

# Series: Little Steps That Make A Huge Difference In A Christian's Life!

## 8-3-25

### Title: Change For The Better!

Have you ever made a small step that caused notable or significant change for the better?!

A little change, a little information, a little action, or a little understanding may make big and better changes in your life!

**2 Corinthians 5:14–17** (NLT) <sup>14</sup> Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. <sup>15</sup> He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup> So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! <sup>17</sup> **This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!**



### 1. Change Your Mind

Romans 12:1–2 (NLT) (*A Living Sacrifice to God*) And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let

God **transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

**Philippians 4:6–7; 8** (NLT) <sup>6</sup> **Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.** Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. (*Choose to not worry, and instead pray about everything. Change your mind.*)

<sup>8</sup> And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. **Fix your thoughts** on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. (choose to fix your thoughts)

## 2. Change By Growing

**2 Peter 3:18** (NLT) <sup>18</sup> Rather, you must **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior** Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.

**Colossians 1:10** (NLT) <sup>10</sup> Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, **you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.**

**Hebrews 5:12–14** (NLT) <sup>12</sup> You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. <sup>13</sup> For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. <sup>14</sup> Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.

**Ephesians 4:15** (NLT) <sup>15</sup> Instead, we will speak the truth in love, **growing in every way more and more like Christ**, who is the head of his body, the church.

**Hosea 4:6** (NASB95) 6 My people are destroyed **for lack of knowledge**. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

## 3. Change By Gathering

**Hebrews 10:23–25** (NLT) <sup>23</sup> Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. <sup>24</sup> **Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.** <sup>25</sup> **And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another**, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

**1 Corinthians 12:12** (NLT) *One Body with Many Parts* <sup>12</sup> The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. **So it is with the body of Christ.**

**1 Corinthians 12:25–27** (NLT) <sup>25</sup> This makes for harmony among the members, so that **all the members care for each other.** <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. <sup>27</sup> All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

## 4. Change By Understanding Mind, Body, Spirit (Changed by Mind and Body Surrendered To Spirit)

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** (NLT) *Paul's Final Greetings*

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

- We are three part beings
- Which part is in control of you?
- Soul (mind, will, emotions) must die!

**Romans 8:5–13** (NLT) <sup>5</sup> Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

<sup>7</sup> For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. <sup>8</sup> That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) <sup>10</sup> And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. <sup>11</sup> The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. <sup>13</sup> For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

**John 3:3–7** (NLT) <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup> "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. <sup>7</sup> So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'

**Galatians 2:20.** <sup>20</sup> 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.

**Galatians 5:24-55** (NLT) <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

<sup>25</sup> Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

**Psalms 131:2** (NLT) <sup>2</sup> Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself,  
like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk.  
Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me.

**How do we put the spirit in charge**

- Believe in Jesus & Surrender
- Don't feed our soul- starve the soul
- Feed the Spirit