

# I Want to Change

by Janet Gehlhar

I want to be the person God wants me to be. Why is that so hard? I tell myself that today will be different and I won't continue with my sinful habits and yet that is exactly what I do. I totally get Paul when he writes in Romans 7:19 . . . *For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.*



How can I change? God's instructional manual tells us in

James 4:7-8 . . . *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

It begins with my mind. What thoughts do I allow to take up space? What do I read, watch on TV, or listen to? I have choices. Hmm . . . turn off the TV? Turn on some Christian music? Decorate my home with art that reminds me of Jesus? Read my Bible? Pray throughout the day? In 2 Corinthians 10:5 we are encouraged to . . . *take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

At times, Satan pops some sinful idea into my mind and I wonder from where it came. I now recognize that he is trying to distract me from God and the things I want to do for God. I'm overwhelmed. I can't fight this battle alone. Exactly. What a blessing that Almighty God is on our side! He forgives us and fights for us.

Today I will focus my mind on God and His ways. When temptations come, I will pray for God's strength and ask Him to come near so the devil will flee.



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**Season:** Lent/ Pentecost

**Video:** 12. Busy! Busy! Busy!

**Devotions:** 46. Stuck on a Plateau by Christine Wentzel

47. New and Exciting! by Karen Maio

57. CHANGE by Carolyn Webb

72. He Changed the World Forever by Karen Spiegelberg

89. Living a Thank-filled Life by Tracy Hankwitz

174. Bring it on! by Christine Wentzel

**Prayer:** 42. Distraction by Diana Kerr

**Super Girl:** 98. "Change" is a four letter word to many Christians...

**Scripture References:** Mark 5:5; Romans 7:15; Ephesians 4:27; Ephesians 6:11,13;

1 Peter 5:6,8,9; Isaiah 2:11; Jeremiah 23:29; 2 Corinthians 9:13; 2 Corinthians 11:20;

Philippians 4:7

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