RICHARD PENNYSTAN

Barriers to Godly Living and Leadership

I am the vicar of St Chad's Romiley, on the edge of Manchester. I am married to Nells, who is a doctor, and I have four teenage sons, the eldest of whom is off to Uni the week before our residential (so I might be an emotional wreck!).

I also have various leadership roles in New Wine: I am regional director for the North West and lead the regional directors team; I am on the National Leadership Team; and, up until recently, I oversaw the seminar programme for New Wine United. I am also a trustee of the newly formed Emmanuel Theological College in the North West.

I grew up in Suffolk, came to know Jesus personally as a teenager, and was called to full-time ministry in my teens. I attended a Pentecostal Bible school in London, then went on to do an English Lit degree at Newcastle. I was director of training for a youth charity for a couple of years, and was then with a church planting team in Uzbekistan before training for ordination at Ridley Hall. I spent eight years after ordination in London and moved up North in 2011.

Bible teaching is my absolute passion, so I'm delighted to be doing that with you this week. My particular areas of interest are the intersection of psychology/ leadership development with theology, along with intercessory prayer, cultural change and 'hollow religion'. One of my favourite parts of ministry is leading a mentoring group for curates in the North West

My passions outside of work including spending quality time with my family and friends, cricket and cooking. We have two golden retrievers, who bring great joy, a lot of mess and keep me physically and mentally healthy.

RICHARD PENNYSTAN
St Chads Church Office,
c/o Romiley LifeCentre,
1-5 Stockport Road,
Romiley,
Stockport
SK6 4BN
E richard@stchadsromiley.co.uk
T 07971 663129

Vicar

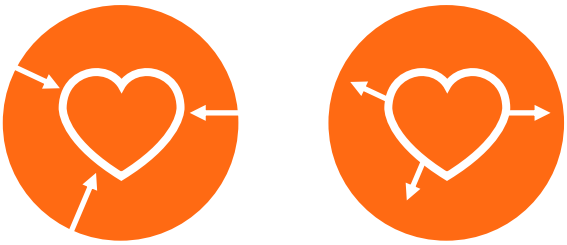
BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 1: The Heart (Proverbs 4:20-27)

PROVERBS 4:23
Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

MATTHEW 12:34-35
For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good person brings good things out of the good stored up inside, and an evil person brings evil things out of the evil stored up in side.

MATTHEW 15:10-11
'Hear and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.'

YOUR OUTER LIFE WILL BE AN EXPRESSION OF YOUR INNER LIFE



THE HEART
Hebrew: Labah - (462 times in Old Testament)

Greek: Cardo (79 times in New Testament)

KEY BIBLICAL TEXTS ON 'THE HEART'		WHAT HAPPENS IN THE HEART?	
Proverbs 4:23	Wellspring of Life	**Thoughts**	Hebrews 4:12
Luke 12:34	Where your treasure is, your heart will be	**Beliefs**	Romans 10:9
1 Samuel 16:7	Humans look on the outside, God on the heart	**Memories**	Deuteronomy 4:9
Psalms 139:23	Search my heart	**Creativity**	Exodus 31:6
		Courage	John 14:27
		Motives	1 Corinthians 4:5

KEY INSIGHTS

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 1: The Heart (Proverbs 4:20-27)

KEY INSIGHTS

'The innermost part of the human personality – the center of those qualities which make us human'.

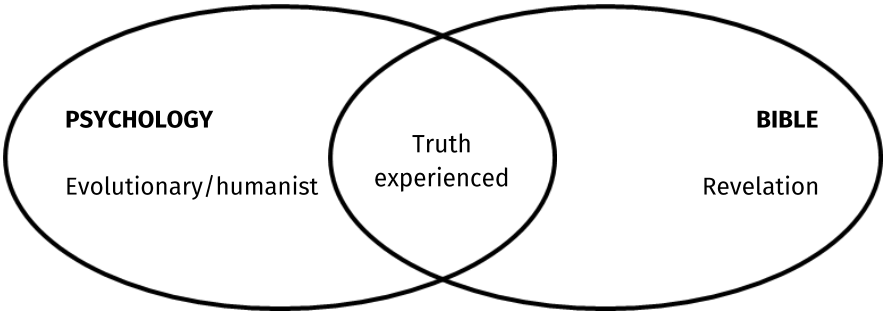
James Houston

'The use of the Bible term heart is best understood by simply saying "me".'

