



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** Relationships that Transform

**SPEAKER** Josh McDowell

**THEME** The Triumph of the Cross

**DATE** 10 & 11 March 2018

# MESSAGE SUMMARY

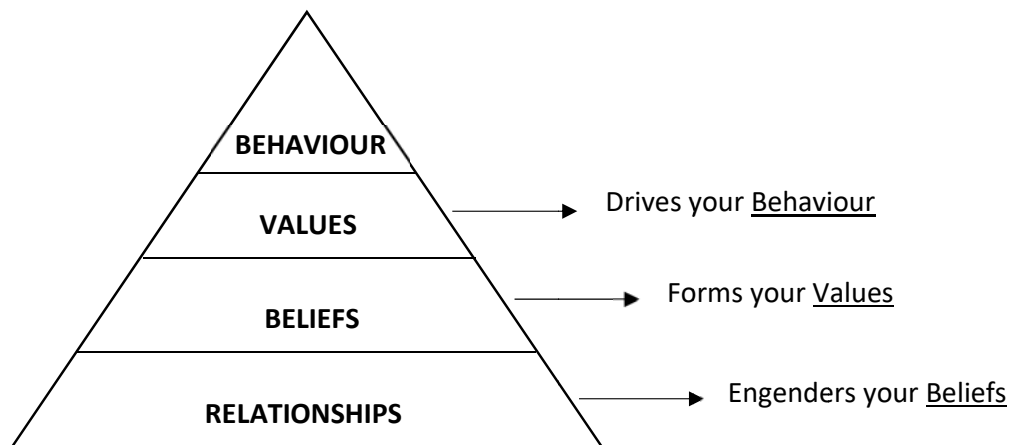
## Introduction

How does the Holy Spirit work in us to transform us into Christlikeness? There is no doubt that it is His work, but He does not work in a vacuum, so what does He use?

This week Josh McDowell speaks on the importance of relationships and how it drives our behaviour.

## Relationships that Transform

Human beings are biologically hardwired to connect, to form relationships from the moment of birth. This is how God created us. In gist, **relationships drive the values that form your behaviour**. Josh used a pyramid diagram to illustrate how relationships affect our behaviour:



Through statistics and various examples, Josh touched on the impact of relationships from the following angles:

### A. OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

David prayed in Psalms 86:11 (NLT) that the Lord would teach him His ways that he may live according to God's Truth. But what motivated him to pray this was because of his close

relationship with God; David was constantly aware of God's great unfailing love for him (Ps 86:13, Ps 26:3)

How do we teach the Truth to others? In love.

Paul says in Ephesians 4:15 that we are to speak the truth in love as we grow to become more Christ-like. Love cultivates the ground so that others will receive the truth. Truth without relationship lead to rejection.

#### **B. RELATIONSHIPS AS A PARENT/ROLE MODEL**

Josh shared that the key to parenting is having an intimate relationship with our children. Intimacy is the capacity to be totally real with somebody, without facade.

Children respond to rules in intimate relationship - rules and discipline without relationship lead to rebellion and anger. A loving intimate relationship between a child and both parents (especially with one's father) can trump all outside worldly influences and enable him/her to handle day-to-day stress better as adults and also enjoy better health.

But being a role model or parent doesn't stop at just a loving intimate relationship.

To impart one's values or truth to another, we need to lead by example. Jesus said, "I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you." John 13:15 Similarly, Paul told the Philippians to "pattern their lives after mine and to learn from those who follow our example." Phil 3:17 Modelling the truth is an important aspect of every relationship.

### **Conclusion**

God did not make us to be alone. We are created by God from the moment of our birth to connect with others. Our relationships with others drive the values that form our behaviour. In fact, the Holy Spirit uses our relationships to transform our lives and the lives of others through us.

But before we can connect with others, we need to connect with God first. Are you connected with God? It is never too late to experience God's unfailing love. God is our loving Heavenly Father and He wants to give us intimacy and freedom. And as we experience transformation through our relationship with God, we will reflect this in our relationships with others and through us, their lives will be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

# QUESTIONS

Share a value/belief that you hold, that was shaped by a relationship (or lack of) in your life.

Josh shared many examples of the importance of a loving, intimate relationship with dad. How is your relationship with your (earthly) father? What are some ways you can intentionally grow this relationship?

Josh McDowell: Rules without relationship lead to rebellion. (Ps 26:3; 86:11-13) How does experiencing God's love motivate you to obey His Word/commands?