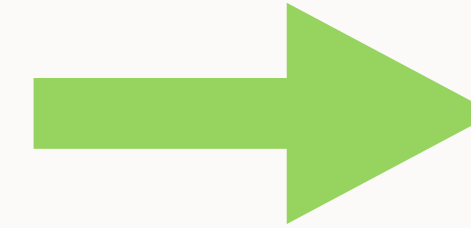


Victory

# The Journey So Far

## CELEBRATE RECOVERY 8 PRINCIPLES OF RECOVERY

- R**ealize I'm not God.
- E**arnestly believe that God exists.
- C**onsciously choose to commit.
- O**penly examine, confess my faults.
- V**oluntarily submit to God.
- E**valuate all my relationships.
- R**eserve a daily time with God.
- Y**ield myself to God for his use.



Principle 5: **Voluntarily** submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly **ask Him** to remove my character defects.

*“Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires.” (Matthew 5:6)*

Step 6: We were entirely ready **to have God remove** all these defects of character.

*“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” (James 4:10)*

Step 7: We humbly **asked Him to remove** all our shortcomings.

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)*

# How Can You Have Victory?

**V**oluntarily submit

**I**dentify character defects

**C**hange your mind

**T**urn over character defects

**O**ne day at a time

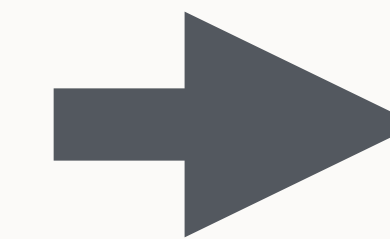
**R**ecovery is a process

**Y**ou must choose to change

# Voluntarily Submit

VOLUNTARILY submit to every change God wants me to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my shortcomings

*“Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him.... Let **God** transform you inwardly by a **complete change of your mind**” (Romans 12:1 – 2, GNT)*

