

CHIEF MINISTRIES

July 2025

Greetings to all of you!

Just like we do a spring cleaning in our homes, it's important to do a spring cleaning in our minds, but it's not always a "one and done" that lasts throughout the year. For transformation to happen in your life, there are going to be some bad habits you'll need to clear out regularly because they're slowing you down. Hebrews 12:1 says, "*We must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us. We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up*" (GW). Our goal in this journey, or as Paul referred to it "the race," is easily thwarted because the enemy doesn't want us to finish it serving the Lord. He wants us to continue in our old ways and not be transformed into the godly men and women that the Lord has called us to be. God gave us free will, which means we have a choice in what we do and whom we serve! Yes, God loves us, but He doesn't love the sin we are in, and that is where we have to make a conscious decision on how we live and what we allow into our lives.

Have you noticed that it's easier to pick up bad habits than it is to get rid of them? There are four reasons why it's so hard to clean out your bad habits:

- **Because you've had them a long time.** You didn't collect your habits, hurts, and hang-ups overnight. Many of these patterns were established in childhood, patterns that started as survival skills. They might not be helping you now, but they're familiar, so you hang on to them. Sometimes it is what was "normal" in your home growing up. For instance, if you were raised by a single parent and didn't have the other gender to model your behavior by, then it may be difficult for you to even relate to what your god given role should be in the family or in a relationship. Or say, you were raised in a two-parent home but drugs and alcohol were used/abused, or there was emotional/physical/sexual abuse as part of your everyday life. That becomes "normal." As you grow up, you find yourself in the same type of situations and relationships. Frequently treating others as you have been treated or being treated as you have seen the adults in your home treated. This leads to the next reason.....
- **Because you identify with them.** We often confuse our identity with our defects, we're aggressive or a workaholic or an overeater. And when we see ourselves in a certain way, we set up a self-fulfilling prophecy, and we have an unconscious fear of change. We wonder, "If I change, then who will I be?" You say, "Why?, Would I do that when I hated being treated that way or seeing others in my family treated that way?" Well, again, if you are told often enough that you are a certain way, or will never amount to anything, you start to believe it, especially if the people who are telling you are the ones that are closest to you, after all they should know, right? Well, not really, "hurting people hurt people" (call this a free nugget of truth). Now for the third reason.....
- **Because they have a payoff.** Whatever gets rewarded gets repeated. Sometimes we reward negative behavior because it masks our pain or gives us an excuse to fail, or gets us some

attention. The fear of change can cause turmoil in one's life. Think about when you first decided to serve the Lord, was your friends happy with you? Was your family? If you are one of the fortunate ones, then yes, and you started your journey with support in your transformation. However, most of us, that was not the case. I can tell you now, it is worth it, at the time not so much..... And lastly.....

- **Because satan fights it.** Satan doesn't want you to be transformed and set free. So the moment you get serious about changing, he starts whispering to you, "Who do you think you are? You can't change. You've tried to change in the past; it won't work. You may as well give up!" This is the most challenging one. Satan knows the calling and destiny the Lord has for you, he knows the giftings. That is why, and how he can trip us up. Especially when it comes to our giftings. Where do you think pride comes from?

Now that we've identified and recognized the things that need to change, let's look at ways to reach that change.

We all get to make our own plans about how we live our lives. But it's only through God that we have the power and energy to actually make transformation happen. Proverbs 16:9 says, "*We plan the way we want to live, but only GOD makes us able to live it.*"

There are three things you need to reach your goals and change your life—and only God can provide them.

- **You need God's Spirit to empower you.** God's Spirit can help you make changes you can't make on your own. Change isn't the result of willpower; it comes through God's power. It's not based on trying; it's based on trusting. Zechariah 4:6 says, "*You will not succeed by your own strength or by your own power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD All-Powerful*" (NCV).
- **You need God's Word to guide you.** The Bible is the owner's manual for life. The more you read it, study it, memorize it, and meditate on it, the more successful and fulfilled you're going to be. When Joshua was given the great dream of taking over the Promised Land, a goal that was going to take him the rest of his life to reach, God had these words for him: "*This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will achieve success*" (Joshua 1:8 NASB).
- **You need God's people to support you.** You will not be able to reach your goals on your own. It takes a team to fulfill a dream! A crowd can't support you, but a small group can. They know when you're sick, when you're having a tough time, and when you need a break. You can share your goals and your successes and failures, and they will rejoice with you and encourage you to keep going. You're going to need that kind of support as you make the right kind of goals and pursue them wholeheartedly. In Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, "*By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped.*"

You can make plans and set goals, but only God can give you the strength, direction, and support you need to live the life he's called you to. "*God can do anything, you know, far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!*" Ephesians 3:20 (MSG). The Bible tells us that Jesus set goals. In fact, He often announced publicly what His goal was for the next phase of His ministry. So why should you set goals?

- **You need to set goals because it is a spiritual responsibility.** If you don't have goals, you have already decided to let other people run your life. In other words, when you don't decide in advance what's important, you're letting other people decide for you. You end up wasting your life because you never clarify how you want to grow as a follower of Christ. The Bible says that to be spiritually mature, you have to set a goal and move toward it, always keeping your eyes focused on it. The apostle Paul said it this way: *"I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize. . . . I run toward the goal, so that I can win the prize of being called to heaven. This is the prize that God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done. All of us who are mature should think in this same way"* (Philippians 3:12, 14-15 CEV).
- **You need to set goals because they are statements of faith.** If you're a believer in Jesus Christ and you set a goal, you're saying, "I believe that God wants me to accomplish *this* by *this* time. *This* is what I believe God is going to do in my life." Goals aren't just statements of faith; they also stretch your faith. The bigger your goal, the more your faith will be stretched. And that pleases God. Ephesians 3:20 says, *"God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!"* (MSG).
- **You need to set goals because they focus your energy.** Focus is the key to an effective life. If your energy is scattered across too many things, you end up making little to no impact. But if you focus your life, it's going to be powerful, and it can change the world. You don't have time to do everything. But here's the good news: God doesn't expect you to do everything! The key to being effective in life as a woman or man of God is to do what matters most and forget everything else. Goals help you maintain that kind of focus. That's why Paul put it this way about living with focus and purpose: *"I do not run without a goal. I fight like a boxer who is hitting something—not just the air"* (1 Corinthians 9:26 NCV).

Cleaning house in your mind is never easy. It takes time, so you will have to be patient. You will have to remind yourself of your new identity in Christ. You've got to remind yourself of a better and bigger payoff like the joy that comes from having a forever relationship with Jesus Christ. And you'll have to rely on the Holy Spirit, whose power in you is greater than satan's attacks. Choosing this kind of mindset every day will lead to healthy living and a lighter load as you run the race God has for you. So, how do we do this?

So stay focused on your goals and ask God to guide as you commit to living out His purpose for your life.

Praying for you all, blessings and peace be with you always.

Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to www.chiefministries.com

Christ's Heart In Every Felon



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