATION	68
<b>#12</b>	<b>AFTER YOU KNOW IT ALL...</b> LET GOD KEEP TEACHING YOU	74
<b>#13</b>	<b>PLANNING FOR THE JOURNEY</b> HOW TO STAY FOCUSED ON GOD	80

# Introduction

When you google “twenty somethings” you get listings for 2,220,000 pages in .19 seconds! The headlines tell you of “Top 10 tips for twenty somethings” that are career related. “The Love life of Twenty Somethings.” I learn in answers.com that a **“twenty-something** is a person in the age group 20 to 29. Such a person may be termed a vicenarian.” There are chat rooms for twenty-somethings, support groups, and small groups at churches. There are magazines and books aimed at this age group.

Why? Those in their twenties make up a sizeable percentage of our population. The twenties are unique years. It is a time of completing college and beginning a career. It’s time to settle down. Thoughts often turn to marriage and family, how to make a living, and pay off those college debts! They are a time of making decisions that will affect the rest of your life, and even beyond.

For many it really is a time of true freedom from parents. Of course, that has been gradually coming through the end of high school and the college years. But now it is here. You are responsible for the rent, the bills, your decisions, and your faith. You’re not a teenager any more. You’re not even a college student!

The twenties are a time of transition, uncertainty, challenge, success, failure, planning your future, and greater responsibility. In college, you may skip a few classes, sleep in and get by, but your boss will frown on that in the real world! If you are married, you find your new “roommate” expects more than your college roommates!

I think also in a unique and special way, we begin not only to make our mark in the world, but spiritually as well. Faith takes on new meaning. Spiritual disciplines cannot be ignored or put off. Fellowship in the church family brings new responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities.

This class is dedicated to studying, exploring, and learning how God’s Word speaks to you in a special way, how you can trust God through the transitions of your life, and how He can help you in the most important of life’s choices.

# Acknowledgements

There are several people I want to thank for helping this study come to pass.

First of all, I am deeply indebted to the twenty-somethings at North Boulevard in Tampa, Florida. They are a great source of encouragement to me and my wife. Their love for the Lord, zest for life, and willingness to learn, grow, and be different from the world is refreshing and inspiring. I appreciate their devotion and dedication to the Kingdom. Our twenty-somethings bring a rich diversity of talent and spiritual gifts that is making a difference and will continue to do so.

Many of the ideas in this study resulted from responses to a questionnaire our young adults filled out. It was very helpful in coming up with general topics that we need to cover. A special thanks to Allison Aly for contributing the idea of transition and trust that gave birth to the title and theme for the study. I also want to thank Jeanetta Jordon for offering suggestions and proof-reading the material.

An added feature to our study is the “rear views” provided by several men and women past their twenties. Each one is a friend of mine and I thank them for taking the time to share and for being so transparent.

And finally, thanks to my wife for putting up with me during my twenties! (ok, and now too!) I think I was twenty going on sixteen one day and then forty the next day! She has taken the time to proof this booklet and correct many of my errors. (Guys, a good wife will do that for you.)

And thanks be to God for whatever good this study provides. “Unto Him be the glory.”

# How To Use This Book

First read the introduction to each lesson to get an overview of what the topic is about. Then proceed to the following sections.

Each lesson will begin with thought questions for you to reflect upon before coming to class. Take a few minutes and write down your ideas. Be prepared to share your point of view with the class. Often these will be subjective questions that do not have one right or wrong answer. The purpose is for you to think, and then to see how your thoughts and experiences match up with the Scripture.

## REFLECT

On Your Life



There are several passages that pertain to the topic to be discussed for that class. Look at those passages at home and write down your thoughts as requested for that lesson. This will give us a head start as we come to class and begin studying the biblical basis for that lesson.



## READ

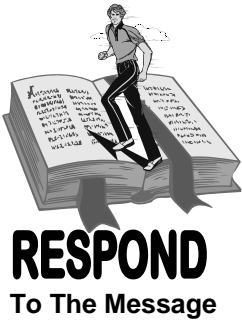
The Word

This section will deal with the principles of that lesson and the concepts that we need to be familiar with. This is lecture material that we will provide in the class. Fill in the appropriate blanks. Take notes in the space provided. This section does not need to be filled in prior to the class. You will receive this material during the class study.



## REALIZE

The Principles



This section is designed for your own personal response and application to the lesson we have studied. If we have time, we will discuss the questions during class. But we may not have time to do so each class. However, the real benefit will come from your thoughts following the lesson on how this can impact your life and to grow as a leader.



## **RESOLVE**

To Take Action

This is the most important part of the lesson because it involves each one putting into personal practice that which they have learned. You will be challenged in this study to learn, grow, and change. The real benefits from the class will come when you use the material in your life. Remember James says, “Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” Let us not give lip service to that passage, but really take it to heart and strive to make personal application of each lesson to our lives.



## **REAR VIEWS**

Each lesson will conclude with some advice from someone older as they look back in the rear view mirror of life. I hope you enjoy these tidbits of reflective counsel.

The benefits you receive from this study will be in direct proportion to what you invest in time out of class in study, reflection, and personal application. And the amount of your investment will depend on the value you place on the class. The wise man exhorted, “incline your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding” (Proverbs 2:2).

# #1 The More Things Change

## Trusting God in Transition

“Become a student of change. It is the only thing that will remain constant.” —Anthony J. D’Angelo, Author

Change is a part of life. By twenty-something you should be familiar with change: changing jobs, changing majors, changing roommates, changing schools, changing your mind! In fact, change is necessary for survival, for growth, and for progress. Edmund Burke, the 18th century British statesman and philosopher, once wrote, “A state without the means of some change is without the means of its continuation.”

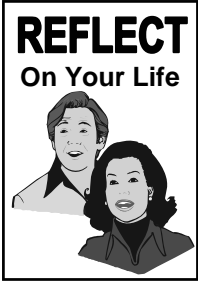
As friendships grow stronger, they change. As families become more bonded, they change. Even our faith, as it develops, deepens and becomes more devout, changes. Change is good. And we probably accept it more readily than we may think.

But transition is different. William Bridges, in *The Way of Transition*, makes a very astute observation. “‘Transition’ and ‘change’ are words that are often used as though they were synonymous, but they really aren’t.” He says, “change is a situation shift.” Like getting a new job, or moving to a new house, “Transition,” Bridges says, “is the process of letting go of the way things used to be and taking hold of the way they have subsequently become... Transition is the way that we all come to terms with change. Without transition a change is mechanical, superficial, and empty.” In other words, transition is more psychological and emotional.

I think of Paul’s analogy in Ephesians 4 about putting off the old man of sin and putting on the new man. There is great change that is to occur in attitude, actions, and lifestyle. But often new converts don’t make the transition.

Some transitions are triggered by external events that have to do with the way we accept change. Other transitions are developmental—like childhood to adolescence. I think the twenty-somethings involve both kinds of transitions.

As we change and transition to a new place in life, it is important to trust God. To successfully transition we must learn to let go. Or as John Keller put it in his popular book, “Let Go and Let God.” 8



1. Quickly complete your thoughts to this statement "The more things change..."

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2. What are some changes that you have experienced in the past 3-4 years?

3. Has it been difficult at times to transition through these changes? Why or why not?

4. Are there times when you find it difficult to trust God through the changes and transitions of your life? Why or why not?



What do you learn from these passages about the various changes in life? What transitions are involved in making these changes?

Romans 12:1-2

Ecclesiastes 11:9; 12:1

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

**I. Observation About Change**

- A. Becoming a \_\_\_\_\_ demands change, Acts 26:18.
- B. Christian \_\_\_\_\_ involves change, 2 Peter 3:18.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ expects us to change.
- D. All of \_\_\_\_\_ involves change, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

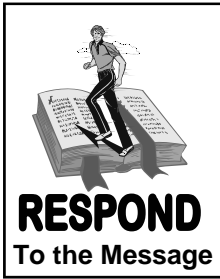


**II. As We Grow and Mature, We Experience Changes In...**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
- B. Relationships with Others.
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 4. \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Attitude and mind set, Philippians 4:8.

**III. God Will Help You Through With Transition**

- A. He \_\_\_\_\_ about your life, 1 Peter 5:7.
- B. He will give \_\_\_\_\_ through transition, Proverbs 3:11-12.
- C. He will \_\_\_\_\_ your every need, Philippians 4:19.
- D. His \_\_\_\_\_ will be sufficient, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.



What new insights about change and transition have you developed as a result of this lesson?



Write down 2-3 changes taking place in your life right now.

What attitude do you need to make the proper transition?

What will you do to grow in your trust of the Lord during these times of change and transition?



# REAR VIEWS

I believe the challenges we faced as a twenty-something couple were really defeated by our service to God. As my wife taught Bible class, she learned patience and a broad understanding of children. She saw victory and failure in the lives of others that she brought into our home and helped to make both my children faithful adult Christians today.

In my teaching I was forced to teach myself, to choke down impatience, and learn kindness. When I taught a class on teens and a series on the home, I had to cancel my plans for my first computer and used the money instead to buy an old fishing boat that brought my family together for the next ten years, as my own children went through those years.

My disappointments and discouragements were mainly salved by a wife that supported and encouraged me, and I hope that I have done the same from time to time for her. That was our duty to Christ, to love and care for one another. We learned new talents and exercised unused ones as we tried to serve our brothers and sisters. We learned faith when elders and others threatened our livelihood rather than be corrected.

We depended on prayer when there was simply no one else to depend upon, and saw it answered. There are going to be financial concerns, family stress, and church problems. But if one's focus is NOT on what others are doing, but what I should be doing, then with faith and commitment there is victory in coming through these issues of life.

—Carl “Mac” McMurray, Fifty-something, Preacher, Indiana