

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

Part 4 - Agnosticism

The health of your SOUL directly affects the health of everything else:

- * Your THOUGHTS drive your DECISIONS.
- * Your BELIEFS drive your BEHAVIOURS.
- * Your EMOTIONS drive your REACTIONS.
- * Your MOODS drive your CONVERSATIONS.

→ *In each of those cases, is the statement referring to how we think/feel in the whim of the moment or the long-term values we hold onto? Or is it a mixture of both? What normally wins: my deeply inbuilt thought-patterns or the emotions / moods of the day?*

→ *How consistent and stable is the health of your soul or is it up and down? What inspires the ups and what factors contribute to the downs?*

THE PREMISE: It's possible to SAY you're a Christian, but then CONTINUE to LIVE functionally as though GOD WASN'T THERE.

- * It's possible to say you TRUST God, but essentially you actually just TRUST IN YOURSELF.
 - * ... to say that PRAYER is POWERFUL, but never really PRAY.
 - * ... to say you BELIEVE the PROMISES of God's Word, but act in reality as if they WEREN'T TRUE.
 - * ... to say you've CHANGED but actually just continue to do everything EXACTLY THE SAME AS BEFORE.
- *What do you think Craig Groeschel means by the expression 'Christian Atheist?'*
→ *If you're honest, do you ever fall into any of the above traps? What difference would it make in your life if you were to move from right to left in each of those statements?*

4 QUICK EXAMPLES

- Jesus died on the Cross to FORGIVE my sins and WASH me clean → But then struggling repeatedly with a sense of GUILT & SHAME.
 - 'Jesus LOVES me, this I know ...' → But having recurring problems with LONELINESS, REJECTION, IDENTITY.
 - I know God is HOLY and calls me to a life of SURRENDER and OBEDIENCE → But that SIN is just too much FUN; I think I'll keep doing it MY WAY.
 - Paul promised PEACE that passes understanding → But I can't SLEEP at night, riddled with FEARS and overshadowed by ANXIETIES.
- *Do you struggle with any of those? Why do you think that might be? In the light of this message, what could you do to achieve the breakthrough / wholeness you seek?*
→ *Where does the 'spiritual warfare' element fit into these? How do you win the fight?*

THE CRUX: We're called 'BELIEVERS' because we're supposed to BELIEVE!
(Hebrews 11:6, Mark 11:24, 16:17-18, 5:36, 9:23-24).

→ *How radical a believer are you? How would you answer the question in the light of those verses in Hebrews & Mark?*

3 DEEPER EXAMPLES

a) FORGIVENESS & SHAME (Romans 8:1)

- * Do we really understand the GOSPEL'S power? How DEEP into us has it sunk? How THOROUGHLY does it AFFECT us?

→ *How do the negative experiences of your life affect you? How should they affect you? How do you change the way they affect you?*

b) MONEY & STEWARDSHIP (Malachi 3:8-12)

- * Do we try to do money OUR WAY or GOD'S WAY?

* He says TRUST me, HONOUR me, OBEY me and LEAVE the REST in my hands.

→ *Do you 'do money' your way or God's way? What does it mean to trust God with your finances? What does He ask of you as a steward of your resources? Do you have a testimony of how your financial situation has been influenced by trusting and obeying Him?*

c) REVENGE & MEDDLING (Romans 12:17-20)

- * Do we TRUST God to RESOLVE the issues as He has clearly promised or can we just not stop ourselves INTERFERING?

→ *How do we meddle? Are you a meddler? Why is it hard not to meddle? What does the Lord ask us to do instead? What does He promise to do if we don't interfere?*

3 THOUGHTS FROM 3 VERSES

1. 2 Timothy 3:5 → Possible to have a form of godliness but DENY its POWER.

- * Do we fully appreciate how POWERFUL God's WORD is? (Isaiah 55:10-11, 2 Corinthians 1:20, Hebrews 4:12).

* Or how POWERFUL the HOLY SPIRIT is? (1 John 4:4, Romans 8:11, 1 Cor 3:16).

→ *Do you appreciate the power at your disposal? How do you access it? What did Jesus mean when He said the Holy Spirit would 'clothe us with power?'*

2. James 4:2 → You do not HAVE, because you do not ASK.

- * Do we need to redefine NORMAL?

→ *"If we have access to treasure chest of heaven, a rich & eternal inheritance in Christ, and have been given every spiritual blessing, what are we waiting for? Why try to live human life which is undeniably challenging with only natural resources, when we have a supernatural Saviour. If you've been given full coat of spiritual armour, why are you still going into battle in pyjamas with pea shooter." Discuss! What should be 'normal?'*

→ *Do we have to ask? Surely He knows already. If so, why does He want us to ask? Is it possible that we've inadvertently turned our back on what He's made available to us, because we've neglected to ask?*

3. Belief in your HEAD might not help you; belief in your HEART can change your life (James 2:19).

- * How do we take it from KNOWLEDGE to REALITY ... From INFORMATION to REVELATION ... From HEAD to HEART ... From THEORY to PRACTICE?

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

a) Faith in the WORD (Romans 10:17 with John 8:32)

b) Faith in the ONE who IS the WORD (John 1:1-3 with 2 Timothy 1:12)

- * I don't just know ABOUT Him, but I know Him PERSONALLY.

→ *How do you grow in those two? What could you do in the next few weeks to grow in either of those areas?*