



## Worldview Transformation Series

*Season Two ~ Disk 21 ~ Episode 2  
One More Night with the Frogs ~ Futility*



### Video Summary

The lush jungles of Costa Rica are the backdrop in our search for the elusive Golden Toad. In our conservative, eco-wacko environment, any species that is endangered, or on the verge of going extinct, is a protected and highly-prized item.

This was the scenario as Chad and Chris ventured into the jungles in search of this toad. Last seen in the early '90s, the fate of this toad is unknown. The pursuit of this elusive amphibian and the futility found in Chad and Chris's efforts make for an eye-opening episode on what it means to pursue something, even to the point of self-sacrifice.

The choice to spend one more night looking for this frog costs them both time, and potentially even their lives. Even after they continually hit dead end after dead end, they choose to look one more time. As tempers flare and tension builds, Chad and Chris are overwhelmed with the harsh reality that 90% of their efforts have been in vain. Not only are they broke, but discouraged and humiliated. Chad's latest revelation to Chris not only scares him but puts him in a situation that he never thought would happen again.



### Icebreaker

Even Frogs Need a Loan

There once was a small frog that needed a loan to buy a new car. He went in to see the loan officer, Mr. Patrick Whack. "I'd like to have a loan," the frog said timidly. The loan officer said: "Well, do you have any collateral?" "Well," said the frog, "all I have is this small golden charm that has been in the family for years. Will it do?" The loan officer wasn't sure so he went in to see the bank manager. "There is this small frog outside who needs to buy a new car, and the only collateral he has is this," and he handed the charm to the bank manager. The bank manager looked at the charm and said:

"It's a knick-knack, Paddy Whack, give the frog a loan!"



### Primary Lesson

Futility: uselessness as a consequence of having no practical result

This lesson continues to look into man's procrastination concerning every issue in life. The Bible continually warns us that we need to make right choices even though our flesh and the world around us state otherwise. God always wants to help and guide us through life's most challenging choices, but our nature and flesh choose to put them off until tomorrow. Our good intentions and plans for change are never good enough; we must make a choice today!

Obsessive, compulsive and stubborn are the words that describe this second half of our search for the Golden Toad. Just like Pharaoh, Chad and Chris find themselves being pushed by many different emotions and thoughts as they put life and limb on the line to achieve their goal. As their search goes from bad to worse, the temptation is to keep going, if even for just one more day. Even though all indications are that they are attempting the impossible, that one thought that it could all turn around tomorrow haunts them continually. We have to make a choice, one radical decision, that will break the cycle of futility in our lives. If we choose to spend even one more night with our vain efforts, sin and stubbornness, we will not only find ourselves confused, but trapped in a cycle that turns "one more night" into a series of long days, months and years that waste the life and motivation that God has given us.



## Facts, Figures & Illustrations

### Frogs

Frogs have very special skin! They don't just wear it, they drink and breathe through it.

Frogs don't usually swallow water like we do. Instead they absorb most of the moisture they need through their skin. Not only that, but frogs also rely on getting extra oxygen (in addition to what they get from their lungs) from the water by absorbing it through their skin. Because frogs get oxygen through their skin when it's moist, they need to take care of their skin or they might suffocate. Sometimes you'll find frogs that are slimy. This is because the frog skin secretes a mucus that helps keep it moist. Even with the slimy skin, these frogs need to stay near water. Toads, on the other hand, have tougher skin that doesn't dry out as fast, so they can live farther from water than most frogs.

Why do frogs sing? Well, it's actually for a variety of reasons!

- When they are trying to attract a mate.
- To mark their territory.
- Because they know the weather is going to change.
- Frogs squeak when they are frightened or hurt.

Frogs are becoming particularly important as factors in measuring the health of the global environment and in tracking how much ultra-violet light gets into our atmosphere. For some years now, it has been noted that worldwide frog populations have been declining. Many species are on the verge of extinction, while others are thriving well. Only recently has this frog population change been linked to, not only a decrease in upper atmospheric ozone layer, but also an increase in low-atmosphere ozone due to pollution. Frogs in the environment are a true sign of a well balanced ecosystem. When the frogs are sick, you can bet that the environment is sick as well.

- Toads often have puffy looking pockets called paratoid glands located behind the ear that squirt poison at potential predators. So, if you've ever hear a dog "scream" after picking up an American Toad, now you know what happened!

