



WHY DON'T I HAVE WHAT I WANT?
With Dr. Ricky Temple (Supplemental Notes)

Part 5

Series Q/A Review – November 30, 2025

Five Reasons We Struggle

1. My Thinking – How do you think?
2. My Lifestyle – How do you live?
3. My Culture – How has your culture affected your future?
4. My Unwillingness to Face Issues
5. My Unanswered Questions

Q/A Focus Statements at the beginning:

- The issues we avoid and why — politics, financial pressure, lack of support, and fear of failure.
- We often hesitate to ask for help because it feels like admitting defeat.

PART 1 – THE WAY YOU THINK

1. Why do I keep settling in “Haran” moments of my life when I know God has called me further?

Genesis 11:31 (NIV)

“Terah took his son Abram... and they set out for Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there.”

2. How can I tell when it’s my thinking—not my circumstances—that’s holding me back?

Proverbs 23:7a (NKJV)

“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”

3. What practical steps help me renew my mind every day?



Romans 12:2 (NIV)

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

4. How do I stop inheriting the limits of my environment or family system

Ezekiel 18:20 (NIV)

“The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent...”

(You are not doomed to repeat what you inherited.)

5. What does it mean to believe beyond what I can see in real life situations?

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)

“For we live by faith, not by sight.”

PART 2 – THE WAY YOU LIVE

6. Why does God care about lifestyle when He already knows my heart?

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

“People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

(But the heart always shows up in lifestyle.)

7. What habits show that my faith is real?

James 2:17 (NIV)

“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

8. How can I avoid “Lot moments” — following what looks good but leads to trouble?

Genesis 13:10–11 (NIV)

“Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan... was well watered... So Lot chose for himself the whole plain...”

(Everything that looks good isn't God.)

9. Is it possible to live for God and still enjoy life in a normal way?



John 10:10 (NIV)

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

10. How can I rebuild discipline when I’ve lost consistency in my walk?

1 Corinthians 9:27 (NIV)

“No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave...”

(Discipline is trained, not gifted.)

PART 3 – THE CULTURE YOU CREATE

11. How do I know if my circle is helping me or harming me spiritually?

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

“Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’”

12. What kind of culture am I building at home, school, or work without realizing it?

Proverbs 14:1 (NIV)

“The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.”

13. Why is group culture such a strong influence, even when I know better?

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.”

14. What does it mean to create a “faith culture” in my personal life?

Joshua 24:15 (NIV)

“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

15. How do I deal with toxic environments that I can’t fully leave yet?

John 17:15 (NIV)



“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.”

PART 4 – THE TRUTH YOU CAN’T FACE

16. Why does God ask us to face painful truths instead of just fixing the problem for us?

Psalm 51:6 (NIV)

“Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.”

(God grows you through truth, not escape.)

17. How do I know when I’m avoiding truth about myself?

Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV)

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”

18. What happens if I keep ignoring something God keeps showing me?

Proverbs 29:1 (NIV)

“Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.”

19. How do I tell the difference between conviction and condemnation?

Romans 8:1 (NIV)

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

20. Why does obedience often feel harder than knowing the truth itself?

James 1:22 (NIV)

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

PART 5 – THE RESULTS YOU CAN CHANGE

21. If I’m a new creation, why do some of my old habits still show up?



Galatians 5:17 (NIV)

“For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit...”

22. How do I know when I’m truly “in Christ” and not just attending church?

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come...”

23. Can I really change my results if my past still affects my opportunities?

Philippians 3:13–14 (NIV)

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on...”

24. What if I don’t feel new?

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

(Transformation happens before you feel it.)

25. How do I handle friends or environments that pull me back into “the old”?

Psalms 1:1 (NIV)

“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked...”