

Making The Hard Changes in Me



CHANGE
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START

Winning The Invisible War Series – Part 4

Ecclesiastes 7:20, James 3:2, Ephesians 4

Anthony Grove Baptist Church

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Ecclesiastes 7:20



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20 Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins.-- (NLT)

James 3:2

² And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.-- (The Msg.)



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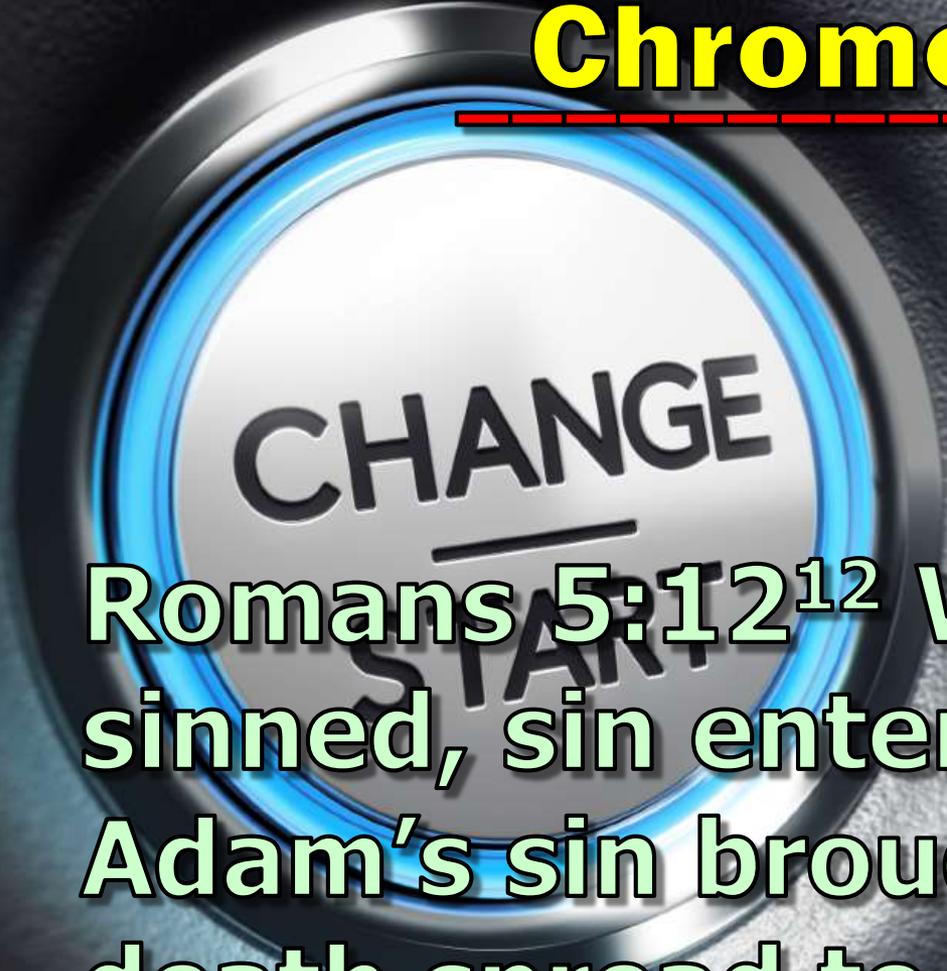
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A close-up photograph of a circular button, likely from a car's interior. The button has a metallic, brushed metal finish and is surrounded by a bright blue, glowing ring. The text "CHANGE" is printed in a bold, sans-serif font above a horizontal line, and "START" is printed below it. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly leather or plastic, with a soft shadow cast by the button.

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***Where Do My Character Defects
Come From?***

