

## ***State of Your Heart Update with Belief Systems***

### ***Sample 1***

Much is swirling in my heart lately. Can I leave it at that?

The Lord is actively growing and stretching me, and it feels like He's doing this in most areas of my life. Parenting, friendships, parenting, childhood wounds, parenting...well, mostly parenting. My days are full of mediating conflicts, making sure our Free-Spirited One doesn't burn the house down, and taking care of an infant. Not to mention the mechanics of making sure everyone is in the right place at the right time. Actually, all of that isn't the painful part. The part that bothers me the most is when I see patterns of sin in my little ones, and I feel incapable of doing a thing about it.

I recently caught one of our children lying over and over again. In my mind it is becoming a habit...and it is so saddening to me. Yesterday I was processing my observations and how overwhelming this feels to me when the Lord stopped me in my tracks. I caught myself struggling and feeling utterly helpless to pull my little one out of sin. Then the Lord stepped into my thoughts. It felt like a wave of peace washing over me. He convicted me of the truth that it is HIM who pulls people out of their sin. Not me. And, He reminded me that I can trust my children with Him (and I can trust Him to guide me in this situation).

Oof. I bumped into a false belief.

I sat in my chair struggling to actually believe what I'd heard the Lord speak. "I hear that it is You who saves my little ones...but I can't seem to get that to stick. That truth is doing nothing for me."

It's as though the core of my being truly believes He will not do a thing about this. Why? Why do I doubt Him?!

I can see the truth right in front of me: He loves my children SO much that He gave up His only son for my little ones to come into His family. It's John 3:16. I know this. He is able.

Yet, I struggle. Maybe it's because I know this truth, yet I do not know *how* their salvation will play out (and this is the part where I want to throw my computer across the room. But, I resist the urge). So many families seem to have prayed for their children and yet nothing happened. It's like the Lord was sitting on the sidelines, eating popcorn, while their kids continued spiraling in their sin. Why didn't He stop the kid? Why didn't He turn the kid's heart? He can't be contained or tamed or put in a box...and that is scary. I don't like that. I have zero control over that.

But, if I'm honest, I don't want a God that is in a box. I don't want to be able to define Him and to figure Him out.

Ack.

I'm feeling overwhelmed (clearly). I'm also a bit tense and anxious. Lying isn't the end of the world, but MAN, it feels like a bad gateway sin that leads to much bigger sins.

I long for my child to not feel like he needs to lie to cover up whatever it is he is trying to accomplish. I want simple communion with him and him to not hide behind lies.

Ultimately, I do want the Lord to reign supreme in my life and in my children's lives. I desire for my children to experience the Lord and to feel the Holy Spirit draw their hearts to walk purely and righteously before Him. I long to surrender in the love of the Lord and to experience rest as I walk through the daily parenting grind.

I still have a way to go in resolving my rational beliefs with my gut-level, honest beliefs that are being uncovered. Today I am finding solace in the realization of this incongruency within myself and that working to become more integrated with my beliefs and lifestyle will be one of the greatest gifts that I can give my children.