

Marriage Conference 2014 – Session #3
Beneath the Surface – Sharing God's Vision & Passion

Review: Man looks on the outside but God looks beneath the surface at the heart.

1. Man's natural and developed tendency is to focus on the outside of our life.
2. The true battle within goes much deeper than our relationships & circumstances

Self-Centered Beliefs – Needs/desires fulfilled, pain avoided & life goes as we want it

God Centered Beliefs – Desires subordinated, pain embraced, life accepted as it happens

Habituation of adopted beliefs/ideas causes the ideas to become automatic thinking that functions below the level of conscious awareness – think, feel, speak & act automatically.

The battle within is below the level of our normal awareness, is difficult to see and often we live without being aware of it.

- We focus our energies on changing & rearranging the outside of our life
- We operate on autopilot, oblivious to what God is really doing in our life.

The battle within can only be discerned through the Spirit and the word of God

- Human view can only see the outer and at best the mental connection to it
- Only the word as revealed by the Spirit reveals the true war for our beliefs.
- We must be willing to look beyond normal life with spiritual eyes

The battle is focused on what we place as our first priority for happiness.

- Emptiness (need) causes us to hunger/thirst within and drives us to find some person or object to fill the emptiness and satisfy the hunger.
- Whatever **we believe** is the primary source to fulfill us is what we will consistently decide is to be our primary pursuit - Romance, love, money, career, fame, success, sex

The OM (self-centered) has believed that 'a blessing' equals 'happiness'

- Believed in the past & habituated the belief through using it over and over
- Habituated ideas become unconscious automatic thinking – subconscious
- Habituated, automatic thinking must be intentionally rejected to be free of it
- World promotes & supports our continuing commitment to blessing

The NM (God-centered) believes that 'relationship with God' equals 'happiness'

- Replaces OM thinking with NM thinking as a habituated way of life
- NM is able to "count it all joy" because we believe the training program of adversity will bring us closer to God – intimacy = happiness & fulfillment
- NM embraces God's training & discipline because we have attached our hearts to relating to God above any earthly blessing.

Peter – living for self while thinking he was living for God

God's Vision – What is God's intention for us & what is He doing?

- 1. God's goal for the believer is that we embrace His training/molding program (transformation) to become like His Son Jesus.**

Rom 8:29 – predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son – ultimate sanctification

- Conformed – sunmmorphoo – transformed - metamorphoo
- Process begins at salvation throughout life & completed in eternity

Eph 4:24 – NM – created according to God, Perfectly Righteous (+R) & holy from the truth

Col 3:10 – NM – renewed by knowledge according to image of the Creator

- Transformation process is for every believer but participation is voluntary
Mt 13:8 – good ground produced fruit – 100 fold, 60 fold & 30 fold
 - God wants all of His children to be 100% but allows us to choose for ourselves.
 - To be the 100% fruit bearer, we have to fully embrace His process for growth and fight the battle within to become like Christ
 - Using religion rather than relationship with God as our means of living the CWL hinders our capacity to produce fruit – rituals, programs, works, and knowledge.
- 2. Unconditional love sees God's vision of what we/others can & will become, continuing to work toward that goal in our relationships, never giving up.**

1 Cor 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind, *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ **bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

- God-centered NM is fulfilled within because we have progressively put God first.
 - Divine fulfillment of the heart frees us from neediness & demandingness on people
 - Free from need for human approval, we can freely give because of loyalty to God
 - Unconditional Love (UL) is produced by the Spirit in the heart of a believer who is free from OM demand that people meet our needs – spiritual freedom.
- 3. Christian ministry is motivated by sharing God's vision of what others could be and His desire to offer the world the opportunity – serve one another.**

Peter – committed to his own vision of what he wanted his life to be – not Christian service

Phil 1:15-17 – Christian ministry from strife & selfish ambition – not Christian service

Galatians 5:13 *“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”*