

VII. So What Do We Do To Change Our False Beliefs About God The Father? We renew our minds: Romans 12:1-2

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Message: "How Do You See God the Father?"

A. Ask God to open your eyes to understand what is true about Him.

Ephesians 1:19-20 Psalm 119:18

B. Ask God to give you wisdom in your pain.

James 1:5

C. Name the lies you have believed about God the Father when they are revealed to you. Make a choice to reject them and believe what is true.

Ephesians 4:22-24

D. Place yourself under teaching that is marked by grace and truth.

E. Read/listen.

F. Let God love you through His people. You cannot do this alone.

I. Conclusion:

**Resources: Victory Over The Darkness – Neil Anderson
The Search For Significance – Robert McGee
John Ortberg - anything and everything!**

I. Introduction:

There are many things that are supposed to be a part of your experience as a believer in Christ: grow spiritually, develop a personal walk with God, be a part of a local gathering of believers, become a disciple and be a witness for Christ. They are all important! However, this morning I don't really want to address what you are doing but rather how we are doing. Believers generally fall into one of four categories:

Category 1: "I am growing spiritually. I have my ups and downs but overall I see God working in me and through me as I engage in the opportunities for growth and ministry that come my way."

Category 2: "I have tried to be and do these things but nothing ever seems to click for me. I have trouble connecting with God, I don't see a lot of change inside me and I don't see God doing much through me."

Category 3: "I have engaged in all these things for a number of years and it has been deeply fulfilling but now it seems like the wheels are coming off. Nothing is working, the pain of life is overwhelming, and I don't know what to do anymore."

Category 4: "I have never really engaged much in any of these things. The timing never seems right and, honestly, I am just not that motivated."

Now if you find yourself in Categories 2-4, the counsel you receive may center on what you are doing, not doing, or need to do. This is an important and needful conversation but the most important conversation should focus first on what you are believing. Specifically what you are believing about God, the Scriptures and yourself.

It is often our false beliefs in these areas that cause us to struggle in our Christian lives in ways we are not fully aware of. It is what we believe about those things that ultimately will dictate how we are doing and what we are becoming as believers.

II. What is a False Belief?

Fundamentally, it is a thought or conviction that is in direct conflict with who God is and what He says is true in the Scriptures.

There are bold and obvious false beliefs but the false beliefs most Christians struggle with are much more subtle than that. Things we either sincerely believe are true or things we know aren't true in our minds but in our hearts we respond as if they were.

III. One Major False Belief: Seeing God as Being Something He is Not. Hebrews 11:6 False beliefs about God center on His character, His attitude and how He sees us.

IV. So Where Do We Get These Ideas From?

- A. Earthly fathers:
- B. The church:
- C. Authority figures:
- D. Misinterpretation of Scripture: 2 examples
 - 1. Old Testament
 - 2. New Testament
- E. Circumstances:

V. What Effect Does This Have On Our Spiritual Lives?

- A. We don't draw near
- B. We are not honest
- C. We misinterpret His discipline
- D. We perform for approval
- E. We believe lies about ourselves

VI. What Is The Truth About God The Father?

- A. He is Holy. 1 Peter 1:15-16
- B. He is a good Father who gives good gifts. Matthew 7:9-11
- C. He is intimate and approachable. Romans 8:15
- D. He is generous and loving. Ephesians 1:3-9
- E. He disciplines us for our good. Hebrews 12:5-11
- F. He made you special with a unique purpose. Ephesians 2:10