

CHANGED #4 – “A MIND THAT BELIEVES TRUTH”

Review

- Change happens in the atmosphere of **God’s love**. It’s not merely about obeying God’s laws – it’s about knowing his love and loving him back. If we miss that, we miss the purpose for change and the power for change. That’s why God doesn’t answer our holiness prayers with instant change.
- The necessity of **surrendering** ourselves to God – both in general and in the specifics of our sins. The necessity to have our **hearts changed** – to actually want God’s ways.

Truth and Lies

- You live based on what you think. Always. If you think your income and the size of your home is a measure of how much God loves you, then you’ll feel distant from God if you’re making less than \$20,000 a year for fulltime work – or you’ll conveniently justify your greed and materialism if you have much.
 - ▶ *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.”*
- Common TV & mall “patterns of this world” that seek to persuade us:
 - ◆ Conflict is best resolved through door-slamming, screaming, martial arts fighting and a good assault rifle. ◆ Speaking disrespectfully to parents is normal and cool. ◆ If you want to feel good about yourself, buy new clothes. ◆ Sex is primarily for pleasure between people who like each other and it has nothing to do with commitment or having children. ◆ Mocking annoying people is normal and acceptable. ◆ You need to live together before marriage to see if you’re compatible. ◆ A girl’s self worth is determined by how much I guy looks at her body. ◆ The more stuff you have, the happier you’ll be.
- How can we know whether something is a lie or not? Contact a source you trust - God. Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” His ultimate “word” is Jesus (John 1:1).
- The Bible looks for worms and bugs that cause our bodies to operate at a lower potential than what we were programmed for. Sometimes we get quite attached to some of our lies – and we may not want to give them up. (E.g. Matthew 6:15 “Forgive others” – but not forgiving seems more comfortable; Matthew 25:21 God’s praise for being “faithful with a few things” – but we like being addicted to performance; it makes us feel good, and it gets praise from others.)
- We often need a deeper truth to expose resistant lies!
- Three major areas of belief that affect our hearts and behaviors: What we think about God, ourselves, and what life is all about. Our words and actions show what we *really* believe about them.
 - ▶ *John 8:31-36 “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. . . . Everyone who sins is a slave to sin If the Son sets you*

free, you will be free indeed.” His truth brings freedom from your fears, your lusts, your selfishness, your pride.

- Also note that what you think/believe often determines what you want - it steers your heart. (E.g. “Drugs are pleasurable.”)
 - ➔ ***We must saturate our minds with the truth, and courageously face the lies that keep us trapped in our sins.***
- Three major truths we need to believe for true spiritual transformation:
 - 1. God loves you – which means he is always compassionately acting for your good.***
 - 2. Your purpose in life is to glorify God and have a love-relationship with him - in every situation, disaster, relationship.***
 - 3. True satisfaction and joy come from dying to self and being loved by God, changed by God, and sent into the world by God.***
- Example from “The Matrix”: Morpheus: “You felt it your entire life. That there’s something wrong with the world. . . . The Matrix is everywhere, it is all around us. . . . It is the world that has been pulled over your eyes to blind you from the truth. Neo: “What truth?” Morpheus: That you are a slave, Neo. Like everyone else, you were born into bondage, born inside a prison that you cannot smell, taste, or touch. A prison for your mind...” “You take the blue pill and the story ends. You wake in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill and you stay in Wonderland and I show you how deep the rabbit-hole goes. Remember -- all I am offering is the truth, nothing more.
 - ◆ If you’re a Christian, you’ve already taken the red pill! You told God that you want to see the world as it really is – as a God-bathed reality, filled with love and hope and purpose – and evil; you not only want to see Truth, you want to see the lies that have been controlling you.
 - ▶ *Ephesians 6:12 “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”* But the question then arises, How do they rule? And one of the primary ways they rule is through lies.
 - ▶ *Isaiah 55:8-9 ““For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* But as we yield to God, increasingly God’s thoughts and ways become our thoughts and ways. They make sense. They are attractive. They are freeing.
 - ▶ *2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”*
- ➔ ***Come join the resistance. Come join those who want their eyes opened to the Truth. Come join those who demolish the ideas of the world because they have soaked in the knowledge of God and are taking captive every thought to Jesus. Behind your sins are lies – lies God wants to replace with the truth. Come to freedom!***