



1. The Gospel Proves We Can't Change by our Own _____

- People can change some behaviors through will power — but not their _____.
- **Ezekiel 36:25-27** - God doesn't just want to change our evil behaviors, but the evil _____ underneath those behaviors. (**Galatians 2:21b**)
 - **Romans 7:14-20, 24** - It's not that Paul can't keep ANY of God's laws, but that he can't keep ALL of them, so he ends up condemned as guilty. He knows the right thing to do, but the evil desires in his heart draw him away from doing it!
 - We are FAR more evil than we're willing to admit, and trying to change by will power leads to one of two outcomes:
 - A) We'll be crushed by _____
 - B) We'll be deceived by _____
 - **Irony:** Attempted righteousness through will power makes our evil hearts worse by filling us with fear, anger, self-righteousness, and pride.

2. The Gospel Gives us the Power to Fully _____ our Evil

- **Acts 26:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:9; 1 Timothy 1:15**
- Without the power to admit how evil we are, we'll either never change or the change will be _____.
 - People crushed by despair can't fully confess their evil because it's too _____.
 - The gospel fully exposes their evil while lifting off its crushing weight! (**Romans 8:1; 1 Peter 2:24**)
 - The gospel simultaneously says you're far more evil than you realize and far more _____ than you realize!
 - People deceived by pride can't fully confess their evil because it harms their self-image.
 - The gospel strips our pride as we stand at the foot of the cross and realize, "I put Him there."
 - The gospel HAS to _____ expose our sin, or it's powerless to change us!
 - **Matthew 4:17** - "Jesus came to get what we deserved so we could get what He deserved." (**2 Corinthians 5:21**)

3. The Gospel Changes the _____ of our Heart

- **Romans 8:6-9** - The key to change is to desire something higher and more important than your lower evil desires.
- People who aren't even Christians can make changes this way — but all their higher desires are rooted in _____. Their changes become a way to control the outcomes in life, which means it won't last if things don't go as planned.
 - Christians do this too! We're only changing out of fear, a desire for _____, or for God to make things better for us. So it doesn't last, or if it does, it just feels like a burden.
- The gospel makes pleasing God, not ourselves, the strongest desire of our heart! (**2 Corinthians 5:9; Philippians 3:9-10**) It makes us want to give our whole hearts to the God who gave His whole heart to us!
 - **Key:** The more God becomes our greatest desire, the more the lower desires behind our sins are _____. Christian growth is about God becoming the greatest desire of our heart. When that happens, our behaviors will change too — but it'll all be by God's power, not ours.