REPLACEMENT PRAYER

Introduction

TRUTH AND LIES

INTERPRETATION AND EXPERIENCE

'BRAIN' AND 'MIND'

Replacing

Matthew 3:8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

1. **To live by the truth – is to live in agreement with God**

John 8:32 Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.

We need to learn to agree with God – in every part of our person.

2. **Discipleship basics**

3. **The vacuum principle**

When we remove a 'lie' – we need to put something in it place.

KEY INSIGHTS

REPLACEMENT PRAYER

Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God.

It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, nourishment of mind by His truth, purifying of imagination by His beauty, opening of the heart to His love, and submission of will to His purpose. And all this gathered up in adoration is the greatest of human expressions of which we are capable.

Archbishop William Temple

KEY INSIGHTS

The process of replacing, is an act of worship, focussing our lives on serving, honouring and trusting God.

We need to replace in:

a. The conscience.
b. The mind.
c. The imagination.
d. The emotions.
e. The will.

A. THE CONSCIENCE

A simple step of replacing, is asking the Holy Spirit to alert our conscience, so that we don't revert to old patterns to be rebuilt.

B. THE MIND

The mind thinks in words and numbers; (didactic, rational, sequential, straight line, logical, bullet points – things that can be written down).

Therefore there is a need for didactic truth, and a need for us to take captive every thought.

In the left hand box, write down one lie you believe about yourself. And in the right hand box, God's truth in response to that lie.

DISEASED THINKING	GOD'S WORD OF TRUTH
E.g. I've done so much bad stuff, I could never be an effective Christian. (Write your personal lie here)	E.g. 1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

REPLACEMENT PRAYER

C. THE IMAGINATION

The imagination is the cinema of the heart. It embraces symbolic truth that nourishes the heart's ability to feed on truth, beauty and goodness.

The images in our hearts determine our destiny. The pictures you carry about inside you of what type of person you are. They will determine how you live your life and therefore who you become.

For the most part, it's the imagery in our hearts which influences our motives and reactions, rather than the logical truth we believe.

We need to replace the old imagery with holy and healthy good new imagery:

> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.
>
> Philippians 4:8

Repeat the exercise from above. But this time instead of words, ask God for a picture of how you look and write that down.

KEY INSIGHTS

DISEASED THINKING	GODLY IMAGINATION
E.g. I've done so much bad stuff, I could never be an effective Christian = in my heart I see myself as dirty and weak. I imagine that God has a long list filed away of all my failure. (Write or draw your personal lie here)	E.g. I see myself going into God's study and him taking out the file of all my sins and shredding it. Or I see myself taking off the rags and being washed clean and putting on new clothes.

D. THE EMOTIONS

Emotions follow the mind, the will and the imagination. They are God created and valid because they signal what's happening in our hearts but not something to build our lives upon.

We are not restored by managing our emotions, but by dealing with the roots and replacing in the other areas. Emotions catch up later!

- We never trust our emotions over God's Word.
- Beware trying to force the emotions.
- Beware looking to the emotions to determine your healing.
- Beware introspection and analysing your emotions.

Throughout the Psalms (and other scriptures) we see God's people expressing raw emotions honestly and then through praise and worship moving beyond them into truth and trust.

REPLACEMENT PRAYER

E. THE WILL

When we repent and renounce sin, we choose to engage our will, to replace in our will is to make that an ongoing, consistent choice.

When we replace old choices in our will, we choose to live 'in the opposite spirit'.

Christ's example of living in the **opposite spirit**.

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:6-8

Satan and Adam both fell, through trying to grasp equality with God. In coming to repair the damage their fall had done, Jesus chose to do exactly the opposite. He was God, but chose to become like us in humility.

To live in the opposite spirit is to intentionally choose to live and believe the opposite of the lie we've been living under, until the truth becomes ingrained in us.

Write down in the right hand box, how you're going to put the truth into action.

KEY INSIGHTS

DISEASED THINKING	OPPOSITE SPIRIT
E.g. I've done so much bad stuff, I could never be an effective Christian. (Write your personal lie here)	E.g. When I start to worship. I'm not going to focus on my sins at all. Just thank God for forgiving me and get on with telling him how much I love him.

The choices of the will are enormously challenging to our flesh, to live in the opposite spirit means putting the flesh to death, don't expect it to be comfortable but it is a spiritual act of worship. (Romans 12:1)