

# POWER TO CHANGE CIRCUMSTANCES

## “Making the Decision to Change”

(2 Ki 7:3 KJV) And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die?

(2 Ki 7:4 KJV) If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die.

### 1. WE HAVE POWER TO CHANGE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.

1. ***Change is a choice.***
2. ***Accepting our lot in life.***
  1. Born this way.
  2. No breaks in life; no opportunities; victim of circumstances.
  3. Have no luck at all.
3. ***The power of faith to change our circumstances.***
  1. Why sit we here until we die?
  2. Carest whether we perish?

### 2. FAITH IS PRESENT TENSE

1. ***Hope.***
  1. A feeling that what is wanted will happen; desire accompanied by expectation.
  2. Believing something will happen one day.
2. ***Faith brings into present.***
  1. Faith is giving substance to things hoped for.
  2. Faith is the warranty deed that the thing for which you have hoped for is at last yours.
  3. Faith is laying hold of the unrealities of hope and bringing them into the realm of reality.
3. ***Hope compared with faith.***
  1. You hope for finances to meet an obligation; faith gives you the assurance you'll have the money when you need it.
  2. You hope for physical strength to do a job; faith says, "The Lord is the strength of my life."
  3. Faith says the same thing the Word of God says.

### 3. ABRAHAM BELIEVED IN HOPE AGAINST HOPE.

1. ***Continued to have hope though it seemed baseless.***
2. ***Being not weak in faith.***
  1. Considered not his own body now dead nor the deadness of Sara's womb.
  2. Staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief.
  3. Strong in faith, giving glory to God.

4. Fully persuaded what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

4. FAITH IS ACTING ON WORD OF GOD.

1. *Take up thy bed and walk.*
2. *Go wash in the pool of Siloam.*
3. *Noah, build an ark.*
4. *Waters not parted until...*
  1. Moses lifted the rod.
  2. The children of Israel stepped into the water of Jordan.
5. *Daughter, thy faith hath made you whole.*

5. HOW ABRAHAM RECEIVED

1. *Had God's Word.*
2. *Believed God's Word.*
3. *Considered not contradictory circumstances.*
4. *Gave praise to God.*

6. HINDRANCES TO CHANGE.

1. *We enjoy our misery.*
2. *Change demands responsibility.*
  1. Change can be painful.
  2. We would to God we were still in Egypt.

7. DISSATISFACTION GREATEST MOTIVATION FOR CHANGE.

1. *I don't like myself, but I'm going to do something about it.*
2. *I'm tired of my circumstances.*
  1. Tired of being defeated.
  2. Tired of being broke.
  3. Tired of being sick.

8. WE CANNOT CHANGE OURSELVES.

1. *Can a leopard change his spots?* (Jer 13:23 KJV) Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.
2. *Change must be inward.*
3. *Man cannot change the world.*
4. *We make the choice--God makes the changes.*

9. THE PROCESS OF CHANGE.

1. *Deeds - acting.* We're looking for change of behavior.
2. *Words - speaking.*
  1. Changed behavior comes from changed talk.
  2. (Prov 15:4 KJV) A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.
  3. (Prov 18:21 KJV) Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they

that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

4. (1 Pet 3:10 KJV) For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

3. ***Thoughts--thinking.***

1. Changed speaking comes from changed thinking.
2. As a man thinketh in his heart so is he.
3. Be ye transformed (or changed) by the renewing of your mind.
4. (Phil 4:8 KJV) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.