

SESSION 4

SPIRITUAL BATTLEFIELDS

READ **John 9**

Right before this passage, Jesus calls the Pharisees “children of the devil” because they do not listen to what God says (John 8:42-47). This is clearly demonstrated by the lies the Pharisees choose to believe in this story about Jesus. In this story, Jesus compares physical blindness to spiritual blindness. Even though the Pharisees would claim to be more “spiritual” than the blind man, they were nevertheless blind to the newness Jesus was releasing in the world.

God’s amazing grace may have saved you, but is it changing you? You may no longer be blind, but how do you choose to look the other way? Do you remain blind to the lies of the enemy, or do you choose to open your eyes and hear what God says?

Take a look at Principle 1: “Look Beneath the Surface” in your emotional health assessment. How honest are you with both God and yourself? What thoughts and emotions do you tend to suppress—fearful of the anger or pain they might bring? Often times we are spiritually blind because we do not spend honest, reflective time in God’s presence combating the lies we tend to believe.

Spend 3 to 5 minutes in silence before God’s presence. After a few moments of quiet, ask God to reveal the lies you believe in the following three areas:

1. What lies do I believe about who God is? (e.g., God is disappointed in me, God hates the same people I do, etc.)
2. What lies do I believe about who I am? (e.g., I justify my sin as my “authentic self,” I’m fearful of letting others know the real me, etc.)
3. What lies do I believe about what the good life is? (e.g., not needing anyone else, having lots of disposable income, etc.)

After you have written down the lies you tend to believe, spend an additional few minutes in silence. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the truth about the things you have written. Next to each lie, write what is true.

Note: *The Holy Spirit will speak truth that is based in the person of Jesus and the teachings of Scripture, not in cultural norms or personal opinions. If you have difficulty determining the truth about any of these lies, ask a trusted friend or mentor to pray over it with you and speak truth.*

Remember, truth often does not always uproot lies the first time they are spoken—especially if these lies have a long, recurring history. During your quiet times this week, bring up this list with God and meditate over it with Him in His presence.