

THE EVERYDAY DISCIPLE

3 Questions That Define
The Christian Life



The Everyday Disciple Week 1: What Do You Believe?

01. INTRODUCTION

Hello there, My name is _____ and I want to welcome. I am so excited to kick off our new series called The Everyday Disciple: Where together over the next 3 weeks we will be discussing 3 Questions that define the Christian life.

These questions and your answers will determine the trajectory of your life and the ultimate effectiveness of your faith.

02. TRANSITION TO MESSAGE

As we kick off this new series and a new year. I think it is so important that we understand how lasting transformation happens in our life. Why? Because that's what everyone wants each year but [statistics show that what we're doing isn't working...](#)

January 13 is national QUIT day. Each year it is the second Friday of January and statistics show that by this day, upwards of 90% of people quit their new years resolutions...

Why? The idea of a New Years resolution, that is the focus of changing your behavior as the foundation for changing your life, isn't a Biblical Idea, it is actually a Babylonian idea.

The Bible and specifically Jesus in the New Testament introduces the Biblical Process for Lasting transformation: The Greatest Commandment:

Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷ He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your **mind**. ³⁸ This is the greatest and most important command. ³⁹ The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

03. MESSAGE

Notice Mind is what Jesus emphasized here. He is teaching us something that is echoed by the Apostle Paul in:

Romans 12:1-2 NLT (leave translation)

"and so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, **but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think**. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Today we are kicking off our series with the most important question for changing your life: **What do you believe?**

What you believe isn't about what you do, it is about how you think... Here's a big idea: **God Transforms Your Life by Changing The Way You Think**.

Why do we need to change the way we think?

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways." This is the Lord's declaration. ⁹"For as heaven is higher than earth,

so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Proverbs 14:12

¹² There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death.

The way we think leads to death.

Ephesians 6:11

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.

Methodos in the Greek – down a road or pathway... how you think leads you down a road or pathway that leads to death.

- The Armor of God – Focus is winning in the spiritual starting in your mind.

The way God thinks leads to life.

John 6:63

⁶³ The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn't help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Many of us focus on behavior modification but that won't be enough, why? because the way God works is different:

The Process of Christian Believing:

1. Only a new heart results in a changed mind

Nicodemus religious guy, good guy... but something was still missing.

John 3:3-7

³ Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again,^[a] he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴"How can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked him. "Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again.

You must be born again. Leader in the church, came at night – that shows how he thought. The pharisees like most religious people, want to start with behavior but it didn't work for Nic and it won't work for you? Why, you must get a new heart and be born again...

- If you try and change your life without a new heart, it won't work. **Behavior modification versus life transformation.**

Romans 8:11

¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through^[a] his Spirit who lives in you.

2. God transforms us from the inside out.

The Apostle Paul when writing to the church at Thessalonica, primarily of Greek influence, helps us understand how this process works.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. And may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul is helping those in this church understand how to think differently about their life. They were used to seeing everything from the outside in.

This is natural for us: we judge a book by it's cover, a person by their actions, we interact with the whole world this way... But Paul here is saying, that was before Christ.

Now you need to think differently. In order for God to transform your whole life, you need to understand how it works.

- Spirit – born again by the power of the Holy Spirit the moment you believed the Gospel about Jesus.
- Soul – Your mind your will and your emotions – Thinker, Feeler, Chooser.
- Body – How you relate to the physical world around you.

So God Changes You From The inside out, but how do we think like God?

3. God changes the way we think through his Word.

John 17:15-17

¹⁵ I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ **Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.**

Sanctify – to make holy or clean, set apart, to be made into.

You learn how to walk in His ways through His word.

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

4. The way you think leads to what you believe.

This continues to be a struggle for us even after we're saved. We want to start on the outside but God says the real problem is on the inside... We get a new heart but can still be held back because we aren't thinking like God.

*Religion is about mastering God.
True faith is about God mastering you.*

Why don't we think like God? Because we don't know His word.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.

God wants to speak to you, how do you know his voice, how do you know if it's him? **You know Him.** You know His character, you know how He works and as you read the Bible over and over you begin to see more and more of who He is to you.

Biblical Perspectives

1. Jesus is the eternal word.

John 1:14

¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2. The Bible is one unified story about Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

3. The Bible teaches us the will and ways of God.

Deuteronomy 30:15-16 NLT (leave translation)

¹⁵ "Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. ¹⁶ For I command you this day to love the Lord your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations **by walking in his ways**. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy.

But what if I don't understand?! I get it but faith without faith isn't faith. Just stay humble and remember that you aren't God then ask the Holy Spirit to show you.

04. CLOSING & PRAYER

HONEST TO GOD – Slide and Push:

Bible Reading Plan – Audio bible, written bible – Devotionals are good but you need to read through the Bible every year. It is one story about Jesus.

Let's Pray