

I've Got Issues

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Today I want to talk about something that applies to everybody, and it's being amplified right now because of the current situation we're all in... "I've got issues". We all have issues. If you say you have no issues, then your issue is denial. We're stuck at home right now, smooshed together, and all our issues are being magnified during this time.

In order to deal with the real issues of our lives, to live the life we were meant to live, we must do these things:

1.) You must identify your issues.

- Our first instinct is to not want to acknowledge our issues. We don't like identifying our issues, we like defending them.
- The reality is we have issues in our lives.
- **Whatever we justify in our lives becomes permanent.**
- Are we going to identify those issues or are we going to deflect them?

Psalm 43:1-2 - Declare me innocent, O God! Defend me against these ungodly people. Rescue me from these unjust liars. For you are God, my only safe haven. Why have you tossed me aside? Why must I wander around in grief, oppressed by my enemies?

David was in terrible trouble. His initial response was to deflect the issues and blame God.

- Deflect responsibility – "Declare me innocent!"
- Make this go away – "Defend and rescue me!"
- Blame others and God – "Why have You tossed me aside?"
- Question why – "It's not fair!"

The trials of life reveal the issues of your life. When you come under pressure issues come to the surface. Gold is purified by heating it up, melting it down and removing the impurities. We must do the same thing with the impurities (issues) in our life.

1 Peter 1:7 - That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that is temporary; like gold, your faith must be tested & purified by fire, in order to be found to the praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

It's not the trial or the fire that is precious; it is our faith that is precious. Our faith is the gold. Trials are nasty, but they give us an opportunity for a refining process. The fires of the trials bring the impurities of my life to the surface. The

impurities in your heart and life that create the issues, stem from the lies that you believe that are contrary to what God says about you.

We have a decision to make. Can I address those issues, and by God's plan wipe those impurities away, or am I going to ignore them, justify it and stir them right back in? To have pure 24 karat faith in our heart it's an ongoing process in our beliefs.

2.) You must own your issues

The issues of our life come out of the beliefs of our heart. What governs our life is what we believe in our heart.

Proverbs 4:23 – Guard your heart more than anything else, because the source of life flows from your heart.

- Most of the beliefs that govern our lives have not been formed by God, God's word, or God's image in us.
- Most of our life governing beliefs have been formed by our family of origin.

David moved from complaining and deflecting blame, to owning his issues.

Psalm 43:3-5 – Send out your light and truth; let them guide me. Let them lead me to your holy mountain, to the place where you live. There I will go to the altar of God, to God—the source of all my joy. I will praise you with my harp, O God, my God! Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!

David went from deflecting to owning it.

- I need help – “Send me light and truth!”
- Owning it – “I will make God my source and hope!”
- Trusting God – “I will praise You, my savior and God!”

How do we get rid of issues in our life?

3. WE MUST APPLY THE REMEDY

The choice we must make is whether or not we will apply the remedy.

- The remedy isn't making a greater commitment to God.
- The remedy isn't you condemning yourself and beating yourself up.
- The remedy isn't figuring out who to blame.

The remedy is discovering the truth of what God says about you, how He sees you, and replacing the lies that you believe contrary to His word, regardless of the reason or how they got there.

How do I remedy the lies and replace them with truth?

John 8:31-32 - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in my word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The word of God is the truth that makes us free. Freedom does not come from your work or efforts, it comes from a savior, Jesus.

The lies are the impurities in what we believe about ourselves that have to be wiped away. Will I apply the remedy?

The remedy is simply yielding to what God said to do.

Colossians 3:16 – Permit the word of Christ, with all its wisdom, to dwell richly within you.

You must choose to allow God's word to dwell richly (in abundance) in you.

In an impact study of 40,000 people reading God's Word, those who read it once or twice a week had virtually no impact on the issues of their life. The ones who read it three times a week experienced minimal impact. For those who read it four times a week the results were off the charts. It reduced the negative issues in their lives by 30-60% or more! It also impacted the positive areas of their lives by 200% or more!

People spend their whole life trying to win those battles by fighting through them. That's not our remedy. The remedy is in the word of God that will make you free. The power is in the word of God. **Make a commitment to continue in the word of God.**

Jesus's word is absolute truth. The word of God dwelling in you is a power source that makes you free!

Matthew 7:24-25 – Jesus said, "These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words (4 Times a Week) into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. The rain poured, the river flooded, a tornado hit — but nothing moved than house. Because, it was fixed to the rock."

- **The rock is the word of God, and Jesus and His word are one.**
- **The power of the word of God can stop generations of pain.**
- **Let your truth be God's word, instead of your feelings, experiences or disappointments.**
- **No matter you are facing, God is for you, and He will take you to the other side!**
- **We all have issues. Stop striving, beating yourself up, or quitting on God because your life looks in a way you wish it didn't. By God's grace His truth can set you free.**
- **We can help you have a devotional life. Please just ask us.**