Oswald Chambers

THE HEART AND THE 'SELF'

To understand the Biblical view of the heart, we need to have a Biblical worldview, rooted in God's story. For many of us, our contemporary world has shaped our view of our 'self' and if we superimpose that onto 'the heart', we'll end up in the wrong place!



THE SECULAR STORY OF SELF

START	Evolution – physical matter
HISTORY	Stages of consciousness. Philip Rieff: Simple – Social – Religious – Economic – Psychological. Social, religious, economic structures – repress & forbid Each era is a throwing off the repressions of the previous:
BATTLE	Now is the time for the authentic self to burst forth 'I know why the caged bird sings' 'This is me'
GOAL (TELOS)	Survival and Self actualisation

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BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 1: The Heart (Proverbs 4:20-27)

KEY WORDS IN THE SELF'S STORY

<table>
<tr><td>Liberation</td><td rowspan="2">Rights</td><td rowspan="5">Division</td></tr>
<tr><td>Authenticity</td></tr>
<tr><td>Desires</td><td>Victim</td></tr>
<tr><td>Self expression</td><td rowspan="2">Blame</td></tr>
<tr><td>Autonomy</td></tr>
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THE BIBLICAL HEART

START	Created in image of God to Love & Obey
HISTORY	Walked away from relationship & came home, again and again. God stepped in to save & bring us home. Society, religion, economic structures – human-made and can't fulfil.
BATTLE	World, Flesh and the Devil – all seeking to pull us away from God.
GOAL (TELOS)	Communion – Relationship with God and Unity

HOW THE HEART IS DIFFERENT FROM THE SELF

<table>
<tr><td>~~Liberation~~ – Freedom</td><td rowspan="2">~~Rights~~ – Gratitude</td><td rowspan="5">Integrity</td></tr>
<tr><td>~~Authenticity~~ – Honest vulnerability</td></tr>
<tr><td>~~Desires~~ – Temptation & longing</td><td>~~Victim~~ – Saved</td></tr>
<tr><td>~~Self expression~~ – Creativity</td><td rowspan="2">~~Blame~~ – Responsibility</td></tr>
<tr><td>~~Autonomy~~ – Relationship</td></tr>
</table>

KEY INSIGHTS

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 1: The Heart (Proverbs 4:20-27)

KEY INSIGHTS

HOW WILL YOU GUARD YOUR HEART MORE CAREFULLY AS A RESULT OF THIS RESIDENTIAL?

WHERE DO YOU NEED TO MORE RESOLUTELY NEED TO 'LET YOUR EYES LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD'?

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BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 1: The Heart (Proverbs 4:20-27)

IMAGINATION EXERCISE:
In quiet, comfortable, restyle space – take time to pause your thoughts and invite the Holy Spirit to enliven your imagination, considering the question, 'How do I 'see' my heart?'

WORK THROUGH THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE SELF AND THE HEART.
Where do you see ways in which you have been heavily influenced by the story of self?

WHICH ARE THE FACETS OF THE STORY OF 'SELF' WHICH WE CAN EMBRACE AS POSITIVE?

KEY INSIGHTS

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 2: Shadow Sin, Shame and Strongholds (Psalm 51:1-12)

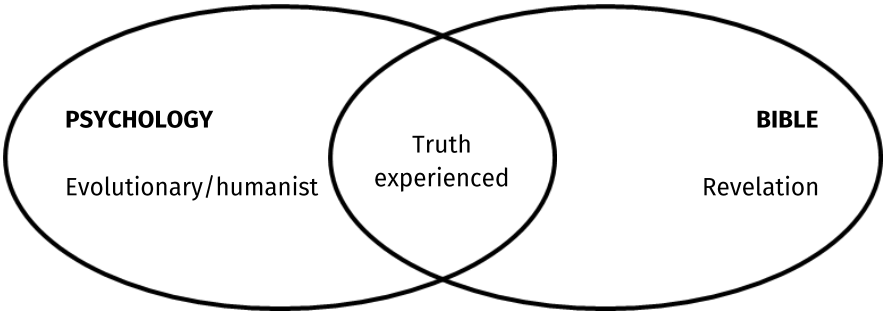
KEY INSIGHTS

Sin is toxic, messy and painful. We can only handle it because God's grace is greater.

We start from the foundation that we are loved & God forgives.

Advocate not Accuser
Conviction not Condemnation

Shadow



The 'self actualisation' story, rejects the concept of 'sin' preferring the term 'shadow'

- To define sin one needs to define an authority outside of the 'self'.
- Notions of sin are perceived to be repressive.
- Experienced reality exposes human evil.