1. My Defects Come From Chromosomes.

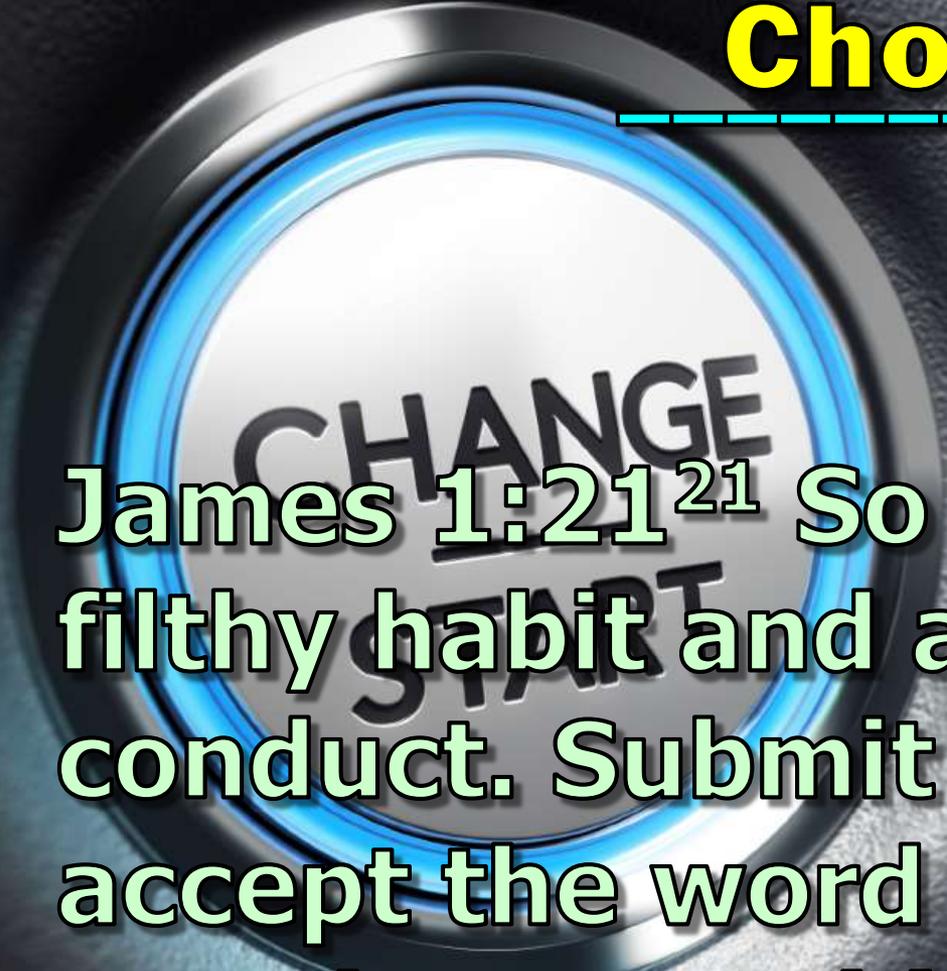
A circular button with a blue glow and the text "CHANGE" and "START". The button is set against a dark, textured background. The text "CHANGE" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, and "START" is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below it. The button has a metallic-looking rim and a blue light effect around its edge.

Romans 5:12¹² When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.-- (NLT)

2. My Defects Come From Circumstances

Genesis 27:34³⁴ When Esau heard his father's words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me—me too, my father!"-- (NIV)

3. My Defects Come From Choices



James 1:21²¹ So get rid of every filthy habit and all wicked conduct. Submit to God and accept the word that he plants in your hearts, which is able to save you.-- (GNB)

Why Is It So Hard To Change Some Defects



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1. Because I Have Had Them Too Long

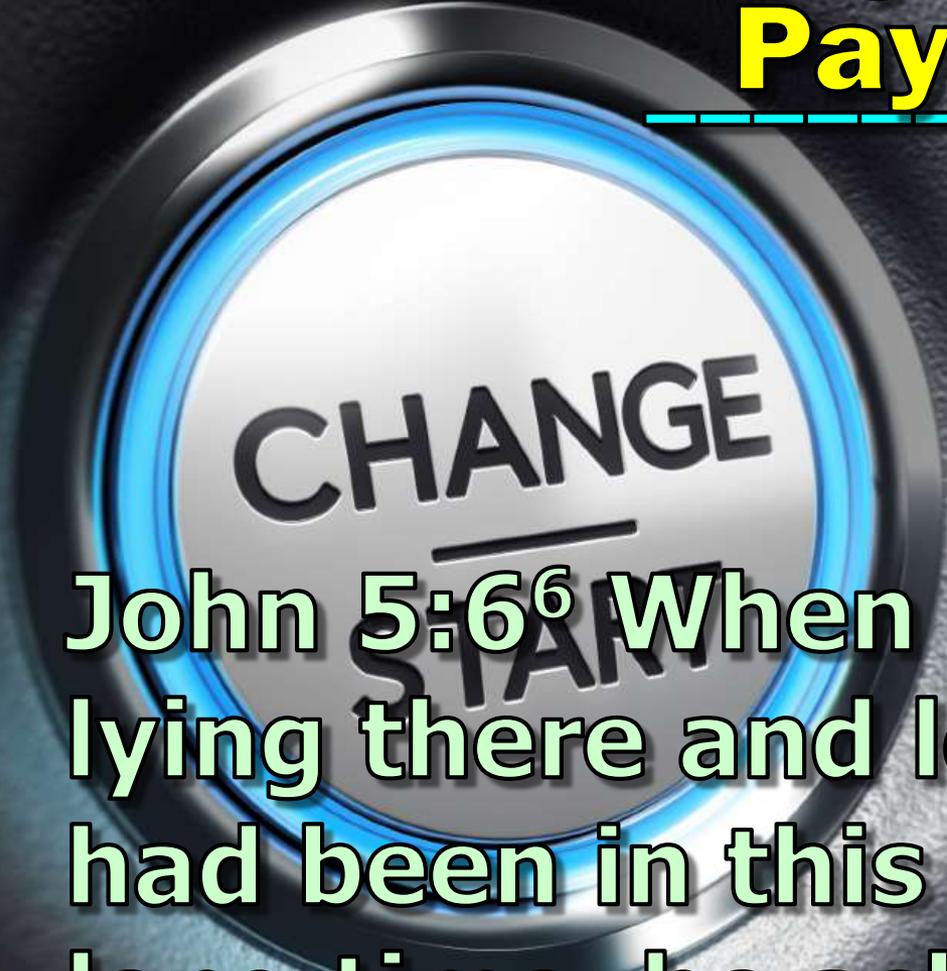
John 5:6⁶ When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, "Would you like to get well?"-- (NLT)

