



March 10-11, 2018  
Four Spiritual Flaws: Flaw #2

## MESSAGE NOTES

Exodus 32; 20:18-19

Flaw #2 – Relying on second-hand experience

Indicators of second-hand hand experience

1. Audience
2. Indulgence
3. Influence
4. Imagination

## LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

### Reference:

Read Exodus 32 and open in prayer.

### Review:

What was one thing from this week's message, or scripture reference, that stood out to you?

### Reflect:

1. Read Exodus 20:18 -19. What present-day examples can you think of that reflect this kind of attitude from people in their approach to God?
2. Have you ever felt intimidated by God, the way Israel felt in Exodus 20? Explain.
3. Why do you think people don't take personal responsibility for their Christian growth?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 13:5 which puts a direct challenge of self-examination to the reader. What do you think are evidences that a person has a second-hand faith but not a personal trust in Jesus?
  
5. A large study done several years ago asked this question, *does increased attendance in ministry programs automatically equate to spiritual growth?* The answer was a resounding "No." What is the difference between attending a class or program and personally investing in your own spiritual growth?
  
6. To what extent do you think you are able to identify false teaching when you hear it?
  
7. Consider Acts 17:10-12 which describes an experience the Apostle Paul had at the church in Berea. This church is often held up as a model of faith. What do you see about the Bereans in this passage that distinguishes them?
  
8. For those of you who are Christians, discuss the ways your heart might need to change in your approach to God. How might you take personal responsibility for your faith, rather than depending on second-hand experience?

**Respond/Reinforce:**

Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace *with confidence*, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Emphasis added) Spend about five to ten minutes each day this week simply coming before God in prayer and/or scripture reading. If you haven't done this before it may feel strange but avoid the temptation to pull away and rather engage with God.