

Church of the Promise
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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

Teacher's Manual

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

MATERIALS LIST

Session 1	Under Cover	10
	Book by John Bevere to show & offer to the class Pull the Wool-Mike Mille CD (put on jump drive, or cd if person doesn't have jump drive)	
Session 2	Law of Brokenness & Service	18
	(Need Illustration, some sort of object lesson, gift or poster)	
Session 3	Spiritual Warfare	25
	(Need Illustration, some sort of object lesson, gift or poster)	
Session 4	Entering the Vision	31
	"The Samson Syndrome" by Apostle Dale Yerton CD's (Listen to and write a summary)	
Session 5	Designed by God- Discover Personality	38
Session 6	Designed by God Motivational Gifts	51
	Motivational Gift test questions & Answer sheet	
Session 7	What about Trails, Discipline & Tempering	58
	(Need Illustration, some sort of object lesson, gift or poster)	
Session 8	Praise & Worship	64
	(Need Illustration, some sort of object lesson, gift or poster)	
Session 9	Mystery of Grace	70
	(Need Illustration, some sort of object lesson, gift or poster)	
Session 10	Experiencing God as your provider	76
	Financial Worksheets	
Session 11	New Kingdom	86
	(Need Illustration, some sort of object lesson, gift or poster)	

Teacher Training:

A. 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 is 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.

B. 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.

C. 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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

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 – *Matthew 1-13*
2. A Matter of Birth - *Matthew 14-28*
3. New Creation – *Genesis 1-10*
4. The Body of Christ– *Genesis 11-30*
5. Promise Kept– *Genesis 31-50*
6. Renew Your Mind - *Mark*
7. Pray with Understanding - *Luke*
8. Free from Hurts – *John*
9. Pray, New Way-*Proverbs, Psalms Chapter/Day*
10. Confession and Transparency-*Ecclesiastes*
11. Laws of Love & Faith -*Deuteronomy*

Believe

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

1. Bait of Satan – *Jeremiah*
2. Overcoming, Devil & his strategies - *Exodus*
3. The power of spoken words - *Joshua*
4. Strengthen and increase your faith - *Judges*
5. Receive and Activate Spiritual Gifts - *Ruth*
6. Healing by the word of faith – *1 Kings*
7. New Future - *Jonah & Esther*
8. The End of Evil – *1 Samuel*
9. New Heaven – *2 Samuel*
10. The Anointing of the Holy Spirit - *Isaiah*

Belong

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

1. Under Cover – *1 & 2 Timothy*
2. The Law of Brokenness & Service - *Ephesians*
3. Spiritual Warfare – *1 Thessalonians*
4. Entering the Vision - *Malachi*
5. Designed by God–Personality Discovery -*Acts 1-8*
6. Designed by God–Motivational Gifts *1 Corinthians*
7. What about Trials-*2 Corinthians*
8. Praise & Worship -*Philemon*
9. The mystery of Grace- *Revelation 1-3*
10. Biblical Financial Stewardship – *Acts 9-17*
11. A New Kingdom - *Acts 18-28*

Befriend

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

1. The Why of Evangelism - *Galatians*
2. Walk in Love's Fruit -*Romans 1-8*
3. Winning the Lost begins in prayer-*Romans 9-16*
4. The Ways of Evangelism...part 1 -*Colossians*
5. The Ways of Evangelism...part 2 -*Philippians*
6. Honors Reward - *1st, 2nd, 3rd John & Jude*
7. Generational Bondages- *James, Titus*
8. Shepherding a Heart – *1st & 2nd Peter*
9. The Missionary World Changers-*2 Thessalonians*
10. Fear of the Lord – *Hebrews*



International School of Ministry®

This is a Biblical Ministry training that is accredited through Vision International is recognized and accepted by Church of the Promise and many other churches & institutions globally. It features a strong Bible based Missions and Local Church emphasis to equip Believers to fulfill their calling.

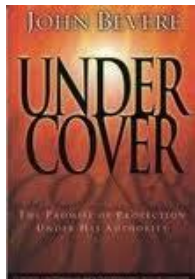
The internationally-recognized name for the International School of Ministry® which is the world's largest video Bible school with more than 17,000 training sites in 145 nations.

BIBLICAL STUDIES COURSE:

As Students go through the Infusion Course there will be self-directed Bible reading and Essay assignments available to be completed each week between sessions. These are optional but may be counted as Credits through Vision International and possibly be accepted with I.S.O.M. A student may receive this credit through satisfactorily completing lesson assignments. If they choose to acquire the credit, they may include it as one course electives at their ISOM registration should you choose to complete the ISOM Training through Church of the Promise. Normal Course fees will apply if credit is sought. If no course credit is requested; then there are no required fees for participation. All extra course materials are not provided as part of the Infusion Course.

Session #1

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These are the Chapter titles for the book Under Cover 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 to highlight during this session. It is just a small sampling from the material.

It's Hard to Kick Against the Goads
Sin Defined
The Secret Power of Lawlessness
The Consequences of Disobedience I
The Consequences of Disobedience II
Bewitched
Does God Know Who Is in Charge?
Honor the King
Double Honor
Obedience and Submission
What If Authority Tells Me...?
Unfair Treatment
Self-Inflicted Judgment
Odds and Ends
Great Faith

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.

F. What does being Under Cover mean?

When we think of the term, 'under cover' we might think of curling up with a cozy blanket, or maybe standing behind someone who can protect us if we are scared. The term is always used having to do with protection or safety.

In the book, Bevere, uses "Under Cover" to apply to Christians using this scripture as his basis: *"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust". (Ps. 91:1-2)*

Under Cover is about being under the covering of [God's Authority](#).

Whether you understand it or not, you will live your entire life under a God-appointed authority. It's true that we all grow up and eventually leave the home of our parents, setting out on our own life adventure; but no matter where we move or where we go, we will always have a responsibility to authority. For those who may not understand Spiritual Authority this book opens your eyes to authority and it working in our lives, and reveals its true benefit to us. If you think you already understand the concept of authority, *Under Cover* will challenge you to live by that understanding.

"Let's face it. Authority is not a popular word. Yet by rejecting or fearing it, we lose sight of the great protection and benefits authority provides."

~John Bevere, Under Cover

Every person lives under authority. It is everywhere, think about it: parents, teachers, management, church elders and pastors, or mayors, congressman and presidents, no matter where we go or what we do, we always find ourselves under some authority.

By the time of reaching adulthood most people have often developed their own subtle attitudes towards authority based on their personal life experiences. Often these beliefs will fit into one of the two categories:

1. *I just don't believe in authority*
2. *I'm not going to submit to authority unless I first agree with it.*

Those are not the right attitudes towards authority. To submit to God's authority we must understand God rules over a Kingdom.

G. Understanding Kingdom Authority (Ch. 2)

Pg. 10. "It is hard to understand kingdom principles with a democratic mind-set. Democracy is fine for the nations of the world, but we must remember the kingdom of God is just that- a kingdom. It is ruled by a King, and there are rank, order, and authority. The laws of His kingdom are not superseded by, or subject to, popular opinion, voting, or polls. The laws are not swayed by what we believe to be good for us."

a) Authority is Established by God.

Romans

13:1-2

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

What does God says about authority in this passage?

1. *Every soul* is subject to governing authorities
2. God appoints all existing rulers
3. Rebelling against authorities is the same as rebelling against God himself, bringing judgment on themselves.

Examine your beliefs: You have to examine your own mindset. Many people believe they are only accountable to God, not accountable to the authority over them. This is a subtle but very prideful mindset. It's like saying, "I will agree on the outside, but inside I do not agree and I don't have to live that out. We must examine our beliefs about authority because that is what we will live out.

A. The Danger of Resisting Authority:

Let's look at what Jesus said to Saul regarding this sort of mindset:

Acts 9:5

"It is hard for you to kick against the goads"

This passage can be more easily applied with a little explanation; here is how the author explained it:

Pg. 12 "Farmers in biblical days used goads. A common goad was an eight-foot-long straight branch of oak or other strong wood from which the bark had been stripped. At the front end a pointed spike was used to prod the oxen while plowing. An ox would certainly not resist such a sharp instrument capable of administering a good deal of pain and harm. Hence in Paul's day this proverbial expression was used to describe the futility of resistance to superior authority or power. Those who resist the authority of God, whether directly, as Paul did, or indirectly to His delegated authority, will find themselves kicking against the goads in God's hands. More often than not this can be a painful experience and lesson too many of us end up learning the hard way."

Jesus warned of coming against authority and compared it to a very painful struggle in favor of the authority. God always upholds the authority He sets up. If we find ourselves in disagreement with authority whether we are saying it out loud or we are resisting it in our heart, we are warned here that we are going to find ourselves in a struggle not only with the person in authority but with GOD. And we are told it is going to be a painful venture an extremely unpleasant.

H. III. The Secret Power of Lawlessness (Ch. 4)

Most often before people come against their authority directly, they have done so indirectly or in their hearts. This happens when a person has been deceived in regards to the subject of authority.

We can truly see what we believe and what we need to give over to God when in a pressured situation. This brings out your true heart. (out of the mouth the heart speaks) (Action)

b) *Revealed, not communicated, knowledge is our greatest guard against deception.*

Here are some more safeguards against deception:

- a. A person who is deceived believes with all his heart that he is right, when in reality, he is wrong. Deception is a scary thing!
- b. When God reveals His word by His Spirit, it then becomes a part of us. When we hear God's command, but it is not revealed by His Spirit, it is not a part of us. Then it is just a law to us. (*1 Cor. 15:56: "the strength of sin is the law".*) We do not act on what we've heard; we act on what we actually believe to be true, whether it is actually true or not.
- c. Revealed knowledge comes when you seek God's heart in the matter. Regardless of what the situation is you have to hear from God. This guards against deception.
- d. The one who trembles at His Word will instantly obey Him whether he sees the advantage or not. He is the one who truly fears God.

Ecd. 12:13 Fear God and Keep his Commandments, for this is man's all.

- e. The enemy will always try to get you to think something good is being withheld from you. This is entirely against God's character, but something the enemy always uses to trap us into deception. God is not a taker, he is a giver.
- f. Once disobedience is clearly revealed, you should never contemplate tolerating it again.

Galatians 6:9 (The Message)

¹⁻³*Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!*

I. IV. Self-Inflicted Judgment (Ch. 14)

(i) *Be very cautious not to look at people in authority over you and begin to judge them, or second guess the decisions they are making. When you begin to think this way, the very next phase in this thinking is usually that you could do it better. This is entirely untrue, because the one who can do it better is the one God placed in the position to do it, the one in authority. The wisdom given in James proves so valuable in situations such as this:*

(ii) *James 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.*

(iii) *Bevere tells us: “But our response to the sins of others, especially those who are leaders, is one of the greatest indicators of our spiritual maturity. This being the case, God often uses the faults and mistakes of authorities in our lives to expose the true condition of our hearts.”*

J. Learning Submission from Judgment:

(iv) *There are always consequences to our opposition to authority. Let's read about two examples:*

(v) *Example of Noah:*

After the flood Noah became drunk and fell asleep naked. His youngest son, Ham, came into the tent where he was sleeping and saw his father naked. He went out and told the rest of the family. Then two of the other sons, Shem and Japheth heard of it, they took a garment, walked into the tent backwards, and covered up their father's nakedness, not looking at him at all. We see in the scriptures that Shem and Japheth were blessed for this; and Ham was cursed for his actions. One was rebellious and foolish; the other two were merciful and honorable.

Any time we judge behavior of an authority figure we mentally disqualify authority based on their actions, then we feel released from submission. We must NOT cast off restraint in our hearts towards authority; we MUST always guard our hearts.

Being Right and wrong at the same time:

Pg. 180 "In "God's hall of fame" (Heb. 11), God boasts about Noah's faith and obedience, but we don't find Ham listed. Wasn't Ham right? Wasn't Noah drunk and naked? Yes, Ham was 100 percent accurate in what he reported, yet he was wrong in principle. Reasoning would justify his actions; he repeated only what he'd seen; he was only being "truthful." Yet the principles of obedience and reverence say otherwise."

K. Why do you Exalt Yourself?

Example of Miriam and Aaron:

Miriam was Moses' older sister. Aaron was Moses' older brother. They were both in high leadership positions, alongside Moses, in their time. Miriam and Aaron believed Moses made the wrong decision by marrying a woman from another country, because God made it clear that marrying foreign women would cause them to turn their hearts away to foreign gods. They were right about that, God had warned against this very thing that Moses had done. However, it is always out of order to criticize your leader. They began to criticize Moses, and then they started looking at themselves as the people that God could speak through, instead of Moses. They began to view their spiritual gifts and see them as above GOD's authority. This is entirely wrong.

Judgment usually comes when you least expect it. We see this here when God called all three aside, then he called Miriam and Aaron forward and reminded them that he had spoken to Moses face to face, and then he asked them why they should not be afraid to criticize him. What a shock! They were thinking they were just about to be rewarded for good behavior, boy were they caught off guard. The Lord was angry with them, he departed, and a cloud moved from above, and Miriam suddenly became white as snow with leprosy!!! Talk about immediate, unexpected judgment.

When we criticize authority, we expose a lack of the fear of the Lord in ourselves.

L. Spiritual Authority is appointed

While it is true that God appoints all authority, it is possible that we place ourselves in positions we were never given or before we were given them. When we assume a position of authority without God's appointment, we are exalting ourselves above what God has established. God's timing is essential in this; you can be called, but yet to be appointed. Jesus appoints the offices of service. No one can place a human being in these positions of authority except the Lord, and He does it by the Spirit of God.

Romans 12:3 "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think."

1 Timothy 3:10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve.

Do not get discouraged when you are in the waiting period. Trust God's timing.

M. Rebellion is Contagious

What caused Lucifer to fall? Rebellion. What caused Adam to fall? Rebellion. What causes many to drift in their walk with God? Rebellion. What is really sobering is that most rebellion is not blatant, but subtle. We should be very watchful regarding rebellion.

Romans 16:17-18

"I urge you brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people."

A rebellious person will draw others into their deception. When a person is deceived the thing that keeps them going is finding agreement. They look for agreement in their rebellion and it fuels their deception. Be careful to never add fuel to the fire of a rebellious person. The Bible tells us to just stay away from them.

When you are truly saved and seeking God you will be able to recognize the authority of God in the church and stay right under the cover of his authority. God takes the subject of authority very seriously and often disobedience in this area is dealt with harshly. Learn these principles of authority, and walk them out. Authority is there for your protection, offering a covering as comforting as a blanket. Honoring your authority is essential to your spiritual progress and lack of it prolongs your spiritual development.

Questions:

1. From this lesson what stood out the most to you about Spiritual Authority?

Extra Study: (home)

1. Can you recall a major lesson you have learned regarding spiritual authority, and how it has blessed your lives since learning it?
2. Use your concordance or a search engine to find other scriptures on Authority and read over them.