'Your shadow is the accumulation of untamed emotions, less-than-pure motives and thoughts that, while largely unconscious, strongly influence and shape your behaviours. It is the damage but mostly hidden version of who you are.'

Philip Scazzero

'It (shadow) is dangerous, disorderly and forever in hiding, as if the light of consciousness would steal its very life.'

Jeremiah Abrams (Jungian psychotherapist)

FRONT STAGE: BACK STAGE
(The undefended Leader, Simon Walker)
Erving Goffman: Our behaviour = performance

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BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 2: Shadow Sin, Shame and Strongholds (Psalm 51:1-12)

IDEALISED EGO-IMAGE
The 'on show' aspects of our lives – John Sanford, Jungian Psychologist.
Also called 'pride position'.

Inverse of the 'pride position' = 'shame position', the things we hide in our **shadow**.

Hidden in our shadow:
- Suppressed aspects of our God-created personality.
- Our sinful rebellion against God.
- Destructive behaviours resulting from pain and brokenness.

The wisdom and discernment is knowing which. This comes from deep relationship with God, openness to him and Biblical understanding of what it means to be human.

Sin

Who defines what sin is?

The fundamental contrast between the secular psychological and Biblical perspectives is the question of who defines what sin is:
- Secular psychology – self autonomy.

- Biblical – God has authority – Jesus is Lord.

Two core biblical definitions of sin:
- Wickedness/evil/malice.

- Breaking God's law.

JAMES 4:11-12
When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbour?

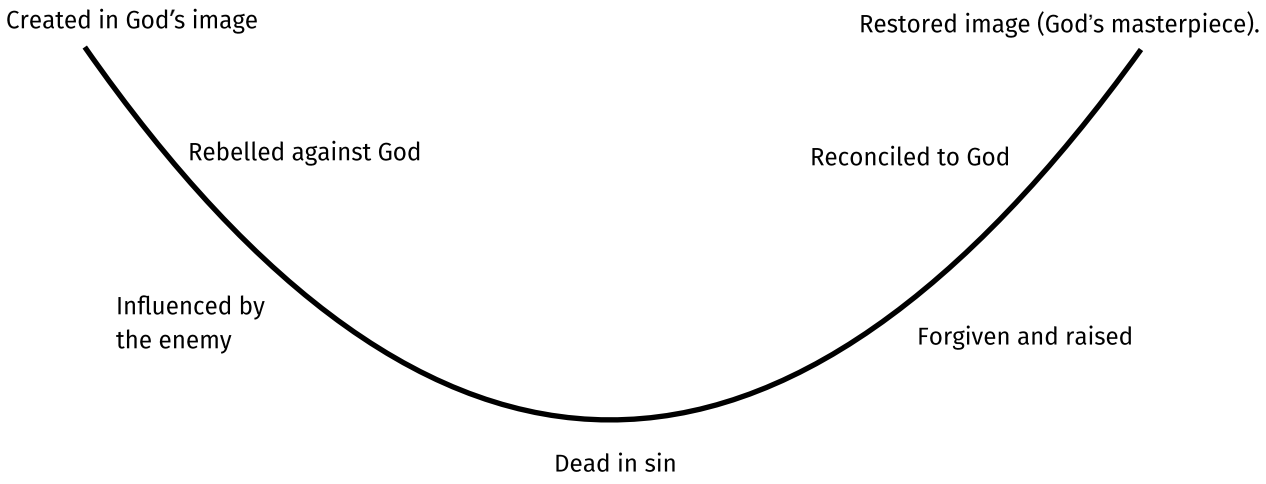
THE BIBLE'S VIEW OF OUR IDENTITY
Created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:27).
'The heart is deceitful above all things' (Jeremiah 17:9)

Story not dualistic thinking.

KEY INSIGHTS

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 2: Shadow Sin, Shame and Strongholds (Psalm 51:1-12)

EPHESIANS 2:1-10



1. Shame

GENESIS 3:6-13

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SHAME AND GUILT?

	BRENE BROWN	FOCUS	RP DEFINITION
GUILT	I did something wrong	Action	The fact I did something wrong
SHAME	I am bad	Emotions/Identity	The feeling I have about myself for my wrong actions

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BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 2: Shadow Sin, Shame and Strongholds (Psalm 51:1-12)

Shame and Forgiveness

Because Shame goes deeper and impacts our identity, when receiving God's forgiveness, we both need to:

- Embrace the truth that he no longer deems us 'guilty'.
- Embrace emotionally the truth that we are loved and forgiven and God doesn't see us as 'miserable sinners'.
- Recognise that because we are forgiven – we don't need to hide!

