

UNBELIEF LEADS TO TRAGEDY

1. Unbelief Leads To Temptation And Sin

- If we don't build our faith, we will most likely experience much tragedy and ruin
- Unbelief is the root of all other sins.
- If I believe that God is going to meet all my needs, then I won't ever be tempted to sin.

2. Temptation Comes Because Of What We Believe

- Every sin we ever commit, is not because we crave that sin.
- Every sin we ever commit, is because of what we believe.

3. Freedom Comes Through Changed Thinking

- Matthew 5:28, NIV – “*But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*”
- Too many people are in bondage today, trying to get free by daily repenting for their wrong actions. But the truth is, they will never get set free, until their thinking changes
- If we're sinning, our first step is not to repent from the sin. Our first step is repenting from our thinking that is contrary to what God says, to change the way we think, and THEN it will change our actions.

HOW DO WE LIVE BY FAITH?

- We accept that fact that He has given us the measure of faith, and we daily resist any thoughts or circumstances that are contrary to what God says, in order to build our spiritual muscles. And we take God at His Word, no matter what He says, because God is good, and He can be trusted.

John 6:28-29, NIV- “(28) *Then they asked him, ‘What must we do to do the works God requires?’* (29) *Jesus answered, ‘The work of God is this: to believe ...’*”

WINNING THE BATTLE FOR YOUR MIND

Part 5 – How To Live By Faith

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WE ALL HAVE FAITH

1. We All Live By Faith – But What Is Our Faith In?

- 2 Corinthians 5:7, NIV – “(3) *We live by faith, not by sight.*”

2. We Need To Think About Ourselves The Way God Thinks About Us

- Romans 12:3, RSV – (3) *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*
- Pride and false humility are both destructive attitudes - they both rob us of the grace and provision of God

3. We Need To Think According To Our Faith

- Romans 12:3 – “... think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”
- We need to think about ourselves, in agreement with the measure of faith God has given to each one of us.

- “Measure” = “metron” (Greek) = “The measurement, the boundaries, the full description and implications”
- To think according to the measure of our faith, is to think according to the full description of what God has said about us, and done for us

4. We All Have The Measure Of Faith

- Romans 12:3 – “... each according to the measure of faith ...”

WE DEVELOP OUR FAITH BY EXERCISING IT

1. How Do We Develop Our Muscles?

- Lifting weights and developing muscles is all about resistance.
- The more weights that we resist continually, the more our muscles develop.

2. How We Develop Our Faith Muscles

- Living by faith, is living by resistance – it's resisting the negative thoughts and negative circumstances that come against us in this life.
- Mark 11:23, NIV – *“I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea’, and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.”*
- We've got to be consistent in resisting the small things, so that our faith will grow

3. Living By Faith Is Learning How To Resist

- James 4:7, NIV – *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*
- Living by faith, is all about learning how to resist.

4. How Do We Resist?

- Anything that comes into our life that doesn't agree with God's Word, we need to resist it.
- “In the name of Jesus, I refuse to accept ...”.
- “I push this ... off of me”
- James 4:7, NIV – *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

5. We Keep Resisting And Refuse To Surrender

- 1 Timothy 6:12, NIV – *“(12) Fight the good fight of the faith. ...”*
- When we stop fighting, that's not called peace, it's called surrender, and when we surrender, we lose our rights, and instead, we become prisoners of war.

6. Don't Try To Copy Someone Else's Faith

- Faith is not doing something, because someone else is doing it, faith is believing something, because we believe that we can do it
- We've been given faith muscles, but we've got to learn how to exercise them.

BUILDING OUR FAITH BY SIMPLE STEPS

- John 5:6-8, NIV – *“(6) When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, ‘Do you want to get well?’ (7) ‘Sir’, the invalid replied, ‘I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.’ (8) Then Jesus said to him, ‘Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.’”*
- The process: (1) Get up, get on your feet (2) Pick up your mat, your bed, (3) Walk
- John 5:14, NIV – *(14) Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”*
- This man didn't put his faith in his own righteousness -- he put it in Jesus' words