

A. FILLING IN THE GAPS

- We've already established in this series that God's Living and Active Word is true and reliable. It is the definition of truth: Jn 17:17 – Your Word is truth
- As disciples of Jesus we would all agree that the Bible is true. However, we find that there are some truths of which we are not fully convinced.
- When truth has not penetrated from our heads to our hearts it means that some other belief is occupying our minds and hearts instead. This is an integrity gap.
- Gaps, defined = any place in our hearts where our beliefs or convictions do not agree with the truth of God and which present an obstacle to responding in faith
- Insights:

B. FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

- Take a look at this list of basic beliefs that are foundational to a life of faith. As you read this list pay attention to any pause or resistance you may feel on the inside:
 1. We are reconciled to God
 - Heb 10:14 NLT--For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.
 - 2 Cor 5:19 ERV--God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold people guilty for their sins.
 2. Our work is believing
 - Jn 6:29 NLT--Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."
 - Rom 4:5 NLT--But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.
 3. God is for me
 - Ps 56:9b AMP--I know, that God is for me.
 - Rom 8:31--What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?
 4. God's way is right
 - Deut 32:4 NLT--He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!
 - Ps 18:30 NLT--God's way is perfect. All the LORD's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.
 5. God's purpose is glory
 - 2 Cor 4:6 NLT--For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our heart
 - 2 Cor 3:18--But all of us who are Christians have no veils on our faces, but reflect like mirrors the glory of the Lord. We are transfigured by the Spirit of the Lord in ever-increasing splendor into his own image.

6. God will provide
 - Ps 23:1—The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.
 - Phil 4:19 AMP--And my God will liberally supply (fill until full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
 7. God answers prayer
 - Jn 15:7-8 NLT--If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.
 - 1 Jn 5:14-15--this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.
 8. We have a choice
 - Mt 6:21ff MSG--Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.
 - Rom 8:6 AMP--The mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever].
 9. Something else
 - Anything else about the character of God or any other biblical principle that you are struggling to believe
- For today's workshop we will work through one of these beliefs (or choose another truth you want to move from head to heart). Return to any others at a later time.
 - LISTENING EXERCISE:
Which one of the fundamental truths is the least solid for me?
- C. FINDING WHAT'S FALSE
- Let's invite the Spirit to show us what we actually believe instead of the truth we're working through today.
 - Anything that doesn't agree with God's Truth as revealed in Scripture is a lie.
 - Lies, defined—thoughts and mindsets about life that we consider true, right or normal but that are different from what God says in His word
 - LISTENING EXERCISE:
Spirit please reveal the message I've come to believe instead of this truth I'm working through today:

D. FULLY CONVINCED

- God desires that all our thoughts would become grounded in His word and free of lies: Is 28:17 NLT --"I will take the measuring line of justice and the plumb line of righteousness to check the foundation wall you have built. Your refuge looks strong, but since it is made of lies, a hailstorm will knock it down. Since it is made of deception, the enemy will come like a flood to sweep it away."
- Finding the source of the gap can be extremely helpful in becoming fully convinced of the truth of what God says.
- What we perceive as true can be influenced by our current circumstances, our community, and by what we feel.
- Our beliefs are also greatly impacted by the experiences in our pasts:
 - Family of origin (parents, grandparents, siblings, extended family)
 - Community or culture (socioeconomic, educational, regional, etc.)
 - Church (denominational doctrines, spiritual leaders, etc.)

• LISTENING EXERCISE:

Lord, please show me the source of the lie I've believed. I invite You to examine my mind for feelings-based beliefs, worldly thinking, religious traditions, events from my past, and beliefs that were taught at home by word or deed.

Write down, without editing, anything that comes to mind concerning the source of your gaps:

- Fill in the gaps by standing firmly on the truth of God's Living and Active Word by:
 - Renouncing any lie that you have been believing
 - Declaring by faith that what God says is the truth
 - Meditating on this target truth (see How To's from the Week 7 Worksheet)
 - Asking the Spirit of Truth to lead you into all the truth until you are fully convinced: Jn 16:13 AMP--But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him]
 - This is a process. Working to believe this truth could take days, months or even longer. But remember: the Word is powerful and it's alive and at work within you!
- Insights:

E. FINAL WORD

- God's Word will ultimately have the Final Word in all things. These Scriptures declare that God's Word is the truth and He will always keep it:
 - Jeremiah 1:12 NAS—I am watching over My word to perform it.
 - Heb 10:23 AMP-- So let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is reliable (sure) and faithful to His word.
 - Is 30:18 NLT-- For the LORD is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for Him to help them.
 - Ps 119:89 MSG-- What you say goes, God, and stays, as permanent as the heavens.
 - Ps 111:7-- All His precepts are sure.
 - Is 55:10-11 NIV-- As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
 - Ps 119:65-- You have dealt well with Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word
 - 1 Cor 1:9 NLT-- God will surely do this for you, for he always does just what He says
 - Heb 6:18—It is impossible for God to lie
 - Ps 93:5 NAS—Your testimonies are fully confirmed
 - Deut 7:9 NIV-- Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commands
- Insights: