

Revolution 2010

20100221 – Week 3
Misbeliefs About God

Many thoughts/statements in this article are taken from “Learning to Tell Myself the Truth” by William Backus

IDENTIFY WHY YOU HAVEN’T ACCEPTED CHRIST – EXERCISE #8

Have you accepted by faith the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ?

If not, write down the reasons why you haven’t yet. Include any objections and concerns you may have that are embedded in your core beliefs that are preventing you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Just because you have an objection doesn’t mean that the discussion has hit a dead-end. What are you going to do about each of the above objections in researching if your core beliefs are misbeliefs, unfounded and truthless, or if they can be substantiated? It is way to critical to your transformation to be passive in your pursuit of truth about this issue! You might include a strategy of requesting the assistance of a pastor or strong Christian friend who could lead you to resources in Christian philosophy, anthropology, sociology, or other areas of reason.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Giving your life to Christ is more than just praying a prayer; it is the intent of giving your whole life, your dreams, your future, your relationships, your everything to God. A great start and the beginning of a life-change miracle begins with a prayer. Pray this prayer below when you have eliminated your objections or know you are ready to fully move on in core belief rehabilitation.

Prayer for a Fresh Start with God

“Dear Lord Jesus, I ask you to give me a ‘fresh start’ in my life. I devote myself to you and ask you to miraculously work in my heart. I declare you are Lord and believe you have been raised from the dead for me to know you fully. Amen.”

IDENTIFYING YOUR BASELINE OF TRUTH – EXERCISE #9

Have you established your baseline of truth? What is your resource of truth? Is it relative and situational, or is it absolute?

Once you take care of the “sin nature” or “spiritual death” you need to ask yourself if there is an objective standard of truth. If there is, it should be true all the time for all people in all applications. In other words it isn’t simply relative truth or situational truth.

2 Tim 3:16-17 NIV All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

It is important to note that the intent of Scriptural use is to “teach, rebuke, correct and train.” This assumes that the Scriptures are first true and secondly a superior authority to all other forms of truth or authority.

If you haven’t established Scripture as your baseline of truth, write down the reasons why you haven’t yet. Include any objections and concerns you may have that are embedded in your core beliefs that are preventing you. (I.E. Objections like other religion’s Bibles, contradictions in the Christian Bible, oppression of women, endorsement of slavery, etc.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

As in Exercise #8, just because you have an objection doesn’t mean that the discussion has hit a dead-end. What are you going to do about each of the above objections in researching if your core beliefs are misbeliefs, unfounded and truthless, or if they can be substantiated? It is way to critical to your transformation to be passive in your pursuit of truth about this issue! You might include a strategy of requesting the assistance of a pastor or strong Christian friend who could lead you to resources in Christian defense and proper/possible interpretations.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Pray the prayer below when you have eliminated your objections or know you are ready to fully move on in core belief rehabilitation.

Prayer of Commitment to Scripture Being Your Baseline of Truth

“Dear Lord Jesus, I believe the Scriptures are a revelation of authoritative truth for my life. From this day forward with the help of your grace I will live surrendered and fully committed to it as my personal authority in life, business, marriage, parenting, friendship, morality, decision making and all that is covered in it. I ask you to make the Scriptures come alive to my understanding as I have prepared to obey immediately anything I have discovered in it. Amen!”

OBJECTIONS TO PERSONAL TRUTH / IDENTIFYING MISBELIEFS ABOUT GOD – EXERCISE #10

Spiritual misbeliefs, the seedbed for every other misbelief, involves false assumptions about God, our relationship with Him, and our relationships with other people. Some of these statements may reflect theological concerns with which you’ve seriously struggled, or these thoughts maybe have only crossed your mind. Listen through this list and check in your mind any statement that reflects thoughts you’ve had:

1. If God really loved me, I wouldn’t suffer so much hurt and pain.
2. What I pray, nothing ever changes, so I really doubt that God cares, hears, or answers.
3. I must be so wicked, sinful or at best “filled with shadows of doubt in His promises” that God won’t help me.
4. Because I feel so guilty and unworthy, it must be true that God hates me.
5. Everything bad that has happened in my life is either because of my sin before God or because God hates me.

