

Summary:

The goal of these studies:

1. Develop an exegetical & theological basis for understanding that under the influence of OSN & the devil's world, everyone develops OM Belief System.
 - a. Born in Adam, spiritually dead, separated from God, unable to understand spiritual thoughts that would enable us to learn from God
 - b. Born with an empty vacuum in our hearts causing us to experience extreme feelings of need-desire that we are compelled to fill.
 - c. Our only option to meet our need – desire and form our thoughts for life are from the devil's world.
2. Develop a model & framework of human behavior through which we can observe and chart our motives, thoughts, feelings and behaviors.
 - a. Need-Desire: koilos emptiness driving us to seek gratification of desire
 - b. Beliefs: we choose to believe in people & things to meet our needs and gratify our desires.
 - c. Expectations: What we believe about our needs & desires creates what we expect for life to give us. What we believe about God's promises creates our expectations of what He is obligated to do.
 - d. Relational Strategies: Conditional & Unconditional Love; approaching our relationships from to gain something from others or to protect us from being hurt by others
3. Study examples of believers to discuss their possible motives, beliefs & how they approached their relationships & situations seeking to see ourselves.
4. Develop exercises designed to bring about change from operating from OM motives and methods to Christ like motives and methods.

Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

- a. Deleting OM images & scenarios while repeating NM images & scenarios
- b. Refuting & rejecting OM inner dialogue while creating NM dialogue

Evidence of Spiritual Growth

- a. In the following scenarios we are allowed to observe growth in the lives of Abraham & Joseph.

- b. At one point they were highly focused on their desire for certain earthly situations more than they were on God's plan.
- c. At one point Abraham was obsessed with having a male heir & yet when required by God, he was willing to sacrifice the promised heir.
- d. After God had provided him a "uniquely conceived" son, Abraham had removed his attachment to the earthly & reattached to the Lord.
- e. Joseph in prison (Gen 40:9-15) was focused on the injustices he had endured, wanted out of jail so that he could return to his life with Jacob.
 - He had attached his happiness to the image of returning to his father
 - He saw an image of a happy reunion and inner dialogue of the same
 - He saw images of his brothers in big trouble while rehearsing his accusation
- f. After understanding the prophecy about the 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine, Joseph began to realize that God wanted him in Egypt rather than sending him back home.
- g. That which had previously been so important to each of them became not important at all in the light of God's eternal plan.
 - Erased the earthly images and replaced them with images from God
 - Deleted the inner dialogue steering them toward the earthly

Abraham – focused on leaving an inheritance

Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." ² And Abram said, "O Lord God, what wilt Thou give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "Since Thou hast given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." ⁴ Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who shall come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." ⁵ And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as +R

Vs 1-3 what can you give me since you have not given me an heir – Eliezer

Vs 4-6 your heir will be a son from your own body, numerous as the stars, Ab believed God and He counted it as +R

- a. Having a male heir in the ancient world was critical to continue on the name.
- b. God knows and Ab knows the importance of a male heir to inherit from him
- c. Ab is fearful about the issue but willing to believe God's promise about it.

- Notice how important the issue is to Ab – enough for him to complain
- d. At this moment in his life, this is one of his most important desires
 - 16:1 Hagar incident resulting in Ishmael
- e. About 15-20 yrs pass before the exercise of Gen 22 – time to grow

Desire: to have a legitimate earthly heir to inherit his possessions & mission

Belief/Exp: an earthly male heir would resolve a long term problem for him

Relational Strategy: Petition God – believe God

- God's plan includes earthly blessings & earthly fulfillments of prophecy
- Ab's earthly focus will be exchanged for a heavenly focus & promise

Abraham Gen 22:1-13 Sacrifice of Isaac

Vs 1 – here I am – Abraham answers as a servant – Moses & Samuel

Vs 2 – Take your son, your only son, Isaac whom you love (who is your miracle son, your promised heir), sacrifice him as a burnt offering.