Hiding:

WHO FROM	WHY	FREEDOM
God	Fear of punishment	Grace and forgiveness
People we want to connect with	Fear of rejection	Forgiveness and reconciliation
People we lead	Loss of power	Humility and vulnerability
Ourselves	Facing our worst parts hurts	Shadow

Vulnerability

Stepping out of our shame and shadow, takes vulnerability.

'To love someone fiercely, to believe in something with your whole heart, to celebrate a fleeting moment in time, to fully engage in a life that doesn't come with guarantees – these are risks that involve vulnerability and often pain. But I'm learning that recognizing and leaning into the discomfort of vulnerability teaches us how to live with joy, gratitude, and grace.'

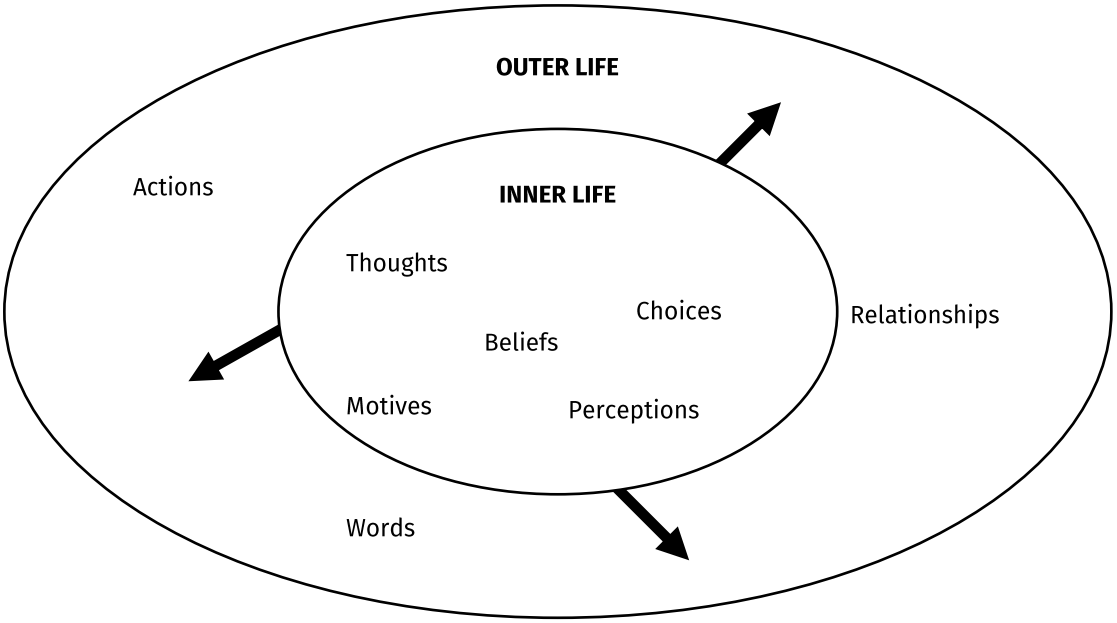
Brene Brown

KEY INSIGHTS

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 2: Shadow Sin, Shame and Strongholds (Psalm 51:1-12)

2. Inside and Out

MATTHEW 15:1-20



Jesus and the Pharisees – Inner and outer lives.

Old Covenant	What we do	Actions, words, behaviours	Law	Punishment
New Covenant	Why we do it	Motives, beliefs, choices	Pure heart	Forgiveness

3. Types of Sin

Assessing different types of sin very much depends on the subject, the intention, the damage done and who has authority to judge.

Ignorance	Don't know, believe lies (cultural or inside us) folly
Weakness	Lack of courage, fear, temptation, power of desires, emptiness, desperation
Our own deliberate fault	Evil, malice, cruelty, wickedness

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4.

KEY INSIGHTS

5. Taking Responsibility

Adam and Eve

Saul and David

Proverbs – humility and folly

'Level 5 leaders, inherently humble, look out the window to apportion credit—even undue credit – to factors outside themselves.... At the same time, they look in the mirror to assign responsibility, never citing bad luck or external factors when things go poorly.'

Jim Collins (Good to Great) - Level 5 Leadership:

Victimhood and blame
'There is a difference between being a victim and defining yourself as one.'

