



Kingdom Living

Presented by Pastor Peter Doseck

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LESSON ONE

CHURCH STRUCTURE

CARING FOR THE CONGREGATION

This study is designed to explain the structure and order of caring for God's church. In laying the foundation for His church, God set forth a structure to carry out His will. In so doing God placed certain people in divinely ordained positions of ministry to care for His people. We will detail these positions and how they relate to God's plan and purpose in nurturing and caring for the Body of Christ.

I. Pastors: Leaders of the Local Church

Gifts from God

- ⇒ Ephesians 4:8, 11-15; James 1:17; Acts 6:1-7; Exodus 18:14-26; Num 11:11-17
- ⇒ Pastors are gifts from God. They are gifted and chosen by God to care for His people. This does not mean that they are to do all the labor of caring. They have a responsibility to see that the care is not neglected.
- ⇒ We see in scripture where God directed His greatest shepherds to see that the needs of the sheep were met.
- ⇒ The burden of the pastorate is often overwhelming. As the church grows, God brings gifted men and women to assist the shepherd (pastor) in caring for the sheep.

Describe the role of the pastor:

Governing Authorities

- ✓ Romans 13:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28
- ✓ There has to be authority, or government, in the church structure.
- ✓ The local Body of Christ is subject to the direction of the pastor, God's chosen leader in the church.
- ✓ It is also important that we recognize that the pastor is set in a place of leadership having authority and should be given respect in his/her position.

Not Without Counsel

- ⌘ Psalm 1:1-3; Exodus 18:14-19
- ⌘ The pastor seeks God for direction in faithful prayer, study, and fasting. He/she is wise to have the counsel of trusted associates who provide assistance in times of decision.
- ⌘ In Acts and in Numbers we see where God's shepherds received and sought counsel in times of decision regarding the care of God's sheep.

Accountable for the Spiritual Nurturing of the Sheep

- ▶▶ Acts 6:4; Ephesians 4:11-16
- ▶▶ Pastors are better servants of God and His people when they give themselves to prayer and ministry of the Word.

Pastors Watch for the Souls of Men

- ✧ Hebrews 13:16-17
- ✧ Acts 20:28-32

II. Directors/Elders/Deacons

Directors of Operations and Ministries (Church Officers)

- ▶ Appointed by the pastor with delegated authority
- ▶ Exodus 18:25; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:4-7
- ▶ Moses followed God's plan and set people in positions of leadership. This works in the daily administration and operation of the church and in the operation of pastoral care.
- ▶ Necessary for the work of the ministry (Numbers 11:14-17)
- ▶ God sees the need for assistants to the pastor. He states specifically that a pastor not bear the burden alone.

Qualifications for Church Officers (Elders and Deacons)

- ↻ 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9
- ↻ There are seventeen qualifications for officers in the church. While these requirements are necessary for church officers, they are also directives for lay leaders.

Authority is Negated if in Sin

- ↻ 1 Cor. 5:9-11; Luke 12:48
- ↻ Authority that is delegated is authority that can be taken away.
- ↻ Reasons for removal are as follows: Blatant obvious sin, failure to adhere to the teachings of the church, causing divisions in the body, exceeding authority, failure to attend services, failure to tithe, a contentious spirit, and a lack of desire to fulfill ministry duties.

III. Lay Leaders Over Outreach and in Church Ministries

Accountable to Directors/Elders/Deacon

- ✓ Pastors are the leaders of the local church. Directors are accountable to the pastors, and lay leaders are accountable to the directors/elders/deacons.
- ✓ Added when needed and determined by church growth. (Acts 6:1-6)
- ✓ Scripture shows us when lay leaders are needed and how they are to be used.

Mature Members with Demonstrated Commitment and Faithfulness

- ✗ The same qualifications for deacons and elders apply here.
- ✗ They are chosen and placed in position.
- ✗ Who better to choose than the pastor, God's chosen shepherd?

Caring for the Body

- 1 Cor. 12:12-25
- Members caring for members, all of the same body.

IV. Pastoral Care

Structure and Operation

- ✧ Scriptural basis from Exodus 18:13-27
- ✧ The setting of leaders and captains to administer the care of the people.

Growth Brings Gifts – Ephesians 4:8-16

- ▶ As the church grows, needs become apparent, gifts become evident, and the use of those gifts is necessary.
- ▶ God tells us plainly that our pastors cannot bear the burden alone.
- ▶ It is unscriptural to rely solely on pastors to care for the people.

Flow Chart

PASTOR

God's chosen leader of the local church, and the carrier of God's vision.

ELDERS/DIRECTORS

Men and women chosen by the pastor to assist in the operation of the church.

CARE LEADERS

Lay leaders chosen and placed by the pastor and or elders/directors to administer care to the members of the church ("leaders of hundreds"). Care leaders oversee the care of the sheep placed under them. They direct and hold the care-givers accountable for the care of the members

CARE-GIVERS

Lay leaders, chosen by the pastor or elders/directors to administer care to the members ("leaders of fifties and tens"). Accountable to the care leaders and responsible for ministering to those members placed in their care.

BODY OF CHRIST/SHEEP

Members of the church.

LESSON TWO

THE MISSION

THE MISSION: TO TAKE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE WORLD AND WIN SOULS

Mark 16:15-20

“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. [17] And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. [19] So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, He was received up into Heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. [20] And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Why Mission?

- ↪ A mission identifies a destination.
- ↪ Ours is a life-long mission which cannot be redefined.
- ↪ It is a corporate mission as well as an individual mission.
- ↪ All Christians and churches are called to the mission to preach the gospel to the world and win souls. It is the absolute will of God.

Can you describe the mission of your church?

Of your life?

LIVING TO FULFILL MISSION

- ▶ The mission must be the top priority of your life.
- ▶ If you do not pursue the mission, you will not be satisfied.
- ▶ Without mission, you are disconnected from God.
- ▶ God molds, transitions, transforms, and makes us what He has declared and destined us to be as individuals when we are connected to the mission.
- ▶ You will never be used of God until you partner with Him to fulfill the mission to take the gospel to the world and win souls.
- ▶ You cannot maintain your course in life without keeping your sights on the mission.
- ▶ There is no reward for living a Christian life unless you fulfill the mission.

Mission – Corporate and Individual

- ✧ Mission should be the basis of every assembly of believers (churches); thus, of every ministry.
- ✧ If you are a five-fold minister, you are to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world and win souls.
- ✧ If you are a believer not in full-time ministry, you are to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world and win souls.
- ✧ The devil may try to convince you that you cannot fulfill the mission, but he is a liar. You can reach those in your family, neighborhood, and workplace.

Mission Under Attack!

- Satan is at work to move you away from your mission, so he will try to:
 - a. Disconnect you from mission through misunderstanding. (See Mark 4:14-15.)
 - b. Disconnect you from mission through offense. (Mark 4:16-17.)
 - c. Disconnect you from mission through the cares of this world. (Mark 4:18-19.)
- You must press forward with your part of the mission. (See Mark 4:20; 1 Cor. 3:6.)
- When you allow the troubles of life to distract you from the mission, you allow the devil to succeed in luring you to the attractions of the world.
- When mission from God changes in our eyes, everything else becomes distorted and out of balance in importance.
 - ◆ This is when we become lovers of self instead of lovers of God. (2 Tim. 3:2)
 - ◆ We become money-minded instead of God-minded. (1 John 2:16)
 - ◆ We teach our families to pursue other things rather than the mission of God.
 - ◆ Lack of focus on mission leads to unhappiness in other areas of life - unhappy in marriage, job, family, etc.
- When you lose your focus on mission, these things become secondary instead of primary:
 - a. Study of the Word 2 Timothy 2:15
 - b. Prayer Ephesians 6:18
 - c. Assembling together Hebrews 10:25

LESSON THREE

WRITING VISION TO FULFILL THE MISSION

WHAT IS REWARDABLE?

1. When our course is finished, we will be rewarded for how we fulfilled the mission to preach the gospel and win souls. Nothing else will matter.
2. What about using your faith for things? The “things” are rewards in themselves.
3. If you sowed seed toward the mission, then it is rewardable.
4. The only “things” that will accompany you to Heaven are souls.

Reaching Mission by Establishing Vision

- ➔ We fulfill mission by establishing vision.
- ➔ Proverbs 29:18 - *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*
 - ◆ People that fulfill vision experience joy in life.
 - ◆ Vision = law, commandments, statutes, scriptures, promises
- ➔ The vision of God is to live the Word of God.
- ➔ The Word of God is His vision for your life.

About Vision

1. Definition - The overall plan of how to reach our mission
 - a. A vision is a roadmap.
 - b. It is a plan for future fulfillment.
2. Vision demands personal ownership of the mission.
 - a. You have to accept your part.
 - b. If you do not make vision personal, you will perish.
 - c. Every vision requires the faith of the individuals involved.
3. Vision can change as it is fulfilled while working toward the mission; then new vision is birthed to continue fulfilling the mission.
 - a. Those who want to remain with the old vision, even after it is fulfilled, will perish. Vision must be enlarged as mission is pursued.
 - b. **Yesterday’s vision fulfilled is today’s failure in disguise**, because it will keep you looking back instead of ahead.
4. Vision is set by the head, and pursued by the body.
 - a. Vision is always future, while success is always past; and success maintained without room for growing vision is failure in disguise.
 - b. Vision will change when God fulfills it or it is fulfilled by men.

THE VISION OF ONLY BELIEVE MINISTRIES CHRISTIAN CENTER

This is not a formula, but a guide. Vision must be birthed in each ministry and individual through times of dedicated fasting and prayer.

Habakuk 2:2

"And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it."

- ⇒ The vision must be written and plain.
- ⇒ Vision is a motivator.
- ⇒ Vision moves us toward completion of the mission.
- ⇒ To “run” indicates forward movement.
- ⇒ We must be motivated by ways to fulfill the mission = established vision.
- ⇒ When the vision is written, those who want to be a part will read; thus, they will run and be active.

Writing Our Vision

1. To fill our 3,200 seat sanctuary to capacity with active, growing, thriving disciples
2. To train our members to live by faith and share the gospel by
 - ♦ Teaching them how to raise their families in the nurture and admonition of the Lord
 - ♦ Empowering them to experience Jesus in a very intimate way
 - ♦ Enabling them to live life and it more abundantly.
 - ♦ Training them in the supernatural so they can demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit
 - ♦ Training them to preach the gospel and teach the Word in their neighborhoods
3. To teach the Body of Christ faith
 - ♦ Pastor will preach and teach in other churches.
 - ♦ He will also teach on TV and in written form.
4. To hold Miracle Crusades around the world
 - ♦ We win multitudes of souls every year as we send Pastor Doseck to the nations.
 - ♦ This demonstration of the miraculous brings faith in God.

Write Your Vision

Fulfilling Vision

-  Vision will be fulfilled and enlarged, but we must never become satisfied with what we did yesterday.
-  The church is the center point of all vision. (see Hebrews 10:24-25)
-  The five-fold ministry is for the perfecting of the saints, and it is found in the church. (see Ephesians 4:7-16)

How will you make sure your vision is carried out?

Your Key Verse

LESSON FOUR

CREATING PURPOSE TO MANAGE VISION

PURPOSE IN THE PLAN

Why Purpose?

- ⌘ In every vision there is purpose, and that purpose is both corporate and individual.
- ⌘ Purpose gives you direction, like steps on a map.
- ⌘ Purpose is priority.

