

SYSTEMS OF BELIEF



“As we first turned away from God in our thoughts, so it is in our thoughts that the first movements toward the renovation of the heart occur.” – Dallas Willard.

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”
– A.W. Tozer

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

- Check in with each other.
- What is a corrupted belief you see in society today and why do you think people fall for this corrupted belief? (Consider the arenas of business, politics, education, religion, finance, etc.)
- How have you blown it lately? Consider a negative **behavior** or **emotion** and share it with your neighbor.
- Now share the **“corrupt” belief** that was driving this behavior or emotion.

INDUCTIVE STUDY

TEXT ONE

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6

 **INDUCTIVE PRINCIPLE**

It is both a process and an attitude! Ensure your attitude is right!

TEXT TWO

For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has understood the mind of the LORD so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:11-16

TEXT THREE

What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." "Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known." "There is no fear of God before their eyes." Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

ROMANS 3:9-19

TEXT FOUR

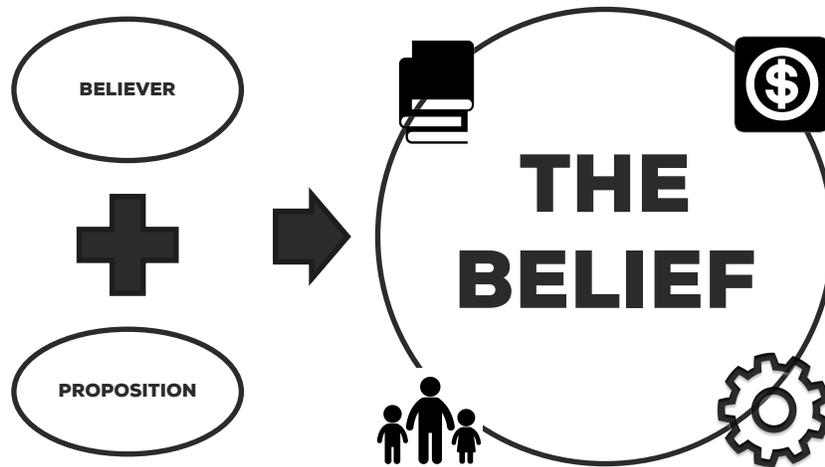
"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

ROMANS 8:5-8

FOUR PRINCIPLES ABOUT BELIEF SYSTEMS

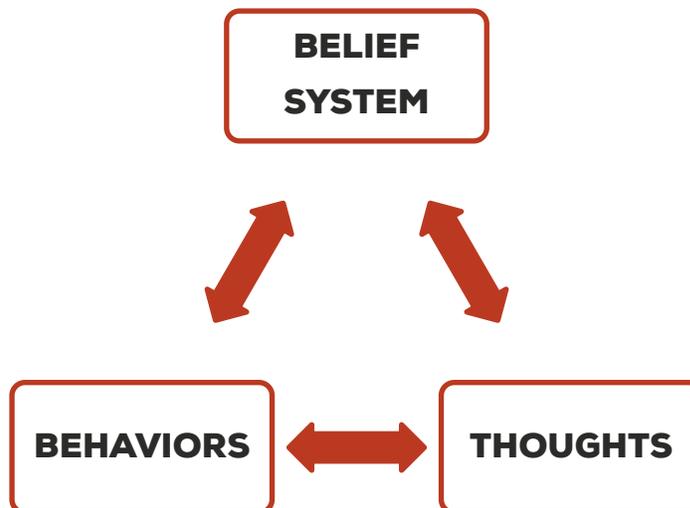
PRINCIPLE ONE: We _____ belief systems.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.”
– Isaiah 55:8



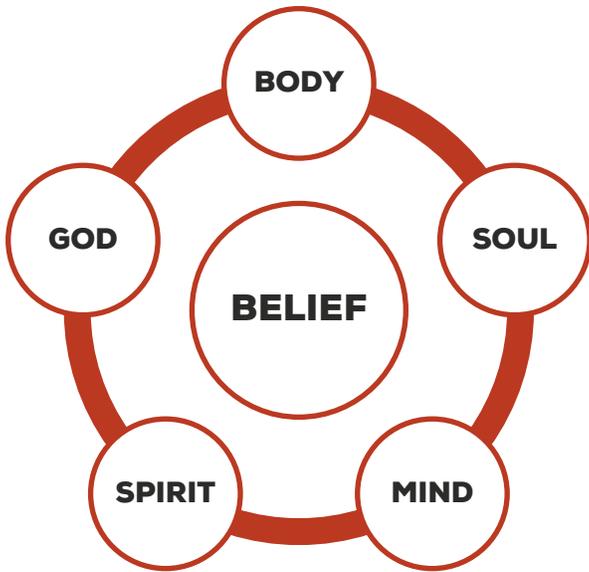
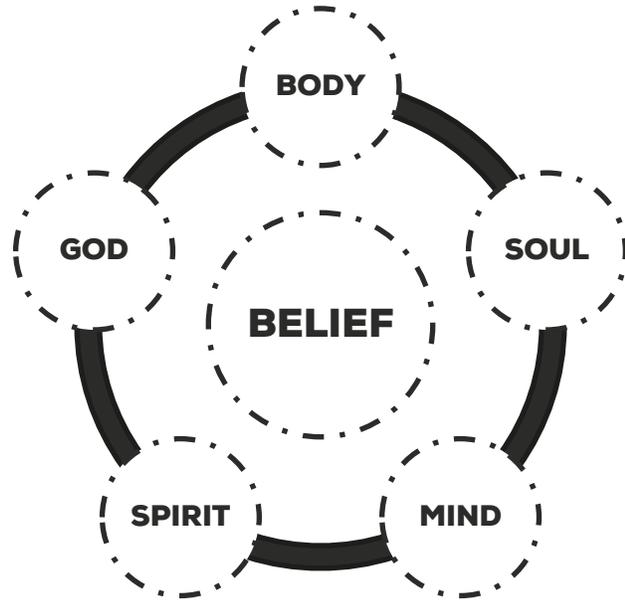
PRINCIPLE TWO: We are _____ by our belief systems.

“For as he thinks within himself, so he is.” – Proverbs 23:7



PRINCIPLE THREE: We have _____ belief systems.

“The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” – Genesis 6:5



PRINCIPLE FOUR: God must _____ the belief system.

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” – John 14:6

MY ACTION ITEMS:

What issue needs addressing in my beliefs? What steps do I take to alter this?

READ: Galatians

SKILL DEVELOPMENT // BIBLE READING
 Do an inductive study of Galatians 1:1-10. Read the rest of Galatians over the course of the week (1-2 chapters per day).