

YOU CAN CHANGE AND OVERCOME YOUR PROBLEMS

1. There is real hope | Your problem can be overcome for good.
2. There is hope, because it is not a human way but God's way (John 3:16).
3. Three conditions must be met: 1) You must know God personally to receive help; 2) Alleviating your problem is not the goal - pleasing God is; 3) You must do exactly what He says, regardless of how you feel.
4. Your problem can be defeated by God's directions and by the power that He gives through His Holy Spirit to enable those who know Him to follow His Word.
5. Why is all this necessary? Because God's blessing is necessary to begin with, and because you must be on speaking terms with Him.
6. Again, why is this necessary? Because we were all born in sin. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Only Jesus was without sin (Romans 5:8).
7. None of us has ever met a perfect person: yet God is a holy God, and He dwells in perfect righteousness. We are alienated from Him.
8. We have not obeyed His commandments. He said, "You must not lie," but we all have lied. He said, "You must not steal," but we have all stolen.
9. Disobedience has put us in jeopardy. God is not only holy, but He is also a just Judge.
10. Our judgment was to suffer punishments for our sins.
11. But in His mercy, He provided forgiveness from sins in Christ. If we accept Christ, we share in God's blessings (Revelation 3:20).
12. How do we get to know God? Through faith in Jesus Christ. Because we could not free ourselves from sin (Romans 3:23; 6:23), God provided forgiveness by sending His Son to die in our place.
13. Jesus took the punishment that we deserved for our sins (John 1 :12; Colossians 1:14).
14. When we recognize our perilous situation before God, are truly sorry for our rebellious lives and depend upon Jesus' death on the cross (Romans 10:13);
15. God saves (rescues) us from eternal punishment. He no longer considers us guilty for our sin and accepts us as friends (1 John 1 :9).
16. God is not merely our Judge from then on; but also, our loving heavenly Father (Philippians 1 :6).
17. For those who come to know Him this way, He makes and keeps the promises that He has revealed in the Bible (1 Corinthians 10:13).

18. Refer to John 3:16; Romans 4:4-5; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:8-9; and 1 Peter 5:7 to see some of the promises God has made.

19. The Bible is God's basic textbook for living (2 Peter 1:3).

20. There is hope because God will give you grace and strength to change. Every insistence upon change implies hope, "As obedient children do not be conformed to former lusts... but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior" (1 Peter 1:14-15). "You must walk no longer as the heathen walk" (Ephesians 4:17). "Grow by grace, even by the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:18).

21. Paul told the Galatians that we did not begin the Christian life by grace, only to complete it by our own efforts (Galatians 3:3). Rather, it is all a result of grace, beginning and completion alike.

22. Scripture alone points the way to change (2 Timothy 3:16). By teaching, we learn the standard for faith and life. By conviction, we are shown how we have failed to measure up. By training in righteousness, we discover how to quit our old habits and learn a new way of life (Ephesians 4:25-32).

23. Go now to the outline on Commitment on the next page.

Scriptures related to the new birth: John 1:12-13; 3:16; 5:24; 10:9-10; 14:6; Romans 3:23-24; 5:8; 6:23; 8:16; 10:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; 3:3; 4:6; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:15-16; 11:6; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 1:9; 3:1; 5: 11-13; and Revelation 3:20.