Your Personal Purpose

- *To worship God* = total service through love toward God (Matthew 22:37)
 - Praise & worship at home and in our services are a result of our personal relationship and communion with God through Jesus Christ.
- *To love your neighbor as yourself* = fellowship (Matthew 22:39)
 - Fellowship comes through relationship and communication.
 - You must spend time building relationships with other believers in the church.
 - You will only be as sharp in battles in the Kingdom as are your relationships within it. (Proverbs 27:17)
 - We need to walk with one another. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
- *Spiritual maturity* = sound doctrine, godliness & life of faith (Eph. 4:11-16)
 - You must mature spiritually through the five-fold ministry.
 - God is smarter than you. You need the five-fold ministry within the church. You cannot grow without their God-ordained input.
- *Preparation for ministry* = for the edifying of the body by itself (Eph. 4:12).
 - Every believer who comes into the house of God should come in with an attitude of giving.
 - When we see people discouraged we should go find out why, and not expect our pastors to go do it. We edify one another.
 - We learn to use our gifts by hearing, seeing, exposure, and experience; and as we learn we begin to carry out ministry.
 - Ministry is two-fold: It is inward to the church and outward to the world (the lost). We are to bear one another's burdens in the church.
 - When we are together, we unite our resources to carry out humanitarian acts as an outreach to the world. We feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned. And we win souls. Sheep reproduce sheep.

What can you bring to your church?

The Pattern - Acts 2:46-47

- ✓ Meeting in the temple (church)
- ✓ Breaking bread together (fellowship)
- ✓ Going from house to house (outreach)
- ✓ Result = blessing, favor, an expression of praise to God and expansion of the Kingdom.

THE REQUIREMENTS OF FULFILLED PURPOSE

Intention

- ⇒ Intention is an aim. If you do not aim to fulfill purpose, you will miss it.
- ⇒ Knowing about purpose is not enough. Once you establish purpose, you have to set a course to reach it.
- ⇒ You must determine to fulfill purpose, and you must pay the price.

Order

- 1 You have to organize your life to fulfill purpose.
- 1 You have to by decision surrender your will, strength, time, and priorities to fulfill purpose.
- 1 You cannot be lazy, and you cannot be consumed with other things.

Fruitful-mindedness

- Purpose demands that you be fruitful to please God.
- What are you doing to bear fruit in your life?
- Purpose without fruit is a purpose you have not invested in.

How can you become more fruitful-minded?

Forgetting Failure

- ✘ If all you do is remember your past, you will never pursue your purpose.
- ✘ Forget yesterday as Paul did. (Philippians 3:13)

Contentment

- ✘ You have to be content with where you are and dissatisfied at the same time.
- ✘ You must be content knowing that where you are, you will not stay.
- ✘ You also have to be dissatisfied enough to put your strength in motion to change it.
- ✘ Keep reaching forward from where you are.

Judgment and Change

- 📖 If something is not working, stop doing it.
- 📖 Nothing is too sacred for change, except for the mission to win souls; that will never change, but all else can adjust to reach the mission.

Where do you need change?

FIVE THINGS THAT HINDER FULFILLED PURPOSE

Read Mark 4:13-20

“And He said unto them, Know ye not this parable? And how then will ye know all parables? [14] The sower soweth the word. [15] And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. [16] And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; [17] And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. [18] And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, [19] And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. [20] And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.”

- ▶ 20% of people who pursue purpose will be overtaken by Satan. (verse 15)
- ▶ 20% will be hindered from fulfilling their purpose because of persecution and affliction coming into their lives. (verses 16-17)
- ▶ **20%** will be hindered by the cares of the world entering in. (verses 18-19)
- ▶ **20%** will be hindered by the deceitfulness of riches. (verses 18-19)
- ▶ **20%** will be hindered by the lusts of other things. (verses 18-19).

Here we see that 60% of what keeps people from fulfilling purpose stems from encountering everyday life - the cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches and lusts of other things. These are not attacks or persecutions, but simply focus-stealers.

Requirements for Progress Toward Purpose

Spiritual disciplines - to fulfill purpose you must become spiritually disciplined.

- a. You need a time of daily prayer.
- b. You need a time of daily reading, studying, and meditating the Word.

Personal disciplines - to fulfill purpose you must become personally disciplined.

- a. You must have certain times that you do certain things.
- b. You cannot allow time to slip away, but you must make time work for you.

Family disciplines - to fulfill purpose you must become disciplined as a family.

- a. You have to make sure that your family is being taught the Word because you have a responsibility to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- b. You must maintain peace and truth in your house.

Money disciplines - to fulfill purpose you must be financially disciplined.

- a. A good name is better than silver or gold. (Proverbs 22:1)
- b. You cannot be driven by the lust for other things and succeed in the Kingdom.

Relational disciplines - to fulfill purpose you must be disciplined in your relationships.

- a. Don't run around with people who have a negative impact on your Christian life.
- b. You will not draw them upward, but they will draw you downward.
- c. You maintain relationships with sinners carefully, always being aware of your opportunities to witness, but watching over the influence they have on you.

Time disciplines - to fulfill purpose you must be disciplined with the use of your time.

- a. Make time for eternal purpose, not just earthly endeavors.
- b. Set limits in your life and household, and do not cross lines when it comes to church vs. hobbies, etc.

Pressing Toward Purpose

Purpose is not attained overnight.

- It takes time to build fellowship, time to surrender things to get your heart wholly submitted to God.
- It takes time to grow spiritually mature.
- You will fall and discover a thousand weaknesses before you ever die to self and really arrive, but keep getting up and pressing ahead. (Psalm 37:24; Proverbs 24:16; 1 Corinthians 15:31; Philippians 3:13-14)
- It will take time for you to discover what you need to do in ministry, and things you can do outside the church in humanitarian ways to help your community, thus expressing Christ's love for them.

Pressing toward purpose will establish:

- ⌘ Order in your life.
- ⌘ Morality in your life.
- ⌘ Spiritual activity in your life. You cannot pursue purpose without spiritual activity.
- ⌘ A service-oriented lifestyle.
- ⌘ Consistency - those who pursue their purpose become consistent in daily life.
- ⌘ Stability - you will become immovable.

Do not become weary in the pursuit of purpose.

- ⇒ Do not cave in just because something is not attained on the first try.
- ⇒ Get rid of the microwave & drive-thru mentality!

You must invest to reach purpose.

- Investments require time, strength, endurance, and patience before profit is attained.

Do not compare yourself with other people.

- a. We each travel at our own pace, and we arrive in our own time.
- b. Don't live in moments, because moments pass.

Pursuit of purpose will bring hardships and disappointments, needs, ups and downs; but do not leave your purpose or get disconnected from the vision which leads to fulfillment of the mission.

Write Your Purpose

Key Verse

Notes

LESSON FIVE SETTING GOALS TO PURSUE PURPOSE

REACHING MISSION POSSIBLE

The Mission is to preach the gospel and win souls.

We reach the Mission by establishing Vision (Fill in your vision):

We fulfill Vision by pursuing Purpose (Fill in your Purpose):

We attain our Purpose by establishing Goals.

CREATING ATTAINABLE GOALS

- A goal is an end towards which effort is directed.
- Goals can change and be redefined as information and understanding are accumulated.
- Goals are steps; therefore, you will add to them as time goes by.
- Goals are sometimes trial and error. We find more effective ways of doing things, and so we adjust.

THREE GOALS REQUIREMENTS

1. Planning

- a. You must plan for every goal.
- b. You must weigh out the cost of every course of action.

2. Preparation

- a. You cannot do anything without the skill to accomplish it.
- b. You have to prepare yourself for the task at hand.

3. Persistence

- a. You have to continue doing what you set forth in your plan and what you prepared for despite all interference.
- b. You cannot give up!

OUR CHURCH GOALS

(Again, these are samples. You must establish your own goals for your own ministry.)

To get and retain as many people as possible in every service.

- ✍ Every service includes a teaching that helps, transforms, and equips.
- ✍ Missing a service may cause one to miss the key that would connect all the dots.
- ✍ Attaining this goal requires faithfulness on the part of all who attend, and we must invite others to come with us. We must become interactive with those around us.

To change every life within a 50 mile radius of our church.

- ⇒ Nothing is impossible with God.
- ⇒ We must plan, prepare and stay persistent.

To teach every member to be financially stable in order to be a tither and a giver.

- 📖 Using money to build the Kingdom was God's idea.
- 📖 If we put a value on Kingdom things, God will place a value on us.
- 📖 Deuteronomy 8:18

To teach every individual to actively pursue Purpose and Vision to fulfill Mission.

To encourage every believer to come to church prepared with something to minister.

- ▶ We should always come prepared to give to others instead of focusing on what we will get ourselves. We ought to be givers and not takers. (1 Corinthians 14:26; Acts 20:35)
- ▶ Sunday should not be your filling station day but your day to pour out to others and sharpen someone else. (John 7:38-39; Proverbs 27:17)
- ▶ Use your gifts, talents, and skills to help someone else.

To encourage every individual to go after lost sheep. (Matt. 18:11-14)

- ✗ Sheep keep track of other sheep.
- ✗ We should all be seekers of separated believers (the backslidden, downtrodden, offended, discouraged, weary, disappointed, or hopeless.)

- ✘ We should be the good Samaritan for someone else, investing in their lives to help them back to the fold.

To encourage every individual to win one person to Jesus Christ every quarter.

- ☞ We should win them, disciple them, and make them like we are.
- ☞ We must set a goal in order to be able to move toward it.
- ☞ Be inventive when you win souls. You must communicate with people in order to have influence in their lives.
- ☞ Have an attitude of home invasion to win people to Jesus and disciple them.
- ☞ Be a watchman in your community. Offer help when needed, and be a good neighbor.
- ☞ Begin a Bible study, or go door to door and ask for prayer requests.
- ☞ When you meet someone, make an impact in their life. Before you leave them ask if they need prayer, and then make contact again to follow up with that prayer request.

To make every message taught here at Only Believe Ministries Christian Center simpler, more interactive, and object lesson oriented.

- ➡ People retain more of what they see with their eyes than what they hear with their ears.
- ➡ We're going to help you see the truth, and the truth will make you free in Jesus!

Your Goals

LESSON SIX

THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY GIFTS

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH MEN

- ➔ God clearly spoke through the prophets of old; through men like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and all the rest.
- ➔ The prophets of the Old Covenant were the main way the people of Israel heard from God.
- ➔ The question is, does God still have need of prophets and others to speak to us today?

In Ephesians 4:7-12, we find the answer:

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ.”

- ✗ Here we see that we have each been given a measure of grace, a divine ability that was implanted in us at the new birth.
- ✗ This measure of grace allows each of us to be set in a specific place in the Body of Christ to perform a specific work for the Kingdom.
- ✗ We also discover five important gifts given to men.

THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY GIFTS

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.”

- ☞ Jesus has given us five gifts, five different measures of grace that minister to and build up the church.
- ☞ These gifts are assigned to certain people for the edification of the Body of Christ, and they are used by God to deliver messages to His people.
- ☞ You cannot decide to be a part of the five-fold ministry. You are either called by God, or you are not. These are gifts, not earned offices.

Do you know a five-fold minister?

The Purpose of the Five-Fold Gifts

- ☑ The five-fold ministry is a mainstay in the foundation of the church, and it is an extension of the cornerstone, Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:19-22)
- ☑ Jesus is the cornerstone, the very first block to be laid, and the five-fold ministry is the completion of that foundation.
- ☑ First, the apostles and prophets laid their doctrine. Then, the other five-fold gifts have reinforced that foundation, and the church has been built upon it.
- ☑ According to this scripture, where there is no five-fold ministry, the foundation is incomplete.

THE DIVINE CONNECTION

Write out Ephesians 1:22-23

- ⇒ This scripture is talking about Jesus, the head and ruler of the church. Since Jesus is the head, you could say that the five-fold ministry is the neck.
- ⇒ The neck is the natural connection between the body and the head. Likewise, the five-fold ministry is the divine connection between the church and Jesus.
- ⇒ Jesus, the head, gives corporate vision, counsel, instruction, and direction for the Body of Christ, but in order for the church to benefit from them, they must pass through the neck, the five-fold ministry gifts.
- ⇒ Jesus will never establish divine order apart from what He already established in the Word. He will always work within the confines of His established order. If you will stay there too, you will benefit and become all you are called to be.

SUBMITTED TO A LOCAL CHURCH

Write out Acts 13:1-2

- Notice Saul (Paul) and Barnabas were functioning in and submitted to the local church. They were fasting and praying right alongside the other men in this gathering. They were not out on their own somewhere when God confirmed their five-fold offices, but they were in a church, submitting themselves to the leadership there.

- The local leadership did not call them to the five-fold ministry; verse two says the Holy Spirit took credit for that, but the local leadership did confirm their calls through a prophetic word and sent the men on their way as an outreach from the church.
- The local church is so strategic in the plan and move of God that I believe we are going to experience great manifestations in our local congregations in the coming years that we have never experienced before.
- This is why it is expedient that local churches begin to gather the remnant of those who remain outside the church to prepare for this end-time move of God. Only those divinely connected to the head through the five-fold ministry in the local church will experience what God has in store for us in these last days.

Are you active in your local church where you may be judged and prepared?

THE FIVE-FOLD OFFICES WORKING TOGETHER

Jesus held and operated in every office of the five-fold ministry before He ever gave them to men.

- a. We see Jesus the Apostle in Hebrews 3:1.
- b. Jesus the Prophet is discussed in John 4:19.
- c. We see Jesus the Evangelist in Luke 4:18.
- d. We recognize Jesus the Pastor in 1 Peter 5:4.
- e. And we see Him as the teacher in John 3:2.

Jesus carried all five divine implants of God. With them He was able to develop 12 disciples to carry on His earthly ministry of the revelation of an invisible God.

- ✘ Just as Jesus walked the earth and told the disciples, “...*he that hath seen Me, hath seen the Father*”, the five-fold ministry also carries a similar revelation that enables the church to minister in its fullness, one to another, so that as people see the church, they see Christ in action.
- ✘ The pastor does not carry a complete revelation of Jesus by himself. The teacher does not carry it by himself. Neither does the prophet, apostle, or evangelist. Only in the fullness of all five gifts can we see a full revelation of who Jesus is.
- ✘ Without Jesus carrying the five divine implants, He would not have been able to touch men as He did. In the same way, if we are ever going to touch people according to the divine plan, directive, and will of God, it will be through a cohesive, unified five-fold ministry.

BEWARE OF WOLVES

Write out Acts 20:29-31

- Notice Paul said the wolves and perverse men would rise up from within.
- Paul knew by the Spirit of God that when he left some would turn their backs on sound doctrine to attack the very shepherd that cared for them.
- The Bible is full of examples where this happened.
 - In Numbers 16:1-35, we read the story of Korah.
 - We find another example in Numbers 12:1-16 where Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the woman he had chosen to marry.
 - In the New Testament, in Acts 5:1-10, we read the story of Ananias and Sapphira, and how they lied to the church and their leaders.

What do you learn from these stories?

Wolves breed more wolves, just like sheep breed more sheep.

- ▶▶ You must be watchful and avoid wolves at all costs.
- ▶▶ Do not allow the blessing of the five-fold ministry gifts to be thwarted by men and women who rise up against them.
- ▶▶ Steady yourself, and pray for your leaders every day.

How can you protect yourself from wolves?

LESSON SEVEN

THE OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

THE GIFT OF THE PASTOR

The pastor is the main gateway to the local church congregation.

It is his responsibility (and of course it could be her responsibility, too) to impart the Word of God into the lives of his people on a continuing basis.

Write out John 21:17 for insight into the ministry of the pastor:

- ✘ Notice “*Feed My sheep.*”
- ✘ Pastors are men and women who are committed to God, and who day after day, week after week, and year after year, feed and care for their sheep. They teach them, pray for them, counsel them, marry and bury them, and stand by their sheep through it all.
- ✘ Being a pastor requires a lifetime of patience and understanding because some sheep learn, while others do not, so the shepherd sometimes has to clean up the same messes year after year after year.

James 3:1

“My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

What does this mean?

FEED THE FLOCK

Read 1 Peter 5:1-3

- It is interesting to note that the word pastor is only mentioned in the New Testament one time, and that is in Ephesians 4:11. In this passage of scripture, the word “elders” refers to pastors. We know this because Peter exhorts them to, “*feed the flock of God which is among you*”, which is the primary job of the pastor.
- “Feed the flock” means to teach them truth so that they will arrive at a productive place with God. (Read Jeremiah 3:15.)

Let's look at Ephesians 4:11 again: *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.”*

- ▶ I want you to notice the punctuation in this verse. Each of the five gifts is separated by a comma except for “pastors and teachers”. I find this very interesting.
- ▶ My personal belief is that a teacher can be a teacher without being a pastor, but a pastor cannot be a pastor without the teaching anointing.
- ▶ Sheep without a teaching pastor will never be fed with the depths of revelation, but will be surface grazers, living on surface truths.
- ▶ A pastor must be able to offer the deep things of the Word to his people in order to assure the greatest growth in his congregation. A pastor must be a shepherd, leading his sheep in the way that they should go, and a teacher, instructing them in the ways of life. This is how he “feeds the flock”.

PASTORS ARE EXAMPLES

Write out 1 Peter 5:3

- “An example” is both an instructor and a leader. If you are an example to someone, they will follow you and do as you do. That’s why sheep follow the shepherd, because they have followed him before and trust that he will lead them to green grass and safe waters.
- In like manner a congregation should not be afraid to follow their pastor. They should be confident that his anointing will lead them to revelation of God’s Word, and that when he stands in the pulpit and says, “Open your Bibles...”, what he is about to say is inspired of the Lord.
- Pastors are also to be an example to their congregations in word and in deed. When a pastor preaches the Word, he should be delivering just what God directed him to deliver. And when a pastor challenges his people to do something, he should only challenge them as far as he is willing to go and do himself.

THE HEART OF A PASTOR

Write out 1 Thessalonians 2:4

- ⇒ We do not want to be men-pleasers, and we do not want our pastors to be men-pleasers, or even us-pleasers.

⇒ Pastors ought to please God and God alone.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:5-11

- ✘ These verses lay out the heart of a pastor for his people, and they also show us the heart of God toward us.
- ✘ As verse seven says, God desires to speak through your pastor gently, even as a nurse cherishes her children. This does not mean that what He says will always be comfortable and easy to bear.
- ✘ In verse eleven, we see God will speak through your pastor to exhort, comfort, and charge you, as a father does his children.
- ✘ True pastors do not manipulate or try to control people, but they do what they do because they are striving to fulfill 1 Thessalonians 2:8 which says: *“So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.”*

GIVEN TO THE WORD AND PRAYER

Re-read 1 Peter 5:2

- ☞ One who takes oversight is one who leads, and one who leads must be able to see where he is going, so a pastor must be a man of vision.
- ☞ A pastor must be able to see clearly, and that clear sight or vision will only come from being a man or woman of prayer, study, and fasting.

Read Acts 6:1-4

- ☑ Notice verse two: *“Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.”*
- ☑ James and Paul both held more than one of the five-fold offices, so we know this passage of scripture applies to every five-fold office.

God has set the pastor in the church as a visionary.

- ✘ The pastor is to be in the Word and prayer, and to set the course for his (or her) church.
- ✘ The pastor is not called to physically carry out every activity created by that vision by himself.

God has set men and women in every church to be a help to every pastor.

- If we would allow those helpers to develop and be used according to the scripture, every pastor would be freed to pursue the vision for his church without the weight of the world on his shoulders, and every church would be blessed as a result.

How can you be a help to your pastor?

Pray for your pastor:

Key Verse

LESSON EIGHT THE OFFICE OF THE TEACHER

THE GIFT OF THE TEACHER

The five-fold teacher is so important to every believer.

- ➔ The teacher is the man or woman who digs deep into the Word of God and extracts revelation, and then the teacher imparts that revelation line upon line, precept upon precept, taking complex thoughts and ideas, and breaking them down into bite-sized morsels that people can digest and understand.
- ➔ Teachers never stray away from the Word, because to them the Word is the single most precious thing in the world.
- ➔ In the eyes of the teacher the Bible is absolute, eternal, perfectly ordered, unchanging, complete, without error, infallible and 100% the Word of God. Of course we know this is all true, but no one understands or believes it any more than a five-fold teacher. He trusts what he reads in the Word more than he trusts anything else in the entire world.

DIGGING FOR HIDDEN TREASURE

The Bible is a book of profound simplicity.

- ✘ Every verse can be taken at face value, but then there is always something deeper, something below the surface.
- ✘ The teacher is the one called and empowered by God to dig it out.

Teachers dearly love the words of the Bible.

- They spend hours looking them up in the original language and checking their meanings in the dictionary and the concordance.
- They love study aids, and they can't wait to run references to see what else God said about certain things in the Bible.

Teachers strive to probe into the deeper things in the Word of God.

- ▶▶ They work hard to penetrate down below the surface of every verse to glean every last nugget of truth they can find.
- ▶▶ Teachers also work very hard to lead people into their own study of God's Word.
- ▶▶ Teachers will encourage you to look in the Bible for yourself and not just believe everything they say just because they said it. This is the mark of a true teacher, one who is willing to withstand the scrutiny of questions and individual study of the Bible.

SOUND DOCTRINE

Write out 1 Timothy 1:3

- ▶▶ Five-fold teachers will teach foundational truths.
- ▶▶ They always stay true to established doctrine.

Write out 1 Timothy 1:4

- Teachers will pop the bubbles of false doctrines.
- They will dispute the traditions of men.

Read Hebrews 5:12

- A good teacher will realize where his audience is coming from.
- He will tailor his message to meet their needs.

Read 2 Timothy 4:3

- ☞ People with itching ears are a danger to themselves, and they actually mislead themselves into doctrines of devils, not even realizing it.
- ☞ This is why we need to be very careful what we give our attention to. Make sure the voice of the Lord is not skewed by the voice of men who are striving to make themselves a name, instead of striving to bless the name of the Lord.

TEACHERS AND MIRACLES

Write out John 3:1-2

- ⇒ Jesus was a teacher, and as our example He was most definitely a man of miracles.
- ⇒ If you are a teacher, you need to know that there is a gift of miracles residing in you that will confirm the Word preached with signs following. The teaching ministry, when it came with the equipment necessary to be a teacher, also came with the divine appointment and ability to work in miracles.
- ⇒ Read Luke 5:17 - As Jesus taught, the power to heal was present with Him, and there was an anointing to bring forth miracles.

HELPERS

Read Romans 12:4-8

- God has given some a gift that makes them able to teach, not in the five-fold capacity, but in the helps capacity.
- These teachers are a great blessing to a local church. While they do not establish doctrine or teach outside the confines of what they have been assigned, they do relieve the pastor of the entire responsibility of teaching basic doctrinal truths.
- Understanding that there are different levels of the teaching anointing will help you distinguish between those called alongside to help the pastor, and those called to minister to the Body of Christ.
- Making that distinction helps us all fulfill our personal ministry calls without stepping out into areas where we are not equipped, and therefore cannot succeed.

What are you called to do in your church?

How do you know?

What are you doing about it?

LESSON NINE

THE OFFICE OF THE EVANGELIST

THE GIFT OF THE EVANGELIST

Read Mark 16:15

- This verse gives us the basic job description of the five-fold evangelist: “...*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*”
- This verse encompasses so many things because the gospel is different things to different people at different times, understanding that the word gospel in its simplest form means “good news.”
- What is good news to a sinner? “Jesus died for you.” But what is good news for a sick man? “Jesus is a healer.” How about good news for a man who has suffered loss? “Jesus is a restorer.” And what about for the woman who is depressed? “Jesus heals the broken-hearted.”
- Luke 4:18-19 gives us the clearest understanding of what the word gospel means.

The word evangelist means “to show forth good news.”

- ✘ The evangelist will always preach the good news, but each message will reflect the crowd he or she is preaching to.
- ✘ The evangelist may preach salvation one night, and healing the next.
- ✘ He may preach end-time signs and wonders in one crusade, and holiness in the next.

THE WORK OF THE EVANGELIST

It is important to understand that the evangelist is not charged to teach doctrine, but to preach the good news.

- ☞ Though it may seem a little confusing at first, there is a difference that you need to grasp. We’ll start by reading Matthew 28:19, which says: “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*”
- ☞ Notice the word “teach” that I underlined for you. We are all called to witness, but we are not all called to teach. In fact, it is not even possible to teach sinners spiritual things; you can only preach the simple gospel to them.
- ☞ Many believers try to teach spiritual truths to a spiritually dead person when they witness, which will never succeed. When we witness, we witness about one thing only, and that is Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
- ☞ Likewise, when God speaks through an evangelist, He does so to preach the good news, not to teach doctrine. The evangelist may proclaim a revelation of redemption - how to be saved, how to be healed, how to be delivered, and a host of other things, but every message will always come back to the simple message of the cross.

Read Acts 8:4

- ⇒ Here we find another important distinction between the office of the evangelist and personal ministry. It says: *“Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”*
- a. What were these scattered people preaching? Of course they were preaching the good news of Jesus.
 - b. Did that make them evangelists? Absolutely not. We have all been called to share the good news, but we are not all five-fold evangelists.
- ⇒ It’s very important to understand the difference between a true evangelist and the rest of the Body of Christ called to witness of the good news. The evangelist is directed by God to deliver the gospel to specific churches, people groups, and even nations, while witnessing is generally carried out one by one, person to person.
- ⇒ Let’s look at Philip the evangelist to see the difference between the ministry of reconciliation and the office of the evangelist. Read Acts 8:4-8.
- a. In verse four, the scattered people preached everywhere, but their results are not listed.
 - b. When Philip the evangelist preached to a city, though, the results that followed completely changed that city.
 - c. Here we see the difference: **corporate change**.
 - d. Evangelists bring great change; change to churches, cities, and even nations.
 - e. That corporate change is the mark of the office of the evangelist.

Explain the difference between a five-fold evangelist and a witnessing believer in your own words:

STIRRING THINGS UP

Read Acts 6:5

- ☑ Philip is our best Bible example of how God speaks through an evangelist. We first see Philip mentioned here.
- ☑ Though Philip was called to be an evangelist, we do not see him work as an evangelist until the story we mentioned before in Acts 8:4-8. There, Philip preached Christ to the people in Samaria as an evangelist and stirred them up. There were great signs and wonders, miracles and deliverance from demons, and there was much joy in the entire city.

Read Acts 8:26-40

Write your own commentary about the unique work of the evangelist:

THE CONVICTION OF THE EVANGELIST

Who are they?

- The word evangelist is only mentioned three times in the whole Bible. In fact, Philip is the only man in the Bible who is actually called an evangelist. Philip did not even realize he was operating in the office of evangelist at the time because the revelation of the office did not come until later when Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians.
- Preaching salvation to sinners is a part of the call of the evangelist.
- The evangelist is also charged with edifying the Body of Christ, reminding believers what the cross means to them and exhorting the church to do what is right in the eyes of God. This takes courage and conviction, the kind that do not come from a mere man, but come from the call and anointing of God.

Jude's Convictions

- ▶▶ Jude was a man of consistency, faithfulness, and courage. In the book of Jude, we catch a glimpse of the man and his message. Though Jude was never called an evangelist in the Bible, he certainly carried the passion of one.
- ▶▶ Read Jude and write your thoughts about his convictions:

SIGNS FOLLOWING

- ⇒ When an evangelist speaks the word of the Lord under His direction, that word will be confirmed with signs following.
- ⇒ When the divine anointing of an evangelist is evident, no matter what he says, God will do something special with every word that he utters, and the signs that follow will speak as loudly as the words that he speaks.
- ⇒ Obviously, the most important thing God will ever speak through an evangelist is, “Jesus Christ died for your sins on the cross, and He rose again so that you might receive eternal life and have a relationship with Him eternally.” This central theme of the gospel message will never change. It is the basis of our faith, and it is the same gospel message that will turn cities upside down and change people forever today, just as it did so long ago in Samaria.

EVANGELISTS TODAY

- ☞ Today, the work of the evangelist encompasses so many things the evangelists of old never dreamed of because of the technology available to us.
- ☞ What Philip did when he was translated was tremendous, but that did not happen every day. In our world, evangelists do not need to wait for the supernatural move of God to take them from place to place in an instant. They can do it via television and radio waves every minute of every day.
- ☞ Using today’s technology, God is speaking through evangelists to people all over the world, appealing to them to come to Jesus before it is too late. I believe this manifestation of the end-time gospel message will literally win millions of souls before Jesus returns.
- ☞ It’s time for the Body of Christ to take the limits off of God and let the gospel message shine forth in every way, all of the time, in all of the world. Every evangelist I know thinks that is exactly how it should be.

Do you know an evangelist?

LESSON TEN

THE OFFICE OF THE APOSTLE

THE GIFT OF THE APOSTLE

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1

- ▶ Apostles, like the other five-fold gifts, are called by God.
- ▶ You cannot work your way into apostleship because of your long track record of ministry deeds.
- ▶ You cannot be promoted there by some board.
- ▶ You do not earn the office of apostle as a lifetime achievement award.
- ▶ You are either called by God, or you are not an apostle.

Read Acts 26:16-18

- The office of the apostle can be seen most readily in the life of Paul.
- Comment on his calling:

- Notice Paul was sent to a specific people with a specific message. Apostles are called by God, sent by Him to deliver a message as a minister and a witness, to open the eyes of those blind and in darkness, and to turn them toward faith in Christ.

THE WORK OF THE APOSTLE

The word apostle means “one sent from God, a messenger”.

- ☑ The apostle is sent with a divine anointing to go to specific places at specific times for specific purposes to deliver specific messages.
- ☑ The apostle is also gifted to operate in miracles. Every believer can lay hands on the sick and the sick will recover, but the apostle, as part of the five-fold ministry, will use his gift to benefit the multitudes.

Write out Corinthians 12:12

- ⇒ The doctrines of the early apostles, now scripture for us, are to be the basis of everything we teach and preach today.
- ⇒ We are never to leave the basic principles found in the Word, but are to teach, train, edify, and admonish based on that Word, without wavering.

Read Ephesians 2:20 and 2 Timothy 3:16, and write your thoughts:

There is no new doctrine as far as we are concerned. The Bible is God's Word, and it is our only measure of truth. Whatever was written, was written for our benefit, and it stands as our established doctrine, directing our steps and creating order in our churches.

SENT BY GOD

- ☞ Apostles are sent by God. (Acts 16:9-10)
- ☞ Apostles are often sent where no one has gone before. (Romans, 15:15-16)
- ☞ Apostles often found churches and establish ministries.
 - The apostle will place a pastor over each new church and watch over him while the church goes through the stages of growth and change.
 - He will come back periodically to encourage and edify the people, but eventually, if he has done his job well, he will leave that church a self-sufficient entity.
- ☞ Apostles are sent with a specific purpose to advance the Kingdom of God in a specific place, where their success edifies the Body of Christ, and the work of the ministry goes forward.

DELIVERING MESSAGES

- When an apostle is sent, he will go equipped with a specific message for a specific place.
- Sometimes the apostle's message will be delivered as doctrine, as Paul delivered to so many churches in the New Testament.
- Sometimes it will come in the form of instructions for church order. We see this repeatedly in Paul's letters.
- Sometimes the apostle has to bolster the pastor or other five-fold minister, as we know Paul encouraged Timothy in his second letter to him.
- Sometimes he delivers a word of warning or correction as we see in the letters to the Corinthian church.

Paul's messages were foundational. (Read 1 Corinthians 3:10)

- ✘ They laid a sure foundation of the gospel, and then they allowed for the work of others to build upon them, and to finish what God desired for that place.
- ✘ The apostle always lays a foundation of sound doctrine, beginning with Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and he establishes church order and structure, which we will see in a moment. Then the offices of the pastor, teacher, evangelist, and prophet build upon that foundation and the work of the ministry is completed.

An apostle is a seed planter.

- ▶ This allows God to send another man to water his message, but in the end God will get the increase.
- ▶ Paul established this principle when he said: *“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”*

Where is this verse found? _____

ESTABLISHING DIVINE ORDER

Nothing New

- ➔ Today's apostles will establish church order based on doctrine found in the written Word, but they will never, ever write new doctrine. That part of the apostolic anointing is no more.
- ➔ The Word of God is complete and accurate, just as it stands today. We do not need to look for anything new.

Explain your understanding of this concept:

When an apostle begins a work, he will bring that new church into divine order.

- ☑ It's like this: If a contractor tried to build a house without a blueprint, he would end up with a mess of boards, wire and plumbing supplies, all brand new and ready for service, but none connected or useful. The blueprint, which is a plan for structural integrity, brings order to the pile of 2 x 4's, the bundle of PVC pipe, and the spools of wire stacked on a job site. Without it, the house will never stand.
- ☑ In the same way, divine order, based on the blueprint of established doctrine, brings structural integrity to the church. A blueprint shows a contractor how to build, and in like manner, sound doctrine tells the apostle how to build within a new church.

- ☑ In every building, you can trace every beam, every rafter, every 2x4 back to the foundation, because in one way or another, they will all be attached there. Some boards are directly attached, while others are attached to those directly attached. There are no free-standing boards in a building, and there are no free-standing doctrines in the church. All that we have in the church today and all that we rely upon can be traced back to the doctrine of the very first apostles.
- ☑ Everything you read in the New Testament is the result of the work of the office of the apostle. You could not even be saved had not an apostle written: *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”*
- ☑ Apostles do not speak of their own accord, but they speak revelation from Heaven by the Holy Spirit.

THE LIFE OF PAUL

The account of the ministry of Paul in the book of Acts reads like an adventure novel. Shipwrecks, snake bites, stoning, and resurrection, standing before kings, prison breaks, preaching to the masses, carrying divine appointment, and traveling the world.

It all sounds so glamorous and exciting. Then you realize that the ministry of Paul did not take place in a few months time, but over the course of some 56 years. Paul was not running from adventure to adventure, as we think he was when we read the stories in Acts, but he was in fact living a normal-paced life, facing daily hardships and struggles, just like you and I do.

The difference was Paul’s life was one long race, one continuing push to fulfill the call given him by Jesus on the road to Damascus. Everything Paul did was directly connected to that call.

Paul traveled from city to city, at God’s direction, establishing churches in some, and giving direction to existing churches in others. Paul set pastors in churches and taught them how to lead. He encouraged and helped those pastors throughout his ministry, making sure he returned to visit them as often as possible, and he sent written messages when he had to be away. Paul cared for those who served with him, and made sure they had all the resources they needed to become all God had called them to be.

One example is the ministry of Titus, one of the lesser known characters in the Bible. When Paul was released from prison in Rome, he and Titus established churches in several cities on the island of Crete. Paul went on to other works, but he left Titus in charge on the island and instructed him to complete the order of the church.

Crete was a difficult place in which to begin a work of the Lord, so Titus had his work cut out for him. Daily life in Crete was immoral, at best, and the lazy, lying, gluttonous inhabitants of the island were a handful for Titus. I’m certain that when Titus received his letter from Paul, which is the book of Titus today, he was relieved, because it spelled out how to continue the work on the island and succeed. With Paul’s blessing, Titus had authority to take control of the situation and

drive out false teachers and correct bad doctrines. Without that authority, Titus would have quickly found himself in a sinking ship.

Paul also helped Timothy in his letters to him. Here, Paul had to exhort a weary Timothy to continue in the fight of faith. That's what an apostle does best, exhorting, encouraging, and watching over those who serve with him. Timothy had his own struggles to contend with, and apparently word of his discouragement had reached Paul. Paul was kind to Timothy, but he also reminded him of the prophecy that had confirmed his call, and told him that sometimes we have to fight the fight of faith using our prophetic words to under-gird us when we become weary. (2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Timothy 1:18)

Paul was also instrumental in establishing the doctrine of the church as a whole. Two-thirds of the New Testament is attributed to the writings of Paul. God spoke through Paul, and the gospel message was established, explained, expounded upon, and delivered to the rest of the Body of Christ. It was the job of the five-fold ministers of his day to deliver the message to the people, and to make sure the church began to function as one unified body.

Over the years, Paul traveled several thousand miles in his journeys, all on foot, or by the occasional beast of burden or ship. There were no jets, no comfy motel beds; just the dusty road and the open sky at night. He did what he did without the creature comforts we are so used to today, because he was empowered by God to reach the nations in his generation.

No one man will ever accomplish as much as Paul did in his lifetime, but every five-fold minister can accomplish all that God desires using the same kind of faith that Paul lived by. Today's men and women of God are equipped for our generation just as Paul was equipped for his. No one can be Paul, but all can follow him as he followed Christ.

LESSON 11

THE OFFICE OF THE PROPHET

THE GIFT OF THE PROPHET

Purpose

- ▶ The five-fold ministry gift of the prophet is intended to be a tremendous blessing to the church.
- ▶ His gift allows him to confirm the word of the Lord, edify, comfort, and exhort individuals and congregations alike, and to show us things to come in the Body of Christ.

There is a distinct difference between the prophets of old and today's five-fold ministry prophets.

- Today's five-fold prophet is best known as the man or woman who stands before a congregation and says, "Thus says the Lord...". God speaks through the five-fold prophet for specific purposes, some of which are the same as the prophets of old, and some of which are strikingly different.
- The Old Testament prophets brought a revelation of God to the people. They were men of God set in their office for a specific time period, and they spoke to the entire nation of Israel. What the Old Testament prophet spoke to the people became the declaration of the rhema word of the Lord. He then inscribed the inspiration of the Lord in logos form, and it became scripture.
 - a. Writing scripture was an important part of the office of the Old Testament prophet, but that part of the prophet's office has been done away with because we are no longer allowed to add to scripture.
 - b. The prophets of old could foresee and foretell future events. Today's prophets still tell us of things to come by the Holy Spirit.
- Today's prophets warn, reveal, confirm, and lead as they did in old times, and the prophet's place in the Kingdom of God today still encompasses the power gifts that operated in the lives of the prophets of old.
- New Testament five-fold prophets, like their forefathers, also have very unique traits that reveal different characteristics of God.
- God sets prophets before certain people to be a reflection of His ways to them. Remember how God set Moses before the people and the people saw God reflected on his face? In the same way, as the prophet stands before us and confirms the word of the Lord, we see God reflected in him, and in turn reflected in us.

PROPHETS BY GRACE

Read Romans 12:6

- ☑ Even the five-fold gifts operate according to the measure of grace given unto them; therefore, each prophet will operate in different dimensions by that grace.
- ☑ No two prophets are alike. Each operates according to the grace given, and according to the assignment made.
 - a. Some are prophets for certain churches, while others are prophets for certain regions, and still others are prophets for certain nations.
 - b. God speaks through each as He wills. (Deuteronomy 1:15)
- ☑ One prophet may come in and read everybody's mail. Another may come in and only minister to one person individually, but his corporate message may be outstanding. Each has been set in the church for a specific time and a specific purpose.

Write out 2 Chronicles 20:20

EDIFICATION, EXHORTATION, AND COMFORT

Today's Prophet

⇒ There is a second distinction which must be made about today's five-fold prophet, and it has to do with the simple gift of prophecy described in 1 Corinthians 12:10. This simple gift of prophecy, one of the nine gifts of the Spirit available to every believer, is not the same as the five-fold office of the prophet.

⇒ Write out 1 Corinthians 14:3

⇒ Prophecy's main purpose is to edify, exhort, and comfort believers. Whether in the form of a simple prophecy delivered by a believer under the operation of the gifts of the Spirit, or as a corporate word delivered by the five-fold prophet under a completely different manifestation, prophecy will never stray from this basic premise. It will always edify, exhort, and comfort.

Limits

- The main difference between the simple gift of prophecy and a prophetic utterance given by a prophet is this: **The simple gift of prophecy is limited to edification, exhortation, and comfort, period.** It will never include anything other than one or more of those three elements, ever.
- While the simple gift of prophecy is limited in its scope, the five-fold prophet can do many things to bless the Body of Christ. A five-fold prophet can:
 - a. Warn.
 - b. Reveal or confirm callings
 - c. Lead and show us things to come in the future
- Prophets are five-fold ministers, called and appointed by God for a lifetime.
- Those who prophesy under the operation of the gifts of the Spirit are simply believers releasing a temporary anointing to edify, exhort, and comfort a congregation during a church service, or an individual in a one-on-one setting.

PROPHETS WARN

- ☞ When a five-fold prophet is sent by God to deliver a word of warning, he will not leave you hopeless and helpless, but he will show you the way of escape even as he warns you about a coming storm. (Acts 11:27-29)
- ☞ The prophetic warning will always end in edification, exhortation, and comfort of the church.
- ☞ It will call us to prepare, and it will show us the way of escape because every prophetic declaration is accompanied by grace that allows us to see God.

PROPHETS REVEAL, CONFIRM, AND LEAD

Read about Agabus the prophet in Acts 11:27-30 and Acts 21:10-13.

In the first story, when Agabus prophesied of a drought and famine that would come upon the land, the church believed the voice of the prophet, rallied together, got their finances in order, and sent relief to the areas that were going to suffer the most during this troubled time. Here, the prophet revealed and foretold a world event that ordered the steps of the church.

In the second story Agabus confirmed a personal word to Paul that warned him of trouble in Jerusalem. Paul already knew about it and was prepared to give his life for the name of Jesus, so that word did not alter Paul's plans, but it did confirm to him what was coming in his very near future.

While the simple gift of prophecy does not lead or guide, the word of the prophet may do just that. See Acts 13:2 for an example.

- ▶▶ There is a great difference between confirming a call and creating one. Prophecy confirms, but it does not call.
- ▶▶ It may direct you to go and do what you have been called to do, but it will not direct you to go and do something that you know nothing about.

My Thoughts

In today's world, many are running to and fro, looking for someone to prophesy and give them a personal word from the Lord. Most of these seekers have itching ears rather than truly open hearts. They are looking for someone to call them into the ministry, or to give them a special revelation that only pertains to them, but that's not how God designed the office of the prophet to work.

I believe that Christians who run from prophet to prophet, seeking personal words, are doing so at their peril. A true call will be established first in your heart, and will then perhaps be confirmed by a prophet, but don't look for more than a prophet is called to deliver. Only God can speak to you and give you what you are looking for.

No man or five-fold minister, not even your pastor, can hear from Heaven for you. Your pastor may hear a word that will confirm what you heard, but God will not allow you to possess the treasure of your destiny until you pay the price it takes to obtain it yourself. No other man or woman - pastor, prophet, apostle, evangelist, or teacher - can extract your destiny treasure for you. That is a personal journey only you and God can fulfill together.

No one else can fast for you. No one else can pray in your place of authority. No one else can study to show that you are approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed. (2 Timothy 2:15) Your spouse, your pastor, or a friend can fast with you, and they can pray for you, but ultimately you have to pay your own price to hear from Heaven.

The treasures laid up in Heaven for you are kept there for your own protection. There, neither moth nor rust can corrupt. There, no thief can break through to steal. God will never extract the treasures of a man's destiny and place them in the hands of another man so that the individual is without accountability, responsibility, or payment for what God has laid up for him. We all work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. We do not depend on others to do it for us.

The prophet may confirm and encourage you in your call, but he will never determine your call. Only God can do that. So, be very careful and prove every prophecy before you take off to do something beyond the ordinary. If you don't know about the call before the prophet proclaims the call, it's probably not a real call.

If you are called, you will know it before the prophet does. Your pastor will likely know it because he knows you, but even he will not call you out to confirm your call and send you forth unless God tells him to. Don't ever follow the word of a man unless God has called you and told you already.

BE CAREFUL WHO YOU HEAR

- ➔ There is a very interesting story in Acts 21 involving Paul and some disciples eager to help him. In verse four it says: *“And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem.”*
- ➔ Who sent Paul to Jerusalem? According to Acts 18:21, God did because Paul said: *“...I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will...”*
- ➔ Tracing Paul’s steps, we see in Acts 19:21 that Paul still had his face set toward Jerusalem, although he had not been able to go yet. This verse says: *“After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”*
- ➔ A timetable was set in Acts 20:16, which says: *“For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.”*
- ➔ In Acts 20:22-23, we finally see confirmation that Paul had indeed been sent to Jerusalem by God: *“And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.”* Paul was going to Jerusalem *“bound in the spirit”*. In other words, he had been sent by God, so the trip was non-negotiable.
- ➔ I’ve taken the long way around to return to Acts 21:4, which again says: *“And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem.”*
 - ◆ A disciple is one who has been taught by another. So, these men were not ignorant of the things of God, but neither were they prophets or leaders in the church.
 - ◆ They had no right to do what they did, but they did it nonetheless.
 - ◆ Though they were not prophets, they stepped outside the boundaries of established order and prophesied a directive word to Paul anyway.
 - ◆ Their simple prophecy did not edify, exhort, or comfort, but it gave specific instructions.
- ➔ What does that tell us? It tells us that it was not from God. Even though they said, *“Thus says the Lord”*, they were not speaking the truth, nor were they speaking the word of the Lord. How do we know they missed it?
- ➔ In verse 11, the prophet Agabus came to Paul sometime after the disciples prophesied, and he gave him a true word from the Lord, a word of warning about what was awaiting him in Jerusalem.

- ➔ Agabus said: “...*Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.*” Notice Agabus never tried to direct Paul away from Jerusalem; he only told him what was waiting for him there. There is an enormous difference between what the prophet said and what the disciples before him said.

- ➔ In verse 12, after the prophetic message was delivered, the men in leadership with Paul begged him not to go to Jerusalem, but look at Paul’s answer in verse 13: “*Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.*”

- ➔ Here we discover Paul’s focus. God had directed him to go to Jerusalem. Although he was hindered and delayed, Paul’s heart was set to go there, no matter what. Though the disciples tried to intervene, Paul ignored them. Even when the prophet proclaimed what awaited him in Jerusalem, Paul stuck to the call of God, even unto death, if that’s what it meant.

- ➔ We see Paul vindicated in Acts 23:11: “*And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.*” Jesus Himself confirmed that He had indeed called Paul to go to Jerusalem, and then to Rome, just as Paul knew all along.

- ➔ So what is the moral of this long story? Be very careful who you listen to. Not everyone who says he is a prophet is one, and not everyone who says, “Thus says the Lord” has a clue what the Lord is saying.

- ➔ Always weigh out what you hear by the Word of God first, and also by what you already know in your spirit by God’s Spirit. God will not change His mind and tell you different things at different times. What God says will never change, no matter what changes around you or what others say or think.

What did you learn from this story?