'What makes us Homo sapiens – in any given situation we can look back or we can look forward. We can ask "Why did this happen?" That involves looking back for some cause in the past. Or we can ask, "What then shall I do?" This involves looking forward, trying to work out some future destination, given this as our starting point.

'There is a fateful difference between the two. I can't change the past. But I can change the future. Looking only back, I will see myself as an object acted on by forces largely beyond my control. Looking forward, I see myself as a subject, a choosing moral agent, deciding which path to take from here to where I want to eventually be. Both are legitimate ways of thinking, but one leads to resentment, bitterness, rage, courage and a desire for revenge. The other leads to challenge, courage, strength of will and self control.'

Jonathan Sacks

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 2: Shadow Sin, Shame and Strongholds (Psalm 51:1-12)

KEY INSIGHTS

WHAT HAS GOD EXPOSED THAT IS WITHIN YOUR SHADOW THIS WEEK?

- Suppressed aspects of your God-created personality.

- Your sinful rebellion against God.

- Destructive behaviours resulting from pain and brokenness.

WRITE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR 'IDEALISED EGO-IMAGE' (ONLY FOR YOU AND GOD TO SEE)

WHICH PART OF THE FULL STORY OF YOUR IDENTITY (GENESIS 1 AND EPHESIANS 2:1-10) DO YOU MOST REGULARLY LIVE OUT OF?

WHAT CAUSES YOU TO LIVE OUT OF ANOTHER PART OF THAT STORY?

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BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP

Session 2: Shadow Sin, Shame and Strongholds (Psalm 51:1-12)

WHAT ARE YOUR SYMPTOMS OF LIVING IN SHAME?

WHERE ARE THE CONTEXT WHERE YOU CAN BE TRULY VULNERABLE?

WHEN ARE YOU MOST LIKELY TO SWITCH INTO VICTIMHOOD AND BLAME?

KEY INSIGHTS

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 3: Motives (Deuteronomy 30:11-20)

KEY INSIGHTS

1 CORINTHIANS 4:4-5
My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

MOTIVES: they WHY behind WHAT we do or say.

Categorising motives:

Pure/impure

Selfish/generous

Intrinsic/extrinsic

Stick/carrot

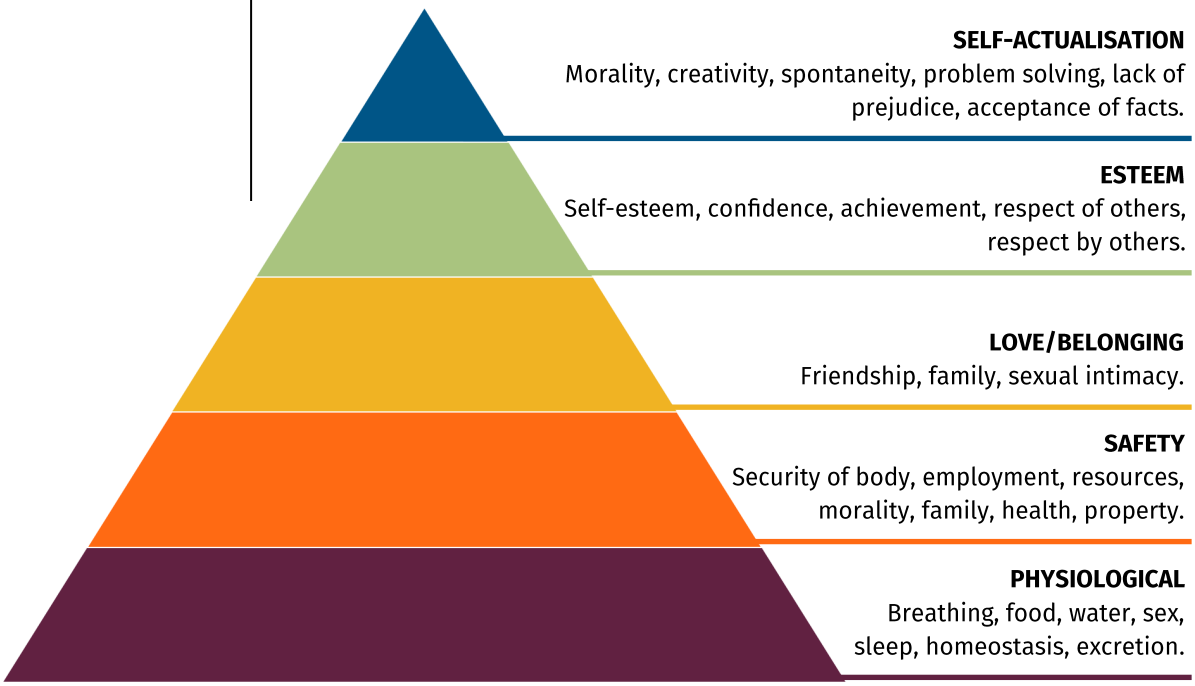
Desires/duties

Needs/wants

Goals/gains/gold/glory

The perspective on motives very much changes depending on whether we live according to the self or the heart.

