

We are Emotional Beings

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Introduction: Our God has made us to experience great things in life.

- A. We are made very different from the animals. **(Gen 1:26-27)**
 - 1. An animal does not know he is going to die.
 - 2. An animal does not have a conscious.
 - 3. Being in the image of God makes us spiritual beings, not physical ones.
- B. We have the ability to both think and feel.
 - 1. It is a great gift of God to use this self awareness and ability to reason to pursue God. **(Ecc 3:11-15)**
 - 2. We can know what is good and rejoice in it.
 - 3. We are doing well when we can reason and see what is God's will and then experience emotion as a by-product of that reality.
 - 4. Satan often tries to block the reason upon God's word and substitute with emotion. **(2 Cor 4:3-4)**
 - 5. It is not easy to keep our eyes open and walk by faith!

I. We need to build our lives upon the solid foundation of Jesus Christ

- A. Every person has a core, a foundation.
 - 1. The Lord instructs us to build our life upon Him. **(Eph 2:20; Mt 7:24-27)**
 - 2. We build by receiving His teaching and making them a part of us!
 - 3. This core is called a living faith. **(1 Jn 5:4-5)**
 - 3. We can learn a lot from a children's song.
- B. It is important to have a foundation that will stand the tests of this life.
 - 1. Rest assured you will be tested.
 - 2. Do not be like Peter and ignore the warnings of the Lord. **(Lk 22:31-34)**
 - 3. What did Peter need? A peaceful serene feeling of confidence and assurance? Not if it was based upon falsehood!
 - 4. The reaction to the video "Why I hate Religion but Love Jesus" well illustrated two very different approaches to serving God.
 - 5. Many have reacted emotionally and let the video represent their personal rage at hurts they have experienced at the hands of religious people. In their emotion they reject the laws and precepts given by the Lord!

II. Some common floods we must endure

- A. Hypocrites in the church that rise to leadership. **(Psa 26:1-6)**
 - 1. It is a real challenge to continue believing in God when you can see hypocrites in the church and others do not.
 - 2. What is a hypocrite? ὑποκριτής - hupokrites 1) one who answers, an interpreter 2) an actor, stage player 3) a dissembler, pretender, hypocrite.
 - 3. Dishonesty is the foundation of the hypocrite's character.
 - 4. We need to be very careful here. One who honestly has a weakness is not a hypocrite. Also, we must be sure about any judgement we make. **(Jn 7:24)**
 - 5. What kind of damage did Judas do? **(Jn 12:4-6; Lk 22:4-6; 48)**

6. What if someone was so disgusted that they turned away from Jesus?
- B. Betrayal by family and even by some brethren.
1. During the destruction of Jerusalem, Christians would be betrayed by loved ones. **(Mt 24:10-12; Mk 13:12-13)**
 2. Betray - *παραδίδωμι* - of an unjustified act of handing someone over to judicial authorities *betray* (MT 10.4) ..
 3. Have you ever had someone violate your trust? Has someone you trusted become your enemy without a cause? Was it a brother? **(Ps 55:12-14)**
 4. We can easily decide to retaliate with the same actions that the untrustworthy person has done to us. Who wins in that case?
 5. How did Jesus respond to Judas? What if we chose to follow the footsteps of Jesus? **(Rom 12:21; 1 Pt 2:23)**
 6. What if we decide that one trustworthy person makes it unwise to trust anyone? “I will never trust anyone in this church again!” Who is the loser in that emotional reaction?

C. My own sin and fall.

1. We can drift and live two different lives. We can let pride cause us to be more concerned about reputation than about our own spiritual condition.
2. Churches can promote a false sense of security. **(Rev 3:16-19)**
3. Peter was one who did that which he never thought he would do. It was now known by everyone. Was it time for Peter to quit?
4. The Lord pursued Peter, but He challenged Peter to understand what really happened. **(Jn 21:15-19)**
5. Do not let the guilt and public humiliation of your own sin make you quit. Respond decisively by dealing with your heart issues! **(Rev 3:20-21)**
6. Can you hear the words of Jesus: “Follow Me”?

III. Three Pillars that faith brings to your life

A. A Trust in God and His ways. **(Psa 119:42-43)**

1. When we know the way then we can enjoy wonderful emotions.
2. We can let emotion cause us to reasonably pursue God’s revelation. **(Psa 119:46-50)**
3. What peace and joy to walk in the Lord’s sure way!

B. A responsibility to be pursued. **(1 Jn 5:2-3)**

1. How many of you decide each day if you feel like going to work or taking care of your children?
2. A living faith will be filled with a joyful doing.
3. We are made to be used in service! **(3 Jn 3-4)**

C. A principled life that pursues discernment. **(Phil 1:9-11)**

1. We cannot decide right or wrong on the basis of feelings.
2. When we are God centered and not man (emotion) centered, then we do not fear discernment but eagerly pursue it.

Conclusion: What is at your core? **(1 Pt 1:13-14)**