

Grow Your Worship, Part 1 | Change What You Do and Say

I. Introduction

- Approach this study for your own sake before focusing too much on the other people in your life.
- Embrace the inductive elements of this study. Take time to diligently think through the questions being asked.
- Remember that there is real hope for change.
 - Jesus is our example of victorious spiritual living. Matthew 3:17; I Peter 1:15-16; Ephesians 1:4; I John 3:2; Romans 8:17-30; II Corinthians 3:18
 - God expects for us to grow in our worship of Him. But not only that, He also empowers us to grow in our worship of Him. And one day He will make it possible for us to perfectly worship Him for all eternity.
- The bible describes our actions and words as our fruit. Psalm 1:3; Matthew 3:8, 7:16, 12:33, 13:8; John 15:8; Romans 7:5; II Corinthians 9:10; Galatians 5:22; Hebrews 12:11, 13:15; James 3:17

II. Why We Do What We Do and Say What We Say

- **One Important Fruit**
 - John 14:15
 - Keeping God's commands in what we say and do is directly tied to our *love* for God. Of course, this isn't surprising since Jesus also told us that the greatest command is to love the Lord our God. Therefore, we know that love is at least part of the equation for why we do what we do.
- **Two Kinds of People**
 - Psalm 1; Matthew 7
 - These two passages separate the entire human race into those who have a good relationship with God and those who don't — those who worship God and those who worship self. On the other side, we have those who do not worship God. Psalm 1 calls them ungodly and compares them to dead chaff. Matthew 7 calls them a diseased tree that bears bad fruit.
- **One Important Question** — Why do we do what we do?
 - Genesis 3:6; Matthew 7:17-20; James 4:1-3
 - Eve took the fruit because she *desired* it. It was pretty, it looked yummy, it would make her wise, and she wanted it.
 - You do what you do because you want to. You say what you say because you want to. Period.
 - And this is so important to acknowledge because it strips us of the ability to say things like, "I'm just a good person who makes mistakes," or "He's a good kid; he's just in a phase," or "He has a good heart."
 - We can't say, "The devil made me do it!" *We* made ourselves do it because we are not good people. Seriously, no one who actually *desires* to be unkind can be called a good person.
 - Sin is not a disease. It's not an accident. It's not something that controls us against our will. Sin is a willful act against God. Sin is deserving of death because it's a choice to steal the worship our Creator deserves.
 - According to James we desire, covet, and have passions that bear the fruit in our lives.
 - "We do what we do and say what we say because we want what we want."
 - So "If I worship myself because I want to, then I need to change what I want. But in order to change what I want, I need to figure out why I want the things I want?" Why do I want to worship self over God?