- The Lord emphasizes the uniqueness of Isaac, Ab's only son and heir
- He calls on Ab to remember what He had promised him about Isaac

Vs 3-6 Ab prepares the sacrifice and begins the journey to Mt. Moriah

Vs 7-8 Isaac: where is the lamb for the burnt offering? God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering

- Prophetic image of the provision of the Messiah from God Himself
- Isaac the miracle child is a prophecy of the virgin birth of the Messiah

Vs 9-10 Ab reaches out with his knife to make the sacrifice – faith & obedience

- Faith & Obedience is the only decision that the will of God accepts as +R

Vs 11-12 Angel of the Lord – Jesus Christ; Ab, Ab – intensity; don't hurt him; Now I know that you fear God because you have obeyed

Vs 13-14 God provided the burnt sacrifice that prophesied the work of Christ

a. Gen 12 – Abrahamic Covenant – unconditional promises of the seed

- Gen 12:7 – unto your seed (zerah – sperma - sing) referring to the Messiah

b. Gen 15:3-4 God promises Ab that Sarah will conceive and provide an heir and that he will be the father of so many that they would be uncountable.

c. Testing – nasah – to put one through an exercise, a training program.

d. God reminds Ab about who Isaac is, the promised, miracle son & heir so the he will understand that even should Isaac die, that God would raise him back up.

- Heb 11:17-19 – Ab believed that God would raise him from the dead

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- e. God already knew what Abraham would do but wanted him to know what he would do under maximum pressure and to give him an exercise to practice trusting the promises.
- f. Ab's belief & expectation matured over the years of his life so that they were connected more to the promises of God than his earthly goals.

Isaiah 30:18 Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

- Lord desires to bless us, waits as we mature & blesses us with opportunities to honor Him with our lives.

Desire: both to have his earthly heir and to please the Lord as well

- Ab's desires over the years had matured so that he was able to subordinate his desire for earthly things to his desire to play his role in the plan of God.
- We begin our spiritual journey enslaved to our desire for earthly treasures.
- As we detach our hearts & faith from the earthly, we are free to re-attach our desires and our belief to the eternal.

Beliefs/Expectations: For many years Ab focused his faith primarily on the earthly, the fact that he had no heir, that Sarah was barren and couldn't give him a son.

Relational Strategy: Surrender, compliance & obedience.

Joseph

Gen 37 – Joseph dreams that his entire family will bow before him - prophecy

Gen 40 – Joseph in prison with the Cupbearer and Chief Baker

- a. Both men had dreams that Joseph interpreted for them
 - b. Cupbearer was restored to his position but the Baker was beheaded.
- 40:14-15 – remember me, for I was forcibly carried off from my home land and have done nothing to deserve being in prison
- Joseph is focused on the unfairness in his life, what he deserves and what he doesn't deserve – prison.
 - c. If Joseph had been allowed out of prison at this time, he would have surely returned home to father's preferential treatment and to accuse his brothers.
 - d. God is going to need Joseph to stay in Egypt to collect the excess of the 7 yrs of plenty and to distribute it during the 7 years of famine.
 - e. Joseph is not wrong for having earthly goals and for desiring an earthly situation that pleases him more than another situation
 - f. Notice his description of what had happened and what his brothers had done

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- Sold him to be forcibly carried away from the land of the Hebrews
- g. He is placing great emphasis on the injustice and the wrongs he suffered

Gen 50:15-21 – Joseph had grown & God had brought his father & brothers to him – He no longer needed to go home. Jacob dies and the brothers are afraid

Gen 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph should bear a grudge against us and pay us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" **16** So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying, ¹⁷ 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? ²⁰ "And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. ²¹ "So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Vs 16-17 – the brothers are lying and manipulating again

Desire: save their skins, avoid their deserved retribution

Belief/Exp: that Joseph was still like them and that he had been waiting on Jacob to die before he took out his revenge on those who treated him so poorly.

Relational Strategy: create a scam by referencing a nonexistent note asking Joseph to forgive his brothers.

Vs 17 – Joseph weeps thinking about how completely his brothers had missed the grace message and that they were living in fear of getting what they deserved

Vs 18 – am I in the place of God? You meant it for harm but God meant it for good

- where Paul received Rom 8:28 God works all things together for good.

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Desire: for his brothers and the world to see the grace of God in action as He saved everyone in the known world at that time. He wanted his brothers to know God & to be free from the jealousy & fear that had driven them their entire lives.

Belief/Exp: that if his brothers truly understood God's grace then they could live in peace and also pass down the peace of God to their families and generations

Relational Strategy: Show love to his brothers by comforting them and reassuring them, treating them kindly.