

Lesson 8: A Biblical Framework for Understanding the Role and Place of Emotion in the Life of Faith

- The aim of our study was to answer ONE SIMPLE QUESTION: “What is the role of emotion and feeling in a biblical faith?”
- The “Problem of Emotion”
- Our solution: **A clear biblical framework** for understanding the interaction of faith and feeling

- **Principle #1: Faith is the Master, and Feelings are the Servant**
- A biblical understanding of faith: **Hebrews 11:1-3**
- Faith is not a subjective feeling. Faith is the objective source of your convictions. Emotions are your visceral (“gut”) response to whatever may be going on around you.

- **Principle #2: Expect that Submitting Your Feelings to Faith Will be Hard Work**
- The battle described: **Galatians 5:16-24**
- The flesh sets its DESIRE against the Spirit. The Greek word translated “desire” is epilthymeō, and it means “lust”. This is the disposition of your unredeemed flesh.

- **Principle #3: Your Heart Can’t be Trusted**
- Total Depravity
- **Jeremiah 17:9, Proverbs 28:26, Romans 8:7-8, Ephesians 2:1**
- Progressive Sanctification
- **Romans 6:19**

- **Principle #4: God’s Goal is Your Holiness, Not Your Happiness**
- What is the nature of God’s work in your life? What is He doing?
- **1 Peter 1:15-16**

- **Principle #5: Faith Does Not Wait for Feeling**
- What if you don’t feel like obeying?
- **2 Peter 1:3-4**
- Emotion is neither a motivator nor a barrier to obedience
- Is obedience without feeling hypocrisy?
- **Genesis 4**, the lesson of Cain

- **Principle #6: Don't Try to Conform God to Your Preferences; Learn to Love the God of Scripture**
- **Psalm 50:21**- God is not like you
- **2 Peter 1:16-21**- Experience must be evaluated by Scripture
- **Principle #7: God is Love, Therefore You Must Love**
- The Doctrine of God's Impassability- Yes, God has real emotions
- God demonstrates the kind of love you must live by- **1 John 4:7**
- **Principle #8, "Biblical Love is a Sacrificial Love, and it Should Motivate All of Your Actions"**
- Biblical love is sacrificial love- It doesn't need, it meets needs
- Love is more than a feeling or a decision. It's a conviction. **Romans 6:19**
- **1 Corinthians 12:7**- love selflessly serves with the giftedness that God supplies
- **Principle #9: If You Want to be Emotionally Mature, Pursue Spiritual Maturity by Knowing and Walking in Biblical Truth**
- **Ephesians 4:11-16, Philippians 4:4-9**
- Emotionally maturity and stability is the product of spiritual maturity, and spiritual maturity is built on the foundation of biblical truth.
- **Principle #10: The Scriptures are All that You Need for Life and Godliness**
- The Scriptures are the sole trustworthy source of spiritual and moral truth
- The Doctrine of Inspiration- **2 Timothy 3:16, Matthew 5:18, Luke 16:17**
- The Doctrine of Inerrancy- **Proverbs 30:5-6**
- The Doctrine Sufficiency- **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- **Principle #11: The Sovereignty and Goodness of God Provide All the Security You Need**
- **Psalm 103:19**- You must cultivate a high view of God
- **Romans 8:28**- You must trust in the goodness of God
- If you trust that God is in control of all things, and that He is always working for your good...what more do you really need?
- **Romans 8:30-39**- Security in your salvation, sovereignty and goodness on display

- **Hebrews 12:2**- Comfort on your sanctification, God is at work
- **Principle #12: Keep a Close Watch Over Your Heart for Idols**
- Remember Jonah and the “lying vanities” **Jonah 2:8**
- Your emotional responses may give you clues to the presence of an idol
- **Principle #13: In Your War Against Idolatry, Cultivate HUMILITY So You Can See Idols, LOVE So You Will Fight Them, and FAITH So You Can Crush Them**
- Humility will allow you to see the idol, and make you teachable so you’re able to change- **1 Corinthians 4:7, Philippians 2:3-4**
- Love will give you the right motivation for fighting against idolatry- **John 14:15** (obedience to God), **1 John 3:16** (sacrificing for others, guarding them against your sin)
- Faith is the only way to crush idol, and the only way that pleases God- **Hebrews 11:6**