

## KEEP BELIEVING THE TRUTH

Genesis 2:7

The Bible describes the spiritual struggle we constantly face with our enemy as a war. Satan's objective is to defeat us and take us into bondage (Genesis 4:7). In order to win the war, it is imperative for you to have a strategic plan for victory. The best strategy is simple and straightforward.

In this three week series, I want to expose you to God's plan. It involves three simple steps to victory. The first step encouraged you to **Stop Believing Lies**. The second one is the title of this week's message, **Keep Believing the Truth**. The encouragement today is to stay in God's Word and allow it to shape your soul into submission to your redeemed spirit. Why is this so difficult? Well, in order for this to occur, it is necessary for you to mature in Christ. The major roadblock to maturing in Christ is our natural inclination to follow the same tendencies we had before we came to Christ.

To put it bluntly, our problem is our SOUL. Like God, we are triune beings. We are a spirit. We have a soul. And we live in a body. Our soul is created to be the seat of our intellect, our decision making, and our feelings (Mind, Will, Emotions). You are interacting with this teaching with your soul. When you come to Christ, your spirit comes alive, and now there's a new leader in town! Only the Word of God can bring this conflict to its proper conclusion.

### THREE CONCLUSIONS CONCERNING THE SOUL

#### 1. The soul is selfish.

Genesis 2:7, 15-17; 3:8-10; Ephesians 2:1-3

When you make a soulish decision, it is a selfish decision. As a matter of fact, the word SOUL (from the Hebrew - Nefesh) means SELF. We came into this world with a dead spirit due to the sin of Adam and Eve. So, for all of our "before Christ" years, we relate to God only with our mind, (what we understand), our will, (what we want), and our emotions, (what we feel).

#### 2. The soul must submit to the spirit.

1 Corinthians 10:1-10; Romans 9:12; James 1:21

Your spirit is dead before Christ brings it to life at salvation (Ephesians 2:1). I came to Christ when I was sixteen years old. For sixteen years, I lived with my soul in charge. I did what I thought was best. I did what I felt I wanted to do. But when Jesus brought my spirit to life, my spirit said to my soul, "I'm in charge now!" Of course, my soul, being the kind and gracious and humble person he is said, "Sure!" Do you think that's what happened? No, my soul said, "Not without a fight!" And it's been a fight ever since!

Your soul must be converted in order to yield to the leadership of your spirit. It is the Word of God that engrafts itself to your soul and works this transformation.

#### 3. The soul must die.

Psalms 131:2; 1 Corinthians 3:1; Hebrews 4:12-13, 5:12-14  
Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23

Here's what I mean by this. Your selfish thoughts, desires and emotions must die. "You must die to yourself" is the phrase we use most often to describe what the Christian life is all about. What you think, what you feel, and what you want doesn't matter. What matters is what God thinks, what God feels, and what God wants. That is the only way you are going to have victory!