

Church of the Promise
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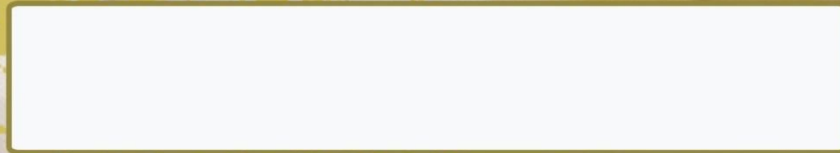
Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend



INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

Teacher Training:

Prepare their hearts to receive:

ALWAYS PRAY EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!!!

Remind students that they will see God confirm His word each week as they apply it to their lives and put matters of difference to prayer. God will create circumstances that confirm what they have been taught. Someone may echo the same thoughts they heard in class. Some circumstance will fall perfectly into place. Many times, Pastor steps into the pulpit and unknowingly repeats a key precept discussed the same morning. These miraculous assurances, by the Holy Spirit, will also build your own confidence that God is indeed present with you as you teach this course. Prepare your heart by reviewing & considering the content of each session as though it's for you before you present it to others. How the material has impacted you personally. Examine your own growth and measure it against where you want to be. Is there room yet to take what you are about to teach others to a higher level for yourself. Determine to put it into practice. Also, check for lesson materials needed for this class and for the coming week, to be sure you have ample supplies. Make enough to have a few extra for your class.

Expect God to do Great Things During the Session

The word of God is a sure thing. When you teach it you can be sure He will confirm it. When you teach on the supernatural like the Gifts of the Spirit, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Healing, Salvation, Deliverance, Forgiveness; you can expect God will move in accordance to the faith of those hearing the Word.

REPORT Editing Needs

Make notes of any typos, rough editing spots, thoughts & illustrations that could be added in your Teachers Manual and discuss with your department leaders so updates can be made. Record the attendance of your students. You may ask one of them to help you with this. Also keep up with Students completing and turning in the surveys. These tools help them take the word deeper and also help you know if you are being effective in your teaching methods. Keep attendance & materials in the designated place so it can be located by staff if needed.

Stay Connected

The students in your class are on a journey to draw closer to God. The pastors are the authority for this local church. Notify them of anything troubling or that creates a safety issue for other people attending. Make the most of the time. Keep distractions, diversions and disruptions minimum. The priority is on the students hearing the material. Read it as though you are speaking naturally. Give time between key thoughts. Pause just a second to let them saturate.

If you are having trouble directing the flow of the class or staying on the authorized material talk to the Pastor who oversees your class. They will be able to help you overcome hindrances. Don't let disruptions continue. Everyone is counting on you to succeed. The Pastors are there to help you.

FINALLY: ALWAYS PRAY!!!

This is the Lord's Work. We simply "Study to show yourself approved." Then, have peace that "He will give you what to say". You can "Call out to Him and He will answer you." He will confirm HIS word to those who HEAR.

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Church of the Promise

Infusion Course

Become

Establish HOW we have the power to overcome temptations and RULE over personal sin as Christ did because His divine nature is deposited in EVERY born-again believer. Three-part being, nature of prayer, Bible covenants

1. About the Bible
2. A Matter of Birth
3. New Creation
4. The Body of Christ
5. Promise Kept
6. Renew Your Mind
7. Pray with Understanding
8. Free from Hurts
9. Pray in a New Way
10. Confession and Transparency

Believe

Christ empowerment for Supernatural living through the Holy Spirit and the future events as foretold in scripture

1. Bait of Satan
2. Overcoming the Devil and his strategies
3. The power of spoken words
4. Strengthen and increase your faith
5. Receive and Activate Spiritual Gifts
6. Healing by the word of faith
7. New Future
8. The End of Evil
9. New Heaven
10. The Anointing of the Holy Spirit

Belong

Infusing into the purposes & plans of Christ in and FROM His Church about my Fathers work, pursuit of calling.

1. Under Cover
2. The Law of Brokenness & Service
3. Spiritual Warfare
4. Entering the Vision
5. Designed by God – Personality Discovery
6. Designed by God – Motivational Gifts
7. What about Trials
8. Praise & Worship
9. The mystery of Grace
10. Biblical Financial Stewardship
11. A New Kingdom

Befriend

Leading others to what you have found in Christ "Because they have Love for another" relationship in the kingdom

1. The Why of Evangelism
2. Walk in Love's Fruit
3. Winning the Lost begins in prayer
4. The Ways of Evangelism...part 1
5. The Ways of Evangelism...part 2
6. Honors Reward
7. Generational Bondages
8. Shepherding a Heart
9. Fear of the Lord
10. The Missionary World Changers

The “Why” of Evangelism

Session #1

~ ~ ◆ ✘ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✚ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✘ ◆ ~ **BEFRIEND** ~ ◆ ✘ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✚ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✘ ◆ ~ ~

Key Verse:

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

For some, this word may reveal a dreadful feeling. It could be from a misunderstanding of what “preach” means. Some are bold and excited about Their new experience in Christ and are already following the leading of the Holy Spirit. But Others may think they lack authority or education.

But this passage doesn't say its only for those who are in 5 fold Ministry. He spoke to ALL who are disciples and said “GO!” Several of them were fisherman who were never educated at all.

Key Scriptures:

- Mark 16:15 *Go into all the world, preach the Gospel*
- Acts 1:8 *Receive power to be witnesses to ends of earth*
- 1 Corinthians 9:16–17 *if unwillingly, I am entrusted with a commission.*
- John 17:3 *Jesus mission for world: Eternal life IS that they know God*
- 2 Timothy 4:2–5 *Prepared to preach in & out of season*

Objective:

The purpose of this lesson is to gain biblical understanding of **Evangelism** and the POWER He makes available to us through the Holy Spirit to answer your own role in God's call to evangelize the world.

Introduction:

After Jesus rose from the dead victorious over sin and death, He spent forty days, six more weeks, still here on the earth. He appeared numerous times to His disciples and MANY others, as proof of His resurrection. He also gave them their final in person instructions of what they should be doing until He returned. He gave them His ...

Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth: ☺

Insert Text and adjust indents as needed

- (1) They were to preach the Gospel everywhere to everyone (*Mark 16:15 KEY VERSE ABOVE*).
- (2) They would be witnesses for Him (*Acts. 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*).

PREACH:

From the Latin-

to Proclaim; make known

1. *To deliver a sermon*
2. *To urge acceptance or abandonment of an idea or course of action*

(Webster Merriam)

EVANGELISM:

1. The spreading of the Christian Gospel message by preaching or personal witness.
2. Zealous advocacy of a cause.

WITNESSING:

Attesting to a fact;

Evangelism and witnessing are 2 of the most important actions the church is to do until Jesus returns. **Evangelism** is simply Leading others to Christ by proclaiming the good news of the Gospel, and **Witnessing** is the person telling it by what has been seen and heard. Understand in some measure, someone in your life has already obeyed Jesus' commands to Evangelize & Witness, since that is the ONLY way YOU could be Here today! These tasks are earthly tasks that we are ALL called to be part of that until Christ returns. They are needed in the "here and now" while the earth remains and people inhabit it. As someone once said, "Witnessing is the one thing you can't do in heaven." Proclaiming the Gospel and witnessing of its truth and power is for *now!*

The Father's heart is turned toward the lost.

A. God loves the lost.

1. God the Father loves lost sinners of this world so much that He was willing to give His only Son that we might be saved and restored to Him.
2. [John 3:16](#), is perhaps the most famous verse in the entire Bible, it states the depth of God's love for lost humanity. It says "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (KJV).

II. B. God wants all to be saved.

1. It is the Father's desire that all people should be saved and none lost ([1 Tim 2:3-4](#)).
2. "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" ([2 Pet 3:9 NIV](#)). God has no favorites; His desire is for everyone to repent of sin, receive His Son Jesus, and live with Him in heaven for eternity. He is patient and long-suffering, waiting for us to return to Him.

III. C. God's love for us was so great that it "pleased" Him to "crush" His own Son (isa. 53:10 nasb).

What this means is the thought of losing humanity was a worse suffering to God's own heart than Himself enduring His horrible suffering of pain, humiliation and of the Cross, Hell & the grave. the NLT translation of this verse says, "It was the Lord's *good plan* to crush him" (emphasis added). The sacrificial gift of Jesus, the Lamb of God, was part of the eternal plan of the heavenly Father. It was the only way for the awful price of sin to be paid and we get to be saved from certain permanent destruction. What greater proof of the Father's love could there be than the fact that He was willing to sacrifice His own incarnate existence as the Son for us?

C. God demonstrated His love for us even while we were yet sinners.

We do not have to achieve some state of goodness before we can come to God. He takes us as we are. Our salvation is dependent upon His grace towards us, not our ability to earn it through good works or any natural merit.

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:6–8 NIV).

I. Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world to achieve the Father's purpose.

A. He came to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10).

1. Jesus knew His purpose and never wavered from it. His entire reason for coming to the earth was to reconcile sinful man to a holy God.

How could sinful man be brought back to a Holy God? Only if God displayed His power and love among mankind. God is not into behavior change, He is into heart change.

2. When Jesus was questioned about His eating with sinners, He answered,
"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. . . .

For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" Matt. 9:12–13

We have to remember this so we love instead of being critical. Truly see them the way God does, not how we see them.

B. He came to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

1. Jesus was the only one capable of reconciling man to God. A perfect, unblemished sacrifice had to be made, and only Jesus could meet the requirements for such a sacrifice. *(He was the final sacrifice)*
2. Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God, slain for the sins of the world. As such, He belongs to all people for all time. There is no tribe or nation for which He did not die.

C. He came to give us life (John 10:10).

1. Jesus wants us to have life in all its abundance. First and foremost, that speaks of eternal life. Those who know Him as Lord will never die, in the sense that they will spend eternity with Him in heaven.
2. Jesus is the gate through which we enter into this abundant life (v. 9). There is no true life, happiness, or fulfillment apart from Him.

We already have known how it feels to be apart from Him. In John 15:5 Compares it to the branches & trunk of a vine. He is the vine, we are the branches

A. He came to save the world (John 3:17).

Jesus' purpose was to create a way out for us. That is His entire purpose and desire, the offer of

salvation. He did not come to condemn for sin, but to save the world from through what His death and resurrection made available.

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (NIV).

II. Without Christ, the world is lost and hopeless.

A. All humanity is dead in trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1).

1. From the time of the Fall in the Garden of Eden, all humanity has been hopelessly under the curse of sin and death. From Adam and Eve, we have inherited a basic nature of sin that dwells in us from birth.
2. In this fallen condition, we are "doomed forever," as the NLT says. Within us, we have no power to remedy the situation. Good works, intriguing philosophy, religious ritual, vain traditions—no manmade thing can rescue us from our sins.

B. Without exception, all have sinned (Rom 3:10, 23).

(Show the Romans Road Card)

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one" (v. 10 KJV).

1. That verse makes it clear that no one can justify himself before God. Every man, woman, and child who ever walked the face of this earth is a sinner.

"For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard" (v. 23 NLT).

2. God has a standard of righteousness to which no one can measure up. It doesn't matter how good, loving, and kind a person may seem; in God's eyes, he will always come up short, because he is not perfect. Perfection is not possible for any human being.

III. Without the life of Christ within us, we stand condemned (John 3:18).

Jesus came to save us, not condemn us. However, if we refuse His salvation and lordship, we have condemned ourselves.

"Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (NIV).

Apart from Christ, we are "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matt. 9:36 niv).

(Use as illustration: Lion preys on those animals that are not part of the flock; it's much easier. There is no one to protect them. In the flock they stand together.)

1. Sheep without a shepherd are scattered and fearful. They are left to their own devices and are thus vulnerable to attack.

2. The NLT gives further insight into our condition apart from Christ. That translation says this: "Their problems were so great and they didn't know where to go for help." That's how we are without Christ: totally overwhelmed with no one to help us and no place to go for help.

There are multitudes upon multitudes of souls who do not know Christ

Untold millions do not know Christ. Some have never even heard His name. Unless laborers go into the harvest fields of the world, they will be forever lost to an eternity in hell.

Matt. 9:37

"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (NKJV).

That is for us, those who know Christ. We are the laborers called to work in the harvest. The lost cannot call upon Him unless they have believed; they cannot believe unless they have heard; they cannot hear unless someone preaches to them; and we cannot preach unless we will go to them (*Rom. 10:14–15*).

The harvest is ripe (John 4:35).

1. *"Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white (ripe) for harvest!"* (NIV). Many, many people are ready to receive Christ if given the opportunity. A vast spiritual harvest waits; only the laborers are lacking.
2. Eternal souls are the harvest. At times we plant seeds into the lives of others, and at other times, we have the wonderful privilege of reaping from the work that others have done (vv. 36–38). Regardless of the specific role we play, we must be busy in the Father's work of harvest.

The workers are few (Matt. 9:37).

1. "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (vv. 37–38 NIV).
3. Very few workers are available for bringing in the vast harvest. Some people are simply unwilling, while others feel incapable, but the responsibility, nevertheless, rests with us who call ourselves Christian. If we don't do it,
4. it will not get done.

IV. Jesus gave us five specific commands to fulfilling the Great Commission.

- "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (*Matt. 28:19–20 NIV*).
- "Preach the Gospel to every creature" (*Mark 16:15 KJV*).
- "Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name" (*Luke 24:47 NIV*).
- "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you" (*John 20:21 NKJV*).
- "You shall be witnesses to Me" (*Acts 1:8 NKJV*).

Coin-give as conversation pieces/evangelize

V. In The Great Commission you are NEVER ALONE or without POWER

Matt 28:19-20

- 19 Therefore, **go and make disciples of all nations,**
baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
20 and **teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you.**
and surely **I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE.**

The Holy Spirit goes with you everywhere. He will lead you and add the POWER to the Words you speak that are GOD's Word. You do the Preaching and God will do the REACHING! You teach and He will BAPTIZE them with HIS POWER!

Acts 1:8

8. But you will receive **POWER** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth.**"

A. Summary:

Since Christ died for all and it is God's will that none should perish, He has commissioned the church to take the Gospel to all creation. This is a standing commandment in effect until Christ returns. No Christian is exempt from the responsibility of taking the Gospel to the lost. Evangelism is not a task delegated solely to the professional clergy or to those who proclaim themselves "evangelists." We will all give an account for what we have done with our earthly lives, including our obedience to Christ's command to preach the Gospel and make disciples.

IV. Questions and Discussion Points

- I.** What is the proof of God's love for sinners?
John 3:16/ Romans 5:6-8, Died while we were yet sinners
- II.** Why is no one justified before God based on merit or good works? How then are we saved?
No one is good Romans 10, John 1:29, John 10:10, John 3:17
3. What reasons do people give for not working in the harvest? Are these valid? Why or why not?
Unqualified; no time; not called to evangelize; no, don't know enough
4. Since you became a Christian, have you noticed a desire to tell others about what you have seen and heard and what you have experienced in your new life with Christ? Are you acting on that desire?

5. Do you know someone who needs the Lord? Begin praying for that person, and ask God to give you opportunities to share and testify of what Jesus has done in your life. When the opportunity arises (look for it!), boldly seize it. Get busy in the Father's harvest!

V. ANSWERS:

Pg . Evangelism , witnessing

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Galatians

Use the Epistles Bible Study tool as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.

Paul wrote to the churches in southern Galatia after having a hand in starting them on his first missionary journey to Asia Minor. Paul's close relationship to these churches helps to explain the extremely strong tone he took with them from the very beginning of the letter. Galatians exhibits Paul at his angriest, as he risked the good favor of the converts in those churches to make sure they were on the path of truth and not led off & lost to deception. He passionately teaches them the difference between walking in the Spirit vs Walking in the Flesh. Helping them understand the parts FAITH & the LAW play. We will bring Clarity to his writing next week as week look at the DIAGNOSTIC kit in chapter 5.

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Walk in Love's Fruit

Session #2



Key Verse:

Gal. 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Introduction:

The Fruit of the Spirit in the believer, comes from Christ living within them. Think of it as Jesus' own character showing through. His character is the sum total of all of the fruit of the Spirit. So, the fruit is the character of Christ manifested in the believer.

In the realm of nature, no fruit suddenly appears ripe and fully grown. Maturity takes time. When a person is first born again the fruit of the Spirit is there, although green and immature. If that person continues to abide in Christ and His Word abides in them, the fruit of the Spirit will ripen and mature in their life. When a person becomes BORN AGAIN, He is instantly different because His Spirit is now ALIVE and able to lead them. BUT their **Carnal Nature** is still the same. That carnal nature is the set of dominate thoughts stored in the mind & heart that convince them they are right when the Revelation of God's word points out error. That demonic mindset you had before your salvation is still there. **Humility** is required to break that Prideful hold. One verse that can help with loosening this very strong hold Pride has on a believer is, Isaiah 55 where God says

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.

9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts."

So, The character of a person is not changed until they walk out some steps. The steps start with **Revelation**, which brings **Confrontation**, follows the Spirit, into **Transformation** that results **Manifestation**. Christ's Character shows up on the outside as the Fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23.

Gal. 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

This is just another way to describe the first 5 steps of the Commands of Christ.

Repent

Follow Me

Rejoice

**Let Your light Shine,
Honor God's Law.**

It's the same Process

I. The Fruit is LOVE described

Think of this as a list of Character Traits of Jesus. The first one is Love. The King James Version calls it "Charity". All the other eight "fruit" listed are an expression of the first one which is God's divine "love".

Joy is love's rejoicing,
 Peace is love's designer of active rest,
 Longsuffering is love's patience,
 Gentleness is love's touch,
 Goodness is love's character,
 Faithfulness is love's fidelity
 Meekness is love's humility,
 Temperance is love's self-control.

The **Fruit of the Spirit** are both inner emotional heartfelt experiences & visible outward actions of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will cause them to come into the heart & become deliberate actions and postures of a believer. They are manifested as visible behaviors to others during life's circumstances. They are always begun within the heart and radiate outwardly in actions. They are like the positioning of an eagle's wings in flight. The position of a wing in flight is called the "**attitude**". that causes it to rise above the storm. It is the Attitude that causes it to gain Altitude

The Bible has many examples of people manifesting the Fruit of the Spirit. Think about them as you read scripture. Are they in the flesh or in the Spirit? The Fruit of the Spirit can help you discern the source. It can become a diagnostic tool for yourself also. Galatians 5:19 begins with this thought: "19 The acts of the flesh are evident". It is easy to observe. Although, self-deceived people are blind to it, others can readily see their condition.

So, let's take a close look at each of the Fruit of the Spirit. But keep in your heart that, "He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it"

Love - David & Jonathan
Joy - David
Meekness - Moses, Esther
Peace - Daniel & Joseph
Goodness - Dorcus, Stephen
Longsuffering - Job, Abigail
Faithfulness - Abraham
Gentleness - Isaac, Ruth
Temperance - Daniel

LOVE - Charity

There are several New Testament Greek words that are translated into English as the word "love". Agape' is the original word used here. It is God's divine, sacrificial love. It gives without expecting anything in return. It heals nurtures & restores. The Holy Spirit will inspire you to act in this love that expects no reward. He deposits this love for you into your heart and invites you to respond to others with compassion & forgiving others just as He does. Human love is simply a carnal affection in response to personal needs and desires being met. It is not charitable. Psychologist, Abraham Maslow, Redefined the human need for love as being composed of four primary needs. All of the following are available in the promises of God's word.

Security Significance Acceptance Approval

"When we seek the kingdom of God FIRST, Then, all these "Things' will be added to us." God causes us to Look to Him to be loved. Then He Lets us be hands and feet to show LOVE to others. As we TRUST HIS Love, We will become more and more emotionally stable & independent of the NEED to receive Love from People. As we yield our emotions to the Lord's control He will place Godly desires or passions that are like Christ's in our hearts. When we yield to the way He leads us; then we "Walk in the Sprit and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh." Determine to have God's will control your life and emotions, not your own depraved and self-serving passions known as YOUR WILL

So, let's look at the other ways Christ Love is described according to Galatians 5

JOY – Love’s expression

In 2nd Samuel chapter 6, David danced before the Lord with such passion that he gave no thought to his own reputation. He was expressing overwhelming joy because the Ark of the Lord was being brought into the tabernacle. He was stripped down to a linen undergarment, considered to be like underwear and dancing and shouting openly before everyone in the street without shame or embarrassment. His wife, Mikah, was not pleased by his open display and felt his actions threatened her somehow. But David’s heart was pure before the Lord and he was celebrating fully from his heart the expressions of love and gratitude to God. It was not somber & quiet but jubilant and **God responded to it**. David answered his wife’s concerns and God rebuked her.

*2Sam 6... “I will celebrate before the LORD. **22**. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes.”*

Joy that is produced by Love for God will always forsake & abandon our own self-preserving pride. It is pure and not connected to any self-gratifying pleasure. It resides continually in the heart of God. It is also experienced by a believer who chooses to be first occupied & immersed in God’s purposes and presence.

Peace-Love’s rest

VI. Follow after God’s Peace

John 16:33 *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

‘Take heart’ means “have courage”. Courage does not mean you are not afraid. Rather that, in the face of fear you act with integrity & you do the right thing. Some would say courage is to “Do it afraid!” God’s peace enables you to do so. Make it your habit to not act upon decisions until you have peace in your spirit. Sometimes, fear tells you stop but the Peace of the Holy Spirit urges you on. Other times we act on our own impulses without seeking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and we find disaster and no PEACE! Peace is an inner rest even in the midst of intense action.

Psalm 37:4-7 4. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: 6. He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noontday sun. 7. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Philippians 4:6-7 6. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

There is a supernatural peace that is given through the Holy Spirit. It is the nearly tangible way that we know His presence. It is a deep abiding sense of peace we sense when we are aware of His Presence we know in our “inner most being”. It is the same peace that permeates the Godhead. It’s not the same as the quiet contentment you might have when everything is well in your life. Christ has enabled us to perceive it so that we may obey His leadings. We are trained by it, so that we may follow it in all of our decisions and all our actions & will towards all men. That training is how He will grow the fruit of peace in us.

Patience – Love’s designer of active rest

Patience is the deliberate wait of the saints of God upon his timing and divine intentions. It creates the ebb and flow of God’s wondrous work. It is what sets the timing and rhythms for God’s dance with

humanity. It is not passive waiting at all, but very much a verb that actively holds on course for the leadership of the Holy Spirit to direct. Often employing tremendous strength to do so.

"If we could but lower our estimation of the importance of our time, our plans and our feelings, we would find ourselves almost automatically more patient." "It is not the same thing as resignation." "It is the ability to bear affliction, delay and interruption with calmness, perseverance and confidence in the goodness of God (Colossians 1:11-12). It is inward peace as well as outward control. It is the submission of our schedules, our view points, our dreams to the greater plan of God, with the conviction that he has a good reason for every delay He to come our way." -former First Lady Barbara Bush

Another word for patience in some translations is **longsuffering** (*also Forbearance, Endurance*) It is what creates the radiant beauty that displays in one who freely flows with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Love never fails! This is the one that makes room for peace. You will find yourself maturing in the area as your tolerance of the failings of others increases and being able to endure hardships with grace. Make Room for it by setting your ambitions to line up with His DESIRES. Let His passions be transmitted so they become your own precious FEELINGS.

John 6:27 *"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."*

Gentleness - Love's touch,

It is the manner in which we approach things with others. Recognizing the fragile nature of others, we approach in a way that will not bruise and bring unnecessary harm.

2 Kings 18:21 *Now, behold, thou trusteth upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him.*

This passage tells us of the problem with relying on each other in our bruised condition. To lean on a bruised reed will cause it to break and could injure you. Yet, Christ's attitude was not to cut off that bent or injured reed. This shows us Christ's touch. It is gentle, not leaning upon something that cannot hold the weight. Until! He leads justice to victory! There will be a time of judgment.

Isaiah 42:3 & Matthew 12:20 *A bruised reeds he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.*

Goodness – Love's Character

This describes the good and desirable habits of Godliness. The standards of conduct that God defines in his word manifested in our daily life to the point of it being integrated into who we are. Goodness is the flavor of God's ways. Goodness God's character applied in every aspect of day to day life. It's seen in orderly cleanliness, financial stewardship, faithfulness, work ethic, truthfulness, keeping your word, courage in doing what is right. A basic beginner understanding of goodness is revealed in the 10 Commandments.

Faithfulness – Love's fidelity

When someone is true to their word and can be trusted to continue with integrity. They are true to God and themselves 24/7. A person who takes seriously the spoken word. "Let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no' be 'no'". Say what you mean and mean what you say. This is credibility. In actions it is integrity. God is faithful. Then faithfulness to God's ways & will is created in the heart of a person who truly

worships Him in Spirit and in truth. A person unfaithful to God is unfaithful in every other matter. And likewise, a person faithful to God is in word and deed, credible and possesses integrity.

Meekness – Love’s humility, Strength under control.

The fruit of meekness is produced in a person as they allow the Lord to teach them. He will teach them spiritual things but He will also teach them skills and talents that will make them strong and effective. As these new abilities and strength become apparent, the fruit of meekness works to keep you from getting prideful and arrogant. He will lead you to overcome the fear that has held you back from accomplishing your destiny. But you will need to keep your strengths under the control of the Holy Spirit so that you do not overpower others or become overpowered yourself in self vanity. Meekness is submission that keeps you teachable to both God and those He places in your life. Meekness is defense against foolish pride that manifest in self-seeking ambitions.

Temperance - Love’s Self Control

Self-control begins with controlling our thought life as discussed in the chapter named Renew Your Mind. When our thought life begins to be renewed we will also find one fruit produced by that renewal will be emotional control.

Your emotions are part of your physical being. If you’re not sure about that just spend some time with a woman who is experiencing hormone fluctuations of menopause, P.M.S. or pregnancy. Some stroke patients have experienced a complete personality change. Emotions are part of our body’s alarm system and can be misleading if completely trusted. Feelings are the products of our thoughts & hormones. The hormones can become imbalanced, just as any organ in our bodies may dysfunction. And we know that before the Word of God through the power of the Holy Spirit begins its renewing work on our depraved mind. So to rule over your emotions you must learn to renew your mind by mixing your faith with the Word. Control your thoughts and emotions are controlled as a side effect.

Self-control is at the last of the 9 fruit, perhaps because it is the one that can most communicate Gods self-sacrificing love, His Agape or Charity. While all the others communicate well to an unnatural affection this one seals all the others as being motivated from something greater than any created being.

VII. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit enables us to be pro-active instead of reactive.

Peace, love, joy, contentment are all states of mind that produce pleasant emotions. This state of mind leads us to be compassionate toward others and proactive toward life. We will search out God’s purpose for us and begin to embrace a new destiny.

Anger, fear, rejection, hatred, bitterness are also strongholds of the mind and the effects are felt by the emotions. They can tempt us to react in a way that works against others and our faith. However, a person led by the Spirit with a renewed mind will be pro-active and not simply reactive. They will measure out appropriate responses as directed by the Holy Spirit. This is self-control. Anger and Vengeance are two destructive responses a person may be tempted to lash out with. Such responses always have repercussions. Only God is capable of handling the backlash of vengeance and that is why He tells us to allow Him to answer our enemies.

Romans 12:19 *Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

That is why God enables us through the fruit of the Holy Spirit to exercise self-control.

When we seek the kingdom of God we will become more and more emotionally stable. As we yield our emotions to the Lord's control He will place Godly desires in our hearts that please Him and are enjoyable to us.

Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh. Determine to have God's will control your passions instead of your passions controlling your will.

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

Let God's love have its way in you

VIII. II. Fruit of the Spirit, Kingdom Attitudes

The Fruit of the Spirit generates Kingdom Attitudes that beautify the soul and qualifies you for service. They are blessed! These characteristics catch God's attention.

They Qualify & Beautify:

The fruit of the spirit are the foundation of Kingdom character. Matthew 5:1-11 commonly known as the BE-Attitudes, set "qualifications" and rewards for those in the Kingdom of Heaven. How important are they? This portion of scripture is the **beginning** of Jesus' the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5

1. *Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2. and he began to teach them, saying:*

3. *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

5. *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

6. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

7. *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

8. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

9. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

10. *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

POOR in Spirit could have been translated as "BEGGARS" in Spirit... The picture was not simply of being poor as having lack. It was more specifically those who BEG because they are unwilling to settle for LESS than God's way. They will humble themselves to seek God with all their heart. Hebrew Poetic style often echoed related thoughts. So we see verse 3 with the compliment in vs 6. Those who hunger & thirst. God was not exalting Lack & Hunger. He was saying the Thirsting and begging soul that has deep longing for Him & His righteousness will be blessed with a satisfaction.

11. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Vs. 3	<u>Poor in spirit</u>	Kingdom of Heaven
Vs. 4	Mourn	<u>Comfort</u>
Vs. 5	Meek	<u>Inherit the earth</u>
Vs. 6	Hunger & thirst for righteousness	<u>filled with righteousness</u>
Vs. 7	Merciful	<u>Mercy</u>
Vs. 8	Pure in heart	<u>See God</u>
Vs. 9	<u>Peacemakers</u>	Called sons of God
Vs. 10	Persecuted for righteousness	<u>Kingdom of heaven</u>
Vs. 11	<u>False insults & evil against you</u>	<u>Great reward in heaven</u>

Keep meditating on the Attitudes that set your own altitude as The Holy Spirit progresses you through them step by step to greater days ahead, from THIS DAY FORWARD!

Answer Key:

Attitude

Altitude

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: ROMANS 1-8

Use the Epistles Bible Study tool as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.

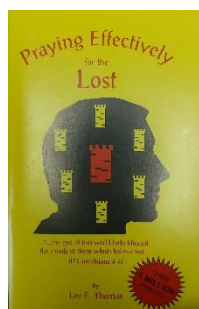
Winning the Lost

Session #3

~ ~ ◆ ✘ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✞ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✘ ◆ ~ **BEFRIEND** ~ ◆ ✘ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✞ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✘ ◆ ~ ~

*Adapted & Condensed from
Praying Effectively for the Lost*

By Pastor Lee E. Thomas



INTRODUCTION:

This lesson is condensed from a booklet written by a local Pastor, Lee Thomas, called PRAYING EFFECTIVELY FOR THE LOST. He takes a Biblical approach on the effectiveness of a believer in faith fueled prayer for those who do not know God. His book chapters are:

- Understanding the Necessity
- The Biblical Basis
- The Personal Factors
- The Specific Requests
- The Spiritual Warfare
- Personal Testimonies
- Making a Commitment

Understanding the Necessity

The lost cannot and will not be saved unless someone prays for them. The Biblical portrayal of the lost is **Acts 26:18** The lost are spiritually blind. Sharing the gospel with a lost person "that no one has prayed for is like encouraging a Blind man to view a beautiful sunset with you. Unless the Holy Spirit removes the demonic blinders and opens his mind & heart to the gospel, he cannot be saved because the things of God are 'foolishness to him.'" (I Cor 2:14)

John Wesley - "God does nothing apart from prayer and everything through it."

A strong man's house.	Mark 3:27
Prisoners of war	Isaiah. 14:17
Blinded to the Gospel.	II Corinthians 4:3-4
Children of the devil.	John 8:44
Under Satan's authority	Acts 26:18

God has placed praying for others as the number one priority in our lives. Hear the cry of God's heart,
I Timothy 2:1-4

1. *I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--*
2. *for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*
3. *This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

The greatest example of all is the Lord Jesus Himself. The prophecy in Isaiah 53 says that Christ "made intercession for the transgressors." This prophecy was literally fulfilled when on the cross he prayed "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." *Luke 23:34* and in *John 17: He continues to do so even now. Hebrews 7:25, Matt. 5:44,*

Galatians 2:20 (Tell the story of Jesus healing the demoniac)

There are two factors or conditions involved in every answered prayer - **righteousness and faith.** The imputed righteousness of Christ, which comes through his shed blood. Personal righteousness is also crucial. James 5:16,17

Psalms 66:18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

The **Born Again** spirit has access to answered prayer through His words.

John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

The other necessary factor in all answered prayer is faith. This is an unbreakable law in the spiritual realm. It is **always** "according to your faith be it unto you." *Matt 9:29* Unbelief is continually our "besetting sin" and it is more often than not because of un- answered prayer. So when we pray for the lost we need righteousness, imputed and personal, and we need faith. But there are other factors that are important to this task.

Travail Isaiah 66:8, Luke 22 *(travail-having a burden, in this case it's for the lost).*

Persistence Isaiah 14:7, Luke 16:16 *(must be pressing in, to take ground.)*

Fasting Mark 9:29

Some controlling spirits are so strong that prayer and fasting are required to gain the victory (Mark 9:29) Persistent prayer is necessary because of Satan's reluctance to give them up, not because God is unwilling. But Satan truly trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees. We can plead;

The Promises of God

John 3:16 John 3:12 Romans 10:13 John 6:37

The Purpose of God

Jeremiah 1:5 Luke 19:10 II Peter 3:9 Acts 26:18

(Prophecy over those we pray for.)

The Power of God

Hebrews 7:25 Romans 1:16 I Cor. 2:4-5 I Peter 1:3-5

IX. Prayer for Revival

Revival begins with fervent prayer for the condition of our souls. There is an unveiling of the holiness of God and the heart is gripped with the desperate state of its condition.

- Repentance
- Demonstration of God's Power
- Judgment

Can any chicken egg turn into a chick? No. Only if it has been fertilized. If it isn't fertilized it will remain an egg. The moment it is fertilized life is conceived inside. On the outside it seems the same, but on the inside something is happening. It is the same with us. We cannot turn into a child of God until the Holy Spirit has conceived a new spirit within us. That is the Born Again, New Creation, Inner Being we spoke of in the 101 level classes. Now to win the lost we have to know that they are lost because there is no life in them. They cannot understand spiritual things because the Holy Spirit is not inside them to interpret spiritual things for them. That is why, to them, the things of God seem silly and church seems boring. To win the lost you must open their eyes to the conflict they are in.

You need to know where to start.

- o Do they believe there is one God? Ephesians 4:5-6
- o Do they believe the Bible is the revealed will of God and it is accurate in all it says? 2 Tim. 3:16
- o Do they believe in heaven and hell? Gen. 1:1 (Heaven) Rev. 20:14 (Hell)
- o Do they believe they are in conflict with that revealed will? Gal. 5:17
- o Do they believe they need to be born again? John 3:3 (Jesus teaching Nicodemus)
- o Are they ready to surrender and be born again?

"But they smoke, drink, take drugs and live promiscuously." There is a price to pay to gain the lost as one's inheritance (*Psalm 2:8*). (*1 Cor. 5:12*) *(Ask Him; put yourself aside to walk in love.)*

Truth of Scripture.

1 John 2:15 "Love not the world, nor the things in the world"

This does not mean you should not love your fellow man.

John 17:13,14,18 "

"As You did send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world"

Matthew 13:38 "The field is the world"

Getting started in friendship evangelism

Carefully consider how you invest your time, energy, and financial resources. Do your investments show that you are truly committed to winning the lost? Be honest! James 2:22,24)

Ask God for a friend, a lost person with whom you can establish a friendship/relationship.

As you enter appointments and other responsibilities in your daily schedule, plan times of involvement with unbelievers you are targeting for friendship. Remember, you want to establish Christ centered relationships, not immediate converts. Conversion and discipleship are goals. Relationship is the way to enter into the hearts and lives of those you want to reach.

Express true concern/love.

- o Be friendly and patient.
- o Be committed to discipleship.
- o Be loyal to the truth of Scripture

Don't be impatient/pushy (tactless). Allow space for a normal growth process.

Be natural in expressing your faith in Christ.

2 Timothy 4:2-5

2. Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

3. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

4. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

5. But you, keep your

“A friend loves at all times” (Proverbs 17:17) This verse expresses the heart of true friendship - unconditional love.

Overcome obstacles to friendship evangelism.

1. The fear of rejection
2. Your acceptance is based on your identity in Christ.
3. Fear of rejection can paralyze you. “What will he or she think of me?”
4. Pride Your ego hates to suffer; it always prefers to be puffed up. Rather than humbling yourself, you prefer silence and exclusion, and many times even isolation.
5. Selfishness/ Laziness We do not want to spend the time and energy.

The church family

While the church upholds the family the family is to uphold the church as the entity the Lord uses to bring his voice into the home.

Preach the Word

You are called to share what you know about Christ with those around you. Since you can only sincerely share that which YOU can validate by scripture then study of the Word becomes extremely important to your ability to be effective in helping others. There is much more to learn so you should develop a regular study habit, but you already know some things that others don't. Look for opportunities to share what you do know while you increase in knowledge.

Be Prepared to use the word to:

1. **Correct** - Bring those who are in error to the truth and don't participate in lies & excuses.
2. **Rebuke** – Discourage those who would harm the faith of others with firm words of correction.
3. **Encourage** – Often we find that courage has given way to despair. We should be ready to use the word to restore and strengthen the courage of others.

A. Keep Your head on straight!

Endure hardships

Life comes with many hardships. Christ gives us the strength to choose to live through them victoriously. The Holy Spirit trains us to develop greater endurance.

B. Do the work of an evangelist (win souls!)

The work of an evangelist is bringing people into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is helping them meet the Lord so they to, can become Born Again.

C. Discharge all the duties of YOUR ministry

After the 201 class you will be able to attend the Finding My Place Seminar. This one day course will help you identify how you are designed to serve the Body of Christ. However,

there are many things that can be done to fill the needs of your family, this local church and your community.

1. **Family** – Begin sharing a quiet time of Bible reading with your family. Pray together. Discuss the word together.
2. **Church** – Be faithful, support, build & participate.
3. **Community** – Pray for the areas the Lord places on your heart and obey His leadings. Share the gospel

Discussion Questions

1. Why do the lost go on being lost?

Answers: Blinded to the gospel (II Cor. 4:3-4)

Prisoners of war (Isa. 14:17)

Children of the devil (John 8:44)

Under Satan's authority (Acts. 2:18)

No one is praying for them-need prayer to remove blinders

A strongman's house (Mark 3:27)

2. What are some of the factors involved in every answered prayer?

(1. Righteousness, 2. Faith 3. Travail (to writhe in pain/overcome) 4. Persistence, Fasting)

3. What is the work of an evangelist?

(bringing people to a saving knowledge of Jesus)

4. We use the Word to:

(correct, rebuke, & encourage) II Timothy 3:16

5. What are some ways you can fill the needs of :

A. Your family: Bible reading; discussion; pray together

B. Church: Be faithful; support; build, & participate

C. Community: Pray for areas the Lord puts on your heart & obey His leadings; share the gospel. Look for practical ways of walking out the Gospel in daily living.

D. Looking at where you spend most of your time & energy are you committed to disciplining & evangelizing others?

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: ROMANS 9-16

Use the Bible Study tool as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.

The Book of

The “Ways” of Evangelism Pt 1

Session #4



Key Verse:

Acts 1:8 NKJV *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”*

Key Scriptures:

- 1 John 1:3
- 1 Peter 3:15
- John 4:29- Samaritan Woman
- Acts 1:8

Objective:

The purpose of this lesson is to show from the Scriptures some of the ways to live out Christ’s command to be a witness.

Introduction:

Witnessing or “winning souls” is essential to our lives as Christians. Although the term *witnessing* conjures up all kinds of frightful thoughts in many people, it is actually something quite simple and applicable to all of us. To witness to someone simply means to tell what you have seen and heard. It’s similar to being a witness in court. You do not have to prove anything, nor do you render the verdict; you simply take the stand and relate what you have seen and heard. *(reference what the Samaritan woman said: come see a man who told me everything I ever did. Witnessing to what she saw & experienced)*

Christ calls His disciples to be faithful witnesses of what they have seen and heard of Him. As **1 John 1:3 NKJV** so eloquently expresses: “That which we have seen and heard we declare to you.” That is the only qualifier for a witness: to possess firsthand experience of something or someone. Then he relates, or witnesses, of what he has seen and heard.

I. Christians are called to be witnesses (Acts 1:8–11).

- A. Jesus’ last words issued the call to witness.
 - a. The last recorded words of Christ before He ascended to heaven were that we would receive power from the Holy Ghost to become witnesses for Him.
 - b. Jesus’ declaration that we would be witnesses contains our marching orders until His return. This is our purpose, and this is our calling.

- B. **Jesus instructed the Gadarene demoniac to witness (Mark 5:1–20).**
 - c. When Jesus delivered the Gadarene demoniac from the legion of demons, the man wanted to stay with Jesus (v. 18).
 - d. Jesus, however, would not allow this, but rather told him, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you” (v. 19 NIV).
- C. **Jesus called His disciples to be fishers of men (Matt. 4:19).**
 - a. Early in His ministry, Jesus told His disciples that if they followed Him, He would make them into fishers of men. His purpose for them and His call to them was clear.
 - b. In saying this, Jesus revealed that the ultimate “catch” was to win a soul for Him. This is what is accomplished through witnessing.

The Bible gives many examples of faithful witnesses.

- E. **The woman at the well in John 4 is an example of a witness.**
 - a. The woman at the well experienced Jesus. She saw Him, touched Him, and received a word of knowledge from Him (vv. 17–18). The impact of what she saw and heard caused her to go and tell the people of her city what she had seen and heard. She was a witness.
 - b. The Bible says she “left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, ‘Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’ . . . And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘He told me all that I ever did’ ” (vv. 28–29, 39 NKJV).
- F. **Peter and John were faithful witnesses to the Resurrection.**
 - 1. Despite great opposition, Peter and John steadfastly proclaimed the Gospel. Nothing could deter them from speaking about what they knew to be true (Acts 4:1–20). [\(Read\)](#)
 - 2. “So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard’ ” (vv. 18–20 NKJV).

- G. **The apostle John was also a witness.**

1 John 1:1–3 NIV

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We

proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us”

All that John proclaimed was from personal experience. He had seen Jesus and touched Him; now He was testifying of Him. He was a witness to the risen Christ, and no one could ever take that from him.

I. From the Bible, you can learn the ways of a witness.

(Remember from the last lesson we must be praying for the lost. Praying against strongholds, praying that the blinders be removed from their eyes.)

Objective: *Ways to live out Christ's command to be a witness*

A witness brings his family to Christ (John 1:40–42).

John 1:40–42

“Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus” (NIV, emphasis added)

When something good happens to you, you immediately want to share the news with those closest to you. How much more should you desire to share Christ with them!

A witness brings friends to Christ (John 1:45).

John 1:45

Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

(Acts 8:26-40: the story of Philip & the Ethiopian Eunuch.)

Philip immediately told his friend Nathanael about Jesus. The Bible says he “found” Nathanael, thus indicating that he actively looked for him in order to share Jesus with him.

You probably have a number of friends that do not know the Lord. Are you looking for opportunities to share Christ with them, or have you neglected the wonderful privilege of telling them what you know to be true?

3. A witness gives testimony of Christ (Acts 26:24-25) (Matt. 4:17)

1. Paul stood before King Agrippa and boldly testified of his faith in Christ. He was not intimidated by the king’s position. He did not compromise his message, nor would he back down from it when challenged (vv. 24–25). He was a faithful witness. Paul testified of the Hope of eternal life with God & Jesus. This is what he was brought before King Agrippa for.
2. This had been Paul’s pattern since his conversion: “Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance” (vv. 19–20 NKJV).

People must hear the message of repentance!

4. A witness is always ready to give an answer for the hope within him (1 Pet. 3:15). (2 Tim. 4:2)

1. As a witness of Christ, you are on call 24/7 to share the Gospel. You must be ready at all times, always prepared to testify of Christ.
2. You must have a clear understanding of your hope in Christ and be able to clearly present this to others. Sometimes it is helpful to think through in advance what you would say if someone asked you to explain why you are a believer in Christ.

5. A witness is involved in the work of the harvest (Matt. 9:37).

1. Untold millions do not know Christ. Many are open and would respond to the Gospel if someone shared it with them. "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (NIV).
2. You are called to be a laborer in the harvest fields of the world. It is not a responsibility that you can shirk. There is no one else to do it—only those who have already witnessed the reality of Christ.

4. A witness speaks from personal experience (John 4).

1. As stated earlier, the woman at the well marveled that Jesus knew all about her, and she couldn't wait to share her experience with others (vv. 28–29).
2. You don't have to speak of what *others* have experienced; you only have to speak of what *you* have experienced. That makes you uniquely qualified to share the Gospel.

5. A witness preaches the Word (2 Tim 4:1–5). (Romans 1:16)

1. Never be afraid to preach the Word of God. Hide it in your heart, and be ready to bring it forth at any time.
2. Peter in Acts 2 and Stephen (was martyred for testifying/ witnessing of Christ) in Acts 7 boldly proclaimed the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. That's what witnesses do, and that's what you can do!

Summary: Jesus' last words are a powerful clue to His top priority: "You shall be witnesses." He has called us to be witnesses for Him until He returns. As witnesses, we tell others what we know about Jesus and what our experience has been. We don't have to prove the Gospel, and we don't have to have all the answers. All we really need is the courage and commitment to proclaim what Christ has done for us.

Conclusion: Proverbs 11:30

Questions and Discussion Points

1. Do you consider yourself to be a faithful witness? Why or why not?
2. What is your greatest hindrance toward being an effective witness?
3. Are you willing to obey God's command to be a witness?
4. Have you committed yourself to obeying Jesus' command to be a witness to what you have seen and heard? If not, why not go ahead and do that now?

*Principles and ideas from this lesson were adapted from *The Way of the Master* by Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort (Tyndale House Publishers, ©2004, Carol Stream, Illinois). For more information or to purchase related materials, visit www.wayofthemaster.com.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Colossians

*Use the **Epistles Study tool** as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.*

The Ways of Evangelism (Part 2)

Session #5

~♦✘♦✘♦✘♦✘♦✘♦ ~ **BEFRIEND** ~♦✘♦✘♦✘♦✘♦✘♦ ~

Key Verse: *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”*(Acts 1:8 KJV).

Key Scriptures:

- Psalm 14:3; All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.
- Psalm 19:7; The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
- Proverbs 16:5; The LORD detests the proud; they will surely be punished.
- Proverbs 20:6 Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable?
- Romans 2:15; 3:10, 12, 19–20; 7:7
- 1 John 3:4 Everyone who practices sin practices lawlessness as well. Indeed, sin is lawlessness.
- Galatians 3:11, Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.”
- Galatians 3:24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.

Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to identify biblical principles that directly affect the strategy, content, and goal of our evangelistic efforts.

Introduction: Jesus has finished His redemptive mission of suffering, dying on a cross, and being resurrected from the dead. The completion of Jesus’ mission is the basis and the content of the good news of the Gospel. Jesus commissioned His followers (*disciples*) to take this Gospel to the ends of the earth to every tongue, tribe, and nation until He returns.

In this lesson, we want to recapture some biblical truths that many think, have been lost in this century’s evangelistic efforts. The loss or ignorance of these truths has resulted in a dismal rate of retaining the fruit of many extensive and expensive evangelistic campaigns. That’s because the church as a whole has lost sight of a basic truth from God that prepares a person to receive the Gospel. Without this biblical truth being properly employed, many persons respond to the Gospel for many unbiblical reasons, resulting in what some have termed “false conversions.” On the other hand, using this truth as a tool can lead the lost to a true conversion that will last a lifetime.

I. The law of God is the lost truth of biblical evangelism. *(Fear God; Psalms 19:9)*

A. The law converts the soul.

- e. Psalm 19 KJV says this in verse 7: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul."
- f. Because God's law is perfect, it has an inherent power within it to bring conversion.

B. Many Christians do not understand the biblical purpose of the law in New Testament evangelism.

- a. They are afraid of the law, quoting Romans 6:15 that "we are not under law but under grace."
- b. Although that is, of course, true, it has also been used as an excuse to allow unbridled liberty in ways that were never meant. (Psalms 34:15-16)

II. God's law has several functions.

1. The law makes us conscious of our sin.

Romans 3:20 NIV says, "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin."

In his groundbreaking message "Hell's Best Kept Secret," Ray Comfort notes that the word *conscious* refers to knowledge. Therefore, we see that the Bible teaches that it is the *law*, not our gospel presentations, that makes people conscious of their sin. Every person that would truly respond to the Gospel must *first* be conscious of his sin!

Romans 7:7 NIV says, "What shall we say, then? . . . Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, 'Do not covet.'"

2. The law confirms our guilt before God.

Romans 3:19 KJV says, "Now we know that what things whatsoever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God" (emphasis added).

The law of God declares every person "guilty" before God. That is its basic purpose so that we might recognize our need for a savior.

3. The law silences the tongues of the self-righteous.

- 1. Again, in Romans 3:19 KJV, we see the phrase *that every mouth may be stopped* (silenced). When people try to justify themselves, the law stops them in their tracks, because no one has ever fully kept the law.

2. Proverbs 20:6 KJV says, "Most men will proclaim everyone his own goodness." All people have a built-in tendency to see themselves as good. They judge themselves based upon their own righteousness or the righteousness of others. When they or others are the standard by which they judge, more often than not, they come out okay.
3. However, God gave His law as the perfect standard by which all humanity will be judged. Since God is perfect (Matt. 5:48) and His law is perfect (Ps. 19:7), His standard for acceptable righteousness requires perfection! James 2:10 KJV says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." So, even one sin renders us guilty.
4. When people are not aware of their sin and guilt before a holy God, they have a tendency to trust in their own righteousness and to justify themselves based on their own standards of self-righteousness. God gave the law, however, to show everyone that the standard of righteousness He requires is perfection.
5. When people realize that they will be judged by the law and that their self-righteousness falls short of God's perfect standard, they become conscious of their guilt and inability to save themselves. They then stop trying to justify themselves. Their tongues are silenced.

4. The law is a schoolmaster that brings us to Christ.

Galatians 3:24 KJV says "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us unto Christ*, that we might be justified by faith" (emphasis added). The Greek word for "schoolmaster" is *paedagogue* (from which we get our English word *pedagogue*). It refers to a slave who watched over the behavior of the boys of the house aged 6–16 years old. This slave was responsible for seeing that the boys got to the right place or person.

2. While the law cannot save us, it has a God-given purpose to show us that we need to be saved and thus leads us to Jesus as the answer.

III. The law has further truth in it.

1. The biblical definition of sin is transgression of the law (1 John 3:4).
2. The law is good if it used lawfully (1 Tim. 1:8).
3. The law was made for sinners (1 Tim. 1:9–10 KJV).
 - a. This verse reads as follows: "We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine."
 - b. Since we are all sinners, the law applies to all of us. We are all lawbreakers.

IV. The law reveals the true state of humanity.

1. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23 NIV).
2. "There are none righteous, no, not one" (Rom. 3:10 KJV).
3. "Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Ps. 53:3 KJV).
4. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27 KJV).

Summary: The law was given by God as a perfect standard to prick our consciences and make us aware of our sin. The law shows us that we are guilty of transgressing God's commands and deserving of His judgment. Because the law demands perfection, it silences our mouths from justifying ourselves based on our less than perfect righteousness. It then leads us to the quest for a savior who can make us righteous before a holy God. That quest ends when we find Jesus, the only one who ever kept the law perfectly.

Using the law of God as a witnessing tool leads people to first acknowledge their guilt before God. Then they can be receptive to their need for a savior. If we emphasize only what Jesus can do for us without explaining why we need Him, we shortchange people and set the stage for their conversion to be shallow at best and fleeting at worst.

Jesus REPUBLISHED the LAW.

We've thoroughly covered that the LAW can only lead a person to their NEED for REPENTANCE. However, only faith can take them into the Promises of God that bring our Salvation into reality. Jesus took the MORAL LAW of the 10 Commandments and republished them as 49 commands. His commands demonstrate the impossibility of keeping the LAW with out His help. So, these commands line out a path way. The beginning of them can be thought of as steps toward an active Spirit lead walk.

These 1st 5 Commands are

- 1) REPENT
- 2) FOLLOW ME
- 3) REJOICE
- 4) LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
- 5) HONOR GOD's LAW

Questions and Discussion Points

1. If you were to die tonight, do you know for sure that you would go to heaven?
2. If you died and arrived at the gate of heaven and God asked you, "Why should I let you in?" what would you tell Him?
3. The apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 13:5 NIV challenges the Corinthians: "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail

the test?" Have you ever examined, or tested, yourself to see whether you are truly in the faith? What kinds of questions should you ask yourself to determine the true condition of your soul?

Matthew 7

4. How does the law lead us to Christ?

**Principles and ideas from this lesson were adapted from *The Way of the Master* by Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort (Tyndale House Publishers, ©2004, Carol Stream, Illinois). For more information or to purchase related materials, visit www.wayofthemaster.com. & Pastor Michael Mille's teaching on the Commands of Christ.*

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Philippians

*Use the *Bible Study tool* as you read. Write the verses and thoughts about them that stand out to you. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.*

The Book of Philippians brims over with often quoted passages: "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" ([Philippians 1:6](#)), "To live is Christ and to die is gain" (1:21), and "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (4:13) are just a few. But the portrait of Jesus Christ as a humble servant serves as the core of Paul's teaching in this letter (2:5–11).

Paul's joy at the mere thought of the Philippian church is undeniable in the letter, and it's that same joy that he wanted the recipients to possess as well. To lead the Philippians to this truth, Paul took them directly to Jesus, teaching them that a community of believers living in harmony with one another comes only through mutual humility modeled after the Savior. Paul wrote that he poured out his life as an offering for the sake of Christ, leading Paul to find great joy and contentment in Christ's service. His letter to the Philippians showed them that by centering their lives on Christ, they, too, might live in true joy.

Honor's Reward

Session #6



These are the Chapter titles for the book "Honor's Reward", by John Bevere. The purpose of this class is to encourage you to read the book and attend the Video sessions with a group as soon as it is available. We have selected just a very small portion for this session. It is just a sampling from the material.

- Rewards Await You*
- Partial and No Rewards*
- Full Reward*
- Little to Do with the Leader*
- Authority*
- Harsh Authority*
- Honoring Civil Leaders*
- Honoring Social Leaders*
- Honoring Domestic Leaders*
- Honoring Church Leaders*
- Double Honor*
- Honoring Our Peers*
- Honoring Those Entrusted to Us*
- Honor in the Home—Children*
- Honor in the Home—Wife*
- Honor All*
- Honoring God*

This class will take pointers from these chapters that will bless you and prosper you, as you employ them with your faith.

"Honor *is* the key *essential* to receiving from God". ~John Bevere~

1. Rewards Await You: (Chp. 1)

"Honor carries with it great rewards; rewards God desires you to have. Honor has the power to greatly enhance your life."

"Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward."

II John 8

A). DON'T LOSE YOUR INHERITANCE- John Bevere encourages us to: "Look to yourselves..." (*take heed, examine, and watch out for ourselves*)

(Don't give up in the hard times of labor. Have endurance and persist until the end to receive the reward or all you have labored in has been in vain. Do not forfeit the reward/fruit of your labor!)

"Christianity is not a sprint but an endurance run. Therefore, it is not **how we start** the race that counts but **how we finish**. How we finish is determined by the choices we make, and those are often formed by patterns we develop along the way."

(Pay attention to yourselves. Examine yourselves. Watch out for yourselves).

Scenario:

"Imagine a farmer toiling to clear his field. He works through the heat of the day to rid the soil of boulders and stumps that would hinder the soil from producing a harvest. Once cleared, he plows and tills the ground in preparation for the planting of his seed. Once the field is planted, he labors to maintain the ideal conditions for his plantings to flourish by fertilizing, weeding, and watering his seed. The plants emerge and his labor continues as he protects the field from pestilence and damage. Then a few weeks prior to harvest he is weary and gives up. All is for naught as he loses his entire crop because of his latter neglect. Or perhaps a storm threatened, he saw the warnings but neglected to respond, and the mistake cost him the ingathering. What a waste of time, money, labor, and resources only to falter at the moment of realization."

Scripture repeatedly tells us to finish well. (*Matt. 10:22, 24:13, Mark 13:13, Heb. 3:14, Rev. 2:26*)

"We don't want to merely obey God, we need to catch His heart. It is *THEN* we will glimpse the wisdom behind His directives, and not just see them as laws."

(I believe the reason a lot of people do not honor God IS because they do not see the wisdom behind His directives...but they see them as rules that MUST be obeyed. Like God is looking down waiting for you to break a rule! NO, it is for your own benefit that He has given you His word full of directives so that you may be blessed in all you do.)

"The simplest way to not lose what we've labored for is to develop patterns of consistently honoring God's counsel. Each and every day we are presented with opportunity's to make choices. The day will come when we will look back and know which were in fact *life-defining*, but if we've developed Godly patterns we'll continue to follow suit, and later realize our reward."

B). REWARDS- "....but that we may receive a full reward."

a). God is a rewarder. He loves to reward. (*Heb. 11:6*)

How did He introduce Himself to Abraham?

"God rewards those He is pleased with, which are those who heed His counsel."

"Notice that John says, *"That we may receive a full reward."* While I meditated, the word *full* jumped off the page. I thought, *If there's a full reward, then there's a partial reward, and even a no-reward scenario.'* "

"So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

b.) Reward in this Life:

1). Godly Patterns carry the promise of reward at the Judgment Seat, but their blessing reaches us in this life as well.

"Godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is AND of that which is to come"

1 Tim. 4:8

2). "Our Father desires to reward us both then and now, as we heed His counsel. We are told,

"The righteous will be rewarded with good things"

Prov. 13:21

James is emphatic when he states,

"Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father"

James 1-16-17

3). Good is from God. He is the giver of all that is good.

"The trustworthy will get a rich reward"

Prov. 28:20

The *rich reward* is the *full reward!*

2). *Partial and no reward (chp. 2)*

A). *Partial Reward*

“Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.”

Mark 6:5

“He could do no mighty work there...” This is saying Jesus was restrained, not that He was withholding.

So, why was He restrained? The answer is found in this passage:

When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?”³ Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph,^[a] Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.”

Mark 6:2-4

“Often God will send us what we need in a package we don’t want. Why? To let us know He’s God and we can’t second guess Him. We cannot search for answers merely with our heads, we must seek Him and His provision with our hearts. Scripture cannot be interpreted from our limited human mental understanding. There must be a breath of the Spirit of God. He alone gives wise counsel and correct application.”

Jesus said that the people of Nazareth withheld honor from Him. These hometown folks didn’t treat Him as valuable and precious. Rather they saw an ordinary man, a common local boy, standing before them. Because of this they only received a partial reward.

Think of it, Jesus—The Son of God, the Son of Man filled with God’s Spirit without measure—is sent to heal the sick and all who were oppressed by the devil; but He cannot fulfill this commission, not because it wasn’t God’s will for all to be healed in that city, but because they restricted Him by withholding honor. They treated Him as a common local. Therefore they received a very small partial reward. (Just a few sick were healed).

(They were looking at Jesus as one of them; on their level. They did not perceive the Kingdom of Heaven was upon them. They saw Him as “common people” just like them. They treated Him as having no importance because of His trade and because of the family He came from. He grew up in their community, with them, their children, etc.)

They were looking for a great King, One who would be both supernaturally wise and a powerful conqueror. He would swiftly deliver them from Roman oppression, and establish them as a nation

without equal. He would regain the throne of David, and reign forever and ever. But when Jesus came as one of their own, raised in their schools, laughing in their streets, building household furniture, and surrounded by mafia (tax collectors) and prostitutes, they were blindsided. They couldn't grasp it. "Wait a minute," they cried within and without, "this is not the way we expected the Messiah to come!" Remember, God will send us what we need in a package we don't want!

A. *Stark Contrast: (Simeon)*

"Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed,²¹ nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."

Luke 17:20-21

The Pharisees knew God not by their own hearts, but by their own reasoning. They were looking for a Messiah based on their mental interpretation of scripture, rather than relying on the Spirit of God's leading.

"Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying..."

Luke 2:25-28

The summation of what Simeon spoke over Jesus was a declaration of this thirty-day-old baby as the Messiah. Now this is most interesting. Here is a man who recognized the Messiah when He was but a month old. Yet, all of Nazareth cannot recognize Him and the Pharisees mock Him when He is thirty something years of age, and performing signs and wonders no human being ever accomplished.

Why is this?

It is because God is Spirit, and those who would know Him and His ways *must know Him by His Spirit* who reveals truth.

"Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home."

Mark 6:4

The key word here is HONOR.

The simplistic and literal definition of honor is "a valuing." Other definitions of honor are *appreciation, esteem, favorable, regard, and respect*.

All *true* honor originates from the heart.

“These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.”

Isaiah 29:13

True honor is an outflow from a heart that fears God. Since Jesus was not treated with honor, they only received a partial reward.

B. No Reward Situation

“One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.” The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?”

Luke 5:17-23

v.21- “The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves...”. In *Matthew 9:3*, in the same account it says they “*said within themselves.*”

“Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves...”

Mark 2:6

They dishonored Jesus with their thoughts. They spoke within themselves in dishonor towards Jesus.

When the paralytic rose up, and was healed, “all were amazed and glorified God saying, ‘We never saw anything like this!’”

“They were all amazed but *NONE* of them were healed. They received *NO* reward because they dishonored Jesus merely *BY WAY OF THOUGHT.*”

“Remember, honor or dishonor can be displayed in deed, word, or thought, but all *true honor* originates from the heart.”

The Pharisees dishonored Jesus in thought and received *NO* reward.

C. A Full Reward Situation:

“⁶ When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.” Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?” The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

Matthew 8: 5-13

V.8-“Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof.”

This is the conqueror speaking to one of the conquered! Rome now occupied the nation of Israel. So why would this Roman Officer tell a Jewish Carpenter, “I am not worthy for you to enter my home?” This would be like Colonel in the United States Marines telling an Iraq plumber, “I’m not worthy to come to your house.” Do you see how this man honors Jesus? See the Roman Officer knows who this carpenter really is. He treats Jesus as really important and renders due respect.

He explained (in vs. 8-9) to Jesus how and why what he’d asked would work. He had the respect and obedience of his soldiers because he honored his commanding officer by submitting to his authority. He enjoyed the backing of his superior officer, who, in turn, was backed by the authority of Rome. To simplify we could say, “I have authority because I honor my country and my superiors by respecting their authority. So all I have to do is speak a word and those under me respond immediately to my directives.

Notice his preface, “For I also.” He recognized the authority of God on Jesus, therefore this officer knew Jesus exercised authority in the unseen spiritual realm, just as he wielded authority in the military world.

V.8-9 “But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

Jesus’ Response to the Centurion’s Faith:

V.10 “When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, ‘Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.’”

Do you see this? Jesus announces this Roman officer had more faith than John the Baptist! More faith than Mary the mother of Jesus, John the Baptist, Mary, the twelve Disciples, and others Jesus had encountered. They probably knew more scripture than the Roman centurion. Jesus never exaggerated!

BUT, belief=action

“Without faith it is impossible to please God. “

Heb.11:6

“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

Rom. 10:17

How was the centurion's faith greater than all that Jesus had seen thus far? "It was the coupling of the honor he showed Jesus and his understanding of authority." He had GREAT Faith. (*He heard Jesus, the Word, believed, & took action.*)

"The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'?⁸ Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'?⁹ Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?¹⁰ So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

Luke 17:5-10

This scripture shows that it is not just hearing the Word of God that produces faith, but it must be supplemented with honor and compliance with authority.

Another example of persistent honor:

"Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret.²⁵ In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet.²⁶ The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone."

Mark 7: 24-30

"She knew who Jesus was and persistently honored Him, first by her tenacity and then not reviling or quitting even when it appeared as if she was insulted or dishonored. For her determination, she received a *full reward!*

3). THE "HONOR PRINCIPLE"

A). Honoring Jesus honors God

"Those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed."

1 Sam. 2:30

Honor is an essential key to receiving from heaven. "Those who honor God will be honored. That's just the way it works. Everyone who honored Jesus, received from God in the proportion the honor was rendered. Think of it... not only were a servant and a daughter healed, but we are still celebrating their choices and faith today." (Mark 7:24-30)

"He who receives Me receives Him who sent me."

John 13:20

"He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."

John 5:23

“Those who honored Jesus, were actually honoring the Father without knowing it. Jesus said,

"I do not receive honor from men"

John 5:41

In His heart and mind it all went to the Father. He was not yet glorified. Once He was glorified decrees were made by the Father to the Son such as,

"Let all the angels of God worship Him"

Heb. 1:6

, and

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom"

Heb. 1:8

Once glorified, He is worshipped as the Father is worshipped. “Yet while Jesus walked on the earth He lived and ministered as the *Son of Man*.”

the Amplified Bible states,

"Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God... stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being."

Philippians 2: 6-7

So as a Man He continually passed all honor that was given Him along to the Father in His heart. This is why He continually addressed people. He healed with statements such as,

"See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them"

Matt. 8:4

And again we read,

"Jesus sternly warned them, saying, 'See that no one knows it'

Matt. 9:30

and similar references are found all over the Gospels.

Jesus was and is earth's connection to the Father. Therefore, a tangible way to honor the Father is how we honor the Son. Jesus never rebuked those that honored Him, but praised them for making the **connection** with the Father.

B). HONORING PARENTS

“After seven years in a local church, and almost twenty years of traveling ministry, I’ve observed the greatest need for honor isn’t the church, or the workplace, but rather in our homes. The truth is, social, civil, and church arenas would all greatly benefit if fathers and mothers exemplified honor in the homes because it could not help but spill over to those who surround us.”

“Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth”

Eph. 6:2-3

“To honor our parents is not a suggestion, nor a recommendation; rather it’s a commandment. Have some forgotten we’re to keep the commandments of God as New Testament believers? It’s evidence the love of God truly abides in us. Jesus says,

‘He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is He who loves Me’

John 14:21

John the apostle confirms by writing,

“This is love that we walk according to His commandments”

2 John 6

The meaning of **HONOR**: to value, to esteem, to respect, to treat favorably, to have high regard for.

DISHONOR: to treat as common, ordinary, or menial. A stronger version of it is to treat shamefully, or to humiliate.

“In viewing our parents through the eyes of honor we will communicate with them in respect and love. Recall, honor can be displayed in deed, word, and even thought, but all true honor originates from the heart. So if young men or women speak in flippant, careless, or irreverent way on a regular basis to their parents, they are displaying outwardly their lack of true honor for their parents.

“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”

Matt. 12:3

Their dishonor can also be displayed by their behavior, such as by the tone of voice, rolling eyes, disgusted look, dragging feet to carry out a request, complaining, and so forth.”

“Cursed is he who dishonors his father or his mother. All the people shall say, Amen”

Deut. 27:16

God tell us to honor our father and mother, regardless of how good or bad they are in our eyes, or how honorable or dishonorable their behavior is.

Gen 9:18-28 (Read in class)

“We’re to always honor and submit to authority; we’re to obey authority as well; however, in regard to obedience, we’re not to obey an authority if they order us to do something contrary to the Word of God.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Where does honor begin? (Honor begins in someone's heart. Without heart, action means nothing.)
2. Explain partial reward. (You go to college. You begin at high speed. It gets hard and you get overwhelmed. You quit. You get partial reward, because you gained "some" knowledge. But, you did not get FULL like intended.)
3. Explain full reward. (You start and finish college. You get a great paying job to support your family and all the rewards that come along with receiving that degree.)
4. Explain No reward. (You don't believe God to even begin what He has said you could do. You never START.)

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: 1st, 2nd, 3rd John & Jude

Use the Bible Study tool as you read. Write the verses and thoughts about them that stand out to you. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.

This series of Short letters at the end of the New Testament are none the less full of important truth. The 3 letters of John and the 4th is written by a notable figure. The half-brother of Jesus.

Generational Bondages

Session #7



*Recommended Reading: Recognizing the Demonic
by Pastor Michael Mille'*

Key Verse:

- Exodus 20:4-6
- Deuteronomy 5:9b-10, 18:9-14, 29:25-28;
- Jeremiah 16:10-13)

Introduction:

This session will:

- Break the hold of Irrational Fear of the enemies of God.
- Uncover and end lingering occupation in your life of existing Generational Bondages, Curses and other Demonic Occurrences.

Sometimes, it is very obvious, that sins have been passed from one generation to another. That passage of sin and its effects is called a GENERATIONAL BONDAGE. It easily goes from one generation to the next, because so many people are unaware of generational bondages. Therefore, they're giving no thought to the source or cause, even though, it is the work of obvious sin that has moved from person to person through the family line. In some cases, demons openly occupy a family line, yet the people driven by them are not aware. So, these people are being controlled by devils. They simply fail to perceive or discern them. It's what the Bible calls **spiritual blindness**. Blinded to God, His will and the unseen demonic activity that has infested them.

The works of the flesh, that the Bible calls demonic, manifest their spiritual disease but the complacent person gives no care because there is a false sense of normalcy attached to the demonic activity. There is acceptance and promotion even though there are obvious unrighteous behaviors. (example: sorcery/witchcraft, sexual perversions, rebellion against all forms of law and authority, diseases, disorder, addictions, continual accidents/ injuries & premature deaths.) The more acceptance there is in a family, the harder it is to break free.

God looks for ONE PERSON who will FOLLOW HIM as He sets whole families, held captive, free. This is WHY the SON of GOD was revealed, to destroy the WORKS of the DEVIL! From the Fall of Adam forward. When Christ was born the attack of the enemy against humanity changed! Now, everything God's ENEMY has done is under attack by Christ and HIS CHURCH!

1 John 3:8

7. Little children, let no one deceive you: The one who PRACTICES righteousness IS RIGHTEOUS, just as Christ is righteous. 8. The one who PRACTICES sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the very start. This is why the Son of God was revealed, to DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL. 9. Anyone born of God refuses to practice sin, because God's seed abides in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.

God's placed a direct warning through the Biblical text, that "the sins of parents" will have devastating consequences on their children & grandchildren. The context in which these warnings are given is very clear. In these instances they have rebelled against God. God says they hate Him.

Exodus 20:55

"You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6. but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

A famous celebrity once stated, that she wouldn't believe in a God who was 'jealous' because she had a bad relationship with a 'jealous' husband. Her experience with a human being should never have defined God's jealousy. It is not the same. God's jealousy is not human jealousy. God ALONE is the standard of righteousness, holiness & love. This passage implies their deliberate defiance, turning away from God. No one gets "the benefits" from a relationship they have chosen to end. Usually, such action involves serving other fictitious gods that only exist in human imagination. They may knowingly turn from God to serve other false gods, Satan, or demons and commit gross, terrible sins. There is ONLY ONE GOD. Yet, they willfully defy God. They blindly deny Him the love and obedience that He is entitled. They often commit their families and future generations to other false gods, demons, Satan, and an evil existence separated from God's love.

A family comes under a demonic system as it becomes comfortable with and identifies with particular sins. An example is drunkenness from using alcohol. First, Drinking becomes a welcomed part of the family activities. Then, drinking becomes part of individual daily life. As the bondage gains strength, abuse begins to show up. Other family members blame the overtaken individual. Meanwhile, Financial mis-use, accidents and even death rip through the family with no resistance. The alcohol addiction migrates through generations in spite of devastating losses caused by the use of alcohol. Then, as families influence other family, whole cultures are lost to the depravity. They will even become hostile to anyone who breaks their 'family traditions'. This is a type of self-inflicted CURSE.

The devastation of the sins may afflict only one person or multiple members of a family, if possible even the entire family. In some cases, an entire generation may remain unscathed by the devastating power of a generational curse. However, unless the curse is rendered powerless, it will emerge in time. Another example of a Generational Bondage would be like a person who practices any form of witchcraft. They may not see any harm come to themselves or to their own children, then suddenly they experience death of every 1st born grandchild. Satan takes advantage of his legal claim to them. Then, the grandparent reaps what they sowed, but not detecting the demonic presence that is hiding within their own behavior. The painful experience of their own loss of their grandchild is a compound loss because of the suffering in watching their own children suffer the grief of losing an innocent child. Loss upon loss for sins of a grandparent or great grandparent. The permission to destroy the child or children was granted to devils through their own defiance to God's power, to play with the mimicking, false power of demonically controlled witchcraft. Demons grab their power from the people they oppress. They get authorized by human fear and ignorance.

Demons Hiding in PLAIN SIGHT!

Demonic entities hide from their victims notice but they can still be recognized by the unrighteous works they entice them to commit. The New Testament authors understood that there was no difference between the devil, demons & unrighteous human beings. James writes that earthly wisdom is "unspiritual and demonic", It may not be a direct demonic presence, but it is still evidence of agreement with a demonic system. This passage is a brief list of the sorts of attitudes that is evidence of DRIVING demonic forces.

James 3:14-16

14. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast in it or deny the truth. 15. Such wisdom does not come from above, but is earthly,

unspiritual, DEMONIC. 16. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every evil practice.

Jude says those who simply cause divisions are "void of the Spirit". They don't have the Holy Spirit.

Jude 1:19

These are the ones who cause divisions, who are worldly and devoid of the Spirit.

Galatians shows that the HOLY SPIRIT teams with our Renewed, born-again Spirit that is at war with our NATURAL flesh. It places the actions of a FLESH driven person equal to demonic activity, because of the person's self-sourcing that cannot produce life, truth or godliness and can only produce EVIL. It says the works of the FLESH are EVIDENT, OBVIOUS, CLEARLY SEEN!

GALATIANS 5

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are EVIDENT, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

We don't think of these "works of the flesh" as having a demonic source. But it is VERY possible and at the least is still in the same class of offense against God's holiness. Those overtaken with these have the same destiny as the devil and his angels. There are many passages in the New Testament that speak to the believer about the demonic activity that tries to weaken the believer so that he becomes ineffective. The Holy Spirit is building a victorious church of believers who are not subject to divisiveness.

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly states that in later times some will abandon the faith to FOLLOW DECEITFUL SPIRITS and the TEACHINGS OF DEMONS

There is the good news that Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil.

Hebrews 2:14

Therefore, since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity, so that by His death HE MIGHT DESTROY HIM WHO HOLDS THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL.

Romans 8:1-8

There is therefore NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THEM THAT ARE IN CHRIST JESUS. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 5 For they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh;

*but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. **6** For the mind of the flesh is death; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace: **7** BECAUSE THE MIND OF THE FLESH IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD; FOR IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD, NEITHER INDEED CAN IT BE: **8** AND THEY THAT ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE GOD.*

Devils don't even mind that you don't believe they exist, if your ignorance will let them drive you away from God. The Devil is just as real as God. Except the devil is INSANE! That's plain truth. He is not "ALL KNOWING, ALL MIGHTY, ALL PRESENT, Creator. He is NOT GOD! He is a merely created being. Remember Jesus knew the devil already. Jesus said, He saw Satan fall from Heaven like lightning. Listen carefully to how Jesus describes the devil.

John 8:44

*"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, **he speaks from his own nature**; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.*

"He speaks from HIS OWN NATURE", You could say, he **depends on his own understanding**, He is deceived and believes he can be and is his own source. So, when he speaks there is no truth to be found and only talks out of his faulted perception of a false reality. He is DECIEVED and ONLY DECIEVES those who agree with his thinking. He does not believe the obvious that he is lower than God in every way. In his delusion, he makes violent attempts to replace God. He willfully defies God. It's not a sane mind to do this. He is filled with contempt for God's greatness and leads those whom God loves into the same depravity. He is delusional. A person whose mind is given over to delusion cannot perceive truth. They also believe the lies their own brain tells them. Delusional people, see people who are not there, have memories of things that never happened, hear voices that were never real. They are living in a dream state they cannot wake up from because they are awake.

A person who makes decisions from peer pressure, family tradition, their own emotions or thoughts will not be able to follow Jesus. They will by default turn worship of God into meaningless activity and that soon becomes ground of pagan, demonic activity.

1 Corinthians 10: 19-22

19. Am I suggesting, then, that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20. No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God. And I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot partake in the table of the Lord and the table of demons too. 22. Are we trying to provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He? 23. "Everything is permissible," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible," but not everything is edifying.

The devil just fakes you out, then uses your own lack faith against you. But the day will come, when the weakness of the devil will be revealed. People of God will wonder how he caused so much trouble for us.

Isaiah 14:15-17

15. "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. 16. Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms.

God is the ONLY CREATOR! Satan, angels & all other living creatures, including people cannot create life! They can reproduce because God created living things with SEED, the ability to reproduce after its own kind. But it's purpose & origin

is with God himself. So, think about this, a created being despising and rejecting its creator. It does not possess the wisdom or power to create itself. It cannot make even the simplest of living organisms. It cannot take the raw substance and make even the simplest seed that would spring from the ground as the green grass, flowers & trees. Who would this creature be to exalt itself to be greater than God. A created being, yet beholds the one who has the wisdom and power to create all things; then thinks of himself as wiser and more powerful than God? This is what Satan believes. Truly, that is INSANE! But be careful. Because, while he is insane, he is still crafty with a certain level of intelligence that he will employ against you. If you lean to your own understanding he can easily "outwit" you!

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

10. If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And if I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven it in the presence of Christ for your sake, 11. in order that Satan should not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Jewish heads of households knew that whatever they did would affect their families for generations. God told them so. In times of crisis, they stood before God and confessed the sins of their families and even the sins of their nation. They realized that the principal family sin or judgment for a Particular sin flows through the family line, affecting later generations that had nothing to do with the sin(s) in question.

1 Samuel 15:22-24

22. Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed (listen) than the fat of rams. 23. "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king." 24. Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice.

Deuteronomy 18:9-22

9 "When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. 10 "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. 12 "For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you. 13 "You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. 14 "For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do so.

This same principle still applies today. However, we will see that generational bondages are easily broken once recognized, repented of, renounced, and cast off in the mighty name of Jesus.

Identify the Symptoms

Sin created "Works of the flesh" as we mentioned before that leads to symptomatic behaviors. The following is a list of symptoms that may indicate the presence of generational bondages or curses:

I. An inability to prosper

A. The person studies and works very diligently.

B. He acquires skills.

1. Success somehow always seems to elude him.
2. There seems to be a never-ending struggle against something he cannot identify.
3. Failure seems almost inevitable.
4. Somehow, he cannot pinpoint the problem or get a grip on it.
5. One overhears him saying such things as, "Nothing ever works for me. My father had the same problems I do. He was a failure, too."

II. An inability to "be yourself" "

Sage dark, oppressive arm inhibits the full expression of the individual's personality. He never feels completely free to be himself, and there is always some debilitating influence present. He wants to be himself, but somehow the freedom he so desires elude him.

C. He senses that he has potential within him that is never fully developed.

III. An inability to succeed

A. The path of this individual seems clear as he moves toward his desired goals, but then somehow, he is prevented from finishing the course.

B. Just before he reaches his goal, something causes him to stumble and fall.

C. There is no logical or natural reason for failure. It seems that there is some force or influence at work that is not subject to the usual laws of nature and/or the law of averages.

D. Frustration is commonplace. He finds himself wondering why he can never succeed. This may be true in one or multiple areas of his life.

1. Business
2. Career
3. Health
4. Finances
5. Interpersonal relationships—Almost always there is a negative effect on marriages and family life; sometimes communities, cities, or even nations are affected.

E. He may experience certain degrees of success, but there is no fulfillment.

1. Dissatisfaction comes for no known reason. All achievements seem to be insubstantial.
2. Depression settles like a cloud.
3. He looks at others and asks himself why he is not fulfilled.

IV. Seven indications of a possible curse (Deuteronomy 28:15-68)

- If several of the following symptoms are present, or one or more are repetitive, the probability of a curse increases. However, only the Holy Spirit can provide a totally accurate account. Because this is true, we need to be extremely sensitive in dealing with those experiencing any of the following conditions:
 1. Barrenness, a tendency to miscarry, or related female problems
 2. Breakdown of marriages, and family alienation

- 3. Continuing financial insufficiency
 - 4. Being accident-prone
 - 5. History of suicides, or unnatural or untimely deaths
- A curse cannot come upon the child of God unless he chooses to sin and to continue living an ungodly life. *"Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest"* (Proverbs 26:2)

V. Self-imposed curses

- A. Witchcraft (Deuteronomy 7:25, 26)—exercising control of someone's will
- B. Provocation, intimidation, manipulation, domination
- C. In Matthew 27:20-26, the Jews spoke a curse upon themselves—*"His blood be upon us and our children.* Since that time, they have experienced 19 centuries of continual persecution and subjection.

VI. How to break generational bondages and curses

This profile is designed to help you evaluate your spiritual background and upbringing. It is also meant to help you see how wrong patterns of thinking or behaving may have developed and become a part of your life. This assessment is between you and the Lord. No one else will look at it. As a matter of fact, by the end of this session, this paper will burn. We agree with your faith to expect the issues you struggled with will be gone as well. *Please answer each question as truthfully as you can.*

This tool is to be done in private. Let them separate to complete the personal Spiritual profile. After they have completed it, take them to the courtyard to pray the prayer of renouncement and destroy the papers by fire. Direct their faith toward the fire destroying the paper is like how the Holy Spirit has destroyed that power of Sin and the curse over them and their future

Family:

1. Who in your family is a follower of Christ?
2. Have you or any person of your family been involved in the following religions?

Hinduism	Baha'i faith	Buddhism	Mormonism	Krishna
Jehovah's Witnesses	Islam	Tribal Religion	Christian Science	Wiccans
3. Have you or any person in your family been involved in any of the following?

Calling the dead/spirits	Horoscopes	Palm reading	Disorganization
Good luck charms	Yoga	Mystic Role Playing	Martial arts-Mysticism
Out-of-body experiences	Psychics	New Age	Fortune-telling
Magicians	Superstitions	Seductive Behavior	Predicting the future
Self-focused	Manipulation	Frequent Tardiness	Gambling
Excessive computer play	Eating Disorders	Bad attitudes	Addiction to video games
Obsessive indulgences	Greed	Breaking Promises	Addiction to TV
Dirty language	Being Argumentative	Excessive foolish talking	Prostitution
Making light of things	Body Cutting		
4. Have any tragedies been repetitive in your family?

Plague	Fire	Murder	Divorce
--------	------	--------	---------

- | | | | | |
|---------|-------|----------------|------|--------|
| Poverty | Abuse | Financial Ruin | Rape | Incest |
|---------|-------|----------------|------|--------|
5. Are you aware of the existence of any ancestral sins, such as the following ones?
- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| Violence | Sexual abuse | Alcohol abuse | Drug abuse |
| Sexual immorality | Adultery | Theft/robbery | Gangs |
| Poaching | Organized crime | Bitter Rivalries | Racism |
6. Were there major sins committed against you in your childhood by a family member or by any other person?
- | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|---------|
| Sexual abuse | Physical abuse | Rejection | Verbal abuse | Abandonment | Neglect |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|---------|

Personal:

7. With what areas of obedience to the Word of God do you habitually struggle?
- | | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Prayer | Meditation | Self-control | Tithing | Growing in Christ-likeness |
| Faith | Submission to authority | Fellowshipping with believers | Supernatural work of the Holy Spirit | |
8. Have you ever participated in or been a part of any of the following sexual-sins?
- | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Fornication | Adultery | Molestation` | Pornography | Lust |
| Incest | Homosexuality | Sexual Fantasizing | Bestiality | |
| Telephone/cyber sex | Masturbation | Desire to see others' nakedness | | |
| Exhibitionism | <i>(wanting others to see your nakedness)</i> | | | |
9. Do you have any of the following addictive/destructive habit present in your life? "
- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Sleeping disorders | Forgetfulness | Stealing | Violence | Alcohol addiction |
| Envy/jealousy | Dipping | Illegal drug abuse | Prescription drug abuse | |
| Smoking | Lying | Chewing tobacco | | |
10. Do you **HABITUALLY** experience any of the following emotion: thoughts, feelings, or dispositions?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Anxiety/fear | Anger | Perfectionism | |
| Being critical of others | Feelings of inferiority | Apathy | |
| Rationalizing | Indecisiveness | Bitterness | Loneliness/isolation |
| Hatred of someone | Racism | Pride/superiority | Chronic counseling |
| Confusion | Un-forgiveness | long periods of depression | |
12. Do you experience any of the following spiritual encounters
- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Nightmares | Demonic visitations | Premonitions |
| Demonic visions | Fearful or unclean thoughts | Demonic/driving thoughts in your mind |
13. Do you have any of the following problems preventing you from having a normal physical cognition?
- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Chronic illnesses | Internal organ problems | Dyslexia | External problems |
| Low energy levels | Major disease(s) | Attention deficit disorder | Sense impairment |

Relationships:

Give a one or two word answer to describe the following *(good, bad, not applicable)*.

- 14 . Your relationship with your mother:
 15 . Your relationship with your father:
 16 . Your relationship with your children:
 17 . Your relationship with your spouse (if married):
 18. Your relationship with any other significant individuals in your life:
 19 . Your social life:
 20. What is the one thing you hoped would not be asked in this interview?

Curses, Vows, and Judgments:

21. Curses are words spoken against you by someone. They are usually a result of rebellion against authority (Genesis 3: 14-17, Mark II :20-21). Have you any knowledge of curses at work in your life, past or present (teachers, bosses, public leaders, or spiritual leaders speaking negative words over your life, such as "You are cursed because of your dad.")?

Vows, oaths, and swearing are promises or pledges made (James 5: 12).

Have you any knowledge of vows or oaths at work in your life, past or present? This includes words spoken by you. (Example: "If it takes every penny I have, I'll get you back." Second example: "I'll go to hell rather than live with them.") Judgments are negative conclusions about a person that are projected into his future. Usually these are precipitated by the person's condition or performance (Matthew 18: 18). Do you know of any made against you, past or present? ("You are stupid." "You never do anything right. " "You'll never amount to anything." "You're lazy, ugly, dumb.")

Take the students out to the courtyard and pray the prayer of renouncement. Place the papers in the fire pit. Then light the papers on fire

THE DIVINE EXCHANGE

Jesus was punished that we might be forgiven.

Jesus was wounded that we might be healed.

Jesus was made sin with our sinfulness that we might become righteous with His righteousness.

Jesus died our death that we might share His life.

Jesus became poor, without poverty, that we might become rich with His riches.

Jesus bore our shame that we might share His glory.

Jesus endured our rejection that we might have His acceptance as children of God.

Jesus became a curse that we might receive a blessing.

- A. Repent of all rebellion and sin.
- B. Claim forgiveness for all sins.
- C. Forgive anyone who has ever harmed you or wronged you.
- D. Renounce all contact with anything occult or satanic. Pray the prayer for release from any curse from all sins and practices of your forefathers, even to the fourth generation. (This prayer will be spoken by the retreat leader and verbally repeated by all those in attendance.)
- E. Believe you have received it, and go in God's blessings!

PRAYER OF RENOUNCEMENT

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You are the Son of God and that You are the only way to God. I believe that You died on the Cross for my sins and rose again from the dead. I give up all my rebellion and independence, my pride and self-centeredness, my harboring of rejection and inferiority, and my bitterness and Un-forgiveness. I give up all my sin and submit myself to You. I confess all my sins before You and ask for Your forgiveness. Release me now from the power of the enemy of my soul. By a decision of my will, I forgive all who have harmed me or wronged me, just as I want You to forgive me. In particular, I forgive . . .

IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, I pull these strongholds down and renounce the power of Satan in my life. By faith I now receive my release, and I thank You, God, for it. Lord Jesus, I believe that on the Cross You paid the price for me to have a life of victory and freedom. I receive Your gift of deliverance now. Through Your righteousness, I now pull down every stronghold built up in my life by the devil. In particular, I pull down the strongholds of:

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: JAMES

Use the Epistles Bible Study tool as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.



Invite the Holy Spirit to teach you as you prayerfully move in your thoughts through the reading. The Epistle of James, the Book of James, or simply James, is one of the twenty-one epistles in the New Testament. The author identifies himself as "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ," who is writing to "the twelve tribes scattered abroad".

The epistle is traditionally attributed to James the brother of Jesus, and the audience is generally considered to be Jewish Christians, who were dispersed outside Palestine due to persecution.

As you read it watch for the issues being addressed. How is the author dealing with them? What does he warn against? What does he direct us toward? What stands out to you as you read?

Shepherding A Heart

Session #8



Adapted from "Shepherding a Child's Heart" by David and Tedd Tripp

Key Verse:

"Guard your heart with all diligence for out of it flow all the issues of life."

Proverbs 4:23

Objective:

Provides insight into the life-changing power that will direct you in knowing and following God. To take basic truth of scripture and help you build goals that lead you in knowing Christ from the heart-your heart first, then others.

This lesson is going to help you (with the help of the Holy Spirit and God's Word), to see where issues in your life come from, and then what to do when you see those issues. Then, as you learn to tend to your own heart, you will be able to Shepherd your children's hearts and others' hearts also.

I. Shepherding A Heart

A. Where Behavior comes from

1. Behavior flows from the heart.
2. What you do and say comes from your heart.

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Proverbs 4:23

(Use a poster or picture illustration of the heart, with overflow written over the heart, then an arrow drawn downward from middle of heart and out of the heart with an arrow pointing downward. Then write under the point of the arrow: SAY/DO)

The heart is connected with behavior. Whatever is in the heart ends up showing up in what you **SAY** and **DO!**

The heart is important to God. Man is impressed by what he sees on the outside, God, however looks on the inside.

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The lord does not look at the things men look at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7

God is **NOT** impressed with the outward appearances of men. It is the world that notices things like height or physical appearance.

God is the heart-knower. He knows what the heart is really like.

Scriptures on God knowing the heart:

Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

Psalm 44:21

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?"

Matthew 9:4

These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Matthew 15:8

He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight."

Luke 16:15

"Why are you frightened?" he asked. "Why are your hearts filled with doubt?"

Luke 24:38

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

"And when a prayer of plea is made by any of your people Israel, each one aware of the afflictions of his own heart, and spreading out his hands towards this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Forgive and act: deal with each man according to all he does, (since you know his heart, for you alone know the hearts of all men.)"

I

Kings 8:38-39

B. Christ's Focus is on the Heart

1. It is the issues of the heart that make you clean or unclean.

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'"

Mark 7:14-15

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, "Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment." But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment."

Matthew 5:21-22

2. Christ teaches that where your treasure is that is where your heart is.

Out of the mouth the heart speaks. Actions mirror our heart. (say/do)

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

(so whatever is in your heart, you will pursue and seek after. It will be visible in your life, what is important in your heart)

You cannot deny the connection of the heart to your action. The heart issue has to be confronted for change to take place. If you continually address just the behavior, the heart stays the same. Transformation has to take place, which comes by reading God's Word, which will produce the faith for change.

EXAMPLE: "I am sorry for what I said, I was just tired."

(This excuse showed the abundance of the heart. But it does not connect their "say" back to their heart. This is deception.)

This point is made forcefully in Matthew 15:8 God wants honor that is not only from the lips, but from the heart.

"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

Matthew 15:8

(This was Jesus speaking to the Pharisees about man made traditions, and following them instead of doing what was right from the heart, People just going through the motions of religion and religious activity instead of true worship from the heart.)

Saying good things without a good heart does not honor God. As we read before, It is what comes out of a man's heart that makes him clean or unclean. Remember scripture says:

"What goes into a man's mouth does not make him unclean, but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him unclean."

Matthew 15:11

So, in other words, Good trees produce good fruit, bad trees produce bad fruit. So it is the same with the heart.

EXAMPLE: If you have a tree that is rotten, and is not healthy, it will produce bad fruit. It will not produce good fruit. You cannot save that tree or make it healthy by hanging ripe red apples from it. The tree is still rotten inside. The fruit on the outside may look yummy but you would have to keep attaching new fresh beautiful apples to it to make it stay beautiful in appearance. Eventually, that would get frustrating and you would give up. The heart is the same...you cannot keep just fixing your outer appearance. Eventually what is truly inside your heart will come out. Fixing your behavior does not fix the heart issue that it comes from. So there is NO true change, just covering up what is really there!

C. The Gospel must be central in your heart to produce change

1. For change to take place within our hearts, we must have a heart that habitually says:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalm 139:23-24

You want this plea to resonate in your heart! Psalm 139 is a reflection of what needs to be going on in our own heart.

You have to long for that *new heart* that can only come from Christ.

Cry out as David did in Psalm 51:10:

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Psalm 51:10

Only the renewed heart can put in place what is needed to live a life that pleases God! This must be your goal.

When you cry out to the Lord to search you heart and create a pure heart, the heart issues will be hi-lited or "discerned by the Holy Spirit.

D. Discern heart issues

- 1) When issues or debates arise in your life, don't focus primarily on the circumstance you are in. Rather, focus on the heart issues that produced the debate in the first place.
- 2) Prayerfully examine your heart, God will show you what the heart issue is that is producing the outward behavior you see.
- 3) To discern heart issue we must use Biblical categories to describe the behavior you see.

E. Use scriptures that address the heart issues at hand

To do this effectively, you must know the scriptures yourself. Therefore, you want to develop a mental concordance that you're continually updating so that you can apply God's Word to the life situations that you face.

EXAMPLES:

REMEMBER! As you have learned, the heart is the *central issue*. (Proverbs 4:23 & Luke 6)

Look at these examples, keeping in mind the statement above (heart is central issue): When dealing with revenge, love of self, pride, fear, or desires, these are scriptures that will contrast how you feel, and show you God's will.

Romans 12:17 (REVENGE) -This scripture teaches to not take revenge. It is God's to avenge, HE will re-pay.

Philippians 2:1-4 (LOVE OF SELF)-if this is a problem, this scripture teaches how to walk in love and not selfishness.

Philippians 2:3-4 (PRIDE)-if pride is a problem, this scripture teaches how to do things motivated by love.

1 John 4:18 (FEAR)-If fear is a problem, this scripture addresses the heart issue of fear.

Hebrews 13:5 (FEAR)-Deals with the fear of lack, not having riches.

James 4:1 (DESIREs)-When quarrels and fights arise, the scripture tells you where they come from.

F. Our one true Biblical Objective

1. The overarching Biblical objective is for man to be consumed with glorifying God and enjoying Him forever. This is supported by texts such as:

a) I Corinthians 10:31

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

b) Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2.) We must learn to function in a world that has abandoned the knowledge of God.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

3) Cultural influence can drive us to take delight in material things.

But, the Word says:

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33

The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

I John 2:17

This focus on delighting in material things as opposed to delighting in KNOWING God is an example of being taken captive by hollow and deceptive philosophies. (Colossians 2:8)

4) We also need to learn to redeem the time.

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

Ephesians 5:15

We need to be eternally minded. We are but a breath on this earth. So, we need to be good stewards of our time here, and do God’s will.

5) What do you desire more than anything on earth? Your desire has to be to worship God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalm 73: 25-26

6) Only in God’s light will you see light. We have to desire to see truth.

Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, Your justice like the great deep. O LORD, You preserve both man and beast. How priceless is Your unfailing love! Both high and low among men Find refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

They feast on the abundance of Your house; You give them drink from Your river of delights. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalm 36:5

7) We have to thirst for God

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.

Psalm 63:1-2

The chief end of man, is to “glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.” ~Dr. Tedd Trip~

Discussion:

1. Where does all behavior come from? *heart*
2. How does our behavior change? What brings about the change? *By discerning the heart issue, and using Word to renew our thinking to agree with God. Faith mixed with the Word of God brings change.*
3. What impresses God according to this session? *A pure heart*
4. What are some things we have to set as goals to be able to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever? (From lesson) *Letter "F" #'s 1-7*

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: 1st & 2nd Peter

Use the [Epistles Bible Study tool](#) as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.

The Missionary

World Changers

Session #9

~ ~ ◆ ✠ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✠ ◆ ~ **BEFRIEND** ~ ◆ ✠ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✠ ◆ ~ ~

Missions Impact on World History

Biblical Foundation

Matt 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Paul: Missionary into all the World

1. In 32 A.D. Martyrdom of Stephen in Jerusalem

Stephen, whose Grecian name means "crown," is stoned for his testimony about Jesus (Acts 6-7). Stephen was one of the first deacons specially appointed by the early church to serve (Acts 6:1-6) and is considered the first Christian martyr. A young, zealous Saul (Paul) consents to and witnesses Stephen's death (Acts 7:58-8:1), after which he leads persecution against believers of Christ (Acts 8:1-4). *Our first encounter with the apostle Paul is in this setting & he is known as Saul of Tarsus.*

2. In 33 A.D. The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus

Saul (*Paul*) receives written permission from the High Priest to search in Damascus' synagogues for those who believe Jesus is the Messiah. Saul is also given the authority to arrest and bring these believers to Jerusalem for trial and punishment. (Acts 9:1-2) Saul, accompanied by several others, travels to Damascus. As he approaches the city a burst of light suddenly appears and causes him to fall to the ground (Acts 9:3-4). He then hears the voice of Jesus saying: "*Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?*" (Acts 9:4, NIV) Saul is struck blind and led into Damascus by his traveling companions. Three days later Jesus inspires a disciple named Ananias to visit Saul and heal him of his blindness. After he is healed Saul is baptized and receives God's Holy Spirit. (Acts 9:4-18) Saul (who is first referred to as Paul in Acts 13:9) stays in Damascus and powerfully preaches the gospel. After learning of the plot against his life, Paul flees the city at night by having Christians lower him down a gate wall using a basket! Once out of the city he travels to Arabia.

2. Spring 33 A.D. to Spring 36 A.D. Paul taught in Arabia directly by Jesus.

Paul spends three years in Arabia being personally taught by Jesus Christ.

"But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, BUT IT CAME THROUGH THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST. . . "

"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; BUT I WENT TO ARABIA, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days." (Galatians 1:11-12, 15-18, NKJV unless otherwise stated)

3. Spring 36 A.D. Paul comes back to Damascus

After three years in Arabia Paul journeys back to Damascus in the Spring of the year (Galatians 1:17).

4-5 Spring to Summer 36 A.D. Paul's First Visit to Jerusalem after his Conversion

Paul travels to Jerusalem and stays fifteen days (Acts 9:26, Galatians 1:18-19). Although Paul tries to get to know other converted people in Jerusalem, the brethren are suspicious of him and stay away (Acts 9:26). Barnabas, a disciple known for encouraging others, takes Paul to the apostles and personally vouches for his converted character (Acts 9:27).

Paul (Saul) speaks boldly to Greek-speaking Jews about Jesus Christ. The Grecians reject his message, however, and seek to murder Paul (Acts 9:28-29). The brethren find out about the plot against Paul's life and escort him to Caesarea where they then send him back to Tarsus (Acts 9:30).

6. Summer 36 A.D. to Summer 40 A.D. Paul stays home

Paul stays in his hometown of Tarsus for four years.

7. Summer 40 A.D. to Summer 41 A.D. Barnabas seeks Paul's help due to growth in Antioch church

Brethren scattered because of Saul's (Paul's) persecution (before his conversion) preach the Word of God to Jews as far away as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch (Acts 11:19).

Some converted men from Cyprus and Cyrene travel to Antioch in Syria and begin to speak to Grecians (non-Jews) concerning Jesus. God blesses their efforts and a great number of people become converted. (Acts 11:20-21).

Word of the gospel's success in Antioch reaches Jerusalem. The Jerusalem church sends Barnabas to aid in the ministering to the new converts. When he arrives in Antioch he encourages the brethren to continue to grow as believers. (Acts 11:22-24).

Because of the continued growth of the Antioch church Barnabas travels to Tarsus to seek Paul's help with teaching the newly converted Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas journey from Tarsus back to Antioch and stay in the city for an entire year (Acts 11:25-26).

It is in Antioch that believers in Jesus as the Messiah are called Christians (Acts 11:26). The designation of believers as Christians occurs only three times in the New Testament (Acts 11:26, 26:28, 1Peter 4:16).

8. Spring 42 A.D. A famine is prophesied to occur

The prophet Agabus travels from Jerusalem to Antioch. In Antioch he prophesies that a three-year famine will soon occur (Acts 11:27-28). In response to the prophecy the disciples plant and prepare food and relief to send to the believers in Jerusalem (Acts 11:29).

9. Spring 44 A.D. Relief sent to Jerusalem by the hand of Paul and Barnabas

Food and relief are sent to Jerusalem by the hands of Paul and Barnabas (Acts 11:30). After delivering relief Paul and Barnabas, along with John Mark, return to Antioch (Acts 12:25).

The remainder of Acts recounts the various missionary journeys of Paul. Paul's remarkable accounts are met with heroic courage and introduced the life giving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the known world of his day. He simply made it his habit to say, "Yes" to Jesus. His heart attitude is well reflected in this passage.

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." 2 Cor 4:7

This passion to release the precious gift entrusted to Him by God propels him to be a man whose influence is recounted around the world for 2000 years.

Missionary Heroes

There have been missionaries courageously accepting the call to impact frontlines of unreached people groups since the apostles first launched the church. There are thousands of harrowing stories to be retold and many will not be heard until they are shared in eternity. But there are those whose biographies are written. Please avail yourself of them. As some are readily available on the web, in public libraries & book stores.

Missions Modern Challenges

Spiritual
Social
Economic

How can we support Missions?

The Christian Missions effort is a threefold chord.

- Praying Army
- Paying Army
- Preaching Army

Every believer should be in heartfelt prayer for which role they are to play in winning the lost who are living in foreign lands, speak a different language and have diverse customs.

How do Missionaries go. After training in Biblical knowledge and application, the missionary prayerfully seeks out those who will enter into a financial covenant to send them to the field they are called too. The finances

are used to support the missionary and their immediate family while they are on the field. They also seek funds for equipment to use in their efforts.

Apostles & Pioneers

There are missionaries who are pioneers in that they go for unreached peoples often in remote and sometimes hostile, dangerous cultures. Many missionaries have died as martyrs in their calling. Some lost wives & children because of disease or murderous cultural fears.

Missionary Pastors

Once the Gospel is received by the indigenous people, the task shifts to building churches, schools & orphanages. Training pastors, teachers, administrators and all the elements we have in Christian nations can take decades to establish. So missionaries go and work together, even with missionaries from other denominations, as teams to accomplish these projects.

Missionary Helps

Some mission projects reach to gain influence over culture with media, economic improvements, & social reforms. This creates a need for various skills. People who may not be called to 5-fold ministry may find their call to helps ministries using their skills & talents.

Impossibilities Become Challenges

Missionaries often face many dangerous circumstances. The challenges met by the Apostle Paul are still available for today's adventurous missionary. There are plenty trials ready to be confronted by the anointed people of God. Persecutions, cultural sin, language barriers, together with new sights, sounds and adventure; It is a perfect mixture for miracles.

Exercise:

1. Have you had a vision to go & be a missionary? Would you like to be a part of the sending & equipping team? Could you see yourself spending extra time specifically praying for missions?

2. Check out this site:

<http://www.preparingtogo.com/>

3. Read a missionary biography online

<http://www.wholesomewords.org/missions/bioindex.html>

4. Also visit the Websites of missionaries we support to be familiar with the work they are doing. You can find links to them on our website:

<http://www.Churchof thePromise.net>

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: 2 Thessalonians

Use the Epistles Bible Study tool as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.

Fear of The Lord

Session # 10

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BEFRIEND

These are the Chapter titles for the book "Fear of the Lord", by John Bevere. The purpose of this class is to encourage you to read the book and attend the Video sessions with a group as soon as it is available. We have selected just a very small portion for this session. It is just a sampling from the material.



Wind From Heaven
Changed Glory
The Sermon of the Universe
Order, Glory, Judgment: Part I
Order, Glory, Judgment: Part II
A New Sanctuary
An Irreverent Offering
Delayed Judgment
The Coming Glory
The Restoration of His glory
The Ability to See

This class will take snips from a few of the valuable Biblical precepts that will bless you and protect you, as you employ them with your faith.

The book opens with this introduction:

"Holy Fear is the key to God's sure foundation, unlocking the treasures of salvation."
~John Bevere~

"By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified." ~ Leviticus 10:3

Along with the love of God, the fear of the Lord composes the very foundation of life! We cannot truly love God until we fear Him, nor can we properly fear Him until we love Him.

I. The Fear of The Lord is: (Chp. 1)

- 1) NOT grasped by the mind but etched in our hearts. It is revealed by the Holy Spirit as we read His Word.
- 2) One of the manifestations of the Spirit of God (Is. 11:1-2)
- 3) Imparted by God to the hearts of those who earnestly seek Him. (Jer. 29:11-14; 32:40)
- 4) NOT the same as the spirit of fear. Some people mistake the two. Read I John 4:16b-18 below:

*God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.
17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

(so, if God is love, then he does not produce fear in us, and does not want us to fear Him in the sense that He is a task master that wants to bring His wrath on us...but, because He loves us, it will drive out the wrong kind of fear that satan wants us to have and replace that fear with His love. This will cause us to draw closer and love Him also)

When we come to the Lord with an open and submitted heart then He can correct us. It is for our good. He corrects us so that we might be partakers of His holiness (Hebrews 12:7-11) You will almost immediately sense God's overwhelming love, not His disappointment (legalism) in you.

When you cry out from deep within your spirit for the knowledge of the fear of the Lord, you will sense that your request deeply pleases the Father.

II. Friendship with God (Chp.13)

14 The LORD confides in those who fear him; He makes his covenant known to them. ~ Psalm 25:14 (confide-trust someone enough to tell them of a secret or private matter.)

This simply stated means that if you fear the Lord you will Gain knowledge of God or that you will come to know God intimately.

Intimacy is a two-way relationship. Many believers talk about God as though He were just a buddy, someone they hang out with. They casually tell how God has shown them this or that. They say how much they desire His presence and hunger for His anointing. But, often those young who are not stable in their relationship with God will feel uncomfortable and spiritually deficient around those who are “close friends” of God.

The Lord says we cannot even begin to know Him on intimate terms (or as a friend) until we fear Him. In other words, an intimate relationship with God will not even begin until the fear of God is firmly planted in our hearts.

(Do you want to be called a “close friend of God?” Let’s look at someone who WAS called a friend of God to see what qualifies us to be a friend of God)

I. God’s Friend

Abraham was one who was called a friend of God. (*2 Chronicles 20:7*)

God promised 75 year old Abraham his heart’s desire, a son. Before the birth of this son, Abraham made several mistakes—some that were quite serious. Yet through it all, Abraham believed God’s promise.

So, why was Abraham called a friend of God?

- 1) Abraham believed and obeyed God and was fully persuaded that God would perform all that was promised.

Believing God=Righteousness=you are a friend of God

And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend.

James 2:23

- 2) Abraham was tested in his love and obedience to God and overcame.

The test:

¹ Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. ² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.”

Genesis 22:1-2

Abraham's Response to the Test:

9When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." (you obeyed)

Genesis 22:9-12

God's response to Abraham's obedience and Fear of the Lord:

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Genesis 22:15-18

The Fear of the Lord is to know God's ways, and to obey His Word unconditionally.

Moses quite often knew *why* God did the things He did. The Bible describes this insight as understanding. In fact, Moses often knew *what* God would do before He did it, for God would reveal it to Him in advance. The Bible calls this wisdom. The psalmist tells us:

*¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him
belongs eternal praise.*

Psalm 111:10

To fear God is to obey Him, even when it does not seem to be to our advantage. When we fear Him, He calls us friend and reveals the *why*, or the intentions and desires of His heart. We come to know Him not by His acts but His ways.

II. Defiled by the World

(Let's look at someone who was considered righteous, but was proved to not know God's heart)

Considered righteous but not called a friend:

Lot may have been considered righteous, but He was also worldly. He had no more insight of impending judgment than the residents of the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Although he was righteous, Lot was caught unaware of what was about to occur. Lot represents fleshly, carnal Christians—those who lack the burning, holy fear of God. Their relationship with the Lord is not too different from that of star-struck fans and celebrities.

This is seen by where Lot chose to dwell (among the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah), the type of wife he chose, and the children he would later father through incest—the Moabites and Ammonites.

James directly confronts this type of believer in this way:

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

James 4:4

(Recognize too, that these people ARE believers...otherwise, how could they be committing adultery on God? To commit adultery, you have had to have belonged to someone and betrayed that covenant. These are the "Lot" kind of people who do not fear God in their hearts.)

III. The Blessing of Holy Fear (Ch. 14)

*¹³ Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of
all mankind.*

Ecclesiastes 12:13

The fear of God includes, but is not limited to, respecting and reverencing Him, for we are told to tremble at His presence. Holy fear gives God the place of glory, honor, reverence, thanksgiving, praise and preeminence He deserves. (Notice it IS what He deserves and not what we think He deserves)!

(How we really view God, will be revealed in our choices, how we live & how we worship.)

God holds this preeminent position in our hearts and lives as we esteem His desires over and above our own, hating what He hates and loving what He loves, trembling in His presence and at His Word.

You will serve whom you fear.....

King Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes, and he, after pursuing every pleasure and distraction of life, said that it was all vanity, AND the whole matter of life is summed up in fearing God and keeping His commandments!

Here are some, but not all of the Blessings of Fearing God:

The Fear of God:

- 1) Positions our hearts to receive answers. (Hebrews 5:7)
- 2) Assures that God's great goodness abounds (Ps.31:19)
- 3) Promises angelic protection (Ps. 34:7)
- 4) Secures God's continual attention ((Ps. 33:18)
- 5) Supplies His provision ((Ps. 34:9)
- 6) Contains great mercy (Ps. 103:11)
- 7) Provides assurance of food (Ps. 111:5)
- 8) Promises protection (Ps 115:11)
- 9) Fulfills our desires and delivers us from harm (Ps.145:19)
- 10) Provides wisdom, understanding, and time management. (Proverbs 9:10-11)
- 11) Is our confidence and protection in the face of death. (Proverbs 14:26-27)
- 12) Provides peace of mind. (Proverbs 15:16)
- 13) Results in complete satisfaction. (Proverbs 19:23)
- 14) Leads to riches, honor, and life. (Proverbs 22:4)

- 15) Will keep us on the path (Jeremiah 32:40)
- 16) Produces a secure household (Exodus 1:21)
- 17) Provides clarity and direction. (Ps. 25:12)
- 18) Results In enjoyment of our labor and full, rewarding lives. (Ps. 128:1-4)
- 19) Produces successful leadership. (Exodus 18:21; 2 Samuel 23:3)

These are but a few of God's promises for those who fear Him. There are many more. I encourage you to find them in your time of reading and studying God's Word!

~John Bevere~

Questions:

- 1) From this text, explain in your own words what the Fear of the Lord is.

(unconditional obedience,; knowing God's heart, desires, and motives; love for God and His Word; intimacy & being a friend of God; doing what He says no matter what the outcome may be for us...)

- 2) Based on what you learned about Abraham, what qualifies you to be a friend of God?

(In your heart: belief in God, obedience to God , and love of God)=Fear of the Lord)

Extra Study (home):

- 1) Reflection: Based on what you have heard about Abraham and what you have heard about Lot, who do you see yourself more like?
- 2) Do you see the Fear of the Lord and the blessings that come from fearing the Lord as listed at the end of this session, in your life? MEDITATE on those scripture promises listed as blessings of having the Fear of the Lord.

Answer key:

p.3- Holy Spirit

p.4- two-way

p. 5- believed; obeyed

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Hebrews

Use the Epistles Bible Study tool as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.

From JesusWalk.com Commentary

Hebrews is certainly a **book for disciples**. It stirs our faith and nips at our heels when we get lazy in our walk. It helps us see Jesus in a new way. And it enables us to understand the role of suffering to discipline and train us up as Jesus' disciples. Though Hebrews discusses at length Old Testament themes of sacrifice, forgiveness, and Israel's high priest, it isn't about these things. Ultimately, the Letter to Hebrews is **a lens that focuses all our attention of Jesus Christ** -- who he is in both his humanity and divinity, and what he has done for us now and forever.