Answers

Pg . 3 [God's Authority.](#)

Pg . 4 [Every soul](#)

Pg .6 [Deception.](#)

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: 1 & 2 Timothy

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's last letter is said to be 2 Timothy. He writes to the Pastor who is to the he writes to the Philippians in chapter 2, *starting at verse*"

[19](#). I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. [20](#). For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. [21](#). For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. [22](#). But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. In the books of 1st & 2nd Timothy there is even more sincerity of heart.

NOTES from <http://www.jesuswalk.com/timothy>

I've always loved First and Second Timothy. Paul's warmth encourages me, his exhortations to his protégé Timothy challenge me, his example of sacrificing all for the gospel humbles me. These two epistles include:

- A powerful **doxology** ("Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible ...")
- Assurance of God's **saving love** ("who wants all men to be saved...")
- Christ as the **one Mediator**
- Guidelines for **selecting church leaders**
- Strong exhortations to **flee ungodliness** and **pursue righteousness**, faith, love, and peace
- A declaration of faith in **God's keeping power**
- A call to **endure hardship**
- A warning to handle God's word as **careful workmen**
- Advice in **gently instructing opponents**
- A revelation of all **Scripture as "God-breathed"**
- ... and much more

My mind keeps returning to Paul's last words:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness" (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

You and I want to live our lives strongly and finish well! These letters teach us how and urge us towards godly living. Here is the outline of our 11-week study:

The Law of Brokenness & Service

Session #2

~ ~ ◆ ✂ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✚ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✂ ◆ ~ BELONG ~ ◆ ✂ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✚ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✂ ◆ ~ ~

Key Verse:

*"The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart,
and saves such as have a contrite spirit" (Ps. 34:18 NKJV).*

Key Scriptures:

- 1 Corinthians 1:27–29
- James 4:10
- Galatians 2:20
- 2 Corinthians 12:9–10
- Mark 9:33–35
- John 13:1–17
- Mark 10:35–45
- Philippians 2:5–11
- John 12:24–26

Objective: This session will show the value of brokenness and how it leads to effective service in the body of Christ.

Introduction: Most people who are even halfway serious about their Christian walk express a desire to be used by God in His kingdom. Although they are aware of how much needs to change within them before they can experience God's power at work through them, they hesitate to really allowing God free rein in their lives.

God, however, can work in us only if we come to a place of true brokenness before Him. Without that, we will continue to be led and influenced by self-will, self-centered desires, and self-knowledge. Only through brokenness can we truly learn total dependence upon God, and only by losing our lives for His sake will we find true fulfillment.

N. I. Brokenness occupies a very important place in the kingdom of God.

O. A. A humble, contrite heart is pleasing to God (Isa. 57:15; Ps. 51:17).

1. Isaiah 57:15 tells us that the same God who inhabits the heavens also seeks to dwell in the heart that is humble and contrite before Him. This attitude of humility and dependence upon God is known as brokenness.
2. According to Psalm 51:17, God never despises true humility and contrition. Contrition means living in a state of repentance and dependence upon God's grace. A humble, contrite heart rejects pride and self-promotion, because it acknowledges its deep, deep need of God.

P. B. Simplicity of spirit makes for greatness in God's kingdom (Matt. 18:1–4).

1. At the heart of your being should be a simplicity born of God in terms of trust and single-mindedness in following Him. This means becoming childlike in your trust and obedience to the Lord. Only in this way will you be able to walk in humility before Him and thus enable Him to use you for His divine purposes.
3. In most ancient cultures, age increased social status and authority. Children, therefore, were the most powerless members of society. It was different, however, in Jewish culture. Children were loved, not despised, by their parents; nevertheless, they had no status apart from that love and no power or privileges apart from what they received as total dependents on their parents (*C.S. Keener and InterVarsity Press, The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois, 1993*).
3. W.W. Wiersbe has very appropriately remarked, "True humility is not thinking meanly of oneself; it is simply not thinking of oneself at all" (*The Bible Exposition Commentary, "An Exposition of the New Testament Comprising the Entire 'BE' Series, Jkt. Victor Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 1989, 1996.*)

Q. C. Brokenness leads to experiencing the Spirit without measure (Phil. 2:5–11; John 3:34).

1. For Jesus, being "nothing" was a way of life. Long before He went to the cross, brokenness characterized everything He did. Although He was King of Kings and Lord of Lords, He willingly surrendered His rights and made Himself nothing.
2. Surrender and brokenness are the secret to walking in the fullness of God's Spirit. Jesus had no hindrances within Him, so God could pour the Spirit upon Him without measure (*John 3:34*).
3. The Father is just as willing to give you the Spirit without measure, but the limitations of your own heart will determine the measure of the Holy Spirit you actually experience.
4. In Jesus, God the Father had full access to pour in the Spirit without measure. In our lives, however, we are so often filled with emotional, intellectual, and spiritual clutter. Only brokenness can remove the clutter and make room for the Spirit.

5. This only comes when you behold the glory of God. In His Presence we become broken, we lack He does NOT.

R. D. Brokenness releases a sweet “ointment (*John 12:1–8*).

1. Before Mary could anoint the feet of Jesus, the alabaster jar had to be broken. Only then was the ointment available for use.
2. In a similar way, you must be broken before the ointment of the Holy Spirit can flow out from you. Unless you are willing to be broken and become “nothing,” God can never use you.

S. E. Brokenness prevents Satan from gaining a toehold in your life (*John 14:30; 17:14*).

1. The reason that Satan could never defeat Jesus was because there was nothing in Jesus but the Spirit of God. That meant there was no point whatsoever in which Satan could hold Jesus captive.
2. The devil wants you to indulge your old nature and be led by it. In this way, he can reach into your life and gain entrance, since nothing good resides within man’s natural, carnal nature (*Rom. 7:18*). Brokenness, however, forces you to look to God in a new, deeper way that does not permit casual playing around with the devil.

T. F. Brokenness is the mark of someone who has met with God (*Gen. 32:22–32*).

1. Jacob’s struggle cost him everything he was and everything he had, that is, his name and his strength. However, in God’s eyes, the night of Jacob’s wrestling with the angel was the defining moment of his entire life. On that night, Jacob met God face-to-face and yet lived to tell the tale. He was never the same, though, because he bore the mark of God in his body.
2. The new Jacob (Israel) now walked with a permanent limp, but this seeming weakness was actually his greatest strength. When you meet with God, you are touched by His power and overwhelmed by His holiness. You, too, are marked for life.
6. To know that God has examined your life and in His love spared you from what you deserve—that is true brokenness. Brokenness like that is not weakness. It is the very source of strength in your spirit. After such an encounter with God, things will never be the same again. There will be an emptiness—not nothingness or meaninglessness—that only God can fill.

U. II. Having a servant's heart is also very important in the kingdom of God.**A. A servant is one who is not his own master but rather serves another.**

1. If you want to know whose servant you are, look at what occupies most of your time, has priority in your heart, or takes most of your money. That is what you serve.
2. A servant of God is one who has dethroned himself and his interests and enthroned Jesus as Lord of all his life. In other words, he puts Jesus first, before anything else.
3. As a disciple of Jesus, you are expected to serve God only (*1 Cor. 4:1*). This means that you put God's kingdom first (*Matt. 6:33*) and do not serve riches, power, possessions or anything else (*Matt. 6:24*).

B. A servant of the Lord has certain easily recognizable traits.

1. **He seeks first the kingdom of God** (*Matt. 6:33*). Nothing else is as important to Him as serving in God's kingdom.
2. **He is servant of all** (*Matt. 20:26–28*). Greatness in the kingdom of God comes from a life of service to others. The servant of the Lord does not look for others to serve him, but looks to see how he can serve others.
3. **He looks to his Master for his reward** (*Matt. 25:21*). The servant of the Lord is not swayed by the opinions of others and does not need their approval. He works to please His Master, knowing that his reward comes from God.
4. **He serves others and in doing so serves the Lord Jesus** (*Matt. 25:31–40*). Nothing is too menial or lowly for the servant of the Lord, because He knows that service to others is service to Christ.
5. **He is willing to deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow the Master** (*Luke 9:23*). His life is one of surrender, sacrifice, and daily obedience to the will of God.
6. **He follows the example of Jesus in selfless acts of service** (*Luke 22:27*). His humility and lack of pride clearly show that he lives according to the example of Jesus.
7. **He knows that it is more blessed to give than to receive** (*Acts 20:35*). The servant of the Lord finds happiness in giving to others and putting their needs before his own. He is generous, selfless, and concerned about the welfare of others.

8. **He is faithful when entrusted with something.** (*1 Cor. 4:2*). To the servant of the Lord, there is no such thing as a “too small” task. He delights in serving and proves his faithfulness in the little things that others don’t want to do.
9. **He carries the burdens of others** (*Gal. 6:2*). He has compassion for the needs of others and puts his compassion to work in practical acts of service.
10. **He is humble, gentle, and patient, and he bears with others in love** (*Eph. 4:2*). He is not easily angered and does not take offense quickly. His life emulates the life of Jesus.
11. **He looks to the interest of others and not just to his own interests** (*Phil. 2:4*). He is genuinely concerned about others and is not self-absorbed.
12. **He wants to please the Lord in all he does**
(*2 Tim. 2:4*). Like a soldier in an army, he is single-minded. His one focus is to serve his master and please Him. This is the interior motivation that prompts him to a life of service to others.

Summary: To be great in the kingdom of God is to become a servant. That’s the example Jesus gave us, and that is our goal, too. When we allow the Lord to work character, perseverance, and maturity in us through the trials of life, we grow in Christ’ likeness. As we experience this breaking of self-will, we become less and less preoccupied with ourselves and more and more centered on the needs of others. We look to serve rather than be served, to love rather than be loved, and to give rather than to receive. Those are the marks of the Christian who has been broken before God.

V. Questions and Discussion Points

1. Does the way you live reflect your trust in God, or do you act like you need to give Him a hand running it?
2. If you single-mindedly follow God, does that make you narrow-minded? Explain.
3. If you die to self and live for God, how will that change your life on a daily basis? Why do some people have the mistaken idea that a life lived for God will be difficult, boring, and unfulfilled?
4. What in your life hinders God from filling you with the Holy Spirit to the measure He desires?

5. Examine your life. Do you put Jesus first in everything? Can you truly say that you have been crucified with Christ and that you no longer live, but rather Christ lives in you?

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Ephesians

*Use the **Study tool** as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.*

Notes on the passage: (24:14–15) Whom will *you* serve this day?

Spiritual Warfare

Session #3

~ ~ ◆ ✞ ◆ ✨ ◆ ✝ ◆ ✨ ◆ ✞ ◆ ~ BELONG ~ ◆ ✞ ◆ ✨ ◆ ✝ ◆ ✨ ◆ ✞ ◆ ~ ~

Key Verse: *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world”*

(1 Peter 5:8–9 NASB).

Key Scriptures:

- Ephesians 1:17–23; 6:10–18
- Revelation 12:10–11
- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- Luke 11:14–26
- James 4:7
- Colossians 2:15

Objective: The goal of this lesson is to teach the servant leader how to stand in the victory that Jesus has already won against Satan.

Introduction: When we are born again, we cross over from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God (or the kingdom of light). Once we served Satan (*John 8:42–47*), but now we serve God because He rescued us from the dominion of Satan (*Col. 1:12–14*). Satan is not pleased that we no longer serve him. In fact, he will try to do everything possible to get us to fall and come under his dominion again. For this reason, we must learn how to resist Satan’s advances and stand in the victory that Jesus won for us over Satan and his demonic forces.

We must also learn spiritual warfare in order to fulfill our commission to make disciples of all nations. The people in the world are under the power of Satan (*2 Cor. 4:4*) and cannot see the truth. Before they can come to Christ, we need to release the power of God for salvation to deliver them from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God.

We do not have to defeat Satan again. Jesus has already won a total victory (*Col. 2:15*); we just need to enforce that victory. As we engage in spiritual warfare, we enable God to use us to bring others into the light of God’s kingdom.

W. I. The spiritual battleground & two opposing sides.

A. One side is the kingdom of God.

1. This is the Church, who has been commissioned to take back what the enemy stole and reverse damage done. This is what we do through the authority of the name of Jesus. (*Mt. 28:18-19; Mk. 16:15*)

B. The other side is the kingdom of darkness. (2Cor. 4:4)

1. Satan and his angels' rebellion produced a kingdom set up in opposition to God.
2. Through Satan's enticing of Adam and Eve, sin entered the world. The devil continues, through sin, to draw all human beings into sin and his kingdom of darkness. Your own desires pull you away! In James 4:7, God says to resist the devil draw close to Him and He will draw close to you.
3. As Christians, our fight is against the strongholds or evil systems of thought, influenced by forces of darkness (*Eph. 6:12*), who are lead by Satan.

C. Who is Satan?

1. Satan is a real being (Luke 4:1–13), not just a figment of the imagination. Originally, he was a beautiful angel called Lucifer, but he was cast out of heaven because of his pride (*Isa. 14:11–15; Ezek. 28:12–17*).
2. The Bible uses many different terms to describe Satan.
 - a. He is called "your enemy, the devil" (*1 Pet. 5:8 NIV*).
 - b. He is "the tempter" (*1 Thess. 3:5 NKJV*).
 - c. He is "the father of lies" (*John 8:44 NIV*).
 - d. He is called "the ruler of the kingdom of the air" (*Eph. 2:2 NIV*).
 - e. He is also referred to as "the evil one" (*1 John 2:14 NIV*).
 - f. He is "the accuser of our brethren" (*Rev. 12:10 NKJV*).
 - g. He is "a murderer" (*John 8:44*).
 - h. He was first referred to as "the serpent" (*Gen. 3:1*).
 - i. He is also called "an angel of light" (*2 Cor. 11:14*).
3. At the present time, Satan's has access to the entire world system. (*1 John 5:19*) He is the ultimate source of sin, sickness, and death.
4. He has a kingdom of demons (*Matt. 12:24–28*) composed of evil spirits (*Luke 11:24–26*), or fallen angels (*Matt. 25:41*). These are intelligent, active beings that dwell on earth and in supernatural realms (*Eph. 6:11–12*).

5. Remember: The devil, or Satan, is not equal with God or even effective against God. He is not all-knowing or all-powerful. He can only have what he is given by us.