MASLOW'S TRIANGLE



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BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 3: Motives (Deuteronomy 30:11-20)

A 'needs based' model - primarily motivated by our needs.

	SELF	HEART
GOALS	Survival – Self Actualisation	Love God and people, Unity
NEEDS	Desires, comforts = **Pursue pleasure**	Enjoy and gratitude = **Hope**
QUEST	Fight repression, autonomy, survive = **grasp power**	Yield & trust = **Faith**
VISION	Express self, prove self = **self actualisation**	Glorify Jesus, bless others = **Love**

LAYERS of MOTIVES

SURFACE	Felt needs – Hunger, thirst, rest Pleasure – 'Temptations of the eyes', cravings Fear, threats – Pain avoidance
SEASON OF LIFE	Personal goals (e.g. exercise, achievements) Responsibilities (work/family/community) Interests/learning Delayed gratification (self discipline) Help others Provide resources Bring joy/protection to others (generosity/hospitality)
DEEPER	Vision and values Ambition (selfish or kingdom) Personal growth Pursuit of meaning Seeking power Chronic fears Blessing others
CORE	Who do I love? What I'm living for?

KEY INSIGHTS

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 3: Motives (Deuteronomy 30:11-20)

I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.
Deuteronomy 30:15

Reward and Punishment

1. Reward – 'The carrot'

Neurology – 'pleasure pathways'. Neurotransmitters.

DOPAMINE	SEROTONIN
Instant hit pleasure: Sugar, thrills, entertainment, 'wins', drugs, alcohol. Happiness, pleasure. Addictive, Leaves emptiness	Joy, life-giving, relational, satisfying. Slow release joy and contentment: Connect Cook Contribute Cope

Chasing pleasure – we'll chase dopamine
Healthy Inner Life – we'll increase our serotonin

2. Punishment 'The stick' – fear

Loss and Pain

LAYER	CARROT	STICK
SURFACE	Felt needs - Hunger, thirst, rest Pleasure -"Temptations of the eyes", cravings	Pain: spiders, snakes, fire.... Loss of comfort: hunger, cold, Physically safety
LIFE CONTEXT	Personal goals / achievements Responsibilities Provide resources Delayed gratification (self discipline) Interests/learning Generosity/hospitality	Failure / Diminishment Loss of job/status Loss of wealth Loss of health Loss of confidence Rejection
DEEPER MOTIVES	Vision and values (Pursuit of meaning) Ambition (selfish or kingdom) Relationship & connection Power & authority Blessing others	Loss of meaning/purpose Failure Rejection, abandonment Powerlessness Rejection/betrayal
CORE	Who do I love? What I'm living for ?	Loss of identity Death

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BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 3: Motives (Deuteronomy 30:11-20)

When we are motivated by fear, it has long term damaging impact on our health, relationships and faith.

'Perfect love casts out fear, because fear has to do with punishment
1 John 4:18

INTEGRITY

Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.
Proverbs 19:1

'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.
Matthew 15:8

Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength.
Deuteronomy 6:5

Integrity is living with the four layers of motivation aligned with one another.

Actions + four layers of motives => rooted in and an expression of our core heart.

The opposite of integrity is Hypocrisy, when our outer lives do not align with our inner lives.
- Defences.
- Ego/Shadow.
- Sin.
- Destructive thought patterns.

ROOTED CORE MOTIVES

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life.
Deuteronomy 30:19-20

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13

We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 1:3

KEY INSIGHTS

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 3: Motives (Deuteronomy 30:11-20)

KEY INSIGHTS

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE

FAITH - trusting God's power not our own

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
Proverbs 3:5

- Prayer.
- Self limiting, choosing to live God's ways.
- Obedience - trusting God's ways are better than our ways.
- Heavenly vision - living for eternity and not now.

HOPE - motivated with a vision for a better world and eternity

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.
Romans 8:22-25

- Set our focus on what is good (hope not cynicism).
- Contribute not consume.
- Self discipline: a healthier, more alive, whole you will be able to bless/serve/influence others.
- Vision – hope fueled.

