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YOU ASKED FOR IT:

- A sermon series to address your questions
- An introduction in learning how to find answers
- An invitation to being changed and maturing in your faith

WEEK 1: ANY QUESTIONS? – what do we do when we have questions about truth and application?

HEAD – understanding, comprehension, fathom

HEART – belief, conviction, passion, motivation

HANDS – application, practice, exhibition, expression, obedience

HEAD:

1. The truth is in the TEXT - God's Word - the Bible

Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV) - 29“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may **do** all the words of this law.

John 17:17 (ESV) - Sanctify them in the *truth*; ***your word is truth***.

2. The truth in the text is understood in its CONTEXT

Proverbs 16:25 (ESV) - 25There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death

Biblical Exegesis & Hermeneutics - *Biblical exegesis* is the actual interpretation of the Bible, the bringing out of its meaning; *hermeneutics* is the study and establishment of the principles by which it is to be interpreted.

'Pardes' Exegesis:

Peshat – surface, straight, direct or literal meaning. (Genesis 1:1)

Remez – hint, hidden, allegorical, symbolic meaning. (Matthew 27:46 & Psalm 22)

Derash – inquired, sought, or comparative meaning. (Matthew 2:15 & Hosea 11:1)

Sod – secret, mystery or esoteric meaning. (John 1:1-10)

Principles of Hermeneutics:

1. **Literal principle** – what does it say in context?
2. **Grammatical principle** – what does it say in its original language?
3. **Synthesis principle** – scripture interprets scripture; what does the bible say on the subject as a whole?
4. **Historical principle** – what historical nuances are there that helps us? (geography, politics, culture)
5. **Practical principle** – how do I put what I have learned into practice?
6. **Illumination principle** – asking the Holy Spirit to help you apply scripture in your life

HEART:

3. The understanding of truth (HEAD) leads us to belief, conviction and motivation from it (HEART). We have heart change when we experience truth, from the application of truth, not just the pontification about truth.

Our experiences come from our circumstances, most always in the context of relationships

Some of us reject truth because:

- We haven't been taught it or understood it (Head)
- We haven't experienced it. (Heart)
- We have experienced what has *felt like truth* and have accepted it as truth, but it actually isn't truth, which means it's false or a lie...

Romans 1:25 (ESV) - 25because they exchanged the truth about God for lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator,

- We have experienced the **opposite** of what God calls true and having been taught/told it **is true** results in the rejection of God and his truth, **when in reality it's not. This is the work of the enemy.**
- We have experienced truth, but didn't like how it felt or what it cost us (discipline, consequences, refinement etc...) so we'd rather choose what is easier and false over what is hard, yet holy.

Exodus 14:12 (ESV) - 12Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

- Experiences are powerful, they but are not to trump truth
- Experiences of truth in application help to understand it, however, we can understand truth without experiencing it and we can experience truth without understanding it. So what do we do?
 - We need the text
 - We need the spirit - power
 - We need others - relationships
 - **We need disciplined**

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

HANDS:

4. The understanding and experiencing of truth should lead to an obedience to it

Matthew 7:24-27 (ESV) - 24"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

- Mercy, peace and love in abundance! (Jude)
- Rebuke gently
- Suffer for the sake of others – eucharist
- Love covers a multitude of sin

PERSONAL & SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

- Which one of the head, heart, hands categories do you excel at the most? Which one could you use some growth in?
- Which one of the reasons listed in the HEART category cause you to struggle to believe God's truth?
- What is a next step you can take to grow in truth?