D. How does the enemy attack?

1. You cannot afford to be ignorant of Satan's evil schemes (*2 Cor. 2:11*). You must be aware that the devil is constantly out to destroy you (*1 Pet. 5:8*). He is clever and cunning in his tactics (*Eph. 6:11; Gen. 3:1–6*), and he will try anything at any time to pull you down.
2. The main battlefield is in your mind. Satan accuses (*Zech. 3:1*), deceives (*2 Cor. 11:14*), tempts (*1 Thess. 3:5*), and lies (*John 8:44*). He inspires evil thoughts, confusion, complacency, laziness, doubt, fear, despair, unbelief, and discouragement. He appeals to your fleshly desires and will try to entice you through idolatry, witchcraft, or other occult practices.
3. Satan also uses his fallen angels, called demons, to trouble and torment people (*Luke 13:10–16*).

X. II. You have been given victory over Satan!

A. Jesus overcame Satan!

B. This same Jesus who overcame Satan lives in you!

1. Jesus said that in His name, His disciples would drive out demons as part of their work for Him (*Mark 16:16–17*). Your strategy for warfare, whether for yourself or for others, consists of several steps.
 - a. First, you must recognize where God is at work and do as God directs you to do in the situation.
 - b. Then you will recognize Satan's activities. (*2 Cor. 2:11*).
 - c. Then, you reject his advances (*Eph. 4:27*).
 - d. Finally, you resist his attacks (*James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8–9*).
2. You can use your spiritual armor to defend yourself against the enemy.
 - a. The blood of Jesus cleanses you from all sin when you confess your sin to God and receive His forgiveness (*1 John 1:7–9*). The blood of Jesus also enables you to live in victory over Satan (*Rev. 12:11; Col. 2:15*). If you live in the blessing of this provision of God, Satan will not be able to gain a foothold in your life.
 - b. You must put on the full armor of God in order to stand your ground, regardless of what the enemy throws at you. Putting on this armor is like putting on the Lord Jesus (*Rom. 13:14*). The armor of God is described in (*Eph. 6:10–18*). Check to see if you are wearing your spiritual armor.

- (1) **Are you wearing the belt of truth?**—Do you live in the truth and in God’s reality? Jesus is the truth, dwelling in you and inspiring you to live a truthful life (*John 14:6*).
 - (2) **Have you put on the breastplate of righteousness?**—Are you living righteously before God? Jesus is your righteousness, inspiring you to righteous living (*2 Cor. 5:21*).
 - (3) **Are your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace?**—Are you fulfilling the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations? Jesus is the Prince of Peace (*Isa. 9:6*), and you carry His Gospel.
 - (4) **Have you taken up the shield of faith?**—Are you living a life of faith, trusting in God and knowing your victory over the enemy and your flesh? Jesus is the author and finisher of your faith (*Heb. 12:2*).
 - (5) **Have you put on the helmet of salvation?**—Do you know that you are born again and are a child of God? Jesus is the captain and author of your salvation (*Heb. 2:10*).
 - (6) **Have you taken up the sword of the Spirit?**—Do you know the Word of God and what it says about who you are in Christ? Jesus is the living Word, and He has given you His Word as an active weapon in your mouth (*Heb. 4:12; John 1:14*).
 - (7) **Do you pray in the Spirit on all occasions?**—Are you open to the Holy Spirit’s leading and prompting, and do you know how to pray effectively? Jesus gives you access to the Father, and you can therefore present things to Him in Jesus’ name (*Heb. 4:16; John 14:13*).
3. When Satan has someone in his grip or when he comes against you personally, you have the authority to not only defend yourself, but also to go on the offensive. These are some of the offensive weapons you can use:
 - a. The name of Jesus has power over everything in heaven and earth. Demons are subject to it and cannot resist it (*Acts 16:18; Phil. 2:9–10*).
 - b. The Word of God within you gives you strength to overcome the devil’s lies. It is a spiritual weapon, full of divine power (*1 John 2:14; Eph. 6:17*).
 - c. The power of the Spirit gives you victory over demonic attack (*Acts 10:38*). Without the presence of the Spirit, you will be weak and ineffective against the devil’s attacks.
 4. The victory is assured: “Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (*1 Cor. 15:57 NIV*).
 - a. Everything is placed under the feet of Jesus Christ because He rules over all (*Eph. 1:21–23*) and He gives His authority to all believers (*Matt. 10:1; 28:18–20; Rom. 16:20*).
 - b. Because you are born of God, you are kept safe (*Rom. 8:37–39*).
 - c. He who is in you, Christ Jesus, is greater than he who is in the world, Satan (*1 John 4:4*).

- d. There is overcoming power in the blood of Jesus and in your testimony of Him (*Rev. 12:11*).
- e. When you resist the devil and are submitted to God, the devil will flee (*James 4:7*).
- f. Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (*John 14:12 NIV*).

Y. Questions and Discussion Points

1. Why don't people in the world understand the truth?
(*See 2 Corinthians 4:4.*)
2. If Christ Jesus won such a complete victory for us, why do so many Christians seem to be living in defeat?
3. Why do you think Satan attacks people? If you are doing nothing for God, do you think Satan will still attack? Discuss.

Extra Home Study/ Reflection

1. Is there any area of your life in which you are allowing Satan a foothold?
2. Have you checked to make sure you are wearing all your spiritual armor? Put it on, and then stand and face Satan boldly. Don't ever run from him, remembering that the armor Paul wrote about had no protection for the back!
3. Do you live as a victorious child of God, overcoming Satan and all his wicked schemes? If not, why not? What could you do to more effectively walk in the victory that is yours through Christ?

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: 1 Thessalonians

Use the Epistles Study tool as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment. MAKE notes on the passage:

Entering Into the Vision

Session #4

~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦~ **BELONG** ~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦~

Key Verse: “And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams”

(Acts 2:17 NKJV).

Key Scriptures:

- Luke 19:10
- 1 John 3:8
- John 14:12
- John 20:21
- John 17:18

Objective: This session will help us to understand and embrace the vision of God to win souls for His kingdom.

Introduction: God has always had a vision for redeeming lost humanity back to Himself. He sent His Son to the earth to see this vision come to pass. When we become born again, this vision of restoration birthed in the heart of God becomes our vision. We become an integral part of His plan for winning the lost, but if we fail to walk in the divine vision, we fail to fulfill His plan for our lives.

Z. I. You must understand God’s vision for your life.

A. You are called to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ.

1. The Word of God teaches that the mission of Christ Jesus was twofold: to seek and save that which is lost (Luke 19:10) and to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).
2. Jesus said that you are to do the same works that He did (John 14:12). Just as the Father sent Him, so He sends you into the world (John 17:18; 20:21).

3. Therefore, you have the same life mission that Jesus had: to seek and save that which is lost and to destroy the works of the devil.

B. You are called to fruitfulness so that you might fulfill Christ's mission.

1. God's purpose in choosing you is so that your life might be productive for Him (John 15:16). He brought you into relationship with His Son so that you would manifest in your life the same features of fruitfulness that Jesus showed in His life (John 15:5–8).
2. As you fully appreciate your standing in Christ Jesus, you will be able to live free from the world (Rom. 7:4) and will start bringing forth the fruits of righteousness, love, and power.
3. There are five areas of fruitfulness that you should be demonstrating in your life as a disciple.
 - a. You should be growing in your development of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23). More and more, these qualities should be evident in your life.
 - b. Your mind should become more and more like Christ's as you train it to dwell on right thoughts and give access to the Holy Spirit's transforming power (Phil. 4:8–10; Rom. 8:5–8; Eph. 4:22–24).
 - c. Your deeds should bring honor to God and reflect a commitment to a life of service to God and His people (Col. 1:10).
 - d. You should be using and developing whatever spiritual gifts you have been given (1 Pet. 4:10; Rom. 12:4–6).
 - e. You should be fruitful in multiplying disciples (Acts 6:7).

C. You are called to support the “vision of the house.”

1. The term *vision of the house* refers to the specific vision that God has given the senior pastor of a particular local church. As a member of that local church body, you are to support the vision that God has given your pastor.
2. You are called to fellowship and community within the church and its vision (Acts 2:46–47).
3. You are called to walk in unity in the vision (Eph. 4:1–7).
4. You are called to walk in one accord with others, having the same mind (Phil. 2:2). In this way, there will be no discord in fulfilling the vision.
5. You are part of one body that is called to minister in unity under the anointing of Christ (Ps. 133:1–3).

AA. II. There are three main “enemies” that will keep you from entering into the vision.

c) A. *First is the enemy of fear and discouragement (Josh. 1:8–9).*

1. God has not given you the spirit of fear and intimidation. That is very clear from Scripture: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7 NKJV). If you find yourself fearful about being able to enter into the vision, know that that thought is not from God. It comes from the devil, who would love nothing more than to keep you from being fruitful in the kingdom of God.
2. The enemy will also try to use discouragement to stop you from obtaining what God has promised. However, if you keep your focus on the fact that God is with you regardless of any circumstance you face, you can persevere.

d) B. *Second is the enemy of passivity (Josh. 1:1–9).*

1. God commanded Joshua to arise and take possession of the land. Joshua had to put feet to his faith before he could see God’s promise come to pass.

2. If you are passive in your faith, you will never experience all that God has for you. You must assert yourself and act on what God has commanded you to do. Faith without corresponding action is really no faith at all (James 2:26).

e) C. Third is the enemy of carnality (Rom. 8:6–7 NKJV).

1. A carnal mind is one that is set on things that are worldly. The cares and pleasures of this world are more enticing to the person with a carnal mind than are the things of God.
2. You must set both your heart and mind on things “above,” not on things “beneath” (Col. 3:1–3). In that way, you will guard yourself against carnal thinking and actions subtly infiltrating your life.

BB. III. The vision has a divine, heavenly source.

f) The vision originates from the Father (John 3:16; 20:21).

1. The original vision to redeem the lost came from the very heart of God. He is the one who formulated and initiated the divine plan of sending His Son Jesus on behalf of the sins of all humanity.
2. His vision is your vision, and just as He sent Jesus into the world, so, too, does Jesus send you into the world. The vision to win the lost is not a manmade idea; it comes from the Father heart of God.

g) The vision grows and develops as you spend time in the Word of God (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:1–3; Rom. 10:17).

1. The more you meditate on the Word of God, the more He reveals to you how to walk in a lifestyle of fruitfulness. The Word of God will inspire, correct, and challenge you. You will never be fruitful without its preeminence in your life.
2. The Word of God will cause you to be successful in carrying out God’s design for your life. It will teach you right standards of conduct and keep your walk with God pure. It will keep you humble before Him and aware of your total dependence on Him.

h) The vision is imparted by the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6–9; 26:19).

1. Paul acted according to the revelation of vision that the Holy Spirit gave. His own plans were set aside when the Holy Spirit revealed different plans. This is what you

must do, too. No idea that you can come up with is better than the Holy Spirit's idea. Ask Him to give you His plan and vision, and then yield to it.

2. Paul was careful to obey the vision as given by the Holy Spirit. He embraced it and then fulfilled it. When you first embrace the vision in your heart and then begin moving in obedience to it, you soon find yourself actually fulfilling it!

CC. IV. You must actually enter into the vision!

A. Enter into the vision through the cross (Luke 9:23; 2 Cor. 5:14–16).

1. The cross is the crux of the Christian message and God's vision for the lost. At the cross, Jesus paid the ultimate price for sin when He willingly gave Himself as a sacrifice. The love that compelled Him to such action becomes yours as you embrace the cross and its message.
2. As a disciple, you are challenged to pick up your cross and follow Jesus. As you live daily in the shadow of the cross, surrendering your own plans to His, you will come to see God's vision for the lost. His vision will become your vision, and His heart will be your heart.

B. Enter into the vision through prayer (Matt. 6:6; 9:37–38).

1. Prayer is two-way communication with God. What God has to say to you is always more important than what you have to say to Him! As you spend time alone with Him, He will begin speaking His vision to your heart. Listen for it, and seek it in prayer until it becomes a reality to you.
2. Jesus knew the importance of prayer and thus directed His disciples to pray for workers in the harvest. Unless you are willing to be one of the workers in the harvest field, you will never receive the vision. Ask the Lord to send laborers into the harvest, and be willing to be one of them!

C. Enter into the vision through obedience (Mark 1:17, Luke 5:27; Heb. 11:6).

1. Jesus issued the call to follow Him to specific men He wanted to use in His work. Each one, however, had to make a personal decision to respond. Those who left all and followed Him were transformed into vessels for the Lord's service.
2. Faith and obedience go hand-in-hand. If you trust God, you will obey Him. Your obedience is simply a reflection of the faith that is already within you. Grow in faith and obedience to God, and you will grow in His vision.

D. Enter into the vision through unity (Phil. 2:1–2).

1. When you walk in unity and fellowship with others, you will accomplish greater things for God than you could ever accomplish alone. Your effectiveness is multiplied many times over. You need others, and they need you, too.
2. By walking in unity, you walk in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will bring you into a life of fruitfulness and anointing.

Summary: What a glorious vision God has given us! There is no greater honor than being allowed to be a part of His vision to redeem the souls of men. Jesus, of course, paid the price that made redemption possible, but we have a part to play in the process of winning the lost to Him. We must first embrace the vision within our hearts and then move in faith and obedience to walking out the vision on a daily basis. We cannot afford to get distracted with worldly pursuits or to be crippled with fear and discouragement. We are called to be active, bold participants in the divine plan of redemption.

Questions and Discussion Points

Note: Class 8b - Listen to and write a summary on "The Samson Syndrome" by Apostle Dale Yerton go to ChurchofthePromise.net go to the Infusion Course Page under the Belong Sessions.

1. What is the vision of God, and how does it relate to you and your life?
2. In what five areas do you need to be fruitful? Which area are you strongest in? Weakest?
3. Discuss how passivity hinders fruitfulness in the vision. What excuses do people sometimes give for not doing the things that God has commanded them to do? Why are these not valid?

4. Why is the cross so central to God's vision of winning souls and making disciples? Have you had a personal revelation of the cross? If so, how has it affected you?

5. Discuss the relationship between faith and obedience. Why can you not have one without the other?

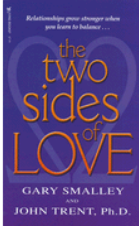
THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Malachi

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. Please use NAS, ESV, KJV or NKJV to read Malachi. It is the last book in the Old Testament so you will find it right before the 1st New Testament Gospel of Matthew. Malachi Opens with a declaration of God's Love for Israel as He refers them back to Jacob & Essau. There are many things to know about Jacob & Essau. This epic Battle between these two brothers is displayed in the writing of Malachi as God issues complaint with Jacobs descendants who are behaving like "Uncle Essau" rather than their father Jacob (Israel). He describes to them their loveless, dead religious activity. But its not all gloom and doom. There is great hope of the Spirit in this book even though it is before the out pouring of the Holy Spirit. He says, "take heed to your spirit, that you not deal treacherously". Also, The Bible is foretold as "the book of remembrance" and those who believe it are also embraced as the future for God's people. The book finalizes the last words of the Old Testament before the famed 400 years of silence with these words "the curse". Then the next book begins the New Testament Hope of the Gospel and Jesus comes to seek and save that which was LOST! After you study Malachi, you may want to go back and read about Abraham Isaac & Jacob in the book of Genesis.

Personality Designed by God

Session #5

~ ~ ◆ ✂ ◆ ✨ ◆ ✞ ◆ ✨ ◆ ✂ ◆ ~ **BELONG** ~ ◆ ✂ ◆ ✨ ◆ ✞ ◆ ✨ ◆ ✂ ◆ ~ ~



This session is adapted from Gary Smalley & John Trent's, Loving Lasting Relationships, video teaching series. And their book, "The Two Sides of Love"

DD. Discover Your Personality

In this session you will gain a perspective of your own design and How it is purposefully created to fit into the Kingdom of God.

- Discovering your unique personality
- Two sides of Love
- Submitting your personality to God
- Applying personality strengths to balance weaknesses

TEACHER: sprinkle funny stories from the book or your own experience as you teach this session. Be careful with time though. It will be a challenge to get through this in time. This is one session you really need to finish.

You may find your most consistent attributes are also heavily criticized & resisted. That resistance may have caused you to grieve & repent over and over for those traits, only to be met with failure. There is a reason that you have not been able to change them in your nature. They do not need repentance. They simply need to be yielded to the love leadership of the Holy Spirit. It is important for every person to be released to fulfill their purpose. For that to happen effectively, people must be celebrated for who they are and also celebrate the creative, diversity of God found in others.

Knowing your core personality & how to use it in its best setting, can free you to know how you can best serve others and function as part of a team on projects & flourish in relationships. It will help you precisely employ your strengths and place them in reserve when not in the best interest of certain situations. This information can help you readily begin to willingly walk in self-control and show great prudence and maturity. It is also helpful for you to find those who balance areas that are not strong for you, have realistic expectations from others with strengths different from your own.

Two Sides of Love

Two sides of love, the tender, soft side and the tough, hard side. The soft side prefers to walk in mercy and tolerance. The hard side prefers to walk in structure and discipline. Both sides are well represented in the Bible as being well balanced in the heart of God.

"Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God"

~Romans 11:22

The first part of this session will help you identify the side of love you most readily favor. In the cross both sides of Love are perfectly balanced. The Holiness is considered to be by most the 'hard side' of love. It is the part that required sin & man be destroyed. But there we also see the Mercy, 'soft side', of God's love in laying His own life down willingly to pay a price He did not earn. Righteous Mercy never denies the need or cost for holiness, it meets the price itself.

Finding Your Personal Balance points (Use this test in context in your relationship with spouse or those closest to you.)

Example:

Takes the Lead							Follower
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

If you tend to take the lead in your relationship quickly & consistently you would circle 1. If you tend to follow the others directions or wishes the majority of the time you would circle 7. Mark your total score with an "X" on the line below. Cross check your score with a loved one.

1. Takes the Lead								Follower
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2. Forceful								Undemanding
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
3. Energetic								Reserved
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
4. Strives to accomplish personal goals								Let others set your goals
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5. Be self controlled								Lack discipline
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6. Make quick decisions								Hesitant in decisions
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
7. Want to hear facts								Want o share feelings
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8. Be a motivator								Respond
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
9. Be highly competitive								Be noncompetitive
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
10. Be possessive								Share
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
11. Be assertive								Be shy
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
12. Express anger to others								Hold Anger inside
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
13. Resist correction								Be very teachable
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
14. Share opinions openly								Hide your true opinions
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
15. Function well under pressure								Function poorly under pressure
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

INFUSION	<i>Teachers Manual</i>							BELONG
16. Lecture a hurting person								Listen & console the hurting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
17. Hold grudges								Forgive easily
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
18. Set rigid standards								Set flexible standards
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
19. Be hard on others								Be soft on others
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20. Hard on problems								Soft of problems
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Scoring the instrument: Intensity Index								
The total of all the numbers circled = _____								
Hard side				Soft side				
20	40	60	80	100	120	140		

How did you do? Remember this isn't a pass-fail test. This evaluation simply shows your tendencies and traits. As you look at your charted score, you may see a blend of all four categories. That's fine. Or you may see two scores significantly higher than the others. Or you may have one category that's head and shoulders above the other three. No one pattern is "correct." Now take note of the right-hand column extreme for each of your circled characteristics. This might be how your positive traits are perceived by your family or friends.

How to Take and Score the Inventory

- 1. For each temperament type, circle the positive traits (in the left column) that sound the most like you - as you are at home. It will probably help to cover the right hand column as you take the inventory, to help you focus on the positives. Do not score yourself as you behave at work. (If you want to evaluate your "at work" tendencies, take the test again later, with that environment -- or any other - in mind.) For now, ignore the right hand column.*
- 2. For each trait, add up the number of circled traits (in the left column) and then double that number. This is your score.*
- 3. To graph your temperament "mix", mark your score for each temperament type on the graph with a large dot. If you want, draw a line to connect the dots.*

Discover Your Personality Strengths

Find your personality 'bent' and how it affects your relationships

In each box, circle each word or phrase that describes a consistent character trait of yours. Total the number circles and multiply by 2

L		O	
Takes charge Assertive Bold Enterprising Decision maker Goal driven Enjoys challenge	Determined Firm Purposeful Competitive Leader Self reliant Adventurous	Takes risk Motivator Fun loving Very verbal Enjoys change Group oriented Avoids detail	Visionary Energetic Likes variety Promoter Creative Mixes easily Optimistic
<p>"Let's Do it now"</p> <p>Total x 2 = _____</p>		<p>"Trust me! It will work out"</p> <p>Total x 2 = _____</p>	
G		B	
Loyal Even Keel Enjoys routine Good listener Sympathetic Nurturing Tolerant	Non-demanding Avoids conflict Dislikes change Adaptable Thoughtful Patient Deep	Deliberate Reserved Practical Factual Detailed Inquisitive Persistent	Controlled Predictable Orderly Discerning Analytical Precise Scheduled

Begin by taking the self assessment below. Follow the instructions given to get a score in each of the four boxes, then mark your score with a dot in each category column in the chart that comes after. Finally connect the dots with lines.

	relationships		
<p>"Let's keep things the same"</p> <p>Total x 2 = _____</p>		<p>"How was it done before?"</p> <p>Total x 2 = _____</p>	

Chart the totals from the preceding assessment on the following graph

1. Every child comes with an inborn Bent.
2. Learning to appreciate differences is crucial.
3. Lions need to learn People are more important than

Projects.

4. Otters love to network and don't like deadlines.
5. Golden Retrievers have a difficult time saying no and making needed decisions.
6. Beavers actually read Instructions.

Strengths Pushed to Extreme

30	L	O	G	B	Put a dot on the chart, under the each one of the letters for your total points from the previous page. Then draw a lines to connect them.
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
15	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
0	-	-	-	-	

It's like a fingerprint that shows your tendencies. Tendencies can change, unlike fingerprint

ints. Discovering your personality tendencies in relationships helps to show where your strengths and weaknesses exist. Each of us has these personality strengths in combinations which are variable and adjustable. They need to be brought into balance. Therefore, the goal of this session is to help you understand where you are “out of balance” in terms of your personality. We’ve found that our greatest personal strengths—when pushed out of balance—become our greatest weakness. For instance, let’s say that your strength is that you have tremendous enthusiasm, this becomes a weakness as your enthusiasm turns into manipulation.

Most of the time the very traits that have caused us the most grief are also our greatest strength simply pushed out of balance. As we look at the four personalities here, you will see that Christ has all four of them perfectly balanced. While as we grow more Christ like we too will balance and learn to appreciate the differences in others; it will be our core personality strength that will allow us to draw from and toward the other strengths.

Also these strengths can become great weaknesses unless they are fully submitted to the hand of God to put us into proper perspectives and proper position for greatest potential.

Lions “Let’s Do it now”

Discipline Hard/Tough side - Task oriented - Global

Are the decision makers. They thrive in setting goals, creating projects or making them happen. They readily accept challenges and responsibility. Lions are decisive and enjoy being in charge of efforts. When there is a lack of leadership, a lion will quickly take the lead. They see people and their skills as a resource to make things happen or an obstacle to prevent things from happening. Strategies flow from them.

What does a balanced Lion look like? Since Lions are naturally aggressive on problems, their greatest relational need is to add softness to their natural style to keep from being too hard on people in the process. Also, lions may need to learn that meaningful communication takes time. They need to slow down and discuss decisions with others, not simply charge ahead on their own.

Golden Retrievers "Let's keep things the same"**Discipline** Soft/Tender Side - Relational – Emotional well being

These are the couriers of mercy and faithfulness. They have the highest level of natural tolerance, if they believe you need it. They look for the broken and neglected to assist with words or actions. Tender-kindness flows from them.

Otters "Trust me! It will work out"**Discipline** Soft Side/Tender – Relational - Visionary

These are the networkers. They enjoy groups of people. The more the better. They are the entertainment & recreation people. They understand the need to play. They live life lightly and raise the pleasure factor for groups. They love lots of people. The more the better! They have a hard time with structure and details. They are "a party waiting to happen." Group socializing flow from them.

Beavers "How was it done before?"**Discipline** Hard side/Tender – Task oriented - Details

The details are tended to by these people. They thrive in and readily create structure. Quite time where they can scrutinize and analyze is their preference. They read the instructions and handle tedious jobs that strain others out. They do not enjoy multi tasking but instead like honing whatever craft they pursue. They look for quality not quantity. Accountants, engineers, craftsmen, librarians, computer programmers. They are the backbone of every system and invention.

Lion (Choleric/Dominance)

Strengths– Visionary, practical, productive, strong-willed, independent, decisive, leader

Un Balanced – Cold, domineering, unemotional self-sufficient, unforgiving, sarcastic, cruel

Otter (Sanguine/Influence)

Strengths– Outgoing, responsive, warm, friendly, talkative, enthusiastic, compassionate

Un Balanced – Undisciplined, unproductive, exaggerates, egocentric, unstable

Golden Retriever (Phlegmatic/Steadiness)

Strengths– Calm, easy-going, dependable, quiet, objective, diplomatic, humorous

Un Balanced – Selfish, stingy, procrastinator, unmotivated, indecisive, fearful, worrier

Beaver (*Melancholy/Compliance*)**Strengths**– Analytical, self-disciplined, industrious, organized, aesthetic, sacrificing**Un Balanced** – Moody, self-centered, touchy, negative, unsociable, critical, revengeful

Bringing Harmony to the Zoo

If a particular character trait of yours is too extreme, to the **point** that it irritates your mate or your children, you can decide to push that trait down and push other traits up. Let's take a closer look at the four different **personality types** and see what happens when our strengths are pushed out of balance:

Consciously work to become more aware of your natural tendencies. Go for a healthy balance, tempering any extreme problem area, focus on your strengths and learn to cultivate the strengths of less dominant personality traits. Appreciating the strengths of others will often make their strengths available to you. Working in teams where a spectrum of strengths is available can make for very productive and highly motivated environment when each person is doing what comes easiest to them.

What does a balanced Lion look like? Since Lions & Beavers are naturally hard on problems, their greatest relational need is to add softness to their natural style to keep from being too hard on people in the process. Also, Lions, Otters & Beavers may need to learn that meaningful communication takes time & investment to gain the greatest results.. They need to slow down and discuss decisions with others, not simply charge ahead on their own, or decide the ideas of others are irrelevant. Golden Retrievers & Otters may need to resist the impulse to trade off truth & fact for temporary emotional satisfaction. Otters need to learn the value of commitment to see a project or conversation through. Beavers need to allow others to be wrong and understand there may be another way and that they are not always right. Each of these things will happen easily as each recognizes their own personal need & the value of the other strengths.

If you find your strengths are strained out of balance, use them to counter balance themselves.

A Lion can use their strong decisiveness to 'self-control' and purpose to demonstrate more sensitivity in order to accomplish important goals.

The Golden Retriever can use their natural desire to bring consolation to resist 'yielding' to unrighteous habits for the benefit of others.

Otters can overcome their unwillingness to meet deadlines by counting the people they can entertain with as soon as they are done.

Beavers can use their sharp analytical skills to calculate the probability of really being right all the time.

Some suggestions for each personality type:

Lions: Be softer and more gentle and include others when making decisions.

Otters: Think before you speak, and consider consequences before you act.

Retrievers: Practice saying no and making firm decisions.

Beavers: Learn to relax and don't expect others to do things just like you.

For a more in depth study on personality development, please read *The Two Sides of Love*, Gary Smalley and John Trent.

EE. Questions for Discussion

1. If a person from each one of the personalities were employed as a Teacher;
 - a. What atmosphere would you expect their strengths to create in the classroom?
 - b. How could their personality work against their success?
 - c. Consider other occupations. How about a physician? A homemaker? Farmer? Store Manager? Nurse? Heavy equipment operator? Truck driver? Hair Dresser? Factory worker? Student? Pastor?
2. What's your greatest natural personality strength
3. What personality trait different from your own, attracted you to your spouse or other friend?
4. How can combining various personalities make a group stronger?

	The Lion	The Otter	The Golden Retriever	The Beaver
Relational Strengths	Takes Charge Problem solver Competitive Enjoys Change Confrontational	Optimistic Energetic Motivators Future Oriented Networker	Warm & Relational Committed Enjoys Routine Comforters Sensitive to Feelings	Accurate & Precise Quality control Discerning Analytical
Functional Strengths	Task Influence Project Directors Group Vocal Objector Multiple projects Easily disagree	Relational Influence Entertainers Group Multiple Interest Diverse Easy Adopter	Relational Soothers – consolers Conservators Individual Reliable Easily Agree Emotionally Flexible	Task oriented Developers Project manager Single projects Individual Slow Adopter Stable
Resistance	Vocal Objector Intimidation Tactics	Manipulate	Passive uncooperative Falsehood-flattery	Passive – Inflexible uncooperative
Strengths out of Balance	Too direct or impatient Too busy Cold blooded Impulsive (big risk) Insensitive to others	Unrealistic-daydreamer Impatient or overbearing Manipulator/pushy Avoids details Lacks follow through	Attract the hurting Missed opportunities Stays in a rut Sacrifice own feelings for harmony Easily hurt or holds a grudge Flatterers Enablers	Too critical Too strict Too controlling Too negative of new opportunities Lose overview
Communication Style	Direct or Blunt One-Way Weakness: Not as good a listener	Can inspire others Optimistic or enthusiastic One way Weakness: High energy	Indirect Two-way Great listener Weakness: Uses too many words to provide too many details	Factual Two way Great listener (task) Weakness: Desire for detail &

		can manipulate others		precision can frustrate others
Relational Balance	Add softness Become attentive to others ideas, feelings & views.	Be attentive to other's needs There is such a thing as too much optimism	Learn to say "no" establish emotional boundaries. Learn to confront when feelings are hurt	Total support is not always possible. Thorough explanation isn't everything.