Imperfect Vessels

- ▶▶ So what happened with the disciples of Acts 21:4? They missed it, plain and simple. The Bible says they prophesied “through the Spirit”, but they still managed to miss it.
- ▶▶ Every gift is perfect, but the man or woman who delivers the gift is not perfect. It is possible for someone to speak out of his own desire or his own understanding, instead of by the Spirit of God.
- ▶▶ We are vessels of clay. When God sends an utterance through us, it has to pass through the clay, like water in a clay pitcher would. Sometimes, if the pitcher is not properly prepared, the pure water of the message will get mixed up with the clay of the vessel on the way through, so that what comes out at the spout will be cloudy and imperfect.
- ▶▶ Does that mean we throw out those who make mistakes? No, not disciples, but we do have a higher standard for five-fold prophets. Notice Paul simply ignored the disciples who missed it, but when the church leaders in Acts 21:12 tried to stop him from fulfilling his call, he openly rebuked and chastised them.
- ▶▶ You need to be cautious and always remember that disciples are learning, so be very, very careful when you hear a word from them. And even leaders sometimes miss it, so you have to be watchful and compare everything to God’s Word, even as you try and prove those words by the passage of time.

LET THE WORD PREVAIL

No matter how exciting a supposed prophecy may sound when it comes forth, and no matter how many people run to pat you on the back after you receive it, always, always, always check it with the Word before you go and do anything. Seek counsel from those you are submitted to, and allow the Word of God to complement true prophecy, and confirm and provide you with more direction after the fact.

True prophecies are a treasure, and they are needful in our fight of faith. Having said that, they should never drive us away from established doctrine, or away from the counsel of those who watch for our souls.

Proverbs 11:14 says: *“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”* Trust your pastor, if he is a man who understands prophecy, and trust those who have the benefit of years in the Body of Christ to help you discern whether what was spoken as, “Thus says the Lord”, was truly from Him.

No prophet will ever be offended if you check with the Word and trusted counsel before you go and do something, especially something extraordinary. True prophets expect their words to be compared to the written Word and welcome your caution and your proving.

I encourage you to exercise the wisdom God gave you and be careful not to run off and sell all that you have just because a prophet told you to. Remember, prophets are used by God to confirm what

He has told you in your own quiet times with Him, so a true prophecy will not be a surprise, but a welcome confirmation that you are on the right track.

Prophets are great men and women of God. Let's not bring shame to true prophets by allowing ourselves to be led astray by "*every wind of doctrine*". After all, that is one of the things God established the five-fold ministry gifts to combat.

Let the Word of God be your guide in everything you do, even in your receiving of the prophetic word of the Lord, and you will find yourself blessed, stable, and doing well in the Kingdom of God.

Key Verse

LESSON 12

LEARNING TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE

THE PROVING PROCESS

Beginnings

- ✘ When you first begin to seek to hear the voice of God, and to move into the gifts and callings on your life, don't be afraid of making a mistake.
- ✘ Don't despise small beginnings. (Job 8:7; Zechariah 4:10)

Write out Proverbs 24:16

- ☞ No matter how often you fail, you have to get up and go again.
- ☞ Behind who I am today lie at least a thousand failures. You will have your share, too.

The Seed Principle

- The Kingdom of God operates on the seed principle, which is a process principle.
- There are no shortcuts, and there are no quick fixes.
- There will be a time of proving, and the process of proving is not a quick one.
- Even Jesus had to endure the process. (Hebrews 5:8)
- Knowledge is good, but until knowledge becomes experience, it will bear no fruit.

How God Sees the Process

- ⇒ God is never disappointed when we misinterpret or misunderstand the process. He knows we are learning a new language and a new set of interpreting skills. He is pleased that we are launching out into new territory, seeking to hear His voice and move into our gifts for the benefit of others.
- ⇒ He realizes we will have to go through a season of learning and correction before we can be trusted to hear, interpret, and deliver His message, and so He is patiently with us, ever moving to help us learn and grow.

Remind yourself of your gifts and callings:

DELIGHT IN THE PROCESS

Write out Psalm 37:4

- God gives us desires, and He expects us to judge those desires like everything else in the Kingdom.
- Seek your confirmation in the Word, but also seek it in wise counsel, in prayer and fasting, and by judging the fruit of your actions and motives. Take your time and be honest with yourself.

Why?

- ⇒ Sometimes we need the benefits born out of the seeking process to strengthen us when we go and do. We need the benefit of the long fast, the benefit of extended times in the Word, and the benefit of times of face-to-face worship to sustain us when we hit the road to destiny.
- ⇒ God wants to make sure that you are trained, strengthened, and equipped for your destiny, so He will give you opportunities for strength training, opportunities that include seeking God, fasting and prayer, worship, time in the Word, and wise counsel.
- ⇒ Don't ever despise the process, but instead, delight in it as you delight in the Lord. The proving process is simply a time where you focus on spiritual strength-building activities that will prepare you for the hardships that lie ahead.

DRAWN BY GOD

Write out Proverbs 20:27

- God lights our candle with His Word, His voice. This light is not seen by the human eye, nor heard by the human ear. It is not comprehended by the human mind, but it is a supernatural illuminating, an observation, an ability to see, to hear, and to know what God wants you to do in a certain situation. It's not so much about hearing words, but about hearing the heart of God.

- ✘ You are connected to your Heavenly Father in a very unique way. He is a Spirit, and you are a born again spirit. There is a spiritual umbilical cord, if you will, that connects you to God in your innermost being. Sometimes, God will pull on that cord, or nudge you with a slight tap in the spirit. That gentle touch will get your attention focused in the right direction, and it will lead you to move where God needs you to go.

Read Romans 8:14

- ☞ God's desire to lead and teach you will permeate everything that He uses to reach you while you are learning to hear His voice and obey.
- ☞ God will not leave you without His voice while you are growing in the process, but He will use whatever He can to help you hear, and to lead you to your destiny in Him.

KEY VERSE

LESSON 13

IN THE POTTER'S HAND

MOLDED BY GOD

On the Way to Destiny

- ▶▶ We can thank God that His hands are always upon us in some form or fashion, re-shaping, re-molding, and smoothing us out for His use and glory.
- ▶▶ On the way to the end of our destiny, there may be pitfalls and stumblings, but there will never be utter failure as long as we are in His hands.

Vessels of Clay

- When God wants to use you, His message will always start out perfect, but by the time it has passed through your vessel of clay, it may come out as less than perfect because you handled it.
- Don't get upset, because this is God's chosen method, and He is fully aware that you will have to be re-shaped, re-molded, and re-fired again and again before His message will make it through you unscathed.
- He is not worried about the learning process. He has no stop watch, so don't give in to the temptation to try to hurry the process along for Him.

Where is God still molding you?

Don't Fear!

- Fear makes us become idle, useless vessels, going nowhere and doing nothing for Jesus. We can't let fear dominate us and relegate us to the sidelines.
- We may be imperfect human vessels, but as long as we are perfectly joined to Jesus and perfectly willing, He will make up for our weaknesses and lend us His strength.

Write out the verse that says when you are weak, God is strong:

GOD'S VOICE WILL MOLD YOU

Write out Matthew 5:6

- ⇒ We must remember that because of our relationship with the Father, we have the power and right to hear and know His voice.
- ⇒ John 10:25-27 goes on to say: *“Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of My sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”*

The Human Spirit

- There is a supernatural mechanism inside you called the human spirit, and it is created in the image of Christ.
- It is the spirit of adoption whereby you cry, “Abba Father”. That born again spirit enables you to know, distinguish, and recognize God’s voice so that you can be used by Him.

Rhema

- ☞ God’s voice is what we call rhema, the spoken word that is breathed from God’s mouth into your spirit.
- ☞ It is this rhema word that we so desperately need to hear, recognize, and follow. Without it we are mere mortals, but with the spoken word of God we are more than conquerors, above and not beneath, blessed in all ways and all places, children of God, and heirs according to promise.
- ☞ We all need the voice of God in our lives. We need the scriptural voice of God, but we also need to hear His voice in the present day, because as He speaks wisdom, direction, counsel, and insight, He infuses His abundant life into our vessels of clay.

What has God said to you?

Hear and Obey

- ✘ Hearing and obeying the voice of God in your life will cause you to live very differently than the ungodly, the unrighteous, the faithless, and the unbelieving.
- ✘ You are not of those who have no hope, but you are one who lives in fellowship with a God who loves you, provides for you, and wants to be in close communion with you every day of your life.
- ✘ Let the voice of God be heard in you.
 Then, let His voice be heard through you.
 Finally, let His voice resound in everything you say and do.

Key Verse

LESSON 14

THE SIN OF PREJUDICE

PREJUDICE DEFINED

Read Matthew 24:3-14

- ↻ Prejudice means a judgment or opinion formed before the facts are known.
- ↻ A preconceived idea or preference, intolerance, irrational suspicion, or hatred of a particular group, race, or religion.

Read Matthew 24:7

- ▶▶ The word “nation” comes from the Greek word “ethnos” from which we get our word “ethnic” which means: A religious, racial, national, or cultural group. It is a word relating to non-Christian or non-Jewish people = heathen.
- ▶▶ The word “heathen” means: One who belongs to a tribal group or nation, one who does not acknowledge the God of Christianity. The meaning of the word conveys to us that ethnic divisions of any kind, which can lead to prejudice, and any form of prejudice, are born out of godlessness.

Read Philippians 2:14-16

- ➔ Prejudice is born out of “*a crooked and perverse nation*”.
- ➔ Philippians 2:15 Amplified version “*...a crooked and wicked generation - [spiritually] perverted and perverse...*”

RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE

Read Acts 26:1-12

- ⇒ It becomes the foundation of persecution, hatred, destruction, and tribulation.
- ⇒ Religious persecution will increase as the time frame of Matthew 24:1-14 comes into play. It will divide homes and families.

Read Acts 20:22-24

- ✓ Paul knew prejudice waited for him.
- ✓ He went anyway.

THE PURPOSE OF PREJUDICE

Prejudice is born out of Satan's plan and plot to destroy man and his position in God.

⌘ Spiritual prejudice - Write out 1 Timothy 5:21

⌘ Prejudice is rooted in hatred. It is a fruit of Satan and his children. Its roots are in unbelief.

Prejudice seeks to stop people of God from being honored and given value, worth, and position.

- Prejudice denies the gifts given by God at His discretion and pleasure; therefore, it can cause harm to spiritual activity and godly moves in the Kingdom.
- Prejudice seeks to exclude people from vision, promotion, and fullness of life.
 - ◆ The worst example of this, but not the only one, is the rule of Hitler in Germany that birthed the holocaust where millions of Jews were destroyed - birthed by a spirit of murder and hate. It still goes on in other countries today, tribe against tribe whether the same color or not.

Write out Acts 10:34-35

- God uses people based on faithfulness, destiny, divine purpose, and qualifications - not on race, nationality, or personal preference.
- Acts 10:28 - In the days before this revelation there was racial prejudice.
- Prejudice divides the preaching of the gospel. You can't receive, and you can't give out. (John 4:9)
- People who are prejudiced or allow it to dominate their lives are people who are easily offended and quick to be hurt, quick to misunderstand, and have a victim mentality.

Are you easily offended?

LESSON 15

OVERCOMING PREJUDICE

LABOR FOR UNITY

Write out Ephesians 4:3

- ⇒ Unity will demand the destruction of prejudices in the Kingdom.
- ⇒ When men and women come into the Kingdom of God, all ethnic differences are to stop, and prejudices are to die. (2 Corinthians 5:14-17; 1 Peter 2:9)

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE PREJUDICE

First Steps

- ⇒ First repent when you recognize it. Don't wait until others tell you that you have it.
- ⇒ Do the opposite - love and help instead of hate and divide.
- ⇒ Protect yourself from the world's attitudes.

We must protect the church from the world's view.

- 📖 1 Corinthians 3:1-3
- 📖 Ephesians 4:3-4
- 📖 1 Peter 2:9; Philippians 2:3-6
- 📖 James 2:2-4, 9 (We are to love as God loves.)

IDENTIFYING PREJUDICE IN ORDER TO ROOT IT OUT

Different Kinds of Prejudice

- ✓ Some are prejudiced against poor people, which creates attitudes, false statements, and thoughts like, "Poor people are lazy or wasteful." It's not always true. A small percentage may be, but not all. (1 Corinthians 11:17-22; James 2:2-4, 9)
- ✓ Others are prejudiced against people who have wealth.
- ✓ Some are prejudiced against people of weight, bringing preconceived ideas that they eat too much. It's not always true.
- ✓ Some have sexual prejudices against a certain gender. These bring about an over-extension of submission and an unhealthy attitude toward women, whom God created to be helpmates, not slaves. (Genesis 2:20)
- ✓ Some have prejudices against certain age groups. This separates us from the wisdom of time and experience.

- ✓ Some are prejudiced against certain types of sin, such as homosexuality & lesbianism. This opens the door to a hatred spirit.
- ✓ Political prejudice, party against party, stops men and women from dealing with social issues to help prosperity, well-being, and development of nations.

Learn What God Says About Prejudice

- ⇒ Acts 17:26 - *“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.”*
- ⇒ Leviticus 19:15 - *“Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.”*
- ⇒ James 2:2-4, 9

Avoid the Prejudices of the World

- ➔ The one that comes to mind when we mention the word is racial prejudice - which brings us to color because different nationalities or races have their God-created differences in color or features that make them unique.
- ➔ Many times racial prejudice is not so much about color as it is about culture. Prejudice is the preference for one race or culture over another, instead of accepting and acknowledging they are God’s creation, and are unique and divine.
- ➔ Numbers 12:1 - The issue was not the color but the nationality. She was not an ethnically or nationally born Jew, so they thought of her as less than an asset to God and their national purpose, which were both the same as the church’s.

Key Verse

Life Change – Get it Out of Me If It’s in Me!

LESSON 16

REVENGE OR VENGEANCE?

REVENGE DEFINED

Read Romans 12:19

- ↗ The word revenge come from the word “vindicate” meaning: vindictive action, the act or nature of punishing another for payment of a wrongdoing.
- ↗ Revenge seeks to do damage, hurt physically, emotionally, or financially; to bring about injury in some way.
- ↗ Vengeance = avenging a wrong. It belongs to God. (Romans 12:19)

Vengeance should never be satisfying to anyone.

- We should never rejoice over others’ failures, harms, mishaps, or tragedies.
- The hurt will still be there after an act of vengeance has taken place.

A heart seeknig revenge will cause you to act irrationally.

- Irrational = to be unreasonable, to make bad decisions
- A heart seeking revenge causes bitterness to be born. It can cause acts of hatred and even murder.
- Seeking revenge clouds judgment and allows for the hearing of half-truths, or even lies, and believes them to be true.
- Seeking revenge is fleshly, satanic, and evil.

Do you have a heart seeking revenge?

READ MATTHEW 14:1-10

- ⊗ This was an act of revenge because of humiliation and social shame brought about by the truth.
- ⊗ Revenge and its nature may hurt even innocent people. (John’s family, his disciples, Jesus)
- ⊗ Neither Jesus’ nor John’s disciples sought vengeance in the wrongful death of John the Baptist.
- ⊗ Jesus is our example. (1 Peter 2:21-23)

Revenge is born out of unforgiveness which produces bitterness.

- ✓ Out of it we think, hope, dream, wish, and may eventually do something to start or be a part of a vengeful act, or cause us to be partakers of a vengeful act.
- ✓ If a man's child is raped or killed, he goes to a courtroom; he does not take it upon himself to assign punishment.

Acts of Revenge

- ⇒ Repeating a matter of someone's past or a failure may be a vengeful act. The motive would determine if it was or not.
- ⇒ Spreading rumors to cause hurt because of indifference could very well be vengeful. God tells us that vengeance belongs to Him. (Hebrews 10:30)

Read Matthew 5:38-45

- ✦ No revenge doesn't mean no justice, but the motive must be justice not punishment.
- ✦ Romans 12:19-21

Bible Examples

- Numbers 12:1-15
Moses didn't seek revenge; he sought to turn her punishment around and bring her healing & restoration in fellowship with God and man.
- Genesis chapters 42 - 45
Joseph never sought revenge for what he suffered from his brothers, even though they feared it.

RATHER HAVE MERCY

Write out Hebrews 8:12

- 📖 Mercy is not desirous that anyone suffer punishment even though they are wrong or have done wrong.
- 📖 1 Samuel 24:6 - *"And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord."*
- 📖 An attitude of revenge can blind us to wrong actions & emotions. That's why it's important to have people around us to help us see clearly and live a forgiving lifestyle.

List five ways you show mercy:

HOW TO STAY FREE OF REVENGE

Read the Following

1. Luke 23:34
2. 1 Peter 2:21-23
3. Mark 11:25-26
4. Hebrews 8:12
5. Matthew 5:48
6. Ephesians 5:1
7. 1 Corinthians 11:1 - *“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”*
8. 1 Peter 3:8-13
9. Matthew 5:44-45

There will be a day of God’s vengeance.

- Hebrews 10:30-31
- 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9
- Jude 7-8

Are you free of vengeful thoughts and actions?

If not, what are you going to do about it?

LESSON 17

ARE WOMEN EQUAL?

WOMEN AS DISCIPLES

Discipleship

- ⇒ Definition: a follower of a particular teacher or school of thought; a student
- ⇒ All believers are followers of Jesus Christ.

The Bible does not segregate between male and female as to salvation.

1. John 3:15
2. Galatians 3:26-28
3. Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18
4. Jesus sent out seventy disciples (no mention as to the gender)

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Mary of Bethany

- ✓ Luke 10:38-42
 - a. She joined herself as a disciple to Jesus (sat at His feet).
 - b. She sought spiritual truth and understanding (a student).
 - c. Jesus accepted her.

- ✓ John 12:1-8
 - a. She anointed the feet of Jesus with costly oil, wiped them with her hair.
 - b. As Jesus prepared His disciples for His departure, Mary prepared Him for His burial.

Mary Magdalene

- ✘ Luke 8:1-3
 - a. Mary and other women traveled from place to place with Jesus and the other disciples.
 - b. These women used their own material wealth to make provision for Jesus as He traveled around preaching.

- ✘ Mark 15:40-41
 - a. Scripture does not tell us, but Mary was most likely the leader of these women who followed Jesus.
 - b. Her name always appears first among the women listed, and it is only one of a few that are actually called by name, giving her a place of honor (denoting a leader).

✂ Matthew 27

- a. Mary's unwavering faithfulness to Jesus saw Him all the way to the cross
- b. Vs. 55, 56
- c. vs. 61 - She was there at His burial.

✂ John 20:1-18

- a. Mary was the first to the sepulchre and saw the stone rolled away; she ran to tell the disciples, and they all returned to see. Not understanding what had happened, they returned to their homes. Mary, however, remained behind, and Jesus made Himself known to her. Scripture does not say why Mary was chosen as the first to see the resurrected Christ, but with her uncompromising faithfulness we can conclude that Mary Magdalene had the faith that God needed to proclaim His risen Son.
- b. Mary Magdalene fulfilled the purpose of her role. Her unwavering devotion and uncompromising faith serve to teach us the true meaning of discipleship. It is through this kind of discipleship that we win the world for Jesus!

The Samaritan Woman at the Well

- Her encounter with Jesus broke all social, religious, and cultural barriers. The mere fact that He even associated Himself with her should speak to us that He viewed all humanity as equal. It is with this equality that we all can receive salvation. Making us all, "One body in Christ." (Rom. 12:5).
- John 4:1-30, 39-42
 - ◆ **Social Barrier** was broken. Women were considered to be inferior to men; men never spoke to them in public.
 - ◆ **Cultural Barrier** was broken, as Jews never spoke to Samaritans. Jews believed that the Samaritans betrayed the faith when they intermarried with foreigners.
 - ◆ **Religious Barrier** was broken when Jesus took a drink from the Samaritan woman. The Jewish people believed that they would become unclean if they used a drinking vessel handled by a Samaritan. (2 Kings 17:24-33)
- Jesus came to save, deliver, and restore all of humanity. He takes renewed lives and uses them for His purpose and His glory. Jesus declared to the Samaritan woman that He was the Messiah and revealed eternal life to her. She was forgiven, cleansed, and healed of her sinful ways. She was then used by God to proclaim throughout Samaria that she believed the Messiah was there. This brought people to Jesus, and He stayed there two days ministering to them.

There is no scriptural evidence that Jesus had an inferior mentality toward these women. He treated them with equality and respect, valuing them as the daughters of God, and recognizing their gifts and talents. He used them all as disciples to help fulfill the purpose for which God had sent Him.

LESSON 18 THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

AGE OLD DOCTRINES AND CUSTOMS

Age-Old Doctrines and Customs Displayed (These are not true!)

1. Women are to play a subservient role in the church.
2. It is blasphemous to the Holy Scriptures to call women disciples since they were not of the chosen twelve.
3. Women are to be silent in the church. (Taken from 1 Cor 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:11--12)

Age-Old Doctrines and Customs Disproved

- ▶ All are equal in the eyes of God. (Galatians 3:26-28: neither male nor female)
- ▶ Romans 12:5 One body
- ▶ Acts 2:17-18 Your daughters shall prophesy (not keep silent!)

WOMEN'S ROLES AS LABORERS FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Paul sends greetings and salutes the women as well as the men.

- ▶▶ Romans 16:1-3
- ▶▶ Philippians 4:2-3

Grace is freely given by God to all believers to meet the needs of the Body of Christ.

- ➡ 1 Corinthians 12:4-7
- ➡ 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

The manifestation of God's Spirit is in all believers.

- ☑ Romans 8:9; Romans 8:16; 1 Corinthians 3:16
- ☑ Acts 2:17-18 (Both men and women prophesy)
- ☑ Acts 21:8-9 (These women shared the gospel and edified the church.)
- ☑ Other prophetesses in the church
 - a. Anna (Luke 2:36-38)
 - b. Deborah (Judges 4:1-14)
 - c. Miriam (Exodus 15:20-21)

What women do you know who are used by God in the church?

SILENT OR NOT?

How does Paul go from acknowledging women in the church (Romans 16) to telling them to be silent in church in 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 and 1 Timothy 2:11-12?

- ⌘ Throughout Paul's writings, he is constantly giving guidelines to the churches as to worship, prayer, and the order of church operation.
- ⌘ In that era of the first century, men were considered to be the dominate party of society.
- ⌘ At this time, women as well as men were excited about their salvation and were eager to do something for the work of the Lord. They had a sense of freedom and zeal like they'd never known before.
- ⌘ The women understood that God deemed them equal to all men, and He had gifted them for His service. They became bold to speak out and to do things that society would have dictated to men only.
- ⌘ Women began to speak out within the churches and to question things, maybe disagreeing with some things being taught. One of Paul's concerns was for the order of the church to be respectful so that God would be glorified.
- ⌘ When issues or concerns arose, it was Paul's job to address them. That is what he was doing in 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 and 1 Timothy 2:11-12. He was reminding the churches that there were certain social practices concerning men and women within their society. They needed to be mindful of them in order to maintain respect for the Body of Christ.
- ⌘ If they had issues or concerns, they needed to discuss them at home with their husbands and let their husbands address the issues. Never in these two texts does Paul discount women as believers or the role that they held in the church. That would have been contradicting his Epistles. He was simply dealing with a social issue within the church, the same as pastors within today's churches deal with social issues of our time.

