



INGman 6

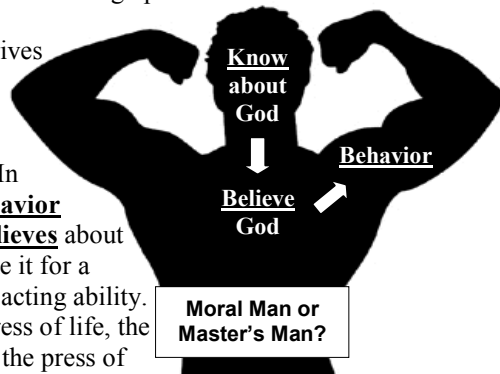
Focused Living Ministries

Inside Out

“...work **out** your salvation with fear and trembling.” Phil 2:12b

A father called his young son to finish his video game and sit down with the rest of the family for dinner. “NO!” the boy whined. Again the father asked the boy to sit down. “NO!” was again the response with an attitude. So the father forced him to sit in his chair. After the blessing, the little boy glared at his father in defiance, “I may be sitting on the outside, but I am still standing up on the inside!”

A man’s **inside** beliefs drives his **outside** behavior. What a man **believes** about God will directly impact how he **behaves**. In other words, a man’s **behavior** reveals what he really **believes** about God. Sure, you might fake it for a while depending on your acting ability. But sooner or later the stress of life, the heat of circumstances, or the press of relationships will reveal exactly what is going in your heart and what you really believe about God. **Where are you ‘sitting’ on the outside but ‘standing’ on the inside? Where do you need to grow in your belief in God so that Christ can transform your behavior for God?**



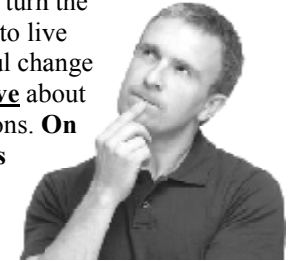
I BELIEVE GOD...

Is sovereign over every detail
Loves me unconditionally w/ a plan
Will provide all that I need
Design for pleasure is flawed
Is patient and gracious
Is my Father disciplining me as son
Has blessed me for a purpose
Has met my needs in Christ
Lives in me through Holy Spirit
Explains His values in Scripture
Invites all to receive Christ

SO I BEHAVE...

W/out worry/stress if interrupted
Without fear or intimidation
With generosity towards others
W/ selfish/distorted pursuit of sex
W/ out anger, revenge, resentment
Secure. Desiring to please Him
With mercy and justice to others
Free to serve others with abandon
Surrendered to His authority
In a way that reflects His priorities
W/ courage to express the Gospel

RESOLVE OR RESPOND? Following Christ is not a spiritual self improvement course, cosmic boy scouts with merit badges), nor is it behavior modification based on the expectation of others. It is daily **transformation** into the image of Christ (Rom 8:28-30; 12:1-2). It is not about **RESOLVING** to do better or try harder! It is all about **REMEMBERING** the grace and **RESPONDING** to the glory of God so that He can cause us to grow. If we are to turn the world **upside down** then we must learn how to live **inside out!** The key to lasting and meaningful change is bringing to bear what you **know** and **believe** about God’s character to your everyday life situations. **On which of God’s many character qualities is He presently causing you to focus? How? Why? How is this quality changing and affecting your behavior?**



Exodus 24, 32 Though God’s people resolved to follow Him (Exodus 24:3, 7) they did not follow through (Ex 32:1-4, 8, 9, 22) because they forgot about and did not respond to His character. They needed to come to grips with God’s grace (Ex 24:7-8) and glory (Ex 24:17). How long after their resolve did God’s INGmen cave in to their culture? How long after Peter resolved to stay strong for Christ (Mark 14:27-31, 66-72) he cave because he did not remember God’s grace or respond to His glory? What is God’s assessment of a man’s heart (Ex 32:8, 9, 22)?

Romans 12:1-2 Where do you see the ‘strong man’ in these verses?

Romans 12:9-21 What are some things you must **believe** about God in order to **behave** like Christ in the specific areas listed?

TAG TEAMS Have you been living inside out or upside down in your spiritual life? Where specifically do you want your behavior to change this fall? What do you need to know and believe about God’s character in order for Him to transform you in this area?