5.

Lion

Temperament Characteristics

- Likes authority. Too direct or demanding
- Takes charge.....Pushy; can step in front of others
- Determined. Overbearing
- Confident. Cocky
- FirmUn-yielding
- Enterprising. Takes big risks
- Competitive. Cold blooded
- Enjoys challenges. Avoids relations
- Problem solver. Too busy
- Productive. Overlooks feelings; do it now!
- Bold. Insensitive
- Purposeful; goal driven..... Imbalanced; workaholic
- Decision maker. Un-thoughtful of others' wishes
- Adventurous. Impulsive
- Strong 'willedStubborn
- Independent; self reliantAvoids people; seeking help
- Controlling. Bossy; overbearing
- Persistent. Inflexible
- Action oriented. Unyielding

"Let's do it now!"

Otter

Temperament Characteristics

- Enthusiastic. Overbearing
- Takes risks. Dangerous and foolish
- VisionaryDaydreamer
- Motivator. Manipulator
- Energetic. Impatient
- Very verbal. Attacks under pressure
- Promoter. Exaggerates

Friendly, mixes easily.....	Shallow relationships
Enjoys popularity.....	Too showy
Fun loving.	Too flippant; not serious
Likes variety.	Too scattered
Spontaneous.	Not focused
Enjoys change.	Lacks follow through
Creative; goes for new ideas.	Too unrealistic; avoids details
Group oriented.	Bored with "process"
Optimistic.....	Doesn't see details
Initiator.	Pushy
Infectious laughter.....	Obnoxious
Inspirational.....	Phony

"Trust me! It'll work out!"

Golden Retriever

Temperament Characteristics

Sensitive feelings.	Easily hurt
Loyal.	Misses opportunities
Calm; even keeled.	Lacks enthusiasm
Non-demanding	Weakling; pushover
Avoids confrontations.	Misses honest intimacy
Enjoys routine	Stays in rut
Dislikes change.	Not spontaneous
Warm and relational.	Fewer deep friends
Gives in.	Co-dependent
Accommodating.	Indecisive
Cautious humor.	Overly cautious
Adaptable.	Loses identity
Sympathetic.	Holds on to others' hurts
Thoughtful.	Can be taken advantage of
Nurturing.	Ears get smashed
Patient.	Crowded out by others
Tolerant.	Weaker convictions
Good listener.	Attracted to hurting people
Peacemaker.	Holds personal hurts inside

"Let's keep things the way they are."

Beaver

Temperament Characteristics

Reads all instructions.	Afraid to break rules
Accurate.....	Too critical
Consistent.	Lacks spontaneity
Controlled.	Too serious
Reserved	Stuffy

Predictable.	Lacks variety
Practical.	Not adventurous
Orderly.....	Rigid
Factual.....	Picky
Conscientious.	Inflexible
Perfectionist	Controlling
Discerning.	Negative on new opportunities
Detailed.	Rarely finishes a project
Analytical.	Loses overview
Inquisitive.....	Smothering
Precise.	Strict
Persistent	Pushy
Scheduled.	Boring
Sensitive.	Stubborn

"How was it done in the past?"

*For a more in depth study on personality development, please read *The Two Sides of Love*, Gary Smalley and John Trent.*

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Acts 1-8

*Use the *Study tool* as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.*

Notes on the passage:

Motivation Designed by God

Session #6



Compiled By Charles Travis Jacksonville, Fla.

Discovering Your Motivational Gift

Use the Motivational Gift Test to help discover natural ministry bents.

I. Being Settled with Our Former Conflict With Heaven

What is our conflict? It is our self. "We have met the enemy and we are them," Until we can look in the mirror and be reconciled and accept the person looking back at us, there remains a conflict with heaven and with God Himself, (because He is the one who made us) will go on.

Psalm 100:3

Be okay with who God has made us to be! Learn to embrace and value the gifts and calling on our lives. Learn to love what God has made us to be.

A. Physical Acceptance

1. We are fearfully and wonderfully made, even with our perceived "defects". *Jeremiah 1:5*
2. We have limitations. God can and does work within our capacities.
3. Many abilities do not draw applause.
4. God has a purpose in His design. We must accept the unchangeable and work on what is changeable.

Psalm 139:16; Genesis 2:7; Job 10:8,9; Isaiah 44:2

Here's a list of ten unchangeable things. You can't do anything about them because it was out of your hands. There are also biblical examples to read.

B. Ten Unchangeable Features

1. Our Parents *Corinthians 1:2,3*
2. Our time in History *Esther 4:14*
3. Our Racial Background *Galatians 3:28,29*
4. Our National Heritage *Acts 25-28*
5. Our Gender *Genesis 1:27, Deuteronomy 22:5*
6. Our Birth Order *Genesis (Jacob & Esau)*
7. Our Brothers & Sisters *Genesis 50:20*
8. Our Physical

9. Our mental abilities *I Corinthians 12:9*
10. Our aging and death *Psalms 90:12*

C. Unchangeable Features in Christ Life

1. Parentage *John 1:46*
2. History *Matthew 2:16*
3. Race
4. Nationality *Luke 2:1-3, John 18:28-31*
5. Gender *Luke 3:23*
6. Birth Order *John 19:26-27*
7. Family *Mark 3:21, John 7:5*
8. Appearance *Isaiah 53:2*
9. Divine nature *John 8:58,59*
10. Death *Galatians 3:13*

These were all unchangeable features that Jesus had no control over that God used to fulfill prophecy and provide us with a Messiah.

II. Dealing With Deficiencies

God can overcome our physical handicaps, however in *2 Corinthians 12* we see the Apostle Paul wrestling with a handicap and God did not remove it but answered him that God's "grace is sufficient" and that "His strength is made perfect in our weakness."

A. Overcoming Satan's attacks

Satan wants to succeed at getting you to hate your body so that he can keep you in conflict with heaven, consciously or subconsciously. This will create insecurity, inferiority and grief in you and block the blessings of God from flowing in you. He hates God and because you are God's creation he hates you. You also are the temple of the Holy Spirit. *I Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:15* We also are powerful weapons against Satan's kingdom.

How we Overcome

1. Present your body to God. *Romans 12:1*
2. Yield your members as servants. *Romans 6:19*
3. Discipline your body daily. *I Corinthians 9:27*
4. Keep your body a holy temple *I Corinthians 3:17*

B. Steps to Self Acceptance

1. Accepting God's unchangeable design.
2. Receiving God's provision for your sin. *John 1:12*
3. Identifying with Christ victory over sin. *Colossians 1:27*

4. Allow removal of changeable hindrances.
5. Build Godly character into your life. *Romans 8:28,29*
6. Discover your spiritual gifting and use them
7. Reproduce Christ in others *John 5:8*

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

*“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit,
 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord,
 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”
 I Corinthians 12:4-6*

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*“The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the Glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen”*

*I Peter 4:10, 11*

**Seven Truths**

1. Everyone has received a gift *1 Corinthians 12:18,27*
2. The gift is singular, not plural
3. Some are speaking gifts
4. Some are serving gifts
5. All are used for others
6. All gifts Glorify God
7. God supplies the power to exercise the gifting

**The divine Tension to view Spiritual gifts through**

|                     |         |                          |
|---------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| <i>Psalm 139:14</i> | Balance | <i>Jeremiah 17:9</i>     |
| Fearfully Made      |         | Heart deceitfully wicked |

**i) MINISTRY GIFTS (Offices)**

- 1 Corinthians 12:14*
- Apostles
  - Prophets
  - Evangelist
  - Pastors
  - Teachers

**MANIFESTATION**

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Discernment

**MOTIVATIONAL**

- Prophetic
- Teaching
- Serving

Healing  
 Miracles  
 Faith  
 Prophecy  
 Tongues  
 Interpretation of Tongues

Administration  
 Giving  
 Showing Mercy  
 Exhortation

The **Ministry Gifts** are God working *by* people

The **Manifestation Gifts** are God working *through* people

The **Motivation gifts** are God working *in* people

## **j) I. The Ministry Gifts (Offices)**

The Ministry Gifts should keep the other gifts in balance. These are offices that are occupied by people with differing Motivational and Manifestation gifts

Using the hand as an example the ministry gifts are five-fold

1. **The Apostle/Thumb** - Relates to and affects all other ministries
2. **Prophet/Index** - "Points" to areas of need in the church and individual lives, gives direction
3. **Evangelist/Middle** - Reaches out the furthest to reach the lost and bring them in.
4. **Pastor/Ring** - the most intimate with the flock, the shepherd of His sheep.
5. **Teacher/Little** - Smallest but keeps the whole hand balanced, small enough to get into the ear!

## **k) II. The Manifestation Gifts**

The believer does not possess Manifestation gifts. They are the possession of the Holy Spirit. The believer is the conduit through which they are ministered at the discretion of the Holy Spirit.

*1 Corinthians 12:11*

| <i>Wisdom Gifts</i> | <i>Vocal Gifts</i> | <i>Miracle Gifts</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Word of Wisdom      | Prophecy           | Healing              |
| Word of Knowledge   | Various Tongues    | Miracles             |
| Discernment         | Interpretation     | Faith                |

While the FIVE FOLD is intended solely within the church, the manifestation Gifts may operate in a variety of circumstances.

## **l) III. The Motivational Gifts**

### **A. Prophetic** - The life of the Apostle Peter

1. The need to express thoughts and ideas verbally regarding right and wrong (Acts 2:14, 3:12, 4:8 and 11:4)
2. The tendency to make quick judgments and quick responses. Are generally Reactive
3. Can sense when something is not what it appears and reacts harshly to dishonesty



4. Desire to reject offenders for the cause of Justice and the warning of others.
5. Open about personal faults and failures, honest about self and others.
6. Impulsive and whole hearted in whatever is done.
7. Painfully direct in correcting others.
8. Open evidence of loyalty and total commitment.
9. Willing to suffer for doing what is right.
10. Persuasive in defining right and wrong.

**B. Serving** - The Life of Timothy

1. Ability to see practical needs and desires to meet them.
2. Enjoy serving to free others to carry out their field.
3. Not concerned with personal health or comfort.
4. Difficulty in saying "No" Gets easily side tracked.
5. Likes providing comforts and needs for others.
6. Desires clear instructions and appreciation for service rendered.
7. Desire to be with other people that need service.
8. Enjoys short range projects, is frustrated by long range goals.
9. Feels inadequate and unqualified for spiritual leadership.

**C. Teaching** - The Life of Luke

1. Needs to validate truth,
2. Validates "new ideas" by established systems of truth.
3. Likes credentials.
4. Desires truth in systematic sequence.
5. Delights in researching and giving as many facts on a subject as possible.
6. Emphasis on accuracy.
7. Alert to details often missed by others.
8. Remains silent until all details are heard.
9. Diligent and enduring.

**D. Exhorting** - The Life Of Paul

1. Motivated to urge people to full Spiritual maturity.
2. Can discern spiritual growth level and speak on that level.
3. Can give precise steps of action toward spiritual maturity.
4. Desire to explain truth with logical reasoning in order to gain acceptance.
5. Can visualize spiritual achievement and use to motivate others to action.
6. Desires face to face discussions to insure positive response.
7. Able to identify with people of all types and backgrounds.
8. Motivated to bring harmony between diverse groups of Christians.

9. Welcomes personal tribulation as a motivator for spiritual growth.

#### E. Giving- The Life of Matthew

1. Keen ability to discern wise investments.
2. Desires to give quietly without public notice.
3. Gives to the Lord and His prompting, not to man's appeals.
4. Wants to give gifts of high quality.
5. Test faithfulness and wisdom by how people handle money.
6. Content with true basics. Frugal in spending.
7. Interested in what others do with their money.
8. Sees financial needs others overlook.
9. Uses giving as a means of motivating others to give.

#### F. Ruling Administrator - The life of Nehemiah

1. Visualize the result of a major undertaking.
2. Can break down major goals into smaller projects.
3. Knows what resources are available to reach the goal.
4. Can easily avoid distractions and focus on goal.
5. Can endure reaction from others to reach an ultimate goal.
6. Needs loyalty from those being directed and being served.
7. Knows what he should and should not delegate to others.
8. Can inspire and encourage workers by cheerfulness, approval, praise and challenge.
9. Enjoys seeing all phases of a project come together.

#### G. Mercy - The Life of John

1. Can sense genuine love.
2. Need for deep friendships where there is mutual commitment.
3. Reacts harshly when intimate friends are rejected.
4. Greater concern for mental and emotional concerns than physical ones.
5. Tend to attract others who are in mental or emotional distress.
6. Measures acceptance by physical closeness and time together.
7. Desires to remove the cause of hurt rather than look for the benefit from them.
8. Attracted to those with the Prophetic motivation.

### (1) Using your Gift

#### FF. A. To Discover Blind spots.

When seeking counsel go to these gifts for clarity on these issues.

|          |                                                              |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prophet  | Reveal motives and actions that are unrighteous              |
| Server   | See needed areas of service and attitudes of un-gratefulness |
| Teacher  | Explain inaccuracies of statements or conclusions            |
| Exhorter | Pinpoint causes of problems and steps to a solution          |

|       |                                                         |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Giver | Reveal unwise use of assets                             |
| Ruler | Identify time misuse or bad procedure in meeting goals. |
| Mercy | Share areas of insensitivity                            |

## **GG. B. Fulfilling Responsibilities**

*Colossians 3:23* How can responsibilities be an expression of your motivational gift?

## **HH. C. Determining Priorities**

*Romans 12* instruct us to concentrate on our gift.

### **II. D. Delegating responsibilities & authority**

Knowing our gifts enables us to recognize the gifts others are equipped with. Delegating gives us the freedom to focus on our gifting and allows others to meet needs we are limited in.

### **JJ.E. Anticipating Responses**

Philippians 2:4 Knowing what the motivations of others are and learning to see situations from their view point will help us anticipate and understand their responses. We can then value the emphasis God is making through them.

### **KK. F. Edifying the Body of Christ**

We have a strong desire to see others Christians get the skills which we emphasize through our gift. As we learn how to share with them our motivation, we are expressing the love of Christ and perfecting His body.

### **THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: 1 Corinthians**

*Use the Study tool as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.*

Notes on the passage:

# What about Trials, Discipline & Tempering

## Session #7

~ ~ ◆ ✘ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✞ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✘ ◆ ~ BELIEVE ~ ◆ ✘ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✞ ◆ ❁ ◆ ✘ ◆ ~ ~

**Introduction:** Do bad things happen to Christians? It can seem so; however there is a difference in how the believer reacts to negative circumstances. Before you were thrown about by life's circumstances like a leaf caught in a funnel cloud. Now the Holy Spirit trains us to respond to circumstances like eagles respond to head winds and thermal drafts. He causes us to set our wings to rise.

