

CONVICTIONS

→ A conviction is a strongly held view which I am convinced is scripturally correct and which regulates my behaviour.

→ Convictions are not just opinions that we have formed, but truths that God has revealed to us.

→ Developing a conviction involves faith and desire to become like Jesus (likeness of God).

→ The true determination of my convictions is not to analyze what I claim to believe, but rather how I act.

One of the earliest examples of someone who stood firm in his conviction was Joseph – while he was in Potiphar's house he faced intense temptation to be immoral. There was no one who knew his background was around. With God alone being his witness, see he faced that temptation and won a great victory to remain pure as God intended: Gen 39:9 ".....How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

This exemplary behaviour of Joseph was based on his deep conviction. It is important for us to develop such deep convictions in our lives.

My convictions will affect:

- My world view (Am I going to live for the temporal or the eternal? Is God's will really best?)
- What I will do
- Where I will go
- How I dress
- What career I choose
- How will I spend my time
- How will I spend my money
- How will I use my abilities/talents/gifts
- What will I treasure
- How will I treat others around me
- Who will be my best friends
- Whom will I marry
- How will I raise my children

Study Ephesians 4 and see few important convictions we need to develop.

It also cites the benefit of developing deep convictions

Eph 4:14-16 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

This chapter talks about how our convictions will build

Unity

Maturity

Effectiveness &

Transformation (to be like Jesus)

How do we develop deep convictions?

1. **By personal study & meditation of Scriptures**

Eg: **Psalm 119: 9-11** How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

10 I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands.

11 I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Our transformation (into the likeness of God) will take place only if we renew our mind. Renewal of our mind is possible only if mind is filled and is controlled by the word of God that reveals the will of God.

Remember how Jesus faced every temptation and fought back with the word of God that was hidden in his heart (Matthew 4)

Remember Josiah who heard the Scriptures being read and gained deep convictions to follow God whole heartedly and how he turned the whole nation of Judah to God! (study 2 Kings 22)

Write down convictions that you develop from your personal Bible study – minimum one conviction a week.

2. **By listening to messages preached in meetings (2 Tim 1:13)**

3. **By fellowship with other Christians with deep convictions**

Observing and imitating the faith and convictions of other Christians

1Thess 1:6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

4. **Experiences of life**

Romans 5:3 Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Some more great examples of convictions

PURITY

Job 31:1 "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a virgin.

Matt 3: 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

How about having this conviction in our lives?

As a young boy I had a conviction that I will never touch a woman until I get married. I am very grateful that God helped me to keep that up even though I faced many temptations in 27 years!

Another conviction I had was that I will never see pornography in computer/tv/movie etc.

I had been using computers for past 24 years and internet for 22 years but never visited a web site with pornography. It is not by my own strength but when we have a deep conviction to stay pure, God's amazing grace helps us to fulfill that.

PLEASE GOD

Jesus: John 5: 30 By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

John 8:29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.

Paul: 2 Cor 5:9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

2 Tim 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. 7I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

DO THE WILL OF GOD

John 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. *Remember the last words of Jesus on the cross was 'It is finished'! He kept his conviction!*

TO PRAY CONTINUALLY

1 Thess 5:16-18 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Luke 5:16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 21:37,38 Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, 38 and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.

TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

Romans 15:20 It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

ALL THIS IS POSSIBLE ONLY WHEN WE LOVE GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART AND MIND (Matthew 22:36-40)

LET US DEVELOP DEEP CONVICTIONS THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES