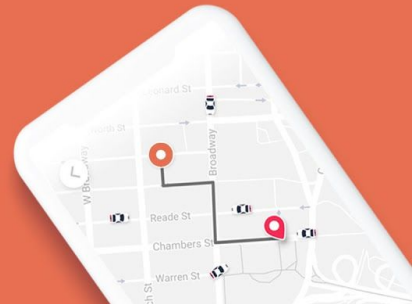


the road to **IMPERFECTION**



Part Two: Shifting from Feelings to Faith // Jeff Brodie // October 18, 2020

As we continue the journey of leaving behind old patterns or old roads and establishing new patterns and new roads in our lives, one of the hardest things to deal with is our emotions. There are things that trigger us. Every. Single. Time. So many of us likely feel emotionally worn down, even bankrupt of meaning. So how do we overcome that? How do we break the patterns that culture pushes on us? How do we re-train ourselves and our emotions as we are transformed into being more like Jesus?

Scripture: [Romans 12:1-2 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: Faith is acting based on who you know over what you feel.

Getting Started:

1. What from Jeff's message stood out to you this week?
2. Do you find yourself to be a person who relies more on your emotions or more on your rational thinking to make decisions?

Jumping In:

3. Have you ever had an emotional response to a situation you wish would have gone differently? Or have you been on the receiving end of someone's emotional response that left you feeling uncomfortable, less than, or hurt?
4. Jeff mentioned a few mindsets or emotional responses. For example, spending beyond your means, unhealthy escape, grasping for control at home, sexual immorality, impatience with family members, passive-aggressiveness. Which of these do you default to? Which do you find most difficult to change? Why do you think that is?

Discuss:

5. Read Romans 12:1 NLT: "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him."

- a. What were your first thoughts as you read those lines?
 - b. Jeff shared that Paul's letters are more often filled with commands than with suggestions. But here we read that Paul urges or pleads with the readers of his letter. Why is this difference important to pay attention to?
 - c. Why do you think it is challenging for us to do what Paul is urging here (give our bodies to God)?
 - d. Do you find it difficult to be a living sacrifice to God by letting go of your old ways and living in a way that's pleasing to him? Why or why not?
6. Read Romans 12:2 NLT: "Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."
- a. Jeff shared about how his emotional desires (which matched what the culture said was good) negatively influenced their family's finances. What emotional responses or decisions do you struggle with the most? Can you see ways that those have negatively influenced your circumstances?
 - b. Why do you suppose we so easily get caught up in trying to live our lives the same way everyone else does?
 - c. What do you think is the hardest part about not copying the behaviour or patterns of this world? Why is that?
 - d. When have you found that living differently from the ways of the world have given you more meaning and significance?
 - e. When a situation comes up, do you find yourself acting in faith knowing what God would have you do, or do you give in to your old emotional patterns of dealing with things? Why do you think you do that?
 - f. In the message, Jeff asked this question: Do you trust the one who embodies the truths and promises we can read about in our Bibles? Discuss your answer with your group.

Moving Forward:

Think about the scriptural mindsets Jeff shared in the message: ["live with margin so you can live on mission"](#), ["worship is the antidote to worry"](#), ["your power is made perfect in humility"](#), ["like is an emotion, love is a decision."](#) All of these that have been shared over the years at Connexus come from your Bible.

Commit to taking time each day this week to reading your Bible (continuing with the rest of Romans chapter 12 would be a great place to start). Look for these principles or mindsets as you read that will help you to continue to live a life of transformation in becoming more like Jesus. Make a note of these principles so you can look back on them when you find yourself struggling with living out that scriptural mindset.