### I. Trials

1. Trials come to the Christian same as anyone else.

*"Matthew 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

2. The difference for us is trials will not harm us. They actually make us better when we employ our faith and talk with God about them.

*"Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.."*

A. James admonishes us to think of it as a joyful thing when trials come because it will produce patience in us." *James 1:4*

B. When things that are unpleasant to our flesh (old nature) come into our lives it will have the effect of "crucifying" our fleshly desires. Trials will;

- **Expose weaknesses in our faith and character**
- **Weaken the flesh**
- **Train us in godliness**
- **Produce patience**

- **Strengthen our faith**

## II. HOW?

1. Know that you are not the first one to experience being “seized” by temptation. You are not alone. God has promised there is a way out!

***1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. -- New International*

### 2. Keep an Eternal perspective

***2 Corinthians 4:17** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

- A. The troubles of this life are temporary. How you spend the rest of your eternity depends on how you choose to respond to troubles in this life now.

***2 Corinthians 4:18** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

- B. You are making deposits into your eternal account. There will be rewards for your actions now.

***Matthew 6:1,2***

*1. Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.*

*2. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.*

- C. Remember your eternal life is invested in now and you must fight for it! Don't be so quick to give up.

**1 Timothy 6:12** *Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

D. Remember who fights for you. And consider the source of the problem. Are you battling a defeated foe? He will not win, you do. So don't let him trick you into letting go of the reward that comes from holding fast to your faith.

**Deuteronomy 33:27.** *The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.*

### 3. Sow Seed

Sow seeds of compassion, goodness, gentleness.

Reap the harvest of spiritual fruit of the Holy Spirit.

**John 4:36** *Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.*

The time to plant is when you recognize the need for a harvest. If someone's hurting you; then you need a harvest of mercy or compassion. Give and it will come back to you, pressed down, shaken together and running over! Has someone stolen from you? Then you need a harvest of righteousness. Sow seeds of doing the right thing no matter the cost!

#### **1 Peter 3: 14-17**

*14. But and if you suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are you: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;*

*15. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

16. *Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.*

17. *for it is better, if the will of God be so, that you suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.*

#### 4. God will give you what you need to prevail!

**1 Corinthians 11:32** *When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.*

**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.*

### III. DISCIPLINE

God corrects those that He loves

**Hebrews 12:5-7**

5. *And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,*

6. *because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."*

7. *Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?*

### IV. Tempering

We need endurance and self-control. Our father will turn bad things to our benefit as we yield to his training. We learn to hold on till the answer comes. We learn to trust no matter what circumstances bring. Our faith is strengthened as we trust his leading through the trial. It's like spiritual "Boot Camp." It won't last forever.

***“Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose..”***

**THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: 2 Corinthians**

*Use the Study tool as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.*

Notes on the passage:

**Answers:** Pg. 1 - joyful, patience





# Praise & Worship

## Session #8

~ ~ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ~ BELONG ~ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ~ ~

This Session will present the Biblical ideals for Worship.

Worship: outward expression of an internal connection with God

What we will discuss:

- ✠ The purpose
- ✠ The Tools
- ✠ The expressions

### I. The Purpose

- a. Everything God does has a purpose. Worship was prescribed not for God's sake but for ours. Worship opens our hearts and minds to perceive God as He truly is. It establishes communication between the visible and the invisible, the temporal and the eternal. It creates a place where the divine Creator connects to His mortal creation. When we connect with God through worship, miracles will take place in our hearts, affecting our lives with changes for our good.

### Lessons from Job:

Satan's motive was to crush Job's Worship

Job 1

*1 In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. **This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.** 2 He had seven sons and three daughters, 3 and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. **He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.***

*4 His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. **Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering***

*for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.*

As Heaven's out-casted worship leader, Satan attacked Job because Job worshipped God. He challenged Job's worship of God. He accused him of being shallow, materialistic and superficial. He said that Job only worshipped God because his following God's ways caused him to be such a blessed man. God allowed Job to be proved. His worship was not shallow and when he passed the testing, Satan had to restore and multiply everything he has touched.

### **Job's worship set his Children apart.**

While it is clear that Job did not have confidence in the faith of his adult children, his worship also proved to set them apart to some degree. Though their earthly lives were forfeited, we can note that God commanded everything Job had to be multiplied. But he only had the same # of children. It indicates that they were not 'eternally' lost. Not implying that you can do anything to procure salvation for anyone else, but that they are merely "set apart", just as a believing spouse "sanctifies" the unbelieving one.

### **Praise defeats & confuses the enemy.**

#### *Psalm 8:2*

*From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.*

Jesus quoted this passage also when the religious leaders were jealous of the worship being raised by children because of Him.

#### *Matt 21:16*

*"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?"*

God is omniscient, all knowing, omnipotent, all powerful & omnipresent, all present. Satan is a created being and is limited. He only knows what he happens to hear from you. He cannot hear your thoughts or silent prayer. So, if Satan attacks you and he hears anything about what he did to you, it should be praise to God. The last thing he wants you to do is praise God! If he makes an effort to defeat your praise but you praise God more not less, stronger instead of weaker; then he's not likely to mess with you! Send the devil running! Praise God in adversity! The devil will cross the street to avoid you!

**Psalm 118 :15** *The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.*

It's an automatic thing for a person who is fully connected to the Holy Spirit to respond to Him. Just as natural as a conversation with a best friend... The RIGHTEOUS are connected... Connected in prayer, worship, praise, faithful obedience. If you are connected you will respond! It's like being connected to live electricity and expecting to be perfectly still! It isn't going to happen!



## Tools for Praise & Worship

(Expressions of Worship)

### I. Music

**Psalm 33:2** *Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.*

### II. Raising hands

**Lamentations 2:19** *"Rise during the night and cry out. Pour out your hearts like water to the Lord. Lift up your hands to him in prayer, pleading for your children,"*

**Psalm 28:2** *Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place*

**1 Timothy 2:8** *In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy.*

### III. Shouts, singing, dancing, clapping

**Psalm 149:3** *Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp*

**Psalm 47:1** *For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm. Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.*

### IV. Words

Thanks, adorations, Bible verse meditations, Reports of victories, declarations of faith! Say it out loud, it is empowering. Remember the devil cannot hear your thoughts or silent prayer: so, say it loud and confidently so he can hear you and flee!

## V. Reverence

Reverence is sacred honor. Reverencing the sanctuary of God is a response to the presence of God. Treat the church grounds, especially the sanctuary as sacred. Sometimes these actions precede experiencing His presence. Showing honor for the things that are dedicated to God allows a person to easily experience His presence.

*Leviticus 19:30 Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the LORD.*

Show respect to the people who come to give honor to God. "Seeker friendly" efforts make attempt to make people comfortable in church. That can go too far and quickly turn into dishonor & irreverence. After all isn't making 'self' comfortable the primary occupation of every sinner? Of course dead religion isn't the answer either. Create an atmosphere where entertaining the Holy Spirit is the purpose, not people!

"Reverence for My sanctuary" happens when it is remembered who the "MY" is in this statement. It's your church, but it exists for HIM! Built for worship! So, come to worship! We need to keep God FIRST, not come to socialize, but seek & worship God, then fellowship.

### Worship makes the whole Church Stronger:

*I Cor 14:26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.*

The church is you and others like you. It is not the building but the people who come to this common place, to know Him and be known by Him, more & more.

It is a place where the miracle of God reaching from invisibility becomes clearly visible. What a marvelous thing.

*I found myself crying out from deep within my spirit for the knowledge of the fear of the Lord. I raised my voice, drawing together all my strength from within, and cried, "Father, I want to know and walk in the fear of the Lord!"*

*I had always seen the love of God as the foundation for relationship with the Lord. I quickly discovered that the fear of the Lord was just as foundational. ~John Bevere~*

**Isaiah 33:5-6** says:

*The Lord is exalted, for He dwells on high; He will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of Salvation and wisdom and knowledge; **the fear of The Lord** is the key to this treasure.*

### I. Wind from Heaven

Do you think the King of kings and Lord of lords is going to come into a place where He is not given due honor and reverence? Do you think the Master of all creation is going to speak when His Word is not respected enough to be listened to attentively? You're deceived if you do!"

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

*Void of God's presence: What does that look like?*

- A. People stand with eyes open and look at something or someone in the building.
- B. Many appear bored, their hands thrust into their pockets or hung heavy at their sides.
- C. Body postures and countenances give the appearance of a casual crowd waiting patiently for a show to begin.
- D. Some talk to one another, others roam the isles, wandering in and out of the auditorium.

This creates a spiritual atmosphere of heaviness, void of God's presence. His presence is certainly not there.

"Do you think the King of kings and Lord of lords is going to come into a place where He is not given due honor and reverence? Do you think the Master of all creation is going to speak when His Word is not respected enough to be listened to attentively? You're deceived if you do!"

The Lord NEVER comes where He is not revered.

The Spirit of God will arrest the people's attention by His Word. The Word of God will pound through the hardened shells of their hearts.

With repentance, comes the presence of the Lord.

Accompanied by:

- A. Sobs and cries from the crowd
- B. Cleansing and refreshing
- C. Intensified prayer
- D. Aftermath equals silence, reverence fear
- E. Sometimes, spiritual manifestations
  - a. Angels
  - b. Fire falling
- F. Restored respect for the presence of the Lord.
- G. Anointed worship

*In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.*

*Psalm 5:7*

All true worship is anchored in a reverence for His presence.

God says,

*"You shall...reverence My sanctuary: I am the Lord"*

*Lev. 19:30*

*Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory! Isaiah 6:3*

We have sung these exact words in our churches in hymn form. Yet often our praises ring void of the passion found in the angels. You can see people yawning or glancing about as they sing the words. Oh, how different is the atmosphere in God's throne room!

These mighty angels are not bored or restless; they are not merely singing nice songs. They do not say, "God, I have been singing this song before your throne for millions of years; do You think a replacement could be brought in? I would like to go explore the other parts of Heaven." No way! They would not desire to be anywhere else but crying out and singing praises before the throne of God.

These spectacular angels are not merely singing a song. They are responding to what they see. Every moment, through veiled eyes they glimpse another facet and a greater dimension of God's glory being revealed. Overwhelmed, they shout, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" In fact, their combined cry is so loud that the posts of the door are shaken by their voices and the entire room is filled with smoke. Wow, it's one thing for sound waves to shake a natural building here on the earth, but it is quite another matter to shake the doorposts of heaven's architecture! These angels have been around God's throne for untold ages, for time immeasurable. Yet they experience a perpetual revelation of God's power and wisdom. His greatness is truly unsearchable.

### Questions for Discussion

**THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Philemon**

*Use the Study tool as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.*

Notes on the passage:





# The Mystery of Grace

## Session #9



This session will take a fresh look at Grace. Often quotes but seldom taught in the full context of the New Testament. In this session we will explore three questions.

1. What is Grace?
2. How do we get it?
3. What do we do with it?

### The Mystery of Grace

John 1:16 The Apostle John writes, 'And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace' (John 1:16). Here is the point that so many miss today due to incomplete teaching: John connects receiving the *Fullness of God's nature* with *Grace*. Grace is God's unmerited gift that not only saved us from eternal damnation but also gave us His characteristics. One aspect of grace is just as real as the other, and it was all provided the moment we were saved.

–John Bevere

#### m) What is Grace?

Do you see yourself as just a sinner saved by grace or a son or daughter of the most high God who is forgiven because of grace and made a part of God's family? Is grace just a cover up for your defiled state? Just a thin veneer that does nothing to change the inside? Traditionally, the church has taught us:

Grace is when we get, what we don't deserve  
 Mercy is when we don't get, what we do deserve

**Grace and Mercy are very different.**

We don't play Basketball by football rules  
 We don't apply Grace to Mercy's Rules or Mercy to Grace's Rules

Heb 4:16

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

*Mercy covers up failure,*

**Grace gives us power not to fail!**

**Romans 16:25**

*Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past.*

**Ephesians 3:3**

*that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.*

**Ephesians 3:4**

*In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,*

**Ephesians 3:9**

*and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.*

**Colossians 2:2**

*My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,*

**Colossians 4:3**

*And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.*

**1 Peter 1:3,4**

*<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

***1 John 4:7** As He is So are we in this world*

*Ephesians 3:19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

***Psalm 84:7** They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.*

***Ephesians 1:23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

***Ephesians 4:13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **\*mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. *\*(Mature, Whole, Perfect)**

***Colossians 1:19** For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,*

## Commands of God

|                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Old Testament</p> <p><i>LAW</i></p> <p><i>Proved Sin</i></p> <p>Expected to fail</p> <p>Not Able to be perfected</p> | <p>New Testament</p> <p><i>SPIRIT</i></p> <p><i>Defeats Sin</i></p> <p>Expected to live it</p> <p>Able to be perfected</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### How do we get it?

New Testament Grace is stricter, Accuses more severely, because Grace EMPOWERS!  
 YOU HEARD but I SAY!

Law brings Judgment against the The ACT

Grace brings freedom from THE DESIRE that produces THE ACT

The Act \_\_\_\_\_ The desire \_\_\_\_\_

**Murder**

*Matt 5:21-22*

*21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.*

The Act \_\_\_\_\_ The desire \_\_\_\_\_

**Adultery**

*Matt 5: 27-28*

*27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery. 28. But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

The Act \_\_\_\_\_ The desire \_\_\_\_\_

### Marriage

*Matt 5:31-33*

31. "It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce. 32. But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

The Act \_\_\_\_\_ The desire \_\_\_\_\_

### Oaths

*Matt 5:33-34*

33. "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' 34. But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35. or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

The Act \_\_\_\_\_ The desire \_\_\_\_\_

### Love for Enemies

*Matt 5 43-45*

43. "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44. But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45. that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47. And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

## PERFECTION Provided for!

Perfection means to be made complete or mature. The scripture tells us we are to achieve this in this life. We would know there was something wrong with a child who never turned into an adult. It is the same for an Christian who never reaches maturity. And more than this. The scripture compares our perfection to God's.

**Matt 5:48** 48. Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

## What do we do with it?

You are wise to do the "should be",

You are foolish if you don't do the "Must be"!

Words are Seeds!

Grace's empowerment is transferred through words!

Mark

7:13

Thus you nullify (*cancel, making void, invalidating, destroying*) the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

## Authority in the Word

### *Romans 6:14*

*Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.*

(Message Bible- "Sin can't tell you how to live")

*Stubbornness, insubordination, selfishness, hatred, bitterness, addictions, ALL SIN has lost its power over you!*

### *1 John 2:1*

*My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

## NO FALSE FLATTERY JUST TRUTH!

Since our words are connected to how we are able to be freed from sin's grasp, it is vital that we understand that our words must never be used to "cover up" sin and its vile depravity!