2. Because I Identify With Them



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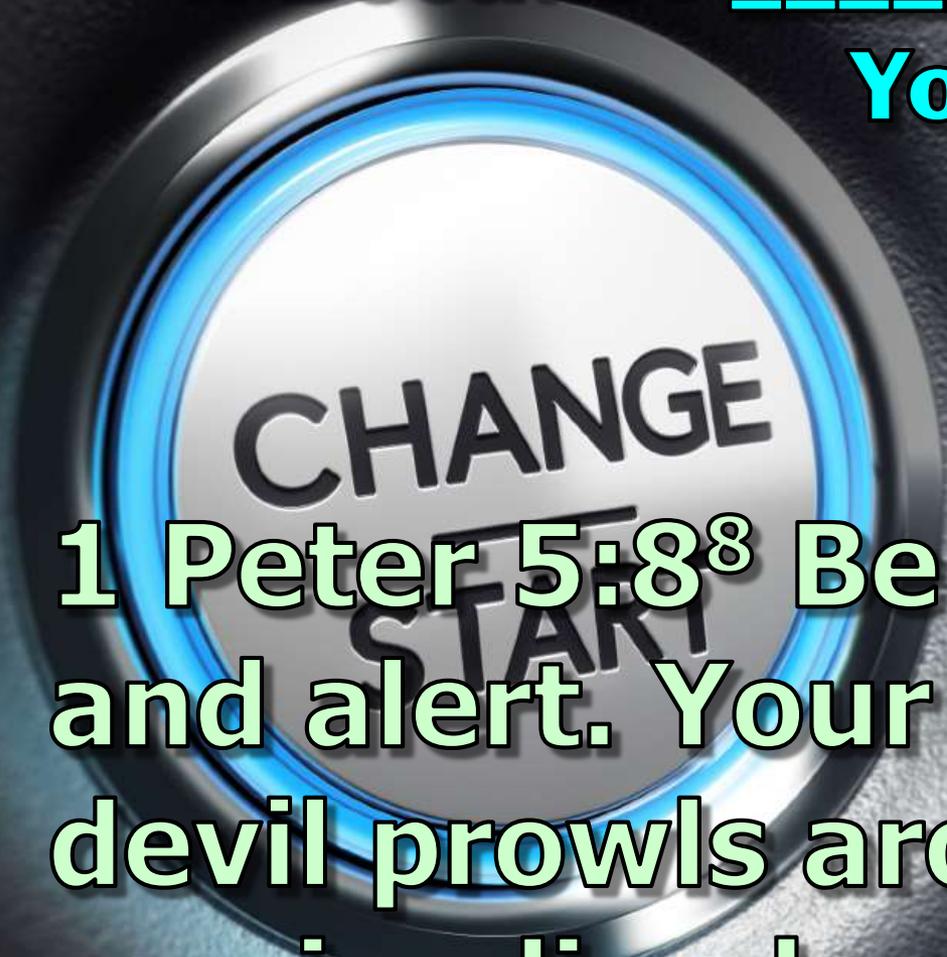
3. Because My Defects Have A Payoff



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John 5:6⁶ 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?"-- (NIV)

4. Because Satan Discourages
You.



1 Peter 5:8⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.-- (NIV)

So What Does It Take To Change?



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1. Change Requires Learning The Truth.

Ephesians 4:21²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, (NLT)

2 Timothy 3:16-17



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 corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.-- (NLT)

2. Change Requires Making Wise Choices.



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Ephesians 4:22²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.-- (NLT)

Philippians 2:12b-13



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

3. Change Requires New Thinking



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Acts 17:30 ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.-- (NIV)

4. Change Requires the Help of The Holy Spirit



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Ephesians 4:24²⁴ Yes, you must be a new and different person, holy and good. Clothe yourself with this new nature.-- (TLB)

2 Corinthians 3:18



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18 So our faces are not covered. They show the bright glory of the Lord, as the Lord's Spirit makes us more and more like our glorious Lord.-- (CEV)

5. Change Requires Honest Community

1 Thessalonians 5:11¹¹

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.-- (NIV)

Proverbs 28:13



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13 People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.-- (NLT)

6. Change Requires Overcoming Temptation.



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Matthew 26:41⁴¹ "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."-- (NIV)

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