

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Knowing Enough To Change

John 8:31-32

May 31, 2026

There is a common saying among those who study leadership: "**People change when they hurt enough that they have to, or learn enough that they want to**". Pain can be a powerful motivator, but much of the time it does not lead to lasting results. But when a person learns enough; when truth finally outweighs the comfort of a lie brought by a lie, change is inspired in the soul.

HEARING VS KNOWING THE TRUTH

John 8:31-32

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. ESV

Freedom does not come from just hearing truth; it comes from knowing it so deeply that the old way of living no longer makes sense.

2 Kings 22

King Josiah was a good king, but he was reigning according to the limited knowledge he had. For years, the Law of God had been lost, buried under debris in the neglected temple. While repairing it, the High Priest found the Book of the Law.

When the words were read to Josiah, he didn't just gain new information; he learned the magnitude of how far his nation had drifted. He tore his clothes in repentance.

Because he learned the truth of God's covenant with His people, he was inspired to launch the greatest spiritual reformation in Judah's history. He did not change because he was forced by some invading army; he changed because he learned enough about God's holiness to want to be holy.

We often focus on the Prodigal Son's hunger, but the change did not happen just because his stomach was empty. It happened because of what he realized.

Luke 15:17

But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread...'

He learned something about the character of his father that he had forgotten or ignored. He compared his current reality with the reality of his father's house. That realization of his father's wealth is what gave him the courage to get up and walk home. He learned enough about his goodness that he no longer wanted the far country.

THE POWER OF INSIGHT

In the world of science and technology, we see this "learning-to-change" principle constantly. Think about the history of medicine. For centuries, doctors did not wash their hands before surgery because they didn't know about "germ theory". They were not being cruel; they were simply ignorant.

Once the work of Louis Pasteur and Joseph Lister became widely known - once doctors learned enough about the invisible world of bacteria, the medical community was inspired to change their entire practice. They did not need a law to force them to wash. The knowledge of the consequences made them want to change for the sake of their patients' lives.

When we truly learn the "germ theory" of sin and how it infects our joy, and we learn the "healing power" of God's grace, we stop being tolerant of our old habits. We change because we finally understand the stakes.

WHY LEARNING INSPIRES CHANGE

John 8:32

...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ESV

Learning inspires change because it shifts our **values**.

If Exposes the Cost: We realize that our "comfortable" habits are actually costing us our destiny.

If Reveals the Alternative: We see that God has a "better way" that is actually more satisfying than our current way.

If Provides Us with the "How": Often, we don't change because we don't know how. As we learn the Word, God provides the practical steps to walk in a new direction.

Conclusion

If you feel stuck today, perhaps you don't need more willpower; maybe you need more **revelation**.

The Apostle Paul tells us in **Romans 12:2** to **be transformed "by the renewal of your mind**. This means we must be students of the Word. Don't just wait for the "pain" of life to force you into a corner. Dive into the truth revealed by God. Learn enough about His love and His plan for your life that you find yourself saying, "I don't want to live the old way anymore".

Identify one area where you are stuck. Find three scriptures regarding that struggle and read them until you know them. Let the learning ignite the longing for change.

May the God of all wisdom open the eyes of your heart, that you may know the hope to which He has called you and be transformed by His truth.