

Before I became a Christian and yielded my life to Christ, I often felt as Paul did. I knew what God wanted me to do, and I wanted to live for Him, but the weakness of my will and human nature kept me from carrying out my good intentions.

Then one night in a little old white church, during a revival, the spirit of God brought strong convictions to my heart that the hour of decision had come. I found myself walking down the aisle in response to the invitation. That night I gave my worthless life to God. I sealed that decision that weekend by being baptized publicly and letting everyone know that I belonged to Christ.

That was the turning point of my life. From that time on I have had strength and determination that I never had before. The very night of my baptism the devil sent some of his temptations my way, but I am thankful to say that Christ gave me the power over these temptations. Since then the whole direction of my life has changed. That is not to say that everything has been easy or that I have never failed. There have been trials, but God has given me strength to overcome. What a help He has been in my Christian life!

Several years ago I heard a lady beautifully express her determination to let God have His way in her life. She said, "I have run my life for the last thirty-eight years and have made a mess of it. Now I am going to turn it over to Christ and let Him take control of it. I know that He will do a better job of running it than I ever can."

I want to be completely changed. ☐

I will let Christ control my life. ☐

I will die daily to sin and by God's grace live for Him. ☐

COMMENTS:

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Steps to Eternal Life Needed, A New Heart / 5

Name _____

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Always pray before opening your Bible.

Find the text in your Bible and write the answer.

Billy Graham tells the story of a group of barbers at a convention who decided to demonstrate what their profession could do to change a man. They went down to skid row and found an alcoholic who was the true picture of a derelict. With his cooperation they took him and bathed him, shaved him, styled his hair, and bought him a completely new wardrobe. When they had completed their work of remodeling the "bum," it was hard to believe that the transformed man standing before the convention was the same one they had found on skid row. He looked, smelled, and acted differently. Two days later the man was drunk, lying in a gutter in skid row. He had pawned his new clothes and used the money to buy the liquor which resulted in the return to his old ways.

The barbers had changed his looks but had not been able to change his nature. As someone has said, "You can take a pig, scrub him clean, sprinkle him with perfume, put a ribbon on his tail, and when you turn your back he will be back rolling in the mud." His nature has not been changed.

Through His prophet, God has said that by nature man cannot do that which is good. *Jeremiah 13:23* says, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard change his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to evil."

If we are to obey God and follow Christ's example, there must be a change in our very nature. If we are to live for Christ, we will have to receive power from outside ourselves. Let us see how God says this change will be accomplished.