

**GSM**  
**We Live By Faith**  
**How to Make a Positive Change**

**I. Faith is positive**

A. (Phm 1:6 HCSB) *I pray that your participation in the faith may become effective through knowing every good thing that is in us for the glory of Christ.*

1. Religion teaches in order to advance in the faith we are to acknowledge all the bad in us and try to eliminate it.
2. However, God always overcomes negatives with positives.
3. **Gal. 5:16**- Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh- Many are trying to deal with the flesh so that the Spirit will fill them. By being filled with the Spirit the flesh is overcome.

B. Accentuate the positive

1. **Gen. 1:3**- Light be, not darkness leave!
2. Jesus spoke positive outcomes that drove out negative situations- Be healed-sickness left
3. Faith taps into the power of God when we receive grace. Grace is always positive for the believer. The grace of God to the unbeliever eliminated their negatives, but grace to the believer supplies us with positives.

C. Most people are busy trying to eliminate the negatives of their lives. They are trying to stop things. This is called changing negatively.

1. They are trying to stop wrong actions, habits, emotions, tendencies and thoughts
2. They are living to eliminate the negatives with the hopes that positives will come.
3. They end up spinning their wheels! Why?

D. Simple math

1. If you start with a [-100] and eliminate the negative what are you left with? A big 0.
2. People are left with nothing when their goal is eliminating negatives. This is why most diets fail. **They are focused on eliminating the extra pounds and when they do, they stop doing what they were doing and it comes back.**
3. However, you can automatically eliminate negatives by focusing on and adding positives.

- E. How do you now you are trying to change negatively?
  - 1. Are you busy trying to stop something in your life?
  - 2. Are you working at trying to get rid of something?
  - 3. Are you trying to remove something from your life?
  - 4. If so, you are trying to change negatively!
  - 5. **Romans 12:21**- You overcome evil with good!

## II. **The cross and resurrection**

- A. Many people are trying to eliminate the negative things of the **flesh, world, and the devil** from their lives. They are ignorant that God has already done this for us by grace. He did it by the cross of Jesus Christ
- B. **The cross was the ultimate eraser or eliminator!**
  - 1. **Romans 6:6-7**- The cross eliminated your **old man** – **Galatians 5:24**- The cross dealt with the negative things in you including your flesh! **Romans 6:11**
  - 2. **Galatians 6:14**- The **world** has been crucified to me. The cross eliminated the world's control on you. You don't have to live by the world system and it's principles
  - 3. **Colossians 2:14-15**- The cross freed us from **Satan's** authority and arsenal. Satan used the broken commandments as weapons against us. He was disarmed when Jesus fulfilled the Law for us and took the penalty for our sins.
- C. If we do not believe the cross dealt with these negatives it **leaves us no other option than to try to do it ourselves!**
- D. We find victory over our past when we conduct a proper funeral of our old man. A good way for you to know if you believe your old man died is if you are still struggling to change him. Dead people do not struggle to change! They are dead!
- E. The cross is powerful but that was not all we needed! If we had just our negatives erased we would be left with break even.
- F. **The resurrection is the greatest positive in the universe.** By the resurrection we received the very nature of God on the inside of us to be manifested in us and through us by faith.
- G. Ex. **Anger**- Many people try to deal with their anger and try to eliminate it
  - 1. count to ten, walk away, scream into a pillow, bite their tongue [now they need healing],

2. Instead we must reckon ourselves to having died to unrighteous anger. **Romans 6:11** When Jesus died our old angry nature died in Him. **Romans 6:6** Thus we were freed from the sin of anger. **Romans 6:7**
  3. We need to ask God for revelation on what lies we are believing. Our emotions and actions are tied to what we think on and believe. We then need to replace the lie with the truth. The lie is replaced by truth! Bad is overcome with good [truth]. Usually the lie is tied to a faulty understanding of God and our self. The truth will be based in the finished work of Christ.
  4. We are to acknowledge the positive resource given to us by the resurrection- the **love of God** has been shed abroad in our hearts. **Romans 5:5** We thank God for this love and ask God to love in us and through us. We then act on our faith.
- H. **Imputed righteousness vs. Imparted righteousness**- Many only understand imputed righteousness- They think God merely sees them through the blood but they still are the same old sinner underneath. This is car wash theology. They are cleaned up on the outside but still are the same old clunker under the hood. Therefore they feel it is up to them to change themselves and eliminate all the bad. They just understand sins are paid for, the negatives are gone. However, dynamic and authentic Christianity is found in appropriating imparted positive righteousness- the nature of God Himself.
- I. We not only got washed but we also got a new engine! We received imparted righteousness!
- a. **Ephesians 4:24**
- J. God deals with the principle of displacement. Light displaces the darkness. The Spirit displaces the flesh. Love displaces hate. Righteousness displaces unrighteousness. The word addiction comes directly from the Greek word **adikia**- unrighteousness. When we grasp righteousness at the heart level then addictions will be replaced by righteousness!
- K. **Philemon 6**- our faith to operate and receive the positives of grace is made effective when we acknowledge all the good that is in us by Jesus Christ!