

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 6 – Writing the Word on Your Heart

Lesson 21: Writing the Word on Your Heart Part 1

God never intended for you to struggle.

I don't mean you won't go through circumstances. I don't mean you won't go through trials. I don't mean you won't go through periods of temptation. I mean that God never intended for you to struggle. Your struggling cannot add anything to the finished work of Jesus Christ. It is not glorifying to God for you to struggle in your Christian experience.

I'm not talking about going through circumstances where you are overcoming. I'm talking about struggling. Many Christians' lives are nothing but a spiritual yo-yo. They're up one day and down the next. Their life looks like the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Up, and then crash. And then up, and then crash. They live that way. That's one thing if they're a brand new baby Christian and they're going through that. It's another thing if you've been serving God five years, eight years, ten years and this is still your spiritual life.

We all know people like this. One day they're doing great, and the next day they're in the pits and you have to pick them up. They're up and down, up and down. We've so many people that struggle to just live for God, struggle to stay free from the sins and the temptations that are around them. But I'm telling you in the name of Jesus, that the Blood of Jesus is sufficient.

When Jesus was on the cross, He said, "It is finished." What's finished? He didn't come just to forgive you of your sins. He didn't come just to get you out of hell. He came for a tremendous purpose. He came to bring you to the place where you can be conformed into the image of Himself. He came to free you completely from the bondage of sin. He came, and He finished the work. When He said, "It is finished," He meant, "It is finished!" God never intended for you to struggle! Yet so many people battle; battle so many things in their lives. Doing and living and acting and reacting so often in ways that are not according to God.

There are Christians who struggle through their Christian walk, and then there are others who it seems like it just breaks for them. It seems like they just go from victory to victory, from glory to glory, overcoming to overcoming. In my own life when I got saved, when I got born again, I was instantly delivered from five years of drug addiction, but something else also began to happen in my life. Something began to change deep on the inside of me that caused an outward transformation.

Ephesians 2:1-3 *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once*

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conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

We were children. We fulfilled the desires of the flesh and of the mind. All of us, before we came to Christ were controlled and operated by the sin nature. This nature worked in our bodies; this nature worked in our minds. This sin nature gave us the propensity to do certain things by nature. We had a sin nature. We did sinful things by nature. It was natural for us to operate in sin. It was natural for us to sin. That inherent sin nature then also became mixed with the belief systems that were ingrained into our minds.

The heart doesn't speak of just the physical; the heart speaks of the mind, the will, the emotions, and the imaginations. It is in this area of the heart; it is in this area of our mind that sin, the Bible says, is conceived.

When does sin begin, or is conceived?

It is birthed from on the inside of us. All sin begins with a thought.

All sin begins with a thought; a thought meditated upon over and over again given the right opportunity, will then become an action. An action repeated over and over again will form a habit. A habit repeated over a long time develops a lifestyle, and a lifestyle always determines your destiny.

Whatever you are thinking on today will determine your eternal destiny.

In our hearts, in our minds, there is a belief system that develops in us that is based upon our culture, our environment, the things that we have been taught, and the things that we have been exposed to.

You could have two people born identical twins, but at birth they were separated. One was taken off into India. One was raised here in America. After many, many years, having grown to be full adults, they found out about each other and had a reunion. They came together to spend some time together. They decided the best way to share their lives was for each of them to cook their favorite meal and give it to each other. After preparing their meals they brought them to the table and they opened them. The one from America opened hers and she had this big, juicy steak. The girl from India who was taught that the cow is sacred and is like a god sees it and starts getting sick to her stomach. She starts having an emotional reaction. After she recovers she opens her favorite dish which looks strange to the twin from America. It is a delicacy to the twin from India; monkey brains. Just the thought of eating monkey brains makes the twin from America sick.

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They were born identical twins. They are genetically exactly the same. But why is it that all of a sudden, they have a completely different reaction to different stimuli? It wasn't based on genetics. It wasn't based on some spiritual thing.

