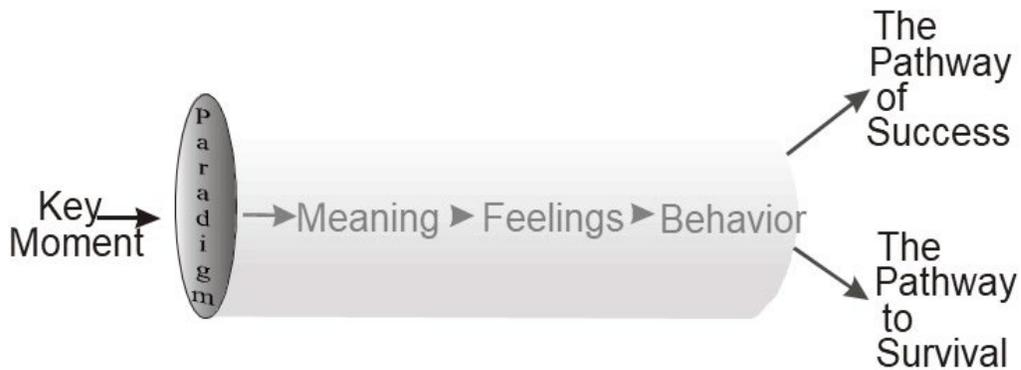


Live With Integrity

Points to Consider

1. Ascertain your paradigm
2. Accept reality
3. Act accordingly



Ascertain your paradigm

A paradigm is the _____ through which you view the key moments of your life. Your paradigm will determine the meaning you place on life's events. The meaning you assign to a key moment will determine how you feel about that moment and will influence your behavior.

A paradigm is a _____. It is the _____ you use to interpret the world around you. Worldviews include theism, naturalism, humanism, and post modernism.

Examples of paradigms found in the Bible

One true God vs. the gods of Egypt

Ex 4:31 *And Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go."* NKJV

Ex 14:17-18 *And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."* NKJV

Ex 9:14-17 *for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth. 15 Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth. 16 But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.* NKJV

God sent the 10 plagues to change the paradigm of the Israelites, the Egyptians, and the whole earth for _____ human history.

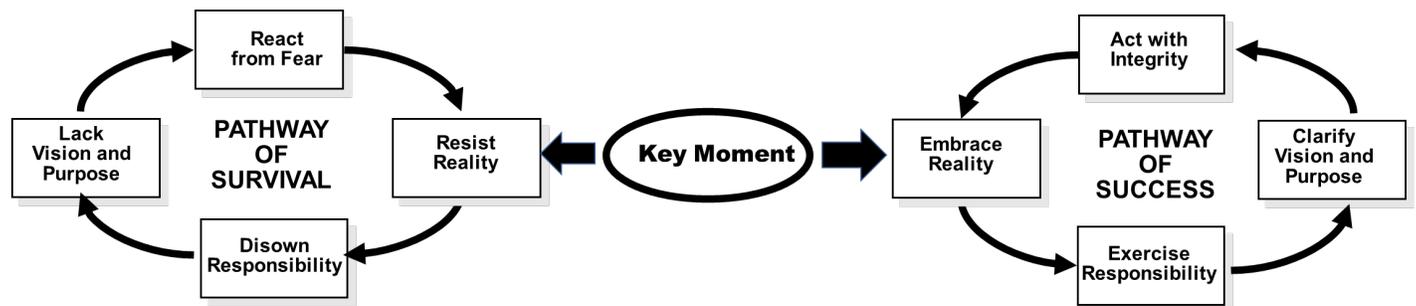
Gal 1:22-24 22 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ. 23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he once tried to destroy." 24 And they glorified God in me. NKJV

On the road to Damascus Paul's worldview changed from a Jewish worldview to a Christian worldview. As a result, his behavior changed from one who _____ Christ's followers to one who _____ Christ's gospel.

You can never have true inner peace if your actions are _____ with your paradigm or your conscience.

Warning! It is possible to have inner peace without having peace with God.

Accept Reality



Biblical Examples

2 Kings 6:14-18 Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 18 So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. NKJV

Elisha's servant's perspective changed once he understood the _____ of God's army surrounding Elisha.

Instead of living in fear, he could live with _____.

Num 13:26-33 Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan." 30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." 32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. 33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." NKJV

Num 14:6-9 *But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; 7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. 8 If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' 9 Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them."*
NKJV

The lens through which the 10 spies viewed the land led to _____ and took them into survival mode. The lens through which Joshua and Caleb viewed the situation led to _____ and if followed would have led to success.

Practical Application

- Write down a description of your lens. How do you see life through your lens?
- What is your view of God and his working in your life? How does your view of God change the way you see things? Remember the story of David and Goliath. Saul and his army saw a giant man. David saw a big God who was about to squash a giant man like he was an ant.
- How do you view other people? When a key moment happens in your life to you instantly think "How is this going to affect me?" or are you immediately concerned with how it will affect others?
- How do you view God's word? Has it shaped your conscience?
- How has God's word shaped your conscience?

Act Accordingly

We can only have true inner peace when our actions are consistent with our paradigm. Our paradigm includes our conscience as well as how we see God, His word, ourselves, and other people.

Matt 26:69-75 *Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." 70 But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." 71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72 But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" 73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." 74 Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.*
NKJV

Matt 16:13-16 *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." NKJV*

John 6:66-69 *From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." NKJV*

Peter's actions did not match his paradigm, so he went out and _____ bitterly.
It was good that Peter did not have true inner peace.

Matt 27:3-5 *Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" 5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. NKJV*

Judas felt _____ for betraying Jesus and hung himself. A lack of inner peace can have terrible consequences.

Dan 1:8 *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. 9 Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. 10 And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king."* NKJV

Dan 1:15-16 *And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. 16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.* NKJV

Daniel accepted _____.

He also knew that God was still good, powerful, and in control, even in Babylon.

He purposed in his heart to live according to his paradigm.

He made a _____.

He acted with _____.

Dan 1:20-21 *And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm. 21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.* NKJV

God blessed him with wisdom and understanding, and he saw _____.

Dan 2:48 *48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.* NKJV

After interpreting the king's favorable dream Daniel was _____. He saw success.

In chapter 4 Daniel interpreted a dream that was unfavorable to Nebuchadnezzar that led to God being glorified.

Dan 5:29 *Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.* NKJV

When Daniel interpreted a dream that was unfavorable to Belshazzar, he saw _____.

Dan 6:28 *So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.* NKJV

When Daniel lived according to his _____ he prospered.

Practical Application

Look at your life and see if there is a gap between how you should be living and how you are living. Make the appropriate changes and you will take a step to true inner peace.

* The charts in this lesson come from a workshop "Emotional Intelligence" I used to deliver. They were developed by 360 Solutions.