

Thinking, Believing, & Living Deep

Many believers today are living far below their potential, trapped in shallow thinking and superficial faith. They have a river of life within them, but it's dammed up by wrong thinking, fear, and lack of conviction. It's time to remove those dams and let the river flow.

What's Damming Up Your River of Life?

Every believer has a river of life flowing within them - the abundant life of the Holy Spirit. But many have allowed dams to block this flow. These dams might be shame about the gospel, fear of speaking God's word, or simply living in a superficial way that lacks depth and conviction.

The first place this river should flow is through your mouth. Too many Christians are ashamed to speak the word of God, but Romans 1:16 reminds us: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes."

Why You Don't Need to Be Ashamed of the Gospel

The gospel isn't just another religious message - it's the power of God. When you understand this truth, fear disappears. You're not just sharing doctrine; you're presenting the very power that can transform lives.

Salvation means more than just being born again. It encompasses deliverance from every evil thing, healing, and everything you need in life. When you speak the gospel with this understanding, expecting God's power to manifest, you'll see incredible results.

The Problem with Shallow Living

We live in a society that promotes superficial thinking. People are raised on fantasy and fiction, never developing the depth needed for real faith. This shallow living shows up in several ways:

Scattered Thinking

Many people try to fix everything at once instead of focusing on one thing. They become overwhelmed because they're dealing with past issues, present problems, and future worries all at the same time. This scatters their faith and makes it ineffective.

Feeling-Driven Decisions

Instead of thinking things through, people make decisions based on emotions. They're easily manipulated because they don't take time to consider and test what they're hearing against Scripture.

Lack of Conviction

Without deep thinking comes weak believing. People have mental agreement with biblical truths but lack the heart conviction that produces results. They believe lightly, so they receive lightly.

How to Develop Deep Faith

Consider Your Ways

Haggai 1:5 says, "Consider your ways." This means stop and think about what you're doing, how you're living, and how you're talking. Most people know themselves only by what they see in the mirror, but you need to go deeper.

Test Everything

The believers in Berea were called "fair-minded" because they "searched the scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). Don't just accept everything you hear - test it against God's word.

Focus on One Thing

Instead of trying to fix everything in your life at once, identify one specific need and focus your faith on that. What do you really want? What do you really need? Get specific and go after it with conviction.

The Power of Believing with Your Heart

Jesus said, "All things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23). This isn't mental agreement - it's heart conviction. When you believe with your heart, you become unmovable in your faith.

Look at the example in Acts 14 where Paul preached the gospel to a man who had never walked. Paul observed the man and saw "he had faith to be healed." The man heard the

gospel, believed it with his heart, and received his miracle. Paul simply said, "Stand up straight on your feet," and the man leaped and walked.

You Can Do What Paul Did

When people wanted to worship Paul as a god, he said, "We also are men with the same nature as you" (Acts 14:15). Paul wasn't operating in special apostolic power that's unavailable today. He simply:

- Preached the gospel (the power of God)
- Observed for faith in his hearers
- Spoke with authority when he saw faith

These are things any believer can do. The power isn't in the person - it's in the gospel itself.

Moving from Shallow to Deep

To live in the deeper place of conviction:

- Think before you talk and act
- Meditate on God's word
- Pray for wisdom and understanding
- Consider the why behind what you're doing
- Test everything against Scripture
- Focus on specific needs rather than trying to fix everything

When you live in this deeper place, you become immovable by circumstances that used to shake you. You develop the kind of conviction that produces miraculous results.

Life Application

This week, commit to living deeper rather than shallow. Choose one specific area where you need God's power to manifest - whether it's healing, deliverance, provision, or breakthrough. Instead of trying to fix everything at once, focus your faith on this one thing.

Spend time in prayer and meditation, asking God for wisdom about this situation. Search the Scriptures to find out what God says about your need. Develop heart conviction, not just mental agreement, about God's promises.

Then speak with authority, expecting the power of the gospel to manifest in your situation. Remember, you have the same nature as the apostles - you can do what they did because you have access to the same gospel power.

Ask yourself these questions:

- What specific area of my life needs God's power right now?
- Am I living from shallow feelings or deep conviction?
- Do I really believe the gospel is God's power, or am I just mentally agreeing?
- What "dams" need to be removed so God's river can flow through me?
- How can I develop deeper thinking and stronger faith this week?

Quotes

1. "Too many believers are ashamed of the gospel and afraid to say what God says."
2. "You won't be ashamed of the gospel when you *know*—that you know—it is the power of God unto salvation."
3. "You're not just another religious person going through motions. You're a believer—someone who carries the life and power of God."
4. "The devil doesn't mind you talking doctrine. What he fears is you believing in the power of that doctrine."

5. "The Word is not limited to a book, but is meant to be experienced in our lives?"
6. "If the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then that same Spirit is giving life to your body right now."
7. "Only believe reminds us that believing isn't complicated. It's simple."
8. "Don't let your mind get cluttered and overwhelm your faith."
9. "Guard your thinking so your faith stays strong."
10. "Focus on one thing. Don't try to fix everything at once."
11. "People are scattered in their thinking, even in prayer. There's no focus."
12. "Many people don't stop to think about what they're doing. That's why thinking becomes shallow and life becomes superficial."
13. "We've been raised in a fantasy-driven culture—fairy tales and make-believe."
14. "The life of faith is rooted in truth."
15. "We are called to be deep people—living from the heart, in the Spirit, with conviction."
16. "'Consider your ways' means stop and think."
17. "According to the heart of God, you are worth dying for—and Jesus proved it."
18. "Be like those who received the Word eagerly—but also searched the Scriptures daily to make sure it was true."
19. "The apostles and prophets were people just like you. What they've done, you can do."
20. "This life of faith is for anyone willing to believe."

Verses

1. Romans 1:16
2. Romans 8:11
3. Mark 11:22
4. Haggai 1:5
5. Revelation 2:1
6. Revelation 2:4
7. Acts 17:10
8. Acts 17:11
9. Acts 14:7
10. Acts 14:8
11. Acts 14:9
12. Acts 14:11
13. Acts 14:13
14. Acts 14:15

Summary

Many believers live far below their potential, trapped in shallow thinking that blocks the river of life within them. The gospel isn't just another religious message - it's the power of God for salvation, healing, and deliverance. Shallow living manifests through scattered thinking, feeling-driven decisions, and lack of conviction. To develop deep faith, believers must consider their ways, test everything against Scripture, and focus on specific needs rather than trying to fix everything at once. When you believe with your heart instead of just mental agreement, you become unmovable and can access the same gospel power that the apostles used.