**02/05/23**

**Divine Good - Motives**

***Proverbs 16:2*** *all the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the LORD weighs the motives.*

***1 Cor 4:5*** *Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.*

* Our rewards for our good deeds in this life will be evaluated not based on what we do/don’t do, but on the reasons why for all of our actions.
* Divine Good: All that is done while F/HS for the purpose of obeying & serving the Lord.

**The goal of spiritual growth is to develop the thinking of Christ into a belief, thinking & behavior system while purifying your soul from worldly beliefs, thoughts & motives, building the capacity for life, love & +H.**

**Aware & Alert**

Living out the Christian life as God designed requires that we make intentional choices to practice awareness of our spiritual status & alert to our motives. Our motives are formed from our thoughts (what we say & see within) which are formed from what we believe. When we are primarily focused outward, unaware of our inner life, we live in autopilot, never taking responsibility for the change God desires.

**Ex:** You find yourself reacting with anger or fear in a relationship. Why do I feel hurt, angry & afraid?

**Belief**: God designed & intends relationships to be edifying and pleasing. I deserve to be in a relationship with someone who treats me the way I want to be treated & I don’t deserve to be treated the way I am.

1. **Is this true**? While God clearly designed relationships to be fulfilling, does that mean that I deserve for my relationships to give me what I want from them? Is that how He made them to work?
2. If it is true that you deserve to be treated the way you want & God intends that others treat you that way, then you are justified in being hurt, angry & afraid when you aren’t given what you want.
3. But, if God’s design & intent allows conflicts in our relationships so that we can grow by them, then how we are treated is not about what we deserve but what He allows so that He can turn it into divine good

**Thought (inner dialogue)**: I am not being treated the way God intended me to be, how I want and how I deserve to be treated, therefore I have every right to be hurt, angry & afraid. It is only logical for me to express my anger in an attempt to change the other person and/or to be afraid that it will never be any better.

1. The logic of our thoughts [what we tell ourselves], is based in the content & logic of our beliefs.
2. The validity of our thoughts is based in the truthfulness & falseness of what we believe to be true

**Feeling:** False beliefs & thoughts 🡪 angry, resentful, fearful, sad, self-pity; True beliefs & thoughts 🡪 joyful confident, optimistic, pleasant, etc.

1. False beliefs & thoughts 🡪 feelings that weaken us, make us cowardly & resentful toward others
2. True beliefs & thoughts 🡪 feelings that make us loving, giving & generous toward others

**Words:** complaining, accusing, demanding – soothing, encouraging & helpful

**Actions**: manipulating, attacking or withdrawing – freedom, defending, approaching

**Transformation:** reverse concentration from the other person & problem to observe & evaluate self:

**Aware** of your inner self – **Alert** to negative actions, words & feelings – listen to inner dialogue & beliefs

Actions/words that create conflict/hurt others 🡪 hurt, angry, fearful feelings 🡪 negative inner dialogue 🡪 beliefs {visual-verbal} – **reject** your false beliefs & **refute** false inner dialogue

**Devil’s Great Lie:** If I can find a way to gratify my desires, i.e. getting what I want, I will be happy. Happiness results from getting whatever I have chosen to want. ***Eph 4:22*** *that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted by* ***deceitful desires*.** ***2 Peter 1:4*** *For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the* ***corruption that is in the world by desire***– attached to earthly objects.

**Common Sense about Emotion**

1. One of the teachings that came from RB Thieme was called **Emotional Revolt of the Soul**, describing bel’s in reversionism who surrendered themselves to an ever increasing commitment to gratify their appetites.

***Phi 3:18-19*** *For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,* ***19*** *whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetites, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.*

1. The idea is that a believer has degenerated back into their old ways, believing that gratifying their desires = happiness & their emotions/feelings become the basis for all of their choices.
2. The name implies that we must be careful about our emotions because they can somehow rise up & take control of our mind, destroying our life.
3. The idea that emotions can ever dominate mentality is actually an impossibility – thought produces emotion, emotion never produces thought.
4. What is possible and very common in Christian circles is for a believer to **believe** that how they feel about something in the moment is a valid means of determining God’s will – not so!!
5. This wide spread misunderstanding caused many believers to fear their emotions, to fear their expression and therefore suppress them, trying to live without emotion, only mentality.
6. The idea that our emotions are dangerous was easily accepted because man naturally suppresses negative emotion as a defense mechanism against painful emotions.
7. This caused many believers who were hurting because of their subconscious hurts & griefs to believe that God’s plan for dealing with negative feelings was to cancel feelings by numbing their souls.
8. They built muscle on their mentality with doctrine but they were unable to experience healthy emotion, so they warped their application of doctrine, losing capacity to feel
9. With emotionally suppressed souls we are unable to fully express compassion & God’s love to one another so that spiritual relationships & fellowship can flourish.
10. The proper order of the soul: Beliefs 🡪 thoughts (verbal/visual) 🡪 emotion 🡪 words/actions
11. Negative emotion is the warning signal that something is wrong in the mentality of the soul.
12. Wrong (OM) beliefs 🡪 false thoughts 🡪 **hurtful feelings (despair, depression)** 🡪 hurtful, defeated words & actions that indicate hopelessness.
13. When emotion is suppressed by numbing your feelings, we are blind to the corrupted functioning of our mentality which was never designed to operate on worldly beliefs.
14. When we stop numbing emotion and give ourselves permission to feel what we feel, we gain the ability to discern the false beliefs & thoughts that are creating our hopelessness, fear, worry, etc.
15. Without Christ and bible doctrine, man’s natural mechanism for dealing with painful emotions is to numb them out so that we can’t feel the full effect of the pain.
16. As we learn to allow our emotions to be free, responding honestly to whatever we are thinking, right or wrong, we gain insight into the workings of our own beliefs & thoughts.
17. The validity of our emotions when confronted with terrible loss (grief) or when facing evil (righteous anger) is determined by the thoughts we are using to create them.
18. **Grief** – loss of loved ones: **1 Thes 4:13** but we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.
19. It is proper to grieve loss through death, conflict in relationships or any proper thing you love & lose.
20. There is a difference between grieving knowing that God is in control, allowing you to be joyful even as you grieve knowing that His plan is being served – you can grieve properly & rejoice at the same time
21. Jam 1:2-4 “count it all joy” doesn’t preclude you from grieving while rejoicing.
22. **Righteous Anger** – when we are faced with or attacked by evil: ***Mark 3:1*** *And He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there with a withered hand. 2 And they were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, in order that they might accuse Him. 3 And He said to the man with the withered hand, "Rise and come forward!" 4 And He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent. 5 And after looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.*
23. When Jesus was faced with the attack of evil He sometimes became angry without sinning because of the destructive impact of evil on the people. ***John 2:13-15*** *The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables;*
24. As we remove OM beliefs & patterns from our heart, we are able to experience & express normal emotion without allowing negative feelings to bring us into confrontation with & rejection of God’s will
25. We can grieve or be frustrated, hating the effects of evil on our loved ones and yet give God glory because we respect His right to do with us as He pleases – it is good that He is good & loves us.
26. As we mature by erasing & replacing OM ideas to embrace NM ideas, we are able to feel our feelings without allowing our negative emotions from driving us into fear, bitterness or despair.

**The Birthright**

***Gen 25:29-34*** *when Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished; 30 and Esau said to Jacob, "Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished." Therefore his name was called Edom. 31 But Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." 32 Esau said, "Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?" 33 And Jacob said, "First swear to me"; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.*

1. Jacob is in the kitchen trying new recipes like Julia Childs and Esau spends his day with the flocks
2. Esau had been in the field hunting all day and was weak with hunger (***ayeph***).
3. The stew Jacob was cooking was red, similar to the name given to Esau – name meant red (Edom)
4. Esau makes a simple request for Jacob (con man) to share his stew with him
5. The image of Esau is a man careless, self-indulgent and in a hurry to gratify the lust of his flesh
6. Esau is the opposite of aware, alert & intentional, anxious to have his immediate desires fulfilled

* His disposition is shallow, oblivious/self, self-indulgent & focused on circumstances.

1. Christian life is not accidental or instinctive – **choose to become aware, alert & intentional**

* Apparently Esau never did stop and evaluate his soul & recognize his need for God

***Gal 5:16-17*** *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*

1. **What does Esau believe:** gratifying his immediate desire = happiness, then on to the next circumstance

***Eph 4:22*** *that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted by deceitful desires;* ***Gal 5:16-17*** *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*

1. **What is Esau telling himself: “I am about to die” He only felt like he was about to die – self indulgent**

***Heb 12:15-16*** *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 are defiled;* ***16*** *that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.*

* Immoral – pornos: self-indulgent & focused on immediate gratification

1. Jacob is seen as lying in wait, focused on personal gain, willing to take advantage of his brother.
2. Where did Jacob get the idea that he could have the birthright of the firstborn? Not common
3. The Lord had put the idea in Rebekah’s mind & apparently she had been discussing it with Jacob
4. Jacob is primed and ready, looking for an opportunity to persuade Esau to relinquish the blessing
5. Sell me your birthright – Jacob asked Esau to trade his double portion of the inheritance for a bowl of soup
6. **What is Jacob telling himself? He believes that financial wealth is the key to his happiness**
7. He is preoccupied with earthly inheritance yet he has the spiritual inheritance – far more valuable
8. Jacob appears to be a man without integrity or scruples – willing to cheat his own brother to get ahead
9. Jacob will also be tricked many times by people he should have been able to trust
10. Jacob pushes Esau to swear an oath (***shaba***), which properly done, could have been binding - contract

* Gen 24:9 – place your hand under my thigh and swear to me you will find a wife for my son

1. Esau despised his birthright – (***baza***) lift the head with disdain, treat with contempt
2. Esau, a spoiled rich man thought little of his inheritance until he realized that he had lost it
3. He gives it up to Jacob for nothing but when Isaac blesses Jacob with the birthright he whines like a child (27:34) and is so angry he plots to kill Jacob – serious threat caused Isaac to send him away

* Esau and Jacob were both about 60 yrs. old – Jacob is believed to have been 77 when he married

What is it in your life on which you depend for your happiness? Your health? Marriage? Kids? Finances?

What are you willing to do to hang onto those things? What would happen to you if you lost them?

**Summary:**

1. The Lord has given us an inside look at the family dynamics of Abraham’s son Isaac and his wife Rebekah.
2. Jewish tradition places Isaac’s life between 1900 BC – 1716 BC, 18- 19 centuries before the birth of Christ.
3. The biblical narrative is not a look at the life of the average person in that time – Abraham & Isaac were very wealthy (Gen 26:13) with Jacob & Esau growing up in prosperity – the birthright was worth much $$$
4. We are told little about Esau’s life - multiple marriages to Hittite women, just his genealogy – Gen 36
5. As we follow the story we will see how the desire/faith attachments made by Isaac & Rebekah impacted their children and the same patterns showed up in later generations.
6. Many, maybe most our Old Man beliefs are formed in childhood, often as defense mechanisms in reaction to the patterns and failures of our parents.
7. We inherit our parents genetic based trends (nature) and copy the behaviors that we observe (nurture)
8. Behaviors that our parents practiced before we were conceived can be passed down as predispositions
9. These predispositions are revealed as our natural trends and tendencies as in our human development
10. The favoritism practiced by his parents will be a big part of Jacob’s parenting causing great hurt in some of his children while Joseph and Benjamin had the best of it.
11. Reuben, Jacob’s firstborn had sexual relations with Bilhah, the servant of Rachel, his father’s concubine.

*In ancient times, if a man had intentions to usurp the throne of a king, tribal leader or even the leader of the clan he belonged to, he did it by sleeping with the current leader’s wives and/or concubines.*

1. Did Reuben sleep with servant of his mother’s sister out of rivalry or spite bc of Jacob’s favoritism?
2. Jacob favored Rachel over his mother Leah and Rachel’s children Joseph and Benjamin
3. Was he so angry and disgusted with his father’s favoritism that he decided to take his place?

***1 Cor 5:1*** *it is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone is having sexual relations with his father's wife.*

1. In your family of origin, which of your siblings was the golden child, the clown, the scapegoat?
2. What was your role in the family dynamics? Were you a high achiever making parents proud?
3. Were you the family clown that tried to gain attention or keep peace by using humor?
4. Were you the one who was always in trouble, stubborn rule/law breaker, skipping school?
5. Why do you think that you gravitated toward certain behaviors?
6. Ascetic – rule keeping for security, orderly, comparing self/others, judgmental, self-righteous
7. Lascivious – ignore/break rules, pursue pleasure, avoid responsibility, lazy, desires/flesh
8. Did you lose one of your parents from your home through death, divorce, addiction, sickness, work travel?
9. How old were you? Did you blame yourself for their absence? Did you feel damaged by their loss?
10. Did you try to fill the emptiness they left with food, drugs, alcohol, sex, an early romantic relationship
11. Did you follow all the rules and do everything right thinking that if you did, they might come back?
12. When you realized that your strategy of acting out to get attention or trying to be perfect to win the love of the missing parent wasn’t going to work, did you despair and feel that life was not worth living?