'Whoever has the most hope, has the most influence.'

LOVE - for God and others

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13

- Living not for self but for God.
- Living towards relationship not autonomy.
- It's the heart of a lifestyle of worship.
- It rises from the very depth of our hearts and can shape all that we do.

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BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 3: Motives (Deuteronomy 30:11-20)

DECISION MAKING IS HARD.

Roy Baumeister's research (Willpower) reveals that physiologically willpower uses glucose, we have a finite amount of willpower. Making decisions taps into each layer of our motives and draws from them.

It takes more self discipline to dig deeper into core motives, when there is an external attraction to the more surface level.

Choosing the way of integrity is physically and emotionally draining in the short time, but life-giving in the long run.

A biblical way to manage our finite resources of willpower is living in obedience to God's law and wisdom and building structures to remove the need for immediate decision making. Habits, identity and covenant are all structures made from our core, to put shape and boundaries around our more superficial motives.

Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, who have left the straight paths to walk in dark ways, who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.

Proverbs 2:12-15

LAYER	STICK	
Surface	Pain: spiders, snakes, fire.... Loss of comfort: hunger, cold, Physically safety	**'Perfect love casts out fear, because fear has to do with punishment.'** **1 John 4:18** How does being loved by God help us to overcome the layers of fear in the list?
Life context	Failure / Diminishment Loss of job/status Loss of wealth Loss of health Loss of confidence Rejection	
Deeper motives	Loss of meaning/purpose Failure Rejection, abandonment Powerlessness Rejection/betrayal	
Core	Loss of identity Death	

KEY INSIGHTS

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 3: Motives (Deuteronomy 30:11-20)

KEY INSIGHTS

PERSONAL EXERCISE
Take an example from the past week, where you have done something you regret.

Consider your different motives at different levels and how they clashed with one another.

LAYER	MOTIVE	STRUCTURE
Immediate	Hunger, thirst, Urges, Temptations of the eyes, attractions Felt needs Fear/threats Pleasure (reward)	Self Control Ruling specific items out. Accountability Boundaries Shopping habits
Life context	Personal goals (e.g. Exercise) Responsibilities (work/ family) Season you're in Interests/learning Delayed gratification (self discipline) Helping others Earn money	Routines & habits Contracts Diary management Fasting/feasting - Sabbath
Deeper motives	Personal growth Vision and values Seeking power Deep fears Want to bring joy/protection to others (love)	Retreats Deep honest relationship Confession of sin Worship, church, time with God Retreats, journalling
Core	Who do I love What I'm living for	Identity Covenant

WHICH STRUCTURES DO YOU NEED TO PUT IN PLACE TO MANAGE TEMPTATIONS MORE EFFECTIVELY?

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BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 4: Power (Philippians 2:1-11)

WHAT IS POWER?
Definitions of power, will vary vastly depending on context.

TYPES OF POWER
In this context our focus is on church leadership, power as an abstract not physical thing.

CORE DEFINITION

'The ability to make something of the world.'
Playing God, Andy Crouch

POWER AND AUTHORITY

Power = The ability to bring change

Authority = The right to bring change

NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS

'Of course, many people would prefer not to think about power at all, and they sometimes use language borrowed from the Christian story to avoid thinking about it.'
Andy Crouch

- Abuse of power.
- 'Power tends to corrupt'.
- Power dynamics in relationships/groups.
- History of wars, dictators, genocide, slavery...
- Anxiety that our desire for power is dangerous.

All rooted in a view of power as 'Power over'.

KEY INSIGHTS

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 4: Power (Philippians 2:1-11)

KEY INSIGHTS

GAME THEORY

'Zero sum game' = You win, I lose. You gain power, I lose power.

'Positive sum game' = You share power with another, both are empowered through it.

POSITIVE VIEWS ON POWER
A reality that brings change.

- Creatively making something beautiful from mess/brokenness (restorative).

- Organic life is more powerful than life-less matter.

