

Competing Beliefs Systems

In a recent conversation, a fellow believer discussed how they had failed to trust God in a life situation, explaining that she had experienced a failure of Faith-Rest. I would like to address this particular situation by expanding what actually happens in the soul when we choose to not believe God's word in a life situation. It is not just that we don't trust God for the situation; we actually trust something else instead of God's word that we use to make application to the situation. We will develop the concepts and then look at Joseph's situation as our illustration.

1. God designed the human soul with 2 types of mentality by which we learn, conclude and program ourselves to make habitual responses to life situations.

<u>Mind</u>	[nous]	Evaluate life, understand events, and reach conclusions about what/why of life
<u>Heart</u>	[kardia]	Store beliefs, compute beliefs into action, and apply beliefs to life forming habitual responses that we automatically use to make application.
<u>Faith</u>		Determines which conclusions are programmed into the heart; influence
<u>Launching Pad</u>		Make application based on dominant, habitual ideas we have been using to deal with life situations.

Principle: Whatever we believe becomes part of the heart, amalgamated into a system that yields advanced knowledge and wisdom to make application to life.

2. Man's Dilemma: AOS à Fall of man à sp death à separated/God à sp blind to truth à OSN à Devil's world à Driven/Needs à Knowing Nothing.

- a. Born cut off from God, from truth, with a Old Sin Nature (OSN) making us vulnerable to worldly thinking, we cannot help but build a false belief system as our way of life – Old Man (OM)
- b. Driven by our need to relate, we attach our hearts to people instead of God – idolatry
- c. We build our initial false ideas as a reaction to our human experience and the false conclusions we reach & believe become our own human viewpoint system for making life work for us, w/out God.
- d. From birth to salvation, we make application to deal with life situations from our OM belief-behavior system – form strategies that become habitual behaviors.
- e. We make applications from OM by faith; by believing the lies we have built over and over so that the lies become our natural way of thinking, feeling, speaking & acting.
 - Faith is the means of influencing the heart and the means of application to life.
 - At the moment of application the idea we believe at that moment is the concept we will apply to the situation.
- f. The habitual nature of applying ideas to life causes OM ideas to simply pop onto the launching pad of the heart and we use it almost w/out making a choice – habit

3. Salvation connects man to God and to truth, enabling the believer to process truth

- a. Spiritual growth begins the process of building the New Man (NM) belief-behavior system.
- b. We learn, understand, believe, process [heart] & make application using divine ideas.
- c. Consistent inhale-exhale of doctrine builds the NM belief-behavior system.

4. NM application is always hindered by existing habitual OM BB.

- a. As we begin making application of NM ideas, we discover that we **already have** an idea, a viewpoint and a habitual behavior programmed into our hearts from the OM system we built and used in our old life.
- b. Pre-salvation, we experienced every major area of life, developed a theory about what / why, believed our conclusion entering it into the OM system where it was processed into a viewpoint, creating an appropriate behavior to deal with it and we used the behavior consistently until it became an unconscious habit of behavior.
- c. Initially, when building the OM BB, we had no pre-existing ideas to conflict and hinder our use and application of the principles to life – no inner conflict.
- d. When we seek to put NM into application, we find that we already have experienced the life situation and have already put a principle into place to deal with it.
- e. When we put NM BB into practice, we have competing ideas and strategies to choose from, the OM being the oldest and most used idea and feels the most natural to us.
- f. OM BB motivates and justifies our sins, evil & human good.

5. Paul explains that the OM BB must be taken off before the NM BB can become the dominant, habitual ideas, strategies and behaviors in the heart of the believer.

- a. The ideas we consistently use form our dominant, habitual thoughts & actions
- b. OM is what we have used all of our lives and resides as the dominant habit of life.
- c. When we reject an OM idea as a lie by refusing to believe it any longer or use the idea to make decisions, the habitual use & application of the idea is broken.
- d. Only when we break the old habit of using an OM idea, can we then replace it with the corresponding NM idea and make NM the dominant, habitual view and behavior.
- e. Until we break the habit of using an OM idea while trying to apply NM ideas, we will consistently fall back into the habitual OM lifestyle – walking in rebound.

Competing Belief Systems – Illustration

Joseph – struggles with interpreting his life from human viewpoint

OMBB (Gen 40:14-15) “Get me out of this prison” (bayith); kidnapped, sold into slavery; done nothing wrong that I should be put here in this pit (bor – cistern).

NMBB (Gen 41:51) Manasseh – God has made me forget my troubles & my father’s house

(Gen 41:52) – Ephraim – God has made me fruitful in my new life; (Gen 45:5-8) don’t be angry with self for selling me; God sent me ahead to preserve life, preserve remnant, Messianic lineage; Not you who sent me here, but it was God who sent me here.

- In the prison, he was still looking at his life from human viewpoint, wanting to get out of the situation that God had caused in his life.
- After he became Prime Minister, in stages, he was able to see the plan; Manasseh: resolved the issues of his past & able to let go of the life he had lost; Ephraim: new life is fruitful and fulfilling.
- Finally, the famine came and then God reconciled him & his brothers, he realized the magnitude of the plan and saw that God was in control all along; he was grateful