**How is Your Soul #6**

**July 14th, 2022**

1 Thessalonians 5 NLT

***23Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again[[1]](#footnote-1)***

3 John 2 NASB

 ***Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.[[2]](#footnote-2)***

-The word there for prosper means “to succeed on the journey”.

-You cannot succeed on the journey and leave your soul behind.

-A successful journey in life is to be made whole and to prosper-spiritually, physically and in the inner man.

Mark 8:36
***And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?***

-We are spending an extended time this summer talking about the man on the inside….YOUR SOUL.

**FRUIT TO ROOT/REAL LIFE CHANGE**

**WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT GOD DTERMINES THE FRUIT IN YOUR LIFE.**

**OUR CULTURE IS ALL ABOUT BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION-CHANGING THE WAY PEOPLE ACT.**

**YOU CAN’T CHANGE THE WAY SOMEONE ACTS WITHOUT GETTING TO THE ROOT…WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE AND ULTIMATELY WHAT THEY BELIEVE ABOUT GOD.**

-We want to see changes in our lives so we work on the symptoms, we pick off the bad fruit, but it will not change until we change the root.

-Faith in God is the result of what we believe about God.

-We are going to work our way down this tree and back up.

1. **What is the fruit in my life?**

-You can do this with 100 things but let’s pick one.

**ANXIETY**

-If I look at my life and see anxiety which is fear for the future……I try to stop it.

-This part is easy…..what fruit do I see?

Matthew 7 NLT

***15“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. 16You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. 19So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. 20Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. [[3]](#footnote-3)***

-We say we believe something but don’t act on it.

-You only believe the part of the Word of God that you do.

-James makes it clear that your actions show who you really are and what you really believe.

-In Hebrews 11 those people of faith were commending for what they did….not just an intellectual decision they made about God.

1. **What does this fruit say about me?**
* I won’t to be in control.
* I am not in control, and I want to be.
* I disagree with the actions I see of leaders and no one is calling me……not the congress, not the white house, and not the United Nations.

-I am afraid and anxious when I am out of control.

-The world would be a better place if I was in charge.

-You may say, that is not me. That is just the fruit of my life.

-It is like saying I LIE BUT I AM NOT A LIAR OR I CHEAT BUT I AM NOT A CHEATER.

-You are actually what you do. By their fruit you can identify them.

1. **What am I believing about what God has done?**

-If I am anxious and I am not in control, what am I believing about what God has done?

-I am believing he has lost control.

-He may have stopped caring about me and the church.

-You say….I don’t believe that.

-You actually do if that is the fruit of your life.

-God feels distant and uninvolved and uncaring.

-It is hard to admit this but when it says to:

2 Corinthians 13 NLT

***5Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves[[4]](#footnote-4)***

-This is the painful process of examining yourself.

-Here is the point: in light of the fruit in your life, what do you believe about God.

1. **Who is God?**
* I must believe he is impotent.
* I must believe he doesn’t have the power to change anything.
* I must believe he is distant and uncaring.
* He may be unloving and tired of people, including me.

-You may resist this and say: BUT I DON’T BELIEVE THAT.

-The truth is……the fruit of your life tells what you really believe about God.

Matthew 25 NLT

***20The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’***

***21“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together![[5]](#footnote-5)\*’***

***22“The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’***

***23“The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’***

***24“Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. 25I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’***

***26“But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, 27why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’***

***28“Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. 29To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.***

-His actions were based on what he believed about God….so are ours.

-We act out of our heart beliefs.

-If we want to be different, changing our behavior is not going to come until we change our belief about God.

Hebrews 11 NLT

***6And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. [[6]](#footnote-6)***

-Your faith and your actions are determined by what you believe about God.

**WE NEED TO REPENT AND CONFESS OUR SIN, NOT THE ACTION BUT THE BELIEF.**

**-**That is what Job did. He changed his mind and heart about God.

Job 42 NLT

***Then Job replied to the Lord:***

***2“I know that you can do anything,***

***and no one can stop you.***

***3You asked, ‘Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?’***

***It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about,***

***things far too wonderful for me.***

***4You said, ‘Listen and I will speak!***

***I have some questions for you,***

***and you must answer them.’***

***5I had only heard about you before,***

***but now I have seen you with my own eyes.***

***6I take back everything I said,***

***and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.” [[7]](#footnote-7)***

-Job repented, not of a sin but of believing wrongly about God.

-He thought God was unjust and that his righteousness should deliver him.

Song-Don Moen

**I have made You too small in my eyes**

***O Lord, forgive me;
I have believed in a lie
That You were unable to help me
But now, O Lord, I see my wrong
Heal my heart and show Yourself strong;
And in my eyes and with my song
O Lord, be magnified
O Lord, be magnified***

***I have leaned on the wisdom of men
O Lord, forgive me;
And I have responded to them
Instead of Your light and Your mercy
But now, O Lord, I see my wrong
Heal my heart and show Yourself strong;
And in my eyes with my song
O Lord, be magnified
O Lord, be magnified***

-Let’s work back up the tree with the truth now.

-Let’s change our belief about God.

1. **Who is God?**

-He is love.

-He is all-powerful.

-He cares about me.

-He hasn’t left us or forsaken us.

-My repentance turns me to the true God.

-I can trust him.

1. **What has God done?**

-I know the truth about him by what he has done.

