

## REAL CHANGE

### Character Counts – Part 1 of 4

*“As God’s Spirit works within us, we are being transformed to become more like Christ. This change, from one degree of glory to another, comes from the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18*

#### WHY ARE PERSONAL DEFECTS SO HARD TO CHANGE?

- Because I’ve had them for so **LONG!**
- Because I begin to **IDENTIFY** who I am with my defects.
- Because every **DEFECT** has a **REWARD!**

**KEY OBSERVATION #1:** Whatever is being **REPEATED** is being **REWARDED**.

- Because **SATAN** fights those changes in me!

#### WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR REAL CHANGE TO HAPPEN?

**KEY TRUTH #1:** Real change begins with **NEW THINKING**

*“There must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes.” Ephesians 4:23*

*“Don’t keep living as the ungodly do, for they are hopelessly confused in their thinking. Their closed minds are full of darkness; they’re far away from the life God gives because they have shut their minds and hardened their hearts against him. They don’t care anymore about right and wrong, and they’ve indulged themselves in all kinds of immorality, evil thinking, and the constant desire for more.” Ephesians 4:17-19*

*“Do not conform to the values and opinions of this world. Instead let God transform you by teaching you the right and true way to think.” Romans 12:2*

*“The wisdom of this world is foolishness to God.” 1 Corinthians 3:19*

*“Let the Spirit change your way of thinking.” Ephesians 4:23*

**KEY TRUTH #2:** Real change requires learning the **TRUTH**

*“Use the truth to make them complete. Your Word is truth.” John 17:17*

*“Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or made a lie sound like the truth. Instead, we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more like Christ, who is the head of his Body, the church.” Ephesians 4:14-15*

**KEY OBSERVATION #2:** Behind every self-defeating behavior is a **LIE** I’m believing.

*“Since you have heard all about Him, you have learned the truth that is in Jesus...” Ephesians 4:21*

*“All Scripture is inspired by God, and it is useful to teach us what is true, to make us realize what is wrong in our lives, it straightens us out, and it teaches us to do what is right. It is God’s way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing that God wants us to do.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

**KEY TRUTH #3:** Real change requires **ELIMINATING** the unhealthy stuff from your life.

*“So, get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to —the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires.” Ephesians 4:22*

*“We must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially any sin that distracts us, so we can run the race that lies ahead of us!” Hebrews 12:1*

**KEY TRUTH #4:** Real change requires **HONEST** community

*“No more pretense! Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ’s Body we’re all connected to each other. So, if you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.” Ephesians 4:25*

*“Be kind and loving to each other, forgiving each other just as God forgave you in Christ.” Ephesians 4:32*

*“Never use harmful words but speak only what’s helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Ephesians 4:29*

**KEY TRUTH #5:** Faster change requires **COACHING**

*“Timothy, I want you to now take the things that I’ve taught you, and I want you to pass them on to other faithful men who will be able to pass them on to others.” 2 Timothy 2:2*

*“Christ gifted some of us to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, so that his people would learn to serve, and his Body would grow strong. This will continue until we’re united by our faith and understanding of the Son of God. Then we will be mature, just as Christ is, and we will be completely like him.” Ephesians 4:11-13*

**KEY TRUTH #6:** Real change requires **FAITH**

*“Now, by his mighty power at work within us, God is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.” Ephesians 3:20*

*“I can do all things through Christ who empowers me. I am ready for anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me!” Philippians 4:13*

*“According to your faith will it be done to you.” Matthew 9:29*