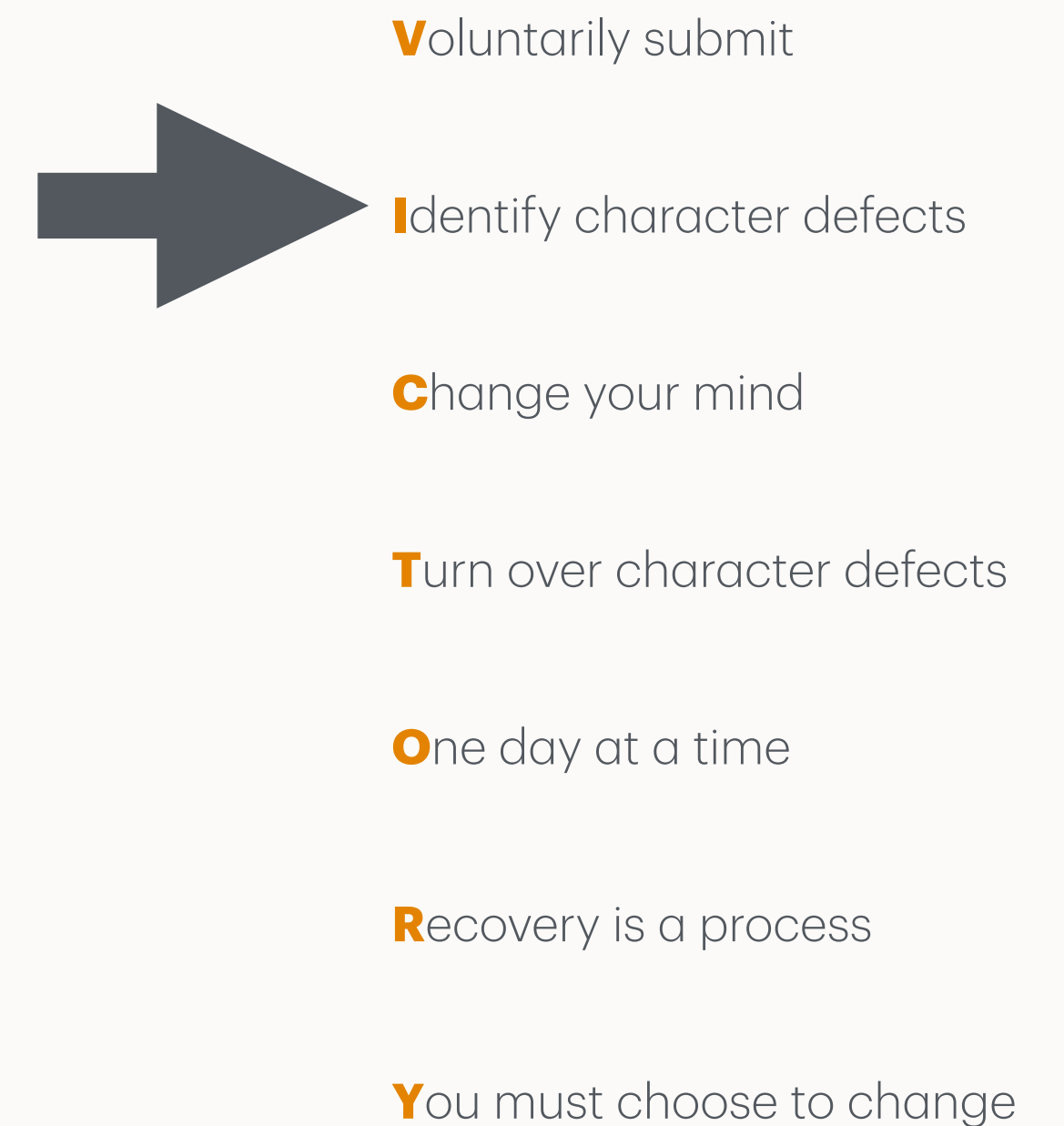


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# Identify Defects

- Go to your inventory and look for the character defects, sins, or messed up thinking you saw there
- What causes you the most pain?
- Identify those defects as the ones you want to focus on first
- Be specific and ask God to remove those!

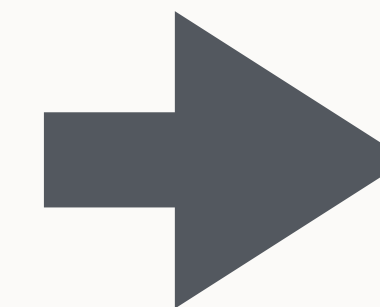
“In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps” (Proverbs 16:9)



# Change Your Mind

- God wants to change more than just our *behaviors*. He wants to change the way we **think**.
- He wants for us to live a life of abundance and victory
- Simply changing behaviors is like trimming the weeds in a garden instead of removing them. Weeds always grow back unless they are pulled out by the roots.

*For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord, 'plans for well-being and not for trouble, to give you a future and a hope.  
Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)*

