

How Can We Know True Change? Search for Significance - Week 6

The four general false beliefs that many of us apply daily in our relationships and circumstances:

I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself.

I must have the approval of certain people to approve of myself. Without their approval, I cannot feel good about myself.

Those who fail (including myself) are unworthy of love and therefore must be blamed and condemned.

I am what I am. I cannot change. I am hopeless. I am the sum total of all of my past successes and failures, and I'll never be significantly different. (S. for S. 26)

There are two possible options we can choose to determine self-worth:

The world's system: self-worth = performance (what you do) + others' opinions (what others think or say about you)

God's system: self-worth = God's truth about you (S. for S. 160)

2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit...

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

John 16:13-14 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 15:4-5 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

The fruit is proof of the root.

What keeps us from knowing true change?

What keeps us from experiencing the transformation of the Holy Spirit?

Wrong motives

2 Corinthians 5:9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Too mechanical

John 7:38 "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

Too mystical

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Lacking knowledge of Christ's love and power

1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

2 Peter 1:2-3 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence

Harboring sin

Galatians 5:17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.