

12

MYTHS

12 Myths that Christians Believe That Aren't in the Bible!

A myth is a widely held but false belief or idea, a misrepresentation of the truth. Not everything believed as biblical truth is truly biblical. This series will seek to unravel 12 commonly accepted beliefs that cause bondage rather than liberty. Men need to be aware of how nuggets of truth become cornerstones for error when wrongly understood. We need help to build solid scriptural foundations that produce emotional freedom. Christian men have taken so much scripture out of context and made a whole religion out of it. This has caused so many problems for men who need help and instead of being thrown a lifeline; they are left to drown hanging on to a Bible verse thrown from the shoreline. This series looks at the adjustments that need to be made to help men who need solid direction in how to grow to full maturity.

Myth #4 -All I Need to do is Turn It Over the Lord.

Not Opposites, But Parallel Truths

Many Christians adopt a passive attitude toward their spiritual and emotional growth, especially if they struggle with emotional pain, character weaknesses, life situations that need changing, or dreams that need to be realized. Such Christians often have a “let go and let God” view of their healing and growth process.

To the contrary, there is an active role for us to play in spiritual and emotional growth. Many Christians are stuck because they do not perceive themselves as partners with God in cultivating their own growth.

There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears. Phil. 1:6 (MSG)

What I’m getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you’ve done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I’m separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is *God’s* energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure. Phil.2:12,13 (MSG)

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Man's Responsibility =
FIGHT and INITIATE

Numbers 33:51-53, 55 The Message (MSG)

**If I do not do my part, growth
will not happen.**

Running Hard – I Timothy 6:12

Focused on the Goal – Phil 3:14

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?

1. We have the ability to own our problems.

= Confession = to agree with

We will never change unless we confess what is true about our condition. Only when we confess that we are stuck will we begin to work on getting unstuck. Only then can we stop blaming others and excuse ourselves.

1 John 1:9

2. We have the ability to confess our failure to solve our problems.

We are powerless to save ourselves. We must come to a place where we say “ God, I have failed I my attempts to change and to get better. We must come to the end of ourselves. We fail most often because we try to overcome our problems by “acts of the will” or by other self-improvement methods.

2 Cor. 12:9,10

What is Our Responsibility?

3. Get help from God and others. = Humility

4. We have the ability to continue searching and asking God and others to reveal to us what is in our souls. God's Spirit-and people-can help us to see ourselves as we really are.

David asks God in Psalm 139 to show him what is wrong with him, and his request brings to the light the brokenness that needs to be loved, and sin that needs to be forgiven and turned from. In twelve-step language, this is the continuing "moral inventory."

5. We have the ability to turn from the evil that we discover inside ourselves. Self examination is healthy. Myopic introspection is unhealthy

Romans 7: 15-24

What is Our Responsibility?

6. We have the ability to find out what needs were not met when we grew up in our family. And then take those needs to the family of God where they can be met. God says that he “sets the lonely in families” = Supportive connections.

7. We have the ability to seek out those who we may have wronged or injured and admit our wrong, apologize and ask forgiveness.

Matthew 5:23-24(MSG)

8. We have the ability to forgive others who have hurt us.

Matthew 6:15 (MSG)

What is Our Responsibility?

9. We have the ability to develop the gifts and talents that God has given us.

The difference between the "good and faithful servant" and the "wicked and lazy servant" in Matthew 25 is that the first one invested his talents. How much each servant accomplished didn't matter, but whether he had used what he received. The wicked servant did not even try to use what he had.

10. We have the ability to continue seeking God.

God promises that if we seek him, we will find him; if we knock, he will open the door for us. He teaches us to persevere in prayer and in seeking the answer we want from him.

Jeremiah 33: 2,3 (MSG)

11. We have the increasing ability to follow God's example of love.

Those who "love one another, as he commanded us" (1 John 3:23) recover. Those who hold on to hatred, revenge, and self-centeredness, do not. Love connects us with others, softens our hearts, decreases our isolation, and matures our soul. Practicing love is the best thing you can do to heal from emotional pain.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. What things in your life do you tend to “let go and let God”, where you need to take responsibility and make traction?
2. What things in your life do you try to control and manage when you need to let God have the reins?
3. Where are you now in your journey towards greater intimacy with God and others?