Historically, women have been vital to the Kingdom of God and the Body of Christ. To appoint women a subservient role in the church without scriptural cause is wrong. We learn from Deborah, Anna, Mary, Priscilla, and today's women of faith that the gifts and calling of God are for all, and they are desperately necessary for use in these last days. Let us not choke the Word by straining at gnats while our world is full of lost souls.

LESSON 19

THE NAMES OF GOD JEHOVAH, YAHWEH

JEHOVAH, YAHWEH

God and Moses

- Moses knew God by this name. The name “Lord” points to the God who is continually becoming the *Self-Existing One*. (Exodus 3:4)
- God proclaimed this of Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:6.

Write out the verse:

What’s in a Name?

- All revelations of God to us reveal His attributes to all equally.
- Look up scriptures that tell you that He is not a respecter of persons:

- Whatever God reveals about Himself through His name to one, He reveals to all who do right in His name.
- Every name that is revealed to the redeemed (His redemptive names) are revealed to all who are redeemed.
- The names of God are an expression of what He does for all who are redeemed and in right standing with Him.

New Testament Reference to Jesus

Read Acts 2:30-36 and write down what you see:

"I AM THAT I AM" (EXODUS 3:14)

The Lord gave Himself this personal name.

- ✠ I Am, (Yahweh), is the promise of God that He will be with us. (Exodus 3:12)
- ✠ "Forever this is My name." (Exodus 3:15)
- ✠ When Jesus was born, He was called Emmanuel, God with us. (Matthew 1:23)

Jesus called Himself "I Am."

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| ⇒ "I Am" the bread of life. | John 6:48 |
| ⇒ "I Am" the light of the world. | John 8:12 |
| ⇒ "I Am" the door. | John 10:9 |
| ⇒ "I Am" the Good Shepard. | John 10:11 |
| ⇒ "I Am" the Resurrection and the Life. | John 11:25 |
| ⇒ "I Am" the Way, the Truth, and the Life. | John 14:6 |
| ⇒ "I Am" the True Vine. | John 15:1-5 |

By what name do you know Him best?

Key Verse

LESSON 20

THE NAMES OF GOD EL SHADDAI, ADONAI

EL SHADDAI

Definition

- ✎ El = the Strong One (Psalm 63:1)
- ✎ Shaddai = the All-Bountiful One.
- ✎ God revealed Himself with a new name, Almighty God = El Shaddai. (Genesis 17:1)
- ✎ The word “Almighty” relates to blessing and multiplication.
 - a. Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes. Mark 6:30-44
 - b. Life and life more abundantly. John 10:10
 - c. Jesus is called Almighty God. Isaiah 9:6

El Shaddai is first used in Gen 17:1 and last used in Rev 19:15. Write out both verses:

- ✗ We see that God doesn't change, and what He did for one, He'll do for you.
- ✗ “Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.” (1 Thessalonians 5:24)
- ✗ He is El Shaddai to every son and daughter born of faith in Jesus Christ.

What do you see here?

Key Verse

ADONAI

Adonai = Master, Lord, Owner

- ✎ Jesus said, “Not My will, but Yours be done.” He was the Father’s bond slave.
- ✎ We are to have the same attitude. (Philippians 2:5-7)
- ✎ Psalm 110:1 “The Lord (Yahweh) said to my Lord (Adonai)...”
- ✎ Psalm 114:7; Malachi 3:1

What does the name Adonai (Master) assure for the believer?

- ✓ God as your Master has the resources and abilities to take care of you. (Philippians 4:19; Jeremiah 32:17)
- ✓ Help is available to carry out the Christian’s duties as a servant. (2 Corinthians 9:8; Philippians 4:13)
- ✓ A servant of the Lord has the privilege of calling upon his relationship with the Lord to get the help he needs. (Psalm 40:1-3)
- ✓ To make Jesus Christ Lord, you must make Christ and His Word Lord over every portion of your life. (Luke 6:46-49; John 15:14)
- ✓ We can trust Jesus Christ as Master to care for us, His servants. (Matt 6:11; Luke 12:32)

How is God your Master?

Key Verse

LESSON 21

THE NAMES OF GOD JEHOVAH JIREH

JEHOVAH JIREH

Jehovah Jireh = the Lord will provide, or the Lord is provision

📖 Read Genesis 22:7-8

📖 Before God asked Abraham to offer his son, God already provided the means of redemption. (Revelation 13:8)

WHAT CHRIST HAS PROVIDED

▶▶ Redemption - Write out Ephesians 1:7

▶▶ Forgiveness – Read 1 John 1:9

▶▶ Acceptance – Write out Ephesians 1:6

▶▶ Love, joy, peace... - Read Galatians 5:22-23

▶▶ Life, abundant life – Write out John 10:10

▶▶ Freedom - Read John 8:31-32

▶▶ Access to God – Read Hebrews 10:19-22

▶▶ Salvation - Read Ephesians 2:8-9

▶▶ Healing – Write out 1 Peter 2:24

▶▶ Protection – Read John 5:18; Ephesians 6:10-18

▶▶ Prosperity – Write out 3 John 2

IS HE YOUR PROVIDER?

How?

Key Verse

LESSON 22

THE NAMES OF GOD JEHOVAH M'KADDESH, JEHOVAH NISSI

JEHOVAH M'KADDESH

Jehovah M,Kaddesh = Jehovah who sets apart unto Himself

- ✍ The Lord wants us to be a holy nation. (Exodus 19:5-6)
- ✍ We have no inheritance, holiness, or righteousness apart from Him. (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

The theme of Exodus was holiness or sanctification; separation.

- ✗ Sanctification is God's part. (Leviticus 20:8)
- ✗ Separation is our part. (Leviticus 20:7)
- ✗ We have turned from sin (our part); God turned to us (His part.) (Ephesians 4:24)

We are set apart and sanctified by:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The blood of Jesus | Hebrews 9:12 |
| 2. The Holy Spirit | Romans 15:16 |
| 3. The Word of God | John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26 |
| 4. Separation | 2 Corinthians 6:17-18 |
| 5. Jesus, God's name | 1 Corinthians 6:11 |
| 6. Sanctified by Christ | 1 Corinthians 1:2 |
| 7. The body of Jesus | Hebrews 10:10, 14 |
| 8. Faith | Acts 26:18 |
| 9. Prayer and fasting | Mark 6:46-47; Joel 1:14 |

List three areas of personal separation in your life:

Did God call you to these, or did you set yourself apart?

JEHOVAH NISSI

Jehovah Nissi = The Lord is (my, our) banner (Exodus 17:8-16)

- ✎ A banner, not necessarily a flag, often was a bare pole with some kind of ornament, such as the pole in connection with the brazen serpent. (Numbers 21:9; John 3:14-15)
- ✎ Jesus was lifted up on a pole, the cross, just as the serpent was lifted up. (Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-15)

The Lord is our Banner

- ➔ Banner is victory. (Colossians 2:15; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58)
- ➔ Banner is a standard in life. (Isaiah 59:19)
- ➔ Our sign to all that He is the triumphant Lord. (2 Corinthians 2:14)

Christ is our Banner of:

- ✓ Protection (Exodus 17:15)
Example in my life _____
- ✓ Warfare (John 16:33)
Example in my life _____
- ✓ Rejoicing (Psalm 20:5)
Example in my life _____
- ✓ Victory (Romans 8:37)
Example in my life _____
- ✓ Redemption (John 3:14)
Example in my life _____
- ✓ Deliverance (Colossians 1:13)
Example in my life _____

LESSON 23

THE NAMES OF GOD

JEHOVAH ROPHE, JEHOVAH SHALOM

JEHOVAH ROPHE (RAPHA)

Jehovah Rophe = Jehovah heals; I Am the Lord thy physician

 Read Isaiah 53

What did you see?

God gives conditions and promises for healing. (Exodus 15:26)

→ Conditions

- a. Hearken
- b. Do
- c. Give ear
- d. Keep

→ Promises

- a. "I will put none of the diseases upon you."
- b. "For I Am the Lord that healeth thee."

You can receive healing...

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Through Christ's atonement, redemption | Isaiah 53:4-5 |
| 2. By the Holy Spirit | Romans 8:11 |
| 3. Through God's Word | Proverbs 4:20-23; Matthew 8:16 |
| 4. By the Name of Jesus | Acts 3:16; Mark 16:17 |
| 5. By your faith | Acts 3:16; Romans 10:9-10 |
| 6. By the laying on of hands | Mark 16:18 |
| 7. Through the gifts of the Spirit | 1 Corinthians 12:9 |
| 8. By the prayer of faith | James 5:14-15 |
| 9. Through the elders of the church | James 5:13-15 |
| 10. Through prayer cloths | Acts 19:11-12 |

Jesus heals the total man and all brokenness. (Luke 4:18-19)

- ✚ To preach the gospel to the poor
- ✚ Healing of a broken heart and wounded spirit
- ✚ To preach deliverance to the captives
- ✚ Recovery of sight to the blind
- ✚ To set at liberty them that are bruised

JEHOVAH SHALOM

Jehovah Shalom = The Lord is (my, our) peace (Psalm 29:11)

Pray - Don't Worry (Philippians 4:6-7)

- ✘ When you worry, you have no peace.
- ✘ When you have peace, you have no worry.
- ✘ Don't worry about it, pray about it.
- ✘ Worry stops prayer.
- ✘ Prayer stops worry.

Name five things you will pray about, and refuse to worry about again:

Peace Brings Wholeness

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| ✚ Full of light | Matthew 6:22 |
| ✚ Full of joy | John 15:11; 16:24 |
| ✚ Full of the Holy Ghost | Acts 6:3 |
| ✚ Full of wisdom | Acts 6:3 |
| ✚ Full of faith | Acts 6:5 |
| ✚ Full of power | Acts 6:8 |
| ✚ Full of goodness | Romans 15:14 |
| ✚ Now are ye full | 1 Corinthians 4:8 |
| ✚ Full of glory | 1 Peter 1:8 |
| ✚ Full of prayer | Revelation 5:8 |

Jesus - The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

- ✓ Peace affects how we feel toward others.
- ✓ Peace affects how we feel toward God.
- ✓ Peace comes from Jesus, not the world.
- ✓ Sin destroys peace.
- ✓ God is a God of peace.
- ✓ God wants us to live in and enjoy peace.

Hebrews 12:14
Romans 5:1
John 14:27-28; John 16:33
Genesis 3:8
1 Thessalonians 5:23
2 Thessalonians 3:16

Key Verse

Pray for Others

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LESSON 24

THE NAMES OF GOD

JEHOVAH TSIDKENU, JEHOVAH ROHI

JEHOVAH TSIDKENU

Jehovah Tsidkenu = The Lord is our righteousness

- ✍ When you come to Christ, He becomes your righteousness. (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- ✍ God makes us righteous through Christ by faith. Jesus took our sin and gave us His righteousness. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- ✍ Through Christ we have a new spirit, a righteous spirit. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- ✍ When God looks at us He sees Jesus. We have the same rights Christ has through His name. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Righteousness

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ✗ To call God Father | Romans 8:14-17 |
| ✗ To come into God's presence | Hebrews 10:19-22 |
| ✗ To be accepted by God | Romans 5:1 |
| ✗ To use the name of Jesus | Mark 16:17 |
| ✗ To be blessed | Ephesians 1:3 |
| ✗ To use the Word | Ephesians 6:17 |
| ✗ For answered prayer | John 14:13; 15:16; 16:23-24 |
| ✗ For my loved ones to be saved | Acts 16:31 |
| ✗ For my needs to be met | Philippians 4:19 |
| ✗ To make it in life | Romans 5:17 |
| ✗ For forgiveness | 1 John 1:9 |
| ✗ For inheritance | Ephesians 1:11, 17-18; Romans 8:17 |
| ✗ To receive the Holy Spirit | Luke 11:9-13 |
| ✗ For salvation | Hebrews 9:12 |
| ✗ To know God | John 17:3 |
| ✗