

Exalting the Lord Jesus through receiving His love, grace, truth and power.

Lesson # 3 — The Provision For and Barriers to Effortless Christianity

Introduction

- A. By “effortless” I mean, that our personal relationship with God can be easy, spontaneous, joyful and satisfying, even though in trials and under attack, through His love and grace.
- B. One major reason we have such difficulty in receiving God’s love, grace, truth and power is that we are often deceived. As a result there is bondage and an open door to the enemy.
- C. We are told that “The heart is deceitful,” (Jeremiah 17:9, see also Proverbs 4:23, Mark 7). As a result we are very vulnerable to deception, accepting lies, and being led astray. And, the problem with deception is that we usually do not know we are. Therefore, we must be open to the possibility, ask God to help us, and be willing to talk about issues in that light. We’ve accepted error if we cannot live “effortless Christianity” most of the time.
- D. The deception I’m talking about is not rational. Therefore we cannot solve it in a rational or mental way only. Often a person is intellectually clear about the truth while spiritually in their “heart” they believe error and therefore practice it. The result is pain and bondage.
- E. Our deception may come from past trauma, relationships, false teaching and the enemy. And these errors seem to be hidden and stored up in our emotions and memory.

I. “I am Flawed and Sinful in My Very Essence.”

- A. This error may have come through trauma, accusations, failures, or generational factors.
- B. Such a person believes they are inheritantly sinful, dirty, dangerous, demonic and guilty. The result is a life of bondage, hidden conflict, and the inability to receive love and truth.
- C. The Biblical truths are very clear.
 - 1. We’re created in God’s image and He said it (we—our essence) was good. Gen 1:27,31. The sin that has invaded us is not of our essence. It is a blemish, a defect, a corruption a beastly and demonic perversion, a powerful and uncontrollable bent toward evil, a death producing presence. It will be removed from us at death or when He comes.
 - 2. We are loved by God, cleansed, forgiven, accepted, adopted, justified, sanctified, gifted, sealed by the presence of the Holy Spirit, and in a living relationship with God as our Father. I Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; Ephesians 1:4-7,13,14; 4:7-13; Hebrews 10:10-17
- D. We all need release from bondage, an inner cleansing of the “heart,” and spiritual healing so we can reject sin and deception and receive the love, grace, truth, and power of God.

II. “I have to Work for and Earn God’s Love and Grace.”

Note John 15:9; Romans 5:8,9; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Galatians 3:1-5; Ephesians 2:8,9

III. “God Doesn’t Want Me and He Often Works Against Me.”

Note Isaiah 43:1-7,21,25; John 14:1-3; Romans 8:28-39; Ephesians 1:4-7

IV. “I will Always Fail, it’s Inevitable, and I will be Abandoned and Judged.”

Note John 10:27-30; Romans 8:28-39; Ephesians 1:11-14; Philippians 1:6;
Hebrews 13:5,6; 1 John 4:4

V. “God Does Not Meet All My Needs – So I’m Justified in _____.”

Note Matthew 11:28-30; John 6:35, 47-51; 14:6; 2 Corinthians 9:8; 12:9,10;
Philippians 4:4-7,19

Conclusion

- A. Do these five prevalent errors reveal their presence in your life?
- B. Confront your emotions and ask, “*What do I believe internally about these issues*”?
- C. Some suggestions toward breaking down the control of such error:
 1. Ask the Lord to pull the errors out of your inner being and make it clear.
 2. Confess the error as the sin it is—even though you’ve been victimized.
 3. Take back the ground from the enemy and close the door to their power.

*In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I take back the ground
I’ve given you wicked spirits in accepting the lie of _____.
I reject all that error and refuse to submit to it.*
 4. Address the error as a stronghold (2 Corinthians 10:4,5), break it down in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and reject it with all of its effects upon you.
 5. The next time the error starts to resurface in your life—attack it:

“In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I refuse to accept that lie.”
- D. If you do not have any error—why are you not living “effortless Christianity”?

Assignment: continue the assignment of Lesson # 1. Look up the admonitions “Remain in my love,” and “Keep yourselves in God’s love.” Choose to receive His love each day.

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