

# WHAT'S IT GONNA TAKE?

## Choices that Change Us

Pre-Message

Pastor Gary

June 11, 2017

*I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?*  
Ro 7:15-24 (NLT)

*I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question? Ro 7:24 (The Message)*

Trying to change makes me **FRUSTRATED**.

Trying to change makes me **DESPERATE**.

Trying to change makes me **GIVE UP**.

## **THE TRUTH ABOUT REAL CHANGE**

### **1. THE PURPOSE OF CHANGE IS A PERSON**

*Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. Ro 7:25a (NLT)*

*For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him...should become like his Son... Ro 8:29 (The Living Bible)*

*Then we will no longer be little children, tossed and carried about by all kinds of teachings that change like the wind. Instead...we will grow up completely in our relationship to Christ, Eph 4:14-15 (God's Word)*

### **2. PROGRESS ONLY HAPPENS IN PARTNERSHIP**

- Partnership with God

*...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Php 2:12-13 (NIV)*

*My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Ga 2:20 (NLT)*

- Partnership with People

*Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. Jas 5:16a (NLT)*

*Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer. Heb 10:24-25 (GNT)*

### **3. PERMANENT CHANGE IS A PROCESS**

*And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him. 2 Co 3:18 (The Message)*

### **4. MY PART IN CHANGE IS PERSISTENCE**

*Train yourself to be godly. 1 Ti 4:7b (NLT)*

*Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. 1 Co 9:24-25 (NLT)*

### **SO WHAT'S IT GOING TO TAKE?**

#### **TRUE CHANGE BEGINS WITH A CHOICE**

*"Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!" Dt 30:19 (NLT)*

## ACTION STEP

Catch every message in [THE CHOICES THAT CHANGE US.](#)