As a Christian we might have said we were grieved in our spirit. It wasn't a grieving in their spirit, it was an effect on their emotions which was rooted in their pre-established belief systems; in their pre-established thinking processes. They were trained in their minds by their culture, by their environment, by their background to think in a certain way.

*All your emotions are not bad. Your emotions are not inherently good.
Your emotions simply reflect what you already believe.*

These ladies had an emotional reaction based on their predetermined belief system. Without even having to think about it, they had a natural reaction. They reacted by nature according to the way they had already been thinking; in response to the way they had always been trained to think.

All of us have this part of us where we have been affected by the people we're around, by the culture we're raised in, by the things that were taught to us in school, by the things that were presented to us that has determined, has formulated, a way of thinking, a way of filtering life and all the things that we experience in life. We then react in many areas by natural reaction according to what we already believe. We have a sudden reaction based on what we already believe. We respond based on what we already believe. We do everything we have done based upon the foundation of beliefs that our whole life is built upon.

Before we come to Jesus, our belief system is based upon lies and not upon truth.

We react by nature according to the way we are raised, according to our society, according to our environment, according to teachings, according to things we've been exposed to. But when we come to God, He has to begin a process of renewing us and transforming us in our minds and changing our nature. Many people struggle because although they made a commitment to give their life to Jesus Christ, they're still reacting and responding by nature according to what's already on the inside of them, and often blame their emotions.

What is our belief system based upon prior to our salvation?

[Prior to salvation our belief system is based upon the cravings of the carnal nature and not upon the Spirit of God.](#)

Those things that are deep in our hearts cause us to view everything through the eyes of the sin nature and not through the truth of the Word of God. This is why the Bible says to train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6) The Catholic church says it this way: "Give us a child till they're seven years old, and

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we'll make them Catholic for the rest of their lives.” If we can train up a child, if we can ingrain in them, if through a society and an environment that is Christian and Christian principal based; if we can raise them up in that, then they will by nature do those things that we train them to do and it will become a part of their nature.

The very basis of your belief system, the very things that are written on your heart will determine the way you naturally react. It will motivate your actions. You go through life and have experiences. You have a cultural and a society. You have things that you are taught. These produce a belief systems that becomes seared on your heart. They then become a series of filters through which everything that comes at you has to pass through.

Statistically in North America, 95% of those who get saved, get saved before the age of 25. The older we get the more our belief systems of life become seared into us. Then everything we hear goes through those filters.

Often when truth is presented to people they react emotionally, and do not accept it. They believe a lie, and because they believe the lie, whenever you try to present them with the truth, they can't hear it cause it has to run through the filter of the words that are already written on their heart.

Those that are struggling have lies written on their hearts, and those who are walking free have allowed God to write His Word upon their hearts. Whatever is written on your heart, whatever is the deep internal conviction, will determine how you act. It will set up the boundaries upon which you react.

When we believed in America, that it was actually immoral to have sexual relations outside of marriage, that belief system was deep enough that it gave many people the ability to say “No!” But then the promiscuity of the late 60s came with the hippie movement and the free love movement, which taught no restraints. They taught a new, different morality that if it feels good, do it. We then no longer had a belief system as a society that was based upon morality and based upon truth. We had a different belief system that came out of this lie. People began to cast off restraint. People just started doing all sorts of things. Sexual immorality spread through society. There was no longer restraint because they no longer had the right thing written upon their hearts. Their nature was now based upon the lie that was written upon their hearts.

Something has got to transform us on the inside. There must come a transformation of our hearts so that we will begin to do by nature those things which God would have us do. That will only happen when God's Word becomes written upon our hearts. This is where some of the greatest victories in your life will come; when your nature is transformed and changed because God has written His Word upon your heart.

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For Further Study:

Luke 8:15 *But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.*

Deuteronomy 30:14 *But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.*