

## **Recognizing Core Beliefs - Roots**

### **Intro:**

Knowing **HOW** to do a thing is critical to be able to accomplish it. When a pastor knows from the bible what walking with the Lord looks like, but only brow beats his people to become that person, while failing to explain & emphasize the grace assets of **how** to do it, he tempts them to guilt for not being able, tempts them to human good as they attempt it by human power for selfish reasons. Divine mechanics are required to live the supernatural life.

**Principle:** What is expressed through our soul is rooted or sourced in the beliefs of our heart.

- a. Beliefs → Thoughts (attitudes, mind-sets) → Feelings → Words & actions
- b. Bible uses a plant metaphor to illustrate the concept so that we can see ourselves.

**(Heb 12:15) See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;**

- Root encounters the right conditions, springs up (plant) & bears fruit of bitterness

**(Romans 11:16) And if the first piece of dough be holy, the lump is also; and if the root be holy, the branches are too.**

- The good lump of dough produces the good piece for baking a biscuit
- The tree with good root produces strong branches to grow the fruit
- c. The Metaphor: when the core belief in the heart encounters the right conditions (adversities) the belief produces thoughts, viewpoints, images that if chosen by faith as your response to the situation, these ideas will produce either sin or righteous living
- d. Belief/Root → Circumstance (situation) → thoughts, feelings, action strategies + Faith produces our words and actions expressed through our soul

1. **The Christian, saved by grace possesses two diametrically opposing natures, belief systems and ways of life – divided within creating an ongoing inner conflict between old and new.**

### **OLD SIN NATURE (OSN) VS. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT (GHS)**

**OSN** → Old Man Belief System “me centered”

**GHS** → New Man Belief System

Sin, human good & evil – self-centered love Virtue; Fruits HS – other centered love

2. **Initially enslaved by the OSN & the worldly system we develop by faith, habituation, meaning that once we adopt an idea by faith & then use it consistently, it becomes ingrained in our heart; instinctive reaction & continues influence until removed**
  - a. OM beliefs remain functional literally until removed from the heart by intentionally rejecting them – adversity exposes them as false and we are motivated to remove them
  - b. Christians are commanded and encouraged to remove these old ideas lest they destroy our lives.

### 3. Divine process by which we recognize wrong beliefs, remove & replace them.

**Reveal:** Pressure & adversity used to **expose** whatever is in your heart so that you can see it

**Deut 8:2** Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble & test you, to expose what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

- a. God exposed their hearts so that individual believers could see what was in their own heart
- b. He already knew what was in their hearts, the exposure was so they could see also

**(Rom 5:3)** And we not only rejoice in our salvation, but we also rejoice in our adversities, knowing that the pressure of adversity develops perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, certainty about God's promises; and certainty, hope; <sup>5</sup> and hope will never disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- a. Adversity pushes us to our default Old Man way of thinking & we react with sin or weakness almost without thinking – we react from the subconscious & are out of fellowship immediately
- b. Testing – **dokimazo** (purification of gold) is the process by which God uses the heat of adversity to boil out the slag of wrong thinking, enabling the believer to see it and remove it.

**Remove** – (Col 3:9-10); (Eph 4:22-24) Take off the Old Man; (Heb 12:1) lay aside weight & sin;

(Rom 13:12) – lay aside works of darkness, put on armor of light; (Jam.1:21) Lay aside filth & wickedness, receiving the implanted word; (1Pt 2:1-2) laying aside guile, malice, hypocrisy, envy & hurtful talk, desire (A.A.IMP) the pure milk of the word.

- a. God designed our visual/verbal faculties as mechanics of thinking both human life & spiritual life
- b. We visualize & verbalize to both put on & put off any idea in the heart.
- c. Removing a previously believed & habituated idea requires that we use the eyes/heart to imagine rejecting & dumping the old idea – visualize & verbalize dumping it over and over.

**Replace** – Once knowledge of the New Man belief system has been developed through inhale of the word & the Old Man way of thinking has been challenged & removed in a specific area of the heart, the empty place in the heart must be filled by the particular principle that governs that part of life.

- a. When any ideal/belief is removed, it leaves a vacuum in the soul that must be filled.
- b. The heart of man abhors a vacuum & refuses to live with emptiness
- c. Initially, we fill our hearts with Old Man worldly ideas about life & happiness.
- d. When we remove these old, false ideas, the emptiness must be filled.
- e. These slots in the heart are designed to be filled by principles of truth found in the bible
- f. Raw knowledge has little value for living the life God designed for us to live.

Knowledge of the word → adversity → exposed lies → remove lies → replace with truth from the word → produces the thinking of Christ in His incarnation.

**1 Cor 11:1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.**