

'Awakening to My Challenges'

"Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God." ~ Romans 6:13

Where do 'My Challenges' come from?

Our culture says:

1. **DNA**
2. **Environment**
3. The Bible says: **My Choices**

Why is it a 'Challenge' to break these bad habits?

1. I've had them **for a long time**.
2. I can **identify with them**.
3. They have a **payoff**.
4. **Satan** discourages it.
"Christians tend to make one of two mistakes about Satan. The first mistake is to think he has more power over us than he really does. The second mistake is to think that he has no influence over us at all." (C. S. Lewis)

Seven things to work on in 2011

1. Work on changing **one habit at a time**.
"Wisdom is directly in front of an understanding person, but the eyes of a fool are looking around all over the world."
~ Proverbs 17:24
2. Work on victory **one day at a time**.
"Give us this day our daily bread." ~ Matthew 6:11
"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."
~ Matthew 6:34

3. Work on focusing on **God's power** not on your **will power**.

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up."
~ James 4:

4. Work on looking at **the right things**.
"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things."
~ Philippians 4
"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
~ Romans 8
"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."
~ 2 Timothy 1
"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
~ Philippians 4:
5. Work on **doing good** not **feeling good**.
"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."
~ Galatians 5:
6. Work with associating around people who **help me**, not **hinder me**.
"Bad company corrupts good character." ~ 1 Corinthians 15:
"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."
~ Proverbs 27:
7. Work on **progress** not **perfection**.