-He is loving because:

* He sent Jesus.
* He demonstrated his love by the cross.
* He didn’t withhold his son from us, how would he withhold anything else.
* God sees the future….he is in the future now….he is eternal.
* Man can’t stop the plan and purpose of God.

Psalm 2 NLT

***1Why are the nations so angry?***

***Why do they waste their time with futile plans?***

***2The kings of the earth prepare for battle;***

***the rulers plot together***

***against the Lord***

***and against his anointed one.***

***3“Let us break their chains,” they cry,***

***“and free ourselves from slavery to God.”***

***4But the one who rules in heaven laughs.***

***The Lord scoffs at them.***

***5Then in anger he rebukes them,***

***terrifying them with his fierce fury.***

***6For the Lord declares, “I have placed my chosen king on the throne***

***in Jerusalem,[[8]](#footnote-8)\* on my holy mountain.”***

***7The king proclaims the Lord’s decree:***

***“The Lord said to me, ‘You are my son.[[9]](#footnote-9)\****

***Today I have become your Father.[[10]](#footnote-10)\****

***8Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance,***

***the whole earth as your possession.***

***9You will break[[11]](#footnote-11)\* them with an iron rod***

***and smash them like clay pots.’ ”***

***10Now then, you kings, act wisely!***

***Be warned, you rulers of the earth!***

***11Serve the Lord with reverent fear,***

***and rejoice with trembling.***

***12Submit to God’s royal son,[[12]](#footnote-12)\* or he will become angry,***

***and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities—***

***for his anger flares up in an instant.***

***But what joy for all who take refuge in him! [[13]](#footnote-13)***

-God has saved us.

-God healed me last summer.

-God has been faithful to me and fcfc.

-I can list a 100 things.

-He is good…..he has been good.

-In light of the truth:

1. **Who am I?**

-I can now face the future.

-I am a follower of Jesus, he will never leave me or forsake me.

-God has a plan…..we are here on purpose and on time.

-Jesus asked the Father to send me the Holy Spirit and he did.

-I have the Word of God. I have God’s promises.

-I am living in light of God’s light and love.

-I am headed for eternity with God.

-My future is bright.

1. **What is the new fruit after my belief about God has changed?**

-The new fruit on the tree is **PEACE.**

-We try to grow peace without changing the root.

-The root is what you believe about God.

-Your soul will never be healthy with a wrong belief about God.

-Spend time in worship acknowledging the truth about God.

Proverbs 4 NLT

***23Guard your heart above all else,***

***for it determines the course of your life. [[14]](#footnote-14)***

-Remember the way satan got Adam and Eve into sin was to cause them to doubt God and his Word and his goodness.

-When they thought wrongly about God they focused on themselves and were ashamed and afraid.

-Your behavior is the result of what you believe.

-Your soul is restored in the light of the truth about God.

-If I were a psychologist I would address your feelings and discoveries.

-As a Christian I will tell you what Jesus said:

* **HAVE FAITH IN GOD**

-The Psalms say:

* **IN HIS LIGHT WE SEE LIGHT**
1. Tyndale House Publishers. [*Holy Bible: New Living Translation*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nlt?ref=BibleNLT.1Th5.23&off=23&ctx=l%E2%80%99s+Final+Greetings%0a~23%C2%A0Now+may+%E2%80%A2the+God+). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015. Print. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [*New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nasb95?ref=BibleNASB95.3Jn2&off=0&ctx=+I+c%EF%BB%BFlove+in+truth.%0a~+2+%EF%BB%BFBeloved%2c+I+pray+). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Tyndale House Publishers. [*Holy Bible: New Living Translation*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nlt?ref=BibleNLT.Mt7.15&off=23&ctx=+Tree+and+Its+Fruit%0a~15%C2%A0%E2%80%9CBeware+of+%E2%80%A2false). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015. Print. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Tyndale House Publishers. [*Holy Bible: New Living Translation*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nlt?ref=BibleNLT.2Co13.5&off=0&ctx=+have+God%E2%80%99s+power.+%0a~5%C2%A0Examine+yourselves). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015. Print. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. \* **25:21** Greek *Enter into the joy of your master* [or *your Lord*]; also in 25:23. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Tyndale House Publishers. [*Holy Bible: New Living Translation*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nlt?ref=BibleNLT.Heb11.6&off=0&ctx=n+who+pleased+%E2%80%A2God.+~6%C2%A0And+it+is+impossib). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015. Print. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Tyndale House Publishers. [*Holy Bible: New Living Translation*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nlt?ref=BibleNLT.Job42.1&off=25&ctx=esponds+to+the+Lord%0a~Then+Job+replied+to+). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015. Print. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. \* **2:6** Hebrew *on Zion*. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. \* **2:7a** Or *Son*; also in 2:12. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. \* **2:7b** Or *Today I reveal you as my son*. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. \* **2:9** Greek version reads *rule*. Compare Rev 2:27. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Tyndale House Publishers. [*Holy Bible: New Living Translation*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nlt?ref=BibleNLT.Ps2.1&off=0&ctx=Psalm+2%0a~1%C2%A0Why+are+the+nations+so+angry%3f+). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015. Print. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Tyndale House Publishers. [*Holy Bible: New Living Translation*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nlt?ref=BibleNLT.Pr4.23&off=0&ctx=+their+whole+body.+%0a~23%C2%A0Guard+your+heart+). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015. Print. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)