Flattery must never be part of our manner. We should not serve the fear of man, but rather the fear of God, both for their sake and our own.

### *1 Corinthians 2:13*

*This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.*

### *Ephesians 6:13-15*

*13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.*

When the apostle Paul describes the armor of God, he is talking about more than a simple set of helpful tips. He is talking about the impregnable defenses of the Almighty God. These are keys to with-standing the attacks and onslaughts of the great dragon of old, Satan the devil. They are ultimate and infinitely powerful tools available to us as Christians.

And he chooses to begin describing that set of armor by talking about...a belt?

Why, of all things, a belt? He could have started with the mighty sword of the Spirit, the towering shield of faith, the shining breastplate of righteousness—anything but some measly old belt. But he didn't. So that begs the question—why?

What was the belt used for in the Roman army?

The belt—known as the *cingulum* or *balteus*—played a crucial role in the effectiveness of a soldier's armor. It was the belt that held the scabbard, without which there would be no place to put a sword. Imagine an overzealous soldier, fired up and charging out into battle—but without his belt, and consequently without a weapon!

In addition, the Nelson Study Bible says from the belt "hung strips of leather to protect the lower body."

The Matthew Henry Commentary says the belt "girds on [secures] all the other pieces of our armor."

Truth should cleave to us as a belt cleaves to our body!

God desire is for us to SPEAK His TRUTH empowered by His  
might also come to know the power of this GRACE!

GRACE so that others

Questions for Discussion:

**THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Revelation 1-3**

*Use the Study tool as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.*

Notes on the passage:



# Experiencing God as your Provider

## Session #10

~ ~ ◆ ✠ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✠ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✠ ◆ ~ **BELONG** ~ ◆ ✠ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✠ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✠ ◆ ~ ~

### 1. Biblical Financial Stewardship

Tithing, Debt, Prosperity, Poverty, Biblical blessing & curses

*"You should have money but money must never have you."*

-Jesse Duplantis

EXPERIENCE GOD AS YOUR PROVIDER

*Finding Financial Stability in unstable Times*

Brian KLUTH with Stan Guthrie

Contents

**Recognize Gods provisions Receive God's principles**

God first principle

Protection principles

Positive Principles

Eternal principles

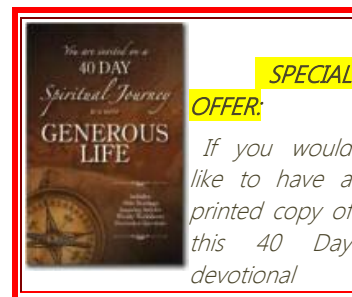
**RESPOND to God's Plan**

Change your heart

Change your giving

Change your life

Change your future



#### (a) God is the Owner of everything

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 *"Everything in heaven and earth is yours (O Lord)...Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things."*

Psalms 50:10-12 *(God says) "Every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills...and the creatures of the field are mine...the world is mine, and all that is in it."*

Haggai 2:8 *"The silver is mine and the gold is mine," declares the LORD Almighty.*

Leviticus 25:23 *(God says) "The land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants."*

1 Chronicles 29:14-16 *(David's prayer after people gave generously to a building project) "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our*



*forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. O LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you."*

Psalm 24:1 *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.*

If we belong to Christ, it's logical that everything we have truly belongs to Him. When we give to God, we are just taking our hands off what already belongs to Him

- Your Job
- Your unexpected provision
- Your resources
- Your response



**(b) God is the Provider of every good thing in your life.**

James 1:17 *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.*

Ephesians 1:3-4 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

Matthew 7:11-12 *If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him.*

2 Chronicles 1:11-12 *Since you [Solomon] have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I [the LORD] will also give you wealth, riches and honor.*

Proverbs 8:18-22 *(God says) "Unending riches, honor, justice, and righteousness are mine to distribute. My gifts are better than the purest gold or sterling silver! Those who love and follow me are indeed wealthy. I fill their treasuries."*

Isaiah 26:12 *All that we have accomplished you [Oh LORD] have done for us.*

**As thunder follows lightning, giving follows grace. When God's grace touches you, you can't help but respond with generous giving. Randy Alcorn**

**(c) Give to God what's right--not what's left.**

**Your role is to be the trustee, manager and steward of 100% of what God entrusts to you during your lifetime.**

Colossians 3:17, 23-24 *Whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus....Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

Romans 14:7-8 *None of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.*

Matthew 25:19-21, 24-26 *"After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of gold said, 'Sir, you gave me five bags of gold to invest, and I have doubled the amount.' The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!...' "Then the servant with the one bag of gold came and said, 'Sir, I know you are a hard man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth and here it is.' "But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant!"*

1 Corinthians 4:2 *It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.*

It has been reported that Martin Luther said, "People go through 3 spiritual conversions:\The conversion of their head, their heart and their pocketbook. Unfortunately, not all at the same time." Have you gone through all 3 conversions yet?

### **NBC TV reporter asks, "Does God want you rich?"**

After my [40-Day Spiritual Journey to a More Generous Life](#) book became an unexpected bestseller, I was contacted by NBC to do a TV news story. When the TV reporter interviewed me, she asked, "So, you think God wants everyone rich?" I said, "No, I don't believe that." She was a little surprised by my answer and then asked, "Well, what do you believe?" I responded, "I believe that everyone needs to learn to become more generous with whatever God has given them." She then asked, "Well, didn't your book becoming a bestseller make you rich?" I replied, "No, it helped me become more generous!" The truth is--every one of us in America is rich when you compare us to the rest of the world. What each of us needs to learn is how to become more generous with whatever God entrusts to us.

### **(2) Practical Advice about Giving**

Here is some practical advice for people who have questions, doubts or fears about giving to the Lord's work.

#### **1. If you are NOT a Christian:**

Don't worry about giving to God. Instead, realize and accept what God wants to give to you -- complete forgiveness, a brand new start, the power to be good and to do good for others, help for your problems, the ability to forgive, and a home in heaven. If you

recognize your need for these things, pray and invite Jesus Christ to bring these things into your life.

**2. *For all Christians:***

Always make it a priority to faithfully support the work of your local church first. Then give special gifts and offerings to other Christian causes, projects, missions or the needy as God leads you.

**3. *If you're fearful about giving 10% or more of your income to the Lord, try a 90-day test:***

In Malachi 3:10 God invites people to "test Him" in the matter of tithing (giving the first 10% of your income to God's work). Therefore, I encourage people to try a 90-day test. Begin giving 10% of your income to the Lord's work and watch and see if God does not begin working in your life in ways you haven't previously experienced. If you regret that decision OR if you feel you never experienced God's divine help in your finances during this time period, then discontinue the test. However, if you experience God's help, joyfully continue giving 10% or more to the Lord's work.

**4. *If you want to begin to actively give to God FIRST:***

Here are four different ideas to choose from: (1) Whenever you get any money, set aside 10% or more to give as the Lord directs. (2) Whenever you put a deposit in your checkbook, write out the first check(s) to God's work for 10% or more. (3) If you track your finances through a bookkeeping system or computer program, set up a category for church giving and another one for other Christian causes. Then begin to faithfully set aside 10% or more of your income into these accounts. (4) If you like to handle your finances electronically, consider using [www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org) or the electronic giving option from your church (if available) to faithfully give 10% or more to the Lord.

**5. *If you are married to a Christian, but the two of you do not agree on how much you should give to the Lord's work:***

See if your spouse will read through this material. Then talk and pray together about a mutually agreeable "testing period" concerning your giving 10% or more.

**6. *If you are married and your spouse is not a Christian:***

Identify any money you have freedom to spend (read Luke 8:3) and set aside 10% or more of this money to give to the Lord's work AN D/OR show this material to your spouse and see if you can try the 90-day testing period.

**7. *If you are deciding whether to give off the gross or the net of your income:***

Pray and ask God what He wants you to do. If He prompts you in your heart to give off the gross amount, go ahead and do this, trusting Him with the results. If you don't have a peace about this, begin giving 10% off the net amount for a few months and see what happens. After a few months, if you experience God's creative care in your life, then begin to give 10% or more off of your gross income.

**8. *If you're wondering about how much to give to your church and how much to give to other places:***

A good practice I have used is to give 10% of my main source of income to my local church (i.e. my main income goes to support the work of my main source of Christian fellowship and teaching). Then, I use 10% or more of all other incomes sources and

unexpected blessings to help fund other Christian needs and opportunities that God brings into my life.

**9. *If you have children at home:***

Help your children set up a place where they can set aside “God’s portion” of any money they receive (i.e., allowances, work projects, gifts of money, etc.). Have them give at church, to missions, and/or to help people in need.

**10. *If you have “fallen behind” in your giving to God’s work:***

If you knowingly or accidentally have fallen behind in your giving to God’s work, you will never regret the decision to “get right” in this area. Review your financial records from the past several months and pray about “making up” the amount you have fallen behind. One elderly lady in her 90’s I heard about sent a tithe check to the church office with the note, “I want to be prayed up, paid up, and ready to go!”

**LL. Count Your Blessings**

*A pathway to more joyful and generous giving and living*

A number of years ago, I discovered a wonderful verse in I Corinthians 16:2, “On the first day of each week let each of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper.”

At first, I didn’t understand how the verse could apply to my life. But my wife and I began a Sunday evening practice of “looking back and writing down” how God provided for us in the previous seven days. Each week, we discovered there were many ways that God provided for us outside of our normal income. We began giving 10% of my main income to our local church and we then started a “Blessings Fund” that represented 10% or more of the myriad of blessings God creatively brought into our life week by week.

At the end of the first year, even though my main income only brought in \$15,000; I discovered we had given \$1500 to our local church and an additional \$2500 out of our “Blessings Fund” to other Christian causes. This meant that God had blessed us with \$25,000 of blessings during the past year that was over and above my \$15,000 salary!

We did this for several more years and discovered that each year God doubled and tripled what we were able and willing to give to the Lord’s work because we counted our blessings. Here are the lessons we learned and practiced that helped us live a more joyful and generous life:

1. ***Plan a time each week*** where you will begin to write down God’s provisions from the previous week in a “Blessings Notebook.”
2. When you meet together, ***think back*** over the following areas and write down anything that comes to your remembrance:
  - ***Main Income?*** If you were paid during the week, write down that amount. For us, we gave 10% of this amount to our local church.
  - ***Additional Income or Unexpected Cash?*** Write down any cash gifts, overtime pay, bonuses, second salary, moonlighting, investment returns, sale of any possession, refunds, inheritance, etc.

- **People's Hospitality?** Meals, lodging, or entertainment that others gave to you or paid the cost.
  - **Special Help or Assistance?** Help with car, house, equipment repairs, free babysitting, etc.
  - **Discount or Sale Items?** Any money saved on discounted clothing or household items, garage sale/thrift shop savings, discounts on recreational activities, etc.
  - **Purchase of New Possessions?** When my wife and I were buying a major item or a luxury item, we sometimes included the cost of these items in our blessings fund in order to give an additional 10% or more to the Lord's work.
3. **Write down** the financial value for each item OR (very important) write down the amount you WOULD HAVE BEEN WILLING TO SPEND for the item. For example: A family member gave me a \$1000 radial arm saw. I would have never been able or willing to afford a \$1000 tool like this, but I might have "been willing to spend" \$200 on a used radial arm saw at a garage sale. So, in this example, I put down the value of the blessing at \$200 (not \$1000). Therefore I ended up giving an extra \$20 to the Lord's work, not an extra \$100.
  4. **Add up the value** of the total number of blessing items for the week and take 10% or more of the total and decide where to give it OR set aside the week's amount in your notebook or put the money in a special place or account and consider this your "BLESSINGS FUND".
  5. **Faithfully give** your church 10% or more of your main income. Then begin to joyfully and generously use your "Blessings Fund" to help support missions, missionaries, special projects and needs, building programs, the needy, Christian workers and organizations.

#### **4-Week Challenge:**

*I am confident that the LORD has been blessing most people's lives week by week. But most people don't "see" the blessings because they don't take time to "look back over the last seven days to see what God has done to provide for them." Because of this, I challenge you to try this for at least four weeks to see what God is doing for you! I believe it will truly lead you to a more joyful and generous life!*

#### **(a) 10 Biblical Reasons to Give 10% OR MORE of Your Income to the Lord's Work**

As materialism and consumerism have continually infiltrated our lives in recent decades, many people have drifted from any biblical moorings concerning their Christian giving. Here are 10 biblically-based reasons to make giving 10% or more of your income your highest financial priority in life.

- 1. It is a proven pattern of giving done by Christ followers for many generations.** In 1899, a bibliography was compiled of books related to systematic Christian giving. There were over 500 books listed in this bibliography from over 100 years ago, and yet many Christians today do not understand the importance of faithful giving. Scriptures: *Genesis 14:17-20, 28:16-22, Leviticus 27:30, Proverbs 3:9-10, Malachi 3:7-15, Matthew 23:23*
- 2. It will help you reverence God more in your life.** If you showed me your check book records, I would be able to quickly tell you who or what you feel is important. By giving the best of what you have been given to God, you are expressing your allegiance to Him and you will grow in your respect for the Lord and His working in your life. Scriptures: *Deuteronomy 14:23, Malachi 1:6-8*
- 3. It will bring God's wisdom and order to your finances.** If I get dressed in the morning and get the first button out of place on my shirt, all the rest of the buttons will be messed up. When it comes to finances, the first button to get in place is your giving. When you get this area in order, everything else follows. Giving is also the only known antidote for "influenza" (the desire for more things) that permeates our world today. Scriptures: *Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34; Luke 12:16-21, I Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19; Ecclesiastes 5:10*
- 4. It will serve as a practical reminder that God is the Owner of everything in your life.** By faithfully giving the Lord 10% or more of all you ever receive, you are actively acknowledging His ownership in your life. As someone once told me, "God owns it all and God loans it all." We are not owners, only temporary possessors and managers of what God entrusts to us during our lifetime. Scriptures: *I Chronicles 29:11-18, Psalm 24:1-2, 50:10-12, Haggai 2:8*
- 5. It will allow you to experience God's creative provisions.** One of the most amazing things about learning to faithfully give to the Lord is the joy so many people have experienced in receiving unexpected blessings in their lives. When you acknowledge God's ownership through your generous giving, you begin to experience His creative provisions in amazing ways. Scriptures: *I Kings 17, Proverbs 3:9-10, Malachi 3:7-15, Haggai 1:4-11, 2:15-19; Luke 6:38, Deuteronomy 28, Philippians 4:15-19, Mark 12:41-44*
- 6. It will encourage your spiritual growth and trust in God.** There will be times when you will decide to be a faithful giver of what is in your hand, even when you have no idea how you will make it through the coming day, week, or month. But by going ahead and giving to God, your trust in the Lord will grow and you will grow in your ability to see Him provide. Scriptures: *Deuteronomy 14:23, Proverbs 3:5-6, Malachi 3:8-10, Haggai 1:4-11, 2:15-19; 2 Corinthians 8:5*
- 7. It will ensure you of treasure in heaven.** Jesus encourages you to store up treasure in heaven. The only way to do this is to live generously now. Someone once said, "We can't take it with us, but we can send it on ahead." Scriptures: *I Timothy 6:18-19, Matthew 6:19-21, Hebrews 6:10, III John 8, I Samuel 30:22*