6. Good things in my life means God loves me and bad things in my life means He doesn't love me.
7. No matter how much I pray or how hard I try, it's never enough to satisfy God (or me).
8. God has not right to tell me what to do and what not to do.
9. It's unfair of God to give people a bunch of commandments that they can't keep; we have plenty of reason to resent it.
10. When I look at he world and all the evil and suffering, I can't believe God is really good.
11. If there were a God running things, everything wouldn't be in the mess it's in.
12. I am the master of my fate, the captain of my soul, and nobody else can run my life.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR SELF-TALK STATEMENTS AND THE CORE BELIEFS THEY SPRING FROM? – EXERCISE #11

Below are some self-talk statements that many people have but have never considered what core beliefs are driving those statements.

EXAMPLE:

1. "If we surrender to the Lord it will cost us more than we will gain." Or, "To serve God fully will be dissatisfying for my life, my season, and my age...I may lose established relationships with people who aren't going for Christ."

What Does the Bible (Truth) Say?

Mark 10:28-31 AMP Peter started to say to Him, Behold, we have yielded up and abandoned everything [once and for all and joined You as Your disciples, siding with Your party] and accompanied You [walking the same road that You walk]. 29 Jesus said, Truly I tell you, there is no one who has given up and left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for My sake and for the Gospel's 30 Who will not receive a hundred times as much now in this time — houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions — and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many [who are now] first will be last [then], and many [who are now] last will be first [then].

What Are My Misbeliefs?

If I am not willing to give myself fully to God, why? What are the core beliefs and self-talk statements that I am believing? As you hear these sample statements don't review with a heart attitude of condemnation, but exploration!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

2. "I don't prioritize weekly devotion to other believers in Church community. I love weekends with my family, friends and recreation so it is OK with me to miss 1/3 of the Sunday worship experiences at Church throughout the year."

What Does the Bible (Truth) Say?

What Are My Misbeliefs?

If I am not willing to prioritize Church community and corporate worship, why? What are the core beliefs and self-talk statements that I am believing? As you hear these sample statements don't review with a heart attitude of condemnation, but exploration!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

3. Create another personal self-talk statement: _____

What Does the Bible (Truth) Say?

What Are My Misbeliefs?

If I am not willing to _____, why? What are the core beliefs and self-talk statements that I am believing? As you hear these sample statements don't review with a heart attitude of condemnation, but exploration!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

LIVING BY FAITH SELF-TALK - EXERCISE #11

"I can't live by faith in everyday living because..." Have you ever looked at various Scriptures and noticed a gap that spanned from God's expectations to your obedience/disobedience? What do you think your core beliefs are that are preventing you from obeying? Take at least 3 of the statements below and using the templates further below answer the similar models as in Exercise #10.

Example: I gossip! / Why do I gossip? What are my core beliefs and self-talk statements that control my behavior?

- I don't pray and believe for miracles!
- I don't have confidence God will meet my material needs!
- I spend money compulsively!
- I sin in my anger!
- I abuse alcohol!
- I am not committed to Church life!
- I don't give myself fully in worship experiences!
- I don't saturate in the Word day and night!
- I don't wait and listen for God to speak to my heart!
- I don't have confidence that I can accurately hear God speak!
- I don't pray for things I desire!
- I don't pray for other people (friends that ask me)!

- I don't give generously of my financial resources!
- I am afraid God won't protect me!
- I fear people won't accept me!
- I don't share my faith with outsiders!
- I don't invite people to church!
- I don't serve on ministry teams in the grace of joy, but out of obligation!
- When someone tells me of their relational/moral issues with someone else I don't challenge them to take their offense back up stream!

1. Create another personal self-talk statement: _____

What Does the Bible (Truth) Say?

What Are My Misbeliefs?

If I am not willing to _____, why? What are the core beliefs and self-talk statements that I am believing? As you hear these sample statements don't review with a heart attitude of condemnation, but exploration!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

2. Create another personal self-talk statement: _____

What Does the Bible (Truth) Say?

What Are My Misbeliefs?

If I am not willing to _____, why? What are the core beliefs and self-talk statements that I am believing? As you hear these sample statements don't review with a heart attitude of condemnation, but exploration!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

3. Create another personal self-talk statement: _____

What Does the Bible (Truth) Say?

What Are My Misbeliefs?

If I am not willing to _____, why? What are the core beliefs and self-talk statements that I am believing? As you hear these sample statements don't review with a heart attitude of condemnation, but exploration!

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____