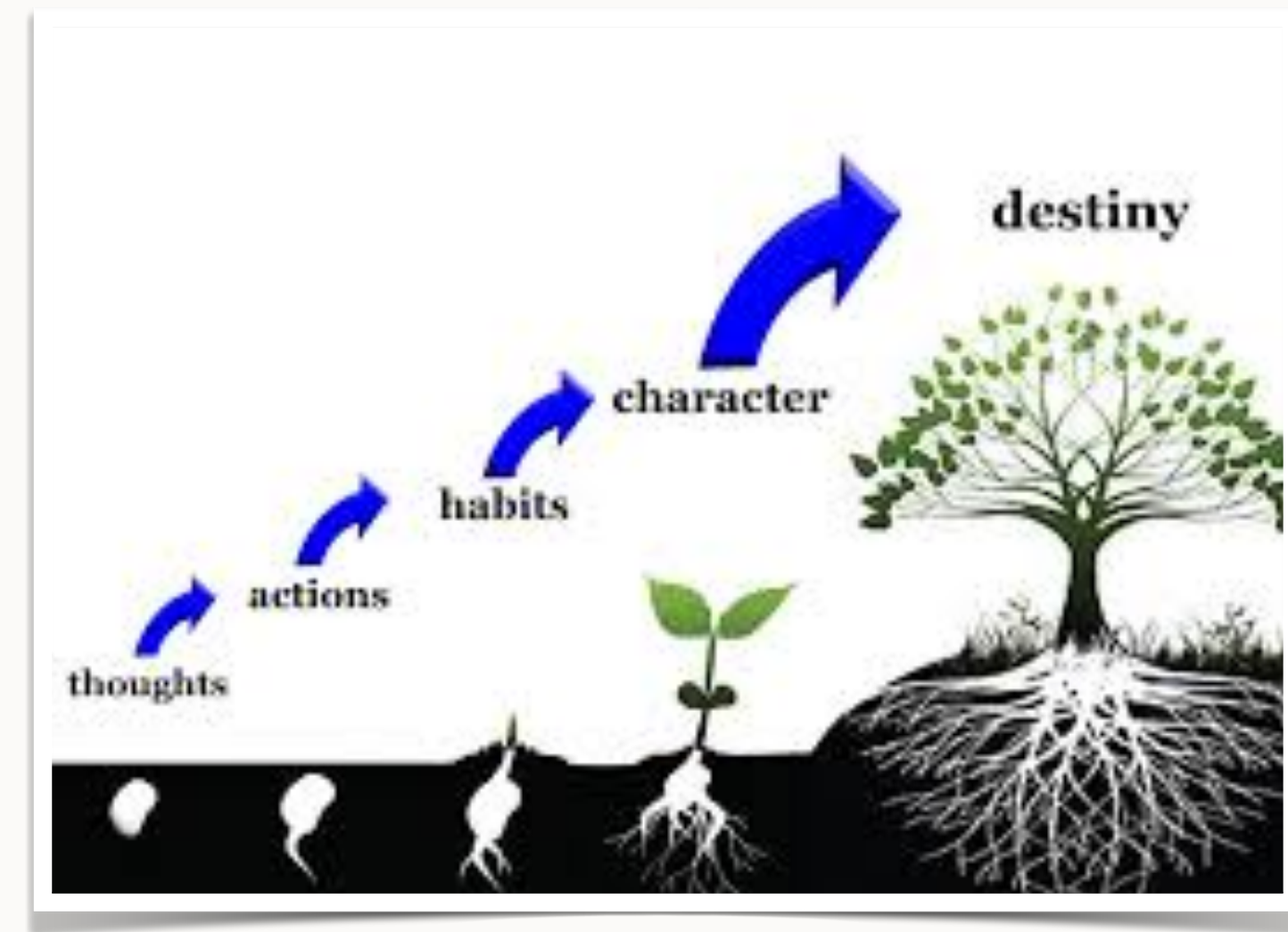


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# Change Your Mind

*“He who doubts is thinking two different things at the same time. He cannot decide about anything he does. A person like that should not think that he will receive anything from the Lord.” (James 1:7-8, ICB)*

*Romans 12:2: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

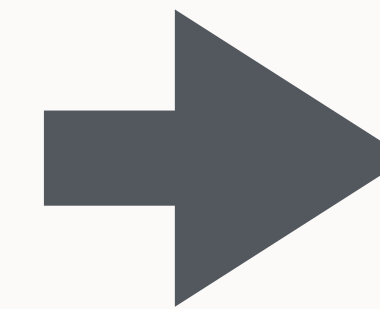




# Turn Over the Defects

- Turn your character defects, dysfunctional thoughts, messed up actions to God
- Relying on your own willpower, your own self-will, has blocked your recovery.
- We need HUMILITY - seeing ourselves and our situations through God's eyes- the truth

IF you “humble yourselves before the Lord, . . . he will lift you up” (James 4:10)



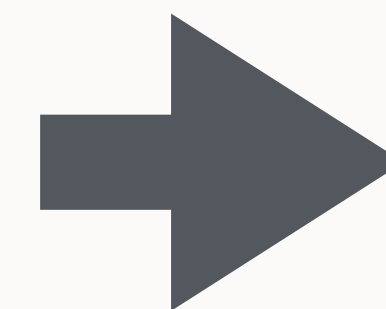
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# One Day at a Time

- Your character defects were not developed overnight, so don't expect them to be instantly removed
- Recovery happens one day at a time!
- 24 hour increments work best
- God is I AM, not I ~~was~~ or I ~~will be~~. His **power** is **only available to be used today.**
- **STOP** trying to drag God to your past or into the future. Admit you can't do that and cooperate with his Spirit today to bring the change he wants to give you
- When we live in the **now** with his power, life is not that hard.

*"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the **unforced** rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to **live freely and lightly.**" (Matthew 11:28-30 MSG)*

*"So don't be anxious about tomorrow, God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live **one day at a time**" (Matthew 6:34, TLB)*



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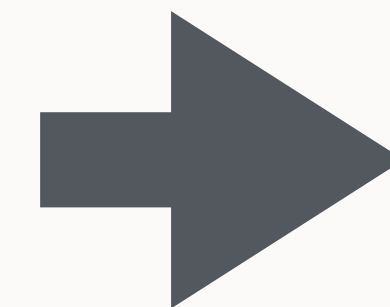
# Recovery is a Process

- Celebrate small wins along the way
- Don't look for perfection - Seek to be patient as you improve
- If you let God start the work, he promises to finish it!



*"And I am sure that God who began a good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns" (Philippians 1:6, TLB)*

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# You Must Choose to Change

- You can't do it for yourself at the same time as letting a Jesus do it, it's impossible. Give him the wheel!
- Submit to every change God wants you to make in your life and humbly ask Him to remove your shortcomings.
- God is waiting to turn your weaknesses into strengths.
- All you need to do is humbly ask!

*"God gives strength to the humble, . . . so give yourselves humbly to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. And when you draw close to God, God will draw close to you" (James 4:6 – 8, TLB)*



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# Wrap Up

- To make changes in our lives, all I had to do and all you need to do is to be entirely ready to let God be the life-changer.
- *Let go* of the HOW and WHEN
- All we have to be is ready! All you need to do is humbly ask!
- Tonight, Jesus is asking you, “Do you want to be healed, do you want to change?” You must choose to change.

*“Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, “This is the way you should go,” whether to the right or to the left.”*

*Isaiah 30:21 NLT*



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