

Breaking Mindsets

Sanctified by the Spirit

May 11, 2014



Welcome to a place where we diagnose the deceptions that blind us, and take 'em to the Great Physician. Last week we saw the difference between wishing and wanting, and discussed our dire need to be transformed by God's Word.

So, what areas of your faith are the *least Christ-like*? Which Biblical commands are you *most careless* with? And, what would *others* say is the *ultimate authority* in your life?

My least is *empathy* (identifying with the emotions and feelings of others). If the situation isn't *severe*, I tend to think, "Come on. Suck it up, man!" And because of that, my *most careless* would have to be *compassion*.

We were created to bear God's image by taking on His *values*, His *attitude*, His *character*, His *heart*, by submitting to His *Spirit*. This is called sanctification, which requires revelation to rewire our hay-wired brains, which requires the Word of God. **The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to make us like the Son of God.**



If I asked you to recount the 2-hour plotline of the Wizard of Oz, most of you would do an amazing job.

But, if I were to ask you to recount the plotline of God's Word, from Adam to Malachi, you'd probably say, "Who's Malachi?"

Why is that? Because, **with the Wizard of Oz, you're piecing together your mental images.**

What did the Scarecrow need? How about the Tin Man? The Lion? Dorothy? How about Abraham? Isaac? Jacob? *"Hmm. Were they Munchkins?"* **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob needed the same thing we need: a new brain, a new heart, true courage, and a way to get back home.**



The thief comes to rob us of the vivid images in God's epic Word! And, in so doing effectively cripples our ability to relate to it, retain it, recall it, and be regenerated *by* it.

[We] are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. - 2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV

Each of us must eventually settle, once and for all, the issue of who or what will be the ultimate authority in our life.

When we left off, I asked you to imagine being slapped awake by a flight attendant in a 747, and told you had to take the controls, and try to fly it home and land it on your own! Likewise, we were slapped awake by a doctor, and given the controls of life.



And, once you're in the cockpit, you have a decision to make: you can sit and *wish* you knew what to do, or you can take action, open the manual, talk to the tower, and bring that baby home! Let's pick it up from there, and talk to the tower.

Hello?! Anyone?! Help! What do I do?!

This is the Control Tower. I'm right here with you. Take a look to your right or your left and you should see a black leather cover with gold writing.



I see it.

Just open the flap and you'll find your Autopilot.

Okay, I opened it.

You have to do more than open it. You have to engage the Autopilot.



Got it!

Good job. 90% of the work is being done for you. Take a breath. You need to relax *and* focus. Your tasks are minimal but critical. So, keep the manual close and open. Get familiar with it; your life depends on it. But, don't worry; I'll guide you through it. Now let's bring this baby home!

Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? ... beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: "To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding. Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. ... [Want to see Wisdom's *mouth*? Hold your Bible flat and open and close it] Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. [Want to see Wisdom's *door*? Hold your Bible upright and open and close it] For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord. But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death." – Proverbs 8:1-6, 34-36 NIV

So many troubles come into our lives because we base our choices and decisions on flawed and unreliable authorities, including our own desires, emotions, traditions, peer-pressure, and culture.

... Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” – John 8:31-32 NIV

And, that’s why Jesus prayed ...

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” – John 17:17 NIV

The Lord is giving us a mind that thinks the way He thinks, sees the way He sees, and feels the way He feels. *The thing is ...*

... just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” – 1 Peter 1:15-16 NIV

Jesus himself said ...

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” – Matthew 5:48 NIV

Are you seeing your dire need to stay in touch with the Tower?!

That’s a tall order.

Seems impossible.

Until you realize that **we’re made perfect by His sacrifice, not our efforts** (that’s *justification*); **holiness is a process** (that’s *sanctification*); and **God is patient** (that’s *fortunate*).

... by one sacrifice he has made perfect **[Past tense]** forever **[Future tense]** those who are being made holy. **[Present tense]** – Hebrews 10:14 NIV

Is your devotion diligent and deliberate?



... continue to **work out** your salvation **[not “work for”]** with fear and trembling, **[be deliberate with your free-will part of the bargain]** for it is God who **works in you [90% of the work is being done for you]** to will and to act according to his good purpose. - Philippians 2:12-13 NIV

Sanctification goes far deeper than mental effort, because **we have contradicting and conflicting mindsets** and viewpoints and postures and demeanors and bearings and attitudes and habits!

We’re hay-wired with a malfunctioning system: self-worth, shame, pride, greed, lust, fears, you name it and He’ll renew it!

The Autopilot of God’s Word will set your course and steadily change you, from the inside out, by breaking your mindsets.

Therefore, [Only Christianity can have a “Therefore” like this one! Every other religion tells you how to earn it. Christianity tells you how to *receive* it and *appreciate* it] I urge you, brothers, [and sisters] in view of God’s mercy, [Every act of faith *must* be motivated by grace and fueled with gratitude] to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, [ongoing commitments of complete surrender] holy [set apart] and pleasing to God [The Father doesn’t want dead animals; He wants living children reflecting His character] — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. [Through the instruction of His Word, and the conviction, inspiration, and ‘empowerment’ of His Spirit] Then you will be able to test [analyze and understand] and approve [appreciate and value] what God’s will is [We will be unsure of God’s will to the degree that we’re unfamiliar with His Word] — his good, pleasing and perfect will. – Romans 12:1-2 NIV

God’s Word will help you to see yourself, more and more, how God sees you, loves you, cares about you. And, *that* will change you.

It’ll contrast what your wounds say about you, with how your Father feels about you. And it’ll change the way you see *others*.

It’ll take you on the scenic route to your true self, even as it guides you safely home and into your Father’s open arms.

Now, let’s listen to the *true* Control Tower one more time ...

“Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor.” Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. ... pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them ... – Proverbs 4:4b-14, 20-22a NIV

God’s Spirit through God’s Word instructs us, guides us, and corrects us, while all the while comforting and reassuring us.