



Session 4: Heat and Thorns

Introduction

- **Review**

- **Session 1 – Beholding and Becoming**
- **Session 2 – Idols of the Heart**

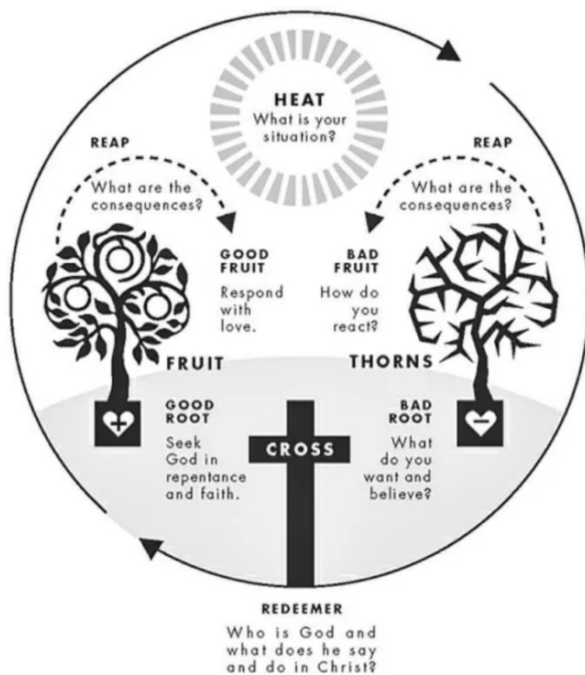
An idol is anything or anyone that begins to capture our hearts and minds and affections more than God.

- **Session 3 – The Gospel and Growth**
 - **John 15: “Just be a branch” – Apart from me you can do...**

- **Helicopter View versus Street Level**

- **Street Level Problems**
- **Helicopter View**
- **Example: Angry Husband**

1. Process of Change Overview: Tree Diagram



- a. Scripture: Luke 6:43-45
 - b. Heat – What is your situation?
 - c. Thorns – How do you react?
 - d. Cross – Who is God and what does He say and do in Christ?
 - e. Fruit – Repentance and Faith
 - f. Example: 2 Cor 1:8-11
1. Heat:
 2. Thorns:
 3. Cross:
 4. Fruit:



2. Heat – What is your situation?

a. Expectations

- i. What do you expect your life to be like?
- ii. Reality

1 Peter 4:12: “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.”

b. Deuteronomy 8:2-14

- i. God’s Purpose
- ii. Trials
- iii. Blessings

c. HEAT! – What gets at you the most?

Problems in relationships? Difficulty at work? Disappointment in marriage?
Problems in your church? Extended family? Health? Parenting? Business?
Culture? Finances? Expectations of others? Praise? Promotion? Raise?
Ministry?

What might God be teaching you?

3. Thorns – How do you respond?

a. Sinful reactions

b. Thorn Bush Responses

- i. Deny, avoid, and escape
- ii. Magnify, expand, and catastrophize
- iii. Become prickly and hypersensitive
- iv. Return evil for evil



v. Bogged down, paralyzed, and captured

vi. Self-excusing self-righteousness

c. Fruit tree responses

i. Face reality

ii. Respond with appropriate intensity

iii. Be alert

iv. Engage in constructive activity

v. Remember

d. Why do we respond the way we do?

i. Diagnosing the “real” problem

James 4: What causes quarrels and fights?

ii. Common Misdiagnoses

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.



e. Getting personal

- i. What are your thorns? (Complaining, laziness, anger, envy, lust, bitterness, avoidance, pride, indifference, harsh words, blame, judgmental spirit, greed, lack of self-control...)
- ii. Where do your actions and responses fail to demonstrate the fruit of faith?
- iii. In your current situations and relationships, how are you responding sinfully?
- iv. What consequences are you experiencing as a result?
 - v. Where have you quit doing what God says is good?
 - vi. Where have you blamed others?
 - vii. When have you accused God?
- viii. Are you dealing with your feelings by doing unhealthy things? (Eating, spending, working, escaping, alcohol, drugs, reputation)

Conclusion