

The Gospel of Change
January 1, 2005

- 1) Change is your _____ not your _____!
 - a. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "**Do you want to get well?**" John 5:6 NIV
 - b. For this slight momentary **affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. 2 Cor 4:17-18 RSV
 - c. Now I want you to know, brothers, that **what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel**. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Phil 1:12-13 NIV
- 2) Focus on the _____ not the _____, the _____ not the _____.
 - a. I wish I had/was _____.
 - b. When I am not I feel _____.
 - c. The excuse I have is _____.
- 3) I need a deeper _____ before I can say _____.
 - a. So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. **Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you**. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you hypocrites. Let there be tears for the wrong things you have done. James 4:7-9 NLT
 - b. He will flatter those who have violated the covenant and win them over to his side. But **the people who know their God will be strong** and will resist him. Dan 11:32 NLT
 - c. The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces

are constantly fighting each other, and **your choices are never free from this conflict...** But when you are directed by the Holy Spirit, you are no longer subject to the law. But **when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us:** love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law. Gal 5:17-23 NLT

- d. It seems to be a fact 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 law at work within me that is at war with my mind. This law wins the fight and 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? Thank God! **The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord**. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin. So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death. Rom 7:21-8:2 NLT
- 4) My _____ is _____!
 - a. **This is the day** the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. Ps 118:24-25 NIV
 - b. As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you,
 - c. and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, **now is the day** of salvation. 2 Cor 6:1-2 NIV