Empowering : Controlling

Creation : Coercion

Given away : Grasped

Power within the contrasting stories of 'Self' and 'Heart'

	SELF	HEART
START	Evolution - survival of fittest Power as means of survival	Creation – 'let there be' Power as means of multiplication
GOAL	Self actualisation - fulfilment of personal potential. Pleasure & freedom	Love – enable others to flourish Kingdom – Unity & Jesus Lord over all
STORY	We are victims of repression, seeking to overcome limits imposed upon us. Humanity progresses through survival of fittest & most able to make alliances. Structures and institutions use power to oppress & exploit.	We rebelled against God and found ourselves powerless when living distant from him. Jesus came to show us a different way to express power and bring us into God's family.
RECEIPT OF POWER	Grasp and hold onto Overcome and defend against others	Receive as gift, inheritance from a loving Father God
TRUST	Only self or those with mutually beneficial power (contract)	God's goodness and covenant
HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY	Empires & wars Institutions and structures	Church: growth & persecution
HEROES	Nietzsche / victims	Jesus

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BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 4: Power (Philippians 2:1-11)

FATHER, SON and SPIRIT

FATHER - CREATION AND EMPOWERING

Creator
'The deepest form of power is creation.'
Andy Crouch

Genesis 1:3,6,9,14 – 'Let there be'
The Jussive and the Imperative mood.

'"Let there be" does not have to assert power, it assumes it. It does not have to impose power, it indwells it. Yet "Let there be" also suggests a multiplication of power that is not found in the phrase "Make it so". "Make it so" is a strictly limited and limiting command. The subordinates making it so are not expected to make anything else so – their job is to put into practice the precise decision from the leader, no more no less. But when the words "let there be" ring through the universe, the accomplish very literally what they describe - the creation of being where there was none before... "Let there be" bequeaths power to others, making room for more power.'
Andy Crouch

Empowering
Partnership with us.

'I will be your God and you will be my people.'
Jeremiah 11:4

'I no longer call you servants, ... I have called you friends.'
John 15:15

- Wisdom.

- Protection.

KEY INSIGHTS

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 4: Power (Philippians 2:1-11)

KEY INSIGHTS

JESUS - POWER REDEFINED

Humility
Jesus is frequently contrasted with others who are grasping for power.

Gethsemane

- Surrender.

- Peter's reaction.

- Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? (Matthew 26:53).

Cross
Makes himself powerless to defeat the enemy.

Resurrection power
The greatest power in history, to defeat death.

The ultimate form of new creation.

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THE SPIRIT- GOD'S EMPOWERING PRESENCE

'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.
Zechariah 4:6

'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.'
Acts 1:8

The dunamis, supernatural power of God, as experienced reality.

LIVING EMPOWERED

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.
Psalm 1:3

Once we have a biblical, godly perspective on power as a gift from God, for creation, renewal and to be used with love to bring flourishing, we can see the value of living in God's power.

LIVING IN GOD'S POWER - REALIGNING AND RESTORING

SELF	HEART
Grasps at power, coercion, violence	Realigns to God's truth - rooted in him
Rights, legal,	Surrender, trust
Self-help, work, resourcing	Sabbath, rest, gratitude

Outcomes

Achieve, win, succeed	Love, serve, remain faithful
Survive, gain resources, live self sufficiently	Resilience, trust, build community
Dominate, coercive, control others	Self control, resist temptations, manage desires

KEY INSIGHTS

BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Session 4: Power (Philippians 2:1-11)

KEY INSIGHTS

HOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND POWER?

THROUGH YOUR LIFE, WHICH AUTHORITY FIGURES HAVE EMPOWERED YOU & WHICH HAVE CONTROLLED YOU?

CONTROLLED	EMPOWERED

MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS – PLOT YOUR 'HIGHS' AND 'LOWS' SINCE BIRTH OF WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN MOST EMPOWERED AND WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN MOST CONTROLLED.

Empowered

Controlled

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BARRIERS TO GODLY LIVING AND LEADERSHIP
Self-Assessment

REVITALISING

To live empowered by God – we need to be 'revitalised'.

This is often found in restorative activities.

REVITALISING – SELF ASSESSMENT.
For each row there are two 'score' boxes.

1. A reflection on how much this restores you in a deep way, restoring your power to love, serve and resist temptation. Score 1-5. (1 = hardly at all, 5 = really crucial for my rest).
2. The second box is an assessment of how much this restorative practice is a feature of your life right now. (1 = hardly at all, 5 = a regular discipline key to my life).

RESTORATIVE ACTIVITIES	PERSONAL	LIFE NOW
Time outside in the beauty of creation (e.g. walking)		
Silence/Stillness		
Reading & reflecting on God's word		
Quality time with people you love & feel 'at home' with		
Sabbath		
Physical exercise		
Journalling (deep reflection and processing with God)		
Reading books which stimulate your thinking		
Worship		
Sleep		
Using your creative gifts (art, music, cooking, craft)		
Play 'fully absorbed in something which isn't productive or dutiful'		