

## FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

### The Three Battlegrounds Internal

Ecclesiastes 7:20 There is not a single person in all the earth who is always good and never sins.

You will never be sinless on earth but it is possible to sin less

Where My Character Defects Come From

---

---

---

Why Is It So Hard To Change

I Have Had Them So Long

I Identify With Them

My Defects Have A Payoff

Satan Discourages Me

I Don't Want To Change

What Does It Take To Change

Ephesians 4:21-27

Change Requires A \_\_\_\_\_ Understanding Of Truth

21 Since you have heard all about him and have learned the truth that is in Jesus,

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.

17 It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.

1 John 1:6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness. We are not living in the truth.

7 But if we are living in the light of God's presence, just as Christ is, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin.

8 If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth.

9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?"

John 8:31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings.

32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Change Requires A Godly \_\_\_\_\_

22 throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception.

Philippians 2:12 Dearest friends, you were always so careful to follow my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away you must be even more careful to put into action God's saving work in your lives, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.

13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.

Change Requires \_\_\_\_\_ My Thoughts And Attitudes

23 Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes.

Romans 12:2 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 know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.

Romans 15:5 May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other - each with the attitude of Christ Jesus toward the other.

Change Requires \_\_\_\_\_ With The Holy Spirit

24 You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness - righteous, holy, and true.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you.

17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you do, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not be presenting his own ideas; he will be telling you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

14 He will bring me glory by revealing to you whatever he receives from me.

Change Requires Healthy \_\_\_\_\_

25 So put away all falsehood and "tell your neighbor the truth" because we belong to each other.

Galatians 6:2 Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

3 If you think you are too important to help someone in need, you are only fooling yourself. You are really a nobody.

Change Requires \_\_\_\_\_ Temptation

26 And "don't sin by letting anger gain control over you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry,

27 for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil.

1 Corinthians 10:13 But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.