



WELCOME TO
"STARTING POINT"
Laying The Foundation For Growing In Christ

SESSION FOUR: DISCOVERING THE "NEW ME"

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Cor. 5:17

QUESTIONS:

How do I handle the pitfalls in my life? How do I know I have the power to change?

INTRODUCTION:

You have become a Christian. You are fairly certain about that commitment. But you are bothered by some lingering habits from your past. You think, *"I'm a Christian, how come I continue to do these things?"* It is about this time, Satan whispers to you *"You'll never make it in the Christian life: It's too hard and you are too weak. Why don't you just give up?"*

But God promises me victory so:

How do I handle the pitfalls in my life?

1. Control your _____.

a. Realize you are on the _____.

"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6

b. Recognize Jesus Christ has _____ your foe.

"the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work..." 1 John 3:8(b)

c. Reflect on how Jesus would _____ in this situation.

"Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord-Jesus Christ and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." Romans 13:14



d. Remember you are not _____.

'No temptation has seized you except what is common to man...' 1 Corinthians 10:13

2. Control your _____.

a. You can make the _____ choice.

*"I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yield your members to impurity and greater and greater iniquity so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification."
Romans 6:19 (RSV)*

b. You can choose God's _____.

"And God is faithful He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." 1 Corinthians 10:13(b)

c. You can choose the _____ over the _____

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self... and to put on the new self created to be like God in true righteousness and Holiness." Ephesians 4:22,24

3. Control your _____

a. Refuse the appeal for instant _____

"By faith Moses ----- chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time..." Hebrews 11:24(a), 25

b. Recognize the _____ of the temptation.

"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me'... but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire he is dragged away and enticed." James 1:13,14

c. Refuse to feel _____ because you are tempted.

"Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin.... " James 1:15

- But, I've failed so often in the past.



How do I know I have the power to change?

You have the power to change!

1. Because the greatest _____ is within you.

"And what is the immeasurable greatness of His power in us who believe, according to the working of His great might, which He accomplished in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and made Him sit at His right hand in the heavenly places.... " Ephesians 1:19,20 (RSV)

2. Because the Holy Spirit will _____ your right choice.

"...but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live."
Romans 8:13(b)

Let's put our understanding to work.

1. What temptation regularly bothers you?

2. What's God's plan for you?

**STARTING POINT
GROWING IN CHRIST STUDY
SESSION #4**

CASE STUDY::

I get angry quite often. I have been trying to stop it because the Bible says, *"The anger of man does not work the righteous of God"*. I pray about it, but I don't see much change. I still get angry with my spouse, the kids, colleagues at work and some of those jerks on I285. I'm starting to think "what's the use of trying." The Christian Life is just too difficult.

Case Questions:



Why hasn't this person experienced the "New Me"?

2. Using the information in this session, how would you counsel this person to:

(i) Manage his anger:

(ii) Rekindle his desire to try again:

(iii) Believe he can have a better tomorrow:

3. Do you know a Christian who is having a difficult time letting go of a bad habit?

Based on our discussion, how would you counsel your friend?
