**Foundational Truths That Transform Us – Sermon for Sunday, January 12, 2014**

**Introduction**

A mother took her little boy to church.
While in church the little boy said, “Mommy, I have to pee.”

The mother said to the little boy, “It’s not appropriate to say the word ‘pee’ in church. So, from now on whenever you have to ‘pee’ just tell me that you have to ‘whisper’.”

The following Sunday, the little boy went to church with his father and during the service said to his father, “Daddy, I have to whisper.“

The father looked at him and said, “Okay, just whisper in my ear.”

What you hear vs what you really believe

Belief System

Causes thoughts and words and actions

1. All behaviour is based on a belief

• If you cheat and lie, it’s because you believes that disobeying God (this way) will cause less pain than being honest. It’s a lie, but you believe it.

• Eating the forbidden fruit will not bring them blessings – it’s a lie - but Adam and Eve believed it.

• When somebody comes to you and says, “I’m leaving my husband, and I’m going to marry this other man because I believe God wants me to be happy.”

• They just told you the belief behind their behaviour. It’s wrong, but they believe it.

2. Behind every sin is a lie I believe

• It starts with the mind. At the moment you sin, you’re doing what you think is the best thing for you. You say, “I know God says to do that, but I’m going to do this.”

• What are you doing? You believe a lie. Behind every sin is a lie.

You have to see the lie; you have to recognize the deception you have been under. God has to open the eyes of your understanding in that particular area.

This can happen after our salvation, through the Holy Spirit

The light can go on

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NIV)**
4  My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,
**5  so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.**

**1 Corinthians 2:6-16 (NIV)**
6  We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.
7  No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.
8  None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
9  However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"--
10  but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.
11  For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.
12  We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.
13  This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.
14  The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.
15  The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:
16  "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

He rather came preaching the "mystery" (*mysterion*) of God—the message not fully understood by them before, but now explained by him and illuminated by the Holy Spirit ([2:10-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+2%3A10-14)).

[**5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1%20Corinthians%202:5) Paul's purpose (*hina*), accompanying his humble presentation, is that their Christian faith might not be a superficial, misdirected belief coming from human wisdom, but a real Christian faith generated by the power of God, who also worked in Paul as he preached ([v. 4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+2%3A4)).

"The faith" (*he pistis*) spoken of here is not to be taken just as the act of believing but as the substance of their belief based on the person and work of Christ.

through the Holy Spirit, on the wisdom of God revealed to Paul and to others, a wisdom to be understood by those who are God's people.

Paul makes it even stronger when he says that "the man without the Spirit" cannot understand because these truths can be discerned and understood only with the guidance of the Spirit.

*Psychikos* (the Greek word that begins this verse) basically means "that which pertains to the soul or life," a word used in NT to refer to the life of the natural world and so contrasted with the supernatural world and the Spirit.

So from this comes the translation "man without the Spirit."

[**15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1%20Corinthians%202:15) In contrast, the person who is guided by the Spirit draws discerning conclusions about all things, that is, about all kinds of spiritual things,

Paul introduces the "mind of Christ" and implies that we and *all* God's people can understand spiritual truths and spiritual wisdom in a way similar to the way the Lord knows them.

If you want to see a change in your life – change your beliefs first

• Jesus said, “You will know the truth and it will set you free.” (John 8:32)

**The truths of God that will transform you (by renewing your mind)**

**The big foundational truths (principles) that will have the biggest positive effects on your life, if and when you truly believe them, bring them into your belief system, and live by them.**

**Christians say they believe certain things, but sometimes what that means is that we have heard certain things, that we are taught are true, but that truth has not penetrated our heart and mind enough for it to be truly a part of our belief system by which we make our daily decisions.**

**A belief is not truly a part of your belief system until it starts affecting the way you live.**

**For that to happen, truth must penetrate into our heart and mind**

**That happens when we make a conscious decision to believe it, and then, through constant use (repetition, etc.), internalize it.**

Foundational Truths That Will Transform Your Life

1. This life is not all there is, but how you live this life is critically important.
2. Live in the faith and belief that God is your ultimate protector and provider, that He knows, wants, and can bring about, the highest good for your life, both now, and in the life to come. That highest good is for you to become like Christ – healthy in mind and spirit, strong in the faith, righteous, loving, and full of truth and light so that you, as His son or daughter, reflect Him and can be with Him forever.
3. God allowed an enemy to exist to provide a choice and a challenge for us to overcome. The enemy tries to get us to act out of selfishness, and not believe that God is our Protector and Provider. All sin is rooted in selfishness. Selfishness is more complex than it sounds. The basic desire or instinct of self-preservation, when accompanied by a right relationship with God, walking in the light of His truth and love, is healthy. It keeps us alive, by helping us avoid wrong behavior that would be harmful. When we are not in that right relationship, seeing and believing God is our ultimate Protector and Provider, self-preservation instincts or desires leads us to do anything, including wrong things, to self-protect or self-provide, whatever selfish desires we are led to believe we should have. Our desires that God created us with are manipulated by the enemy and the world system he has influenced. The fallen world creates situations where people are hurt and traumatized so that even the basic desires to be loved and accepted, when we have been hurt and rejected, cause us to act in unhealthy ways, which are often reinforced by the now messed up beliefs and lack of morality that is in the world today.
4. God gives you the choice, but doesn’t leave you without help. Through Christ He brought grace and truth and light, by which we can have right relationship with Him. He tries to help you see the truth. To do this He actively works in your life (often through others). The more you seek Him, the more He works (rewards and discipline). The more we come to believe and see that God loves and accepts us and is our ultimate protector and provider, and that He knows, wants, and can bring about, the highest good for our life, both now, and in the life to come, the more our thinking, actions and therefore our lives, are positively transformed – and we become healthy, whole and happy.
5. Here’s how. Here’s how this affects our daily lives. Remember God is our protector and provider, so how does that affect our
	1. Relationships
		1. Protecting ourselves. Selfishness
		2. Using people rather than helping them.
		3. Becoming Offended. Result of what?
		4. Doing wrong things to get people to like you – love and acceptance
		5. Right relationship
			1. God as Protector and Provider - confidence
			2. Healthy sense of identity and worth
			3. Unselfishness
	2. Money.
		1. Provision. Selfishness. What we think we need.
		2. The quest for power and fame and fortune for selfish reasons
		3. Doing wrong things to get what we want