

A change to believe in

Well here we are, on week number two of a brand spanking new decade. The shine hasn't even worn off yet, even though some people seem to be actively working to dull it a bit.

I was sitting behind a car with an Obama bumper sticker (or whatever you call it - it was on his window) this morning in traffic. I read the motto, "Change you can believe in." Now, I'm not interested in getting into politics here -- I don't care which way of what fence you sit on or lean towards.

But I'm interested in the concept of change to believe in.

I was amused by the motto -- truth be told, I'm amused by most mottoes, but rarely inspired by them. Because it struck me that the only kind of change you can really believe in is the change you do yourself.

I'm dropping back to what little I remember of high school physics now, but as I remember it, in order for there to be any work done, something has to effect a change on the status of something else. In other words, that rock isn't going to move anywhere unless it's moved upon by an outside force. Similarly, most of our lives aren't going to move or change unless we move or change them.

In physics, work requires effort -- and working on our future is going to require effort made by each and every one of us.

I don't care what party or philosophy you espouse, or even if you espouse one. I don't care which side of the fence you come down on -- or even if you believe in fences at all. I don't care if you listen to conservative commentators, NPR, liberal commentators, no commentators, or if your idea of listening material is "The Living Strings play Abba favorites on common kitchen appliances."

Whatever you believe, wherever you live, whatever you do -- this much is going to be certain: if you want things done right in your life, you're going to have to have a hand in doing them.

You can count on others for input, of course. Your loved ones probably know more what you should be doing than you do. But they're never going to be able to totally do things for you. Ultimately, you are the one who must learn, the one who must move, the one who must grow. You are the one who has to do the work, and your loved ones are counting on you (and me) to do it.

You are the one who must be the master of your soul and your future. You must be the one who commands your own ship of state. You must be the one person who makes the change that you can believe in.

Ultimately, you (and I) are the ones who must change.

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