- 8. It will strengthen the work of your local church.** Many churches struggle for lack of finances. However, when people in a congregation gain a vision for being faithful givers to God at their local church, the whole spirit of a church begins to change -- needs are met, people are cared for, more outreach begins to take place, and long-awaited improvements start to happen. God-given momentum builds as people honor the Lord through their giving at church. Scriptures: Acts 2:42-47, 4:32; 2 Corinthians 9:12, 13
- 9. It will help provide the means to keep your pastor(s) and missionaries in full-time Christian service.** It has always been God's plan that his servants are taken care of by his people. Across America and the world, many pastors and missionaries are struggling financially or are even leaving the ministry because of a lack of adequate finances. Your faithful giving can make sure this doesn't happen among the pastors or missionaries you know. Scriptures: I Corinthians 9:9-11,14; I Timothy 5:17-18, III John 5-8, Philemon 4:15-19, Galatians 6:6, Luke 8:3, II Kings 4:8-10
- 10. It will help accomplish needed building projects and renovations.** Some of the most exciting times in the life of a church or ministry occur when facilities are being improved or expanded. But for building projects to succeed, large extraordinary gifts are needed. Building projects only happen well with special gifts that are "above and beyond" people's normal giving. Scriptures: 2 Chronicles 24:4-14, Exodus 35,36; II Kings 12:2-16, Ezra 1:4-6, I Chronicles 29:2-19

### There are dangerous consequences if you live for pleasure.

**Proverbs 21:17** *He who loves pleasure will become poor.*

**Galatians 6:7** *If a man sows to please his own wrong desires, he will be planting seeds of evil and he will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death.*

**Ecclesiastes 2:10-11** *I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure...Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless.*

**Ecclesiastes 7:4** *A fool thinks only of having a good time now.*

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** *There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, ...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--having a form of godliness but denying its power.*

**1 Timothy 5:6** *The widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.*

**Proverbs 23:20-21** *Don't carouse with drunkards and gluttons, for they are on their way to poverty. And remember that too much sleep clothes a man with rags.*

**Luke 15:13** *The younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.*

**Your use of money shows what you think of God.**

*You cannot serve God “and” money*

***but you must learn to serve God “with” money.***

**Luke 16:11-13** (Jesus said) “So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?...No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”

**Proverbs 10:16** The good man’s earnings advance the cause of righteousness. The evil man squanders his on sin.

**Matthew 6:19-21** (Jesus said) “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.”

**Proverbs 16:16** How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!

**Proverbs 17:16** Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?

**1 Corinthians 4:2** It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

**The world asks:** “*What does a person own?*”

**God asks,** “*How is the person using what they have been given?*” *A Christian is one who does not have to consult his bank book to see how wealthy he really is.*

Questions for Discussion:

**THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: Acts 9-17**

*Use the Study tool as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.*

Notes on the passage:





Session # 1 1



MM.

**NN. Introduction:**

Welcome home! That is to your new home in the Kingdom of God! You have been rescued, returned to your real home and placed safely under the authority and reign of the King of all kings and Lord over all lords. Our Savior, King Jesus. You are no longer a citizen of the kingdom of darkness, where a false king rules, and had illegally set up his reign over you & others. The Kingdom of Darkness that you have been rescued from was set up for the sole purpose of bringing about your destruction. That evil kingdom rules by disrespect, dishonor & chaos.

As a new citizen God has given us the Holy Spirit to help, because you do not know what you do not know. Much of your thinking will still be from the corrupt system of the world and must be abandoned. He is your counselor, teacher, and mentor. As the Holy Spirit renews your mind, He will reveal to you areas that you are still in agreement with in that system. He will use the Word of God to cleanse you from unrighteous thinking.

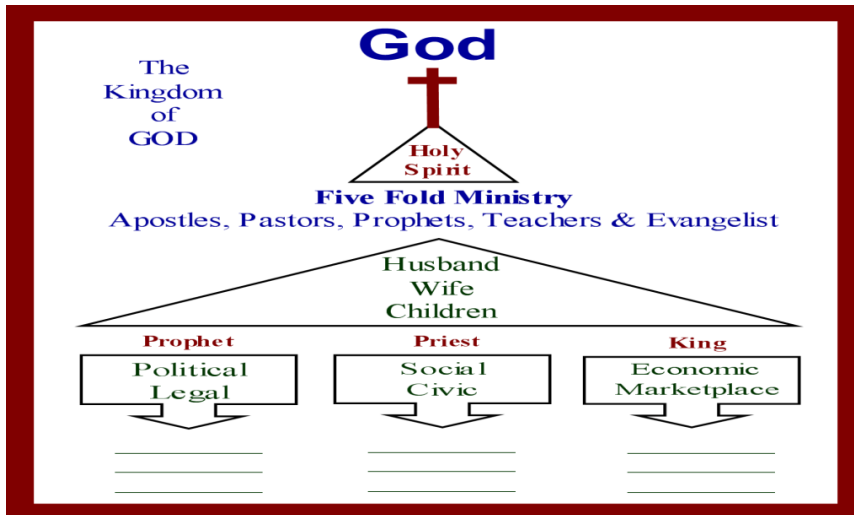
As a citizen you have Potential, Purpose, Privileges, & Duties. We will briefly look at your new citizenship. You will continue to grow as you search out & learn what God has given you in the kingdom. Before we can discover how we fit in we need to discover what God has already established. We should understand what the Kingdom of God looks like. When we pray and ask the Lord to bring His kingdom to the earth we should be able to recognize it when He does. Otherwise we could unknowingly be working against it. What is included in the Kingdom of God and what is not?

# Kingdom Structure

The Kingdom of God is the all encompassing governing system designed & ruled over by God.

The church is the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit as He abides within all who are the "Body of Christ".

The Kingdom of God is distinct from the church yet includes the church and is created through the church.



Within the Kingdom of God there are three sub systems. They are Economic-marketplace, Social-Civic, and Political-legal system. The church reveals God’s system to those who are in His Kingdom. Kingdom

citizens are NOT “of this age but of the age to come”, when God’s Kingdom will be entirely manifest on the earth. Until then we pray, “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on the Earth as it is in Heaven”& we live as citizens of God’s Kingdom according to His dictates & principles. Those principles are to be displayed by the Church, (Hopefully that includes you!) in the arenas depicted.

The following should help you be captivated by solid Kingdom living principles with a fully committed heart, a sound mind and a pure spirit. Use the discussions to help guide you in living as foreigners passing through, because we are members of God’s Kingdom on the Earth. We hope to help you draw Biblical conclusions and Spirit-Led direction as you prayerfully consider them.

### Questions to keep in mind as we go are:

- Is my understanding of Secular & Sacred the same as God’s Kingdom View?
- Am I receiving full provision as a subject of the King?
- Am I accessing my full potential as a Kingdom citizen?

**Church:** from the church flow redeemed individuals who normally join together & create families. Family – join together creates Community

Community: creates three systems

- Law & Government /Politics/policy
  - (i) Foundation is Land ownership
- Civic & Social systems
  - (i) Foundation is The family structure
    1. Entertainment
    2. Charity
    3. Communication/Media
    4. Recreation
    5. Medicine
    6. Education
- Economy (Business)
  - (i) Foundation is Farming

God's people were given land to be Landowners = Freedom  
All human authority is seen as coming from the KING!

Jesus is : PROPHET                  PRIEST                  &                  KING

**As High Priest:** He is the reconciliation for the church.

**As the Prophet:** He is the messenger, the revealer of God.

**As King:** the government of Peace is upon His shoulders."

The church restores individuals to the nature and purposes of Christ. Families are also healed & restored. They become communities. The governing systems they have operated by as a family comes out of the homes they live in among many families.

When they create a system they have confidence in and agree upon. We know these systems as a government. An example is for the U.S. the first written document agreeing upon a government was the Magna Carta from the Pilgrims colonizing the new world.

The function of the government is to meet the needs of the common good of its citizens. While men forge many forms of government, the Kingdom of God is the only system that has stood the test of time & culture shifts. It continues because God, who authored it continues.

Men have dubbed terms to divide God's Kingdom into parts. The attempt is to divide systems into "SACRED" & "SECULAR". The "church" & "state", is a struggle that can be seen throughout England's history, as well as Israel's struggles for power pushed & wobbled from King to Church over centuries. That struggle launched our nation. Western culture has begun to act as though the two don't mix but this is contrary both to scripture and even our nations original moorings.

Instruction is given to the purpose and code of conduct for every area of government in Holy Scripture. Whether men acknowledge it or not, the Church rules & reigns over all. Nations rise & fall, God & His church will remain until He decides to remove the church.

*Thess. 2:7 The secret power of evil is already working in the world, but there is one who is stopping that power. And he will continue to stop it until he is taken out of the way.*

The one stopping that evil is the Holy Spirit manifesting through the church and producing the Kingdom of God. God does not view our activity as "sacred" & "secular". However, there is a division that God acknowledged in scripture and that is between GOOD & Evil. Evil is the only thing that the church is separated from. The church has been severed and set apart from evil, not governing or influencing culture. It is absurd to believe that the Church is not to influence the Kingdom of God.

### ***n) B. Secular & Sacred***

It is VITAL that we understand what was separated or set apart by Jesus. Did He intend for there to be division in the body along the lines of Sacred & Secular? Did he even mean for Government, Education, Economy & Civic affairs to be off limits to the Christian? Did he mean for the church to now exercise its authority in these arenas? Jesus stated, that he came to divide but did he mean the Kingdom

of God was to be disenfranchised from the earth and humanity? Here are some scriptures to meditate on.

*Matthew 12:25 <sup>25</sup>Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.*

1 Corinthians 10:26  
for, "The **earth** is the **Lord's**, and everything in it."

Revelation 5:10  
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will **reign** on the earth."

Psalms 47:8  
God **reigns** over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne

Proverbs 8:15  
By me kings **reign** and rulers make laws that are just

Isaiah 9:7  
Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will **reign** on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Revelation 12:10  
Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the **kingdom** of our **God**, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our **God** day and night, has been hurled down.

1 Thessalonians 2:12  
encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of **God**, who calls you into his **kingdom** and glory.

Hebrews 12:28  
<sup>28</sup>Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup>for our "God is a consuming fire."<sup>4a</sup>

### 2 Timothy 4

<sup>1</sup>In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup>Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup>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.

In **Luke 14**, the King invites a Landowner, a farmer & a married man to the great feast. These three men represent three systems. They refused (Secularized themselves). Then those willing to be SACRED are invited until the banquet is full. But the Secular will want to be included. All three systems are here:



**Married man** – First level of social authority,

Family = two *sub social systems* of *Civic & Education*

**Farmer** – First level & foundation of every

Marketplace = Economy, *Hunting, Farming, Manufacturing Retail*

**Landowner** – First level & foundation of all

Public Authority = *Government, serves the people*

Luke 14: 15-24: Parable of the Great Banquet

So in this parable those in the three systems secularize themselves by refusing fellowship with the King. They put their receiving from the system above God who created & sustains them and so then those who are not part of those systems are invited in. They become the “sacred”. When anyone puts their priorities in line with the commands of God they will find greater blessing than could ever have been gained from the world that has separated itself from God.

“SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD THEN ALL....

Men & women of the church now have specific duties or callings in the Kingdom. The church is the part of the kingdom that “births” new citizens, sets the standards, ordains, sanctions the heart of the Kingdom.

**Luke 4:17-19**

<sup>17</sup>The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: (Isaiah 61:1,2)

<sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Citizens enjoy the Law of the Land. God's promises are the Law!

*"All things work together for Good to those who love the Lord and are called according to His purposes."*

WHO is the recipient in this passage?

1. "Those who Love the Lord"

-That's your part! So do you Love the Lord?

2. " are called according to His purposes."

-That's God's part! It's up to Him & he has already made His decision. He wrote it in His word. As you read it you will discover you are called to duty!

So what is your duty? Your calling is unique to you. No one else can fulfill it. You may have many turns as you pursue it. More than likely your calling will involve you taking dominion of some sort in one of the arenas we already mentioned, and entering that into the Kingdom.

When Kings reigned in Europe, The King owned all the land. Permission was granted to some to rule over areas and manage the property.

The Kingdom of God is also this way. "The Earth is the Lords and the fullness there of."



Jesus never went anywhere where the property owner was not in covenant with Him. The Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea was his resting place. The colt that was tied out of Jerusalem, he said "The Lord has need of it!"

We have allowed a subtle enemy to come and rob us of what belongs to God. "A house divided cannot stand."

### *o) B. Pursue a Greater Purpose*

Chapter 15

Matthew 29:18-20

18. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

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 everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

*This passage is often referred to as "The Great Commission". Just as in a natural family the older children teach and care for the younger, the scripture encourages the same pattern for the Christian. You demonstrate God's favor upon you as others hear and obey God's word through your influence. The primary activity of God rewards is based upon your becoming someone who makes disciples.*

### **OO. Be a Disciple maker as you:**

1. Disciple yourself
2. Disciple your family
3. Disciple your church
4. Disciple your village

Go to the lost and show them how to find their way to new life. Jesus commanded his disciples to go. Luke 4:16-21

Now the empowering takes place in the book of Acts.

*Acts 1:8 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 Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Now because you have the Holy Spirit in full power you will be lead by God to help lead others to come into the kingdom through this saving knowledge. You too will lead

others in to the New Birth and help them find acceptance that comes from their new family. You will find your place in the body of Christ that is the church. You will soon do your part so that the Church continues to be the arm of the Lord to bring the lost away from the gates of hell. You also will help teach them and train them as the Lord directs.

*Luke 21: 12-19. Luke 24:45-49*

People who are bent on getting flattery from people block their ability to receive from God.

*John 5:44* How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?

His people know the voice of Jesus and will not follow another. *John 10:1-5, Philippians 2:9-11*

So as a person in the Kingdom of God we must understand the laws of God and His plans flow through the people into the Marketplace, Government & Family in all of humanities systems. There is no separation. A calling of God may be to ministry within the church or to a place in the market, government or social systems. Your calling is your responsibility to walk out with the Lords guidance.

**PP. Exercise:**

Which of the three areas has God called you to?

How do you believe God has already directed you into your calling?

**THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Acts 18-28**

*Use the Study tool as you read. Return your completed form to the next session for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.*

Notes on the passage: