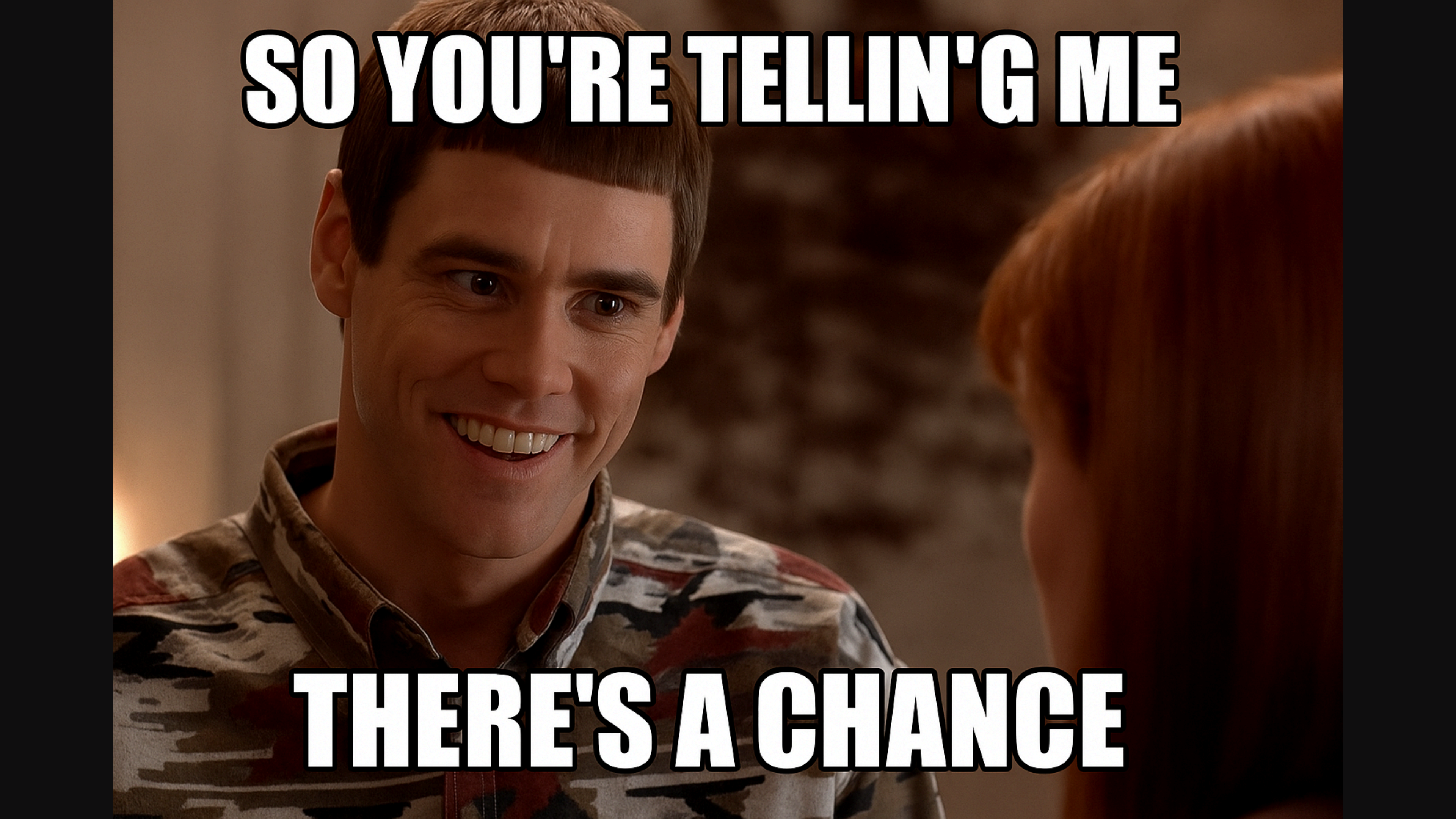


Two Wrongs
and a Right

A meme featuring a man with a wide, toothy grin and a woman's back in the background. The man is wearing a camouflage shirt and has a playful expression. The text is overlaid in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline.

SO YOU'RE TELLIN'G ME

THERE'S A CHANCE

1 Samuel 3: 1 In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

1 Samuel 2: 28 I chose your father out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. I also gave your father's house all the offerings made with fire by the Israelites.

1 Samuel 2: 29 Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel? '

1 Samuel 3: 11 And the Lord said to Samuel:
"See, I am about to do something in Israel
that will make the ears of everyone who
hears of it tingle. 12 At that time I will carry
out against Eli everything I spoke against
his family—

1 Samuel 3: from beginning to end. 13 For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them. 14 Therefore, I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.''''

1 Samuel 3: Then Eli said, "He is the Lord;
let him do what is good in his eyes."

1 Samuel 4: Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek. 2 The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines,

1 Samuel 4: who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield. 3 When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the Lord bring defeat upon us today before the Philistines?"

1 Samuel 4: Let us bring the ark of the Lord's covenant from Shiloh, so that it may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies."

How do you respond
to the word of God?

Two Wrong Responses

Two Wrong Responses

(1) Accept what God says with no attempt to change.

Psalm 51: 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

13 Then I will **teach** transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

1 Samuel 3: Then Eli said, "He is the Lord;
let him do what is good in his eyes."

Pious acceptance of God's
word without change
is not piety at all.

James 1: 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.** **23** Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror **24** and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

James 1: 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

Two Wrong Responses

(2) Expecting God to change
according to our will.

1 Samuel 4: Let us bring the ark of the Lord's covenant from Shiloh, so that it may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies."

Both wrong responses seek to
do God's will
by forcing someone else to do
so for them.

How do you respond
to the word of God?

The right response
to the word of God.

1 Samuel 3: 10 “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

Respond to the word of God

(1) By listening with the intention
to obey.

1 Samuel 3: 10 “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

Put more emphasis on doing
what God says
than marveling that He's
speaking to you.

Luke 5: 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. **But because you say so**, I will let down the nets.”

Respond to the word of God

(2) By obeying immediately

Acts 2: 37 “Brothers, what shall we do?”

38 Peter replied, “**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number **that day**.

Respond to the word of God

(3) By trusting the outcome.

Philippians 1: 12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. **13** As a result, **it has become clear** throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that **I am in chains for Christ.**

Philippians 1: 14 And **because of my chains,**
most of the brothers and sisters have
become confident in the Lord and dare all
the more to proclaim the gospel without
fear.

Two Wrongs
and a Right