In China, they see the "toad", not the "man" of the moon. The toad is also considered one of the five poisons of yin. They say that eclipses happen when the "toad in the moon" tries to swallow the moon itself!

Some less enlightened people associate frogs, and toads in particular, as evil incarnations of demons or devils. The last I looked, Jesus made Frogs.



## Key Scriptures

(From NKJV, unless otherwise noted)

**Exodus 8:1-15** ~ *And the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 2 But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. 3 So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. 4 And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants.'"*

*5 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.'" 6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. 7 And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.*

*8 Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Entreat the LORD that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD."*

*9 And Moses said to Pharaoh, "Accept the honor of saying when I shall intercede for you, for your servants, and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses, that they may remain in the river only."*

*10 So he said, "Tomorrow." And he said, "Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God. 11 And the frogs shall depart from you, from your houses, from your servants, and from your people. They shall remain in the river only."*

*12 Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh. And Moses cried out to the LORD concerning the frogs which He had brought against Pharaoh. 13 So the LORD did according to the word of Moses. And the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards, and out of the fields. 14 They gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. 15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the LORD had said.*

**Hebrews 11:25** ~ *choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,*

**Matthew 7:13** ~ *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.*

**John 14:6** ~ *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

**John 11:25** ~ *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."*



### Complimentary Story

#### The Scorpion and the Frog

One day, a scorpion looked around at the mountain where he lived and decided that he wanted a change. So he set out on a journey through the forests and hills. He climbed over rocks and under vines and kept going until he reached a river.

The river was wide and swift, and the scorpion stopped to reconsider the situation. He couldn't see any way across. So he ran upriver and then checked downriver, all the while thinking that he might have to turn back.

Suddenly, he saw a frog sitting in the rushes by the bank of the stream on the other side of the river. He decided to ask the frog for help getting across the stream.

"Hello Mr. Frog!" called the scorpion across the water, "Would you be so kind as to give me a ride on your back across the river?"

"Well now, Mr. Scorpion! How do I know that if I try to help you, you won't try to kill me?" asked the frog hesitantly. "Because," the scorpion replied, "If I try to kill you, then I would die too, for you see I cannot swim!"

Now this seemed to make sense to the frog. But he asked. "What about when I get close to the bank? You could still try to kill me and get back to the shore!" "This is true," agreed the scorpion, "But then I wouldn't be able to get to the other side of the river!"

"Alright then, how do I know you won't just wait till we get to the other side and THEN kill me?" said the frog. "Ah," crooned the scorpion, "Because you see, once you've taken me to the other side of this river, I will be so grateful for your help, that it would hardly be fair to reward you with death, now would it?!" So the frog agreed to take the scorpion across the river. He swam over to the bank and settled himself near the mud to pick up his passenger. The scorpion crawled onto the frog's back, his sharp claws prickling into the frog's soft hide, and the frog slid into the river. The muddy water swirled around them, but the frog stayed near the surface so the scorpion would not drown. He kicked strongly through the first half of the stream, his flippers paddling wildly against the current.

Halfway across the river, the frog suddenly felt a sharp sting in his back and, out of the corner of his eye, saw the scorpion remove his stinger from the frog's back. A deadening numbness began to creep into his limbs. "You fool!" croaked the frog, "Now we shall both die! Why on earth did you do that?"

The scorpion shrugged, and did a little jig on the drowning frog's back. "I could not help myself. It is my nature." Then they both sank into the muddy waters of the swiftly flowing river.

Self-destruction: "It's my Nature", said the Scorpion.



## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you believe that the Bible places a heavy emphasis on “today” being the day that you should act on God’s invitation, and not put it off till a later day (See: Joshua 24:15 and 2 Corinthians 6:2)?
2. Can this emphasis on “today” be broadened to all of God’s commands, and not just the one to accept him as Savior?
3. Have you seen the cost of procrastination in your own life, or in that of a friend? Specifically in how quickly you respond to God’s voice, what has been the result when you’ve waited to obey, even just a few moments or hours? (Hint: missed key opportunities to minister/witness, something tragic or inconvenient happened, etc.) In the discussion, try to emphasize how God is a good Father, and looks out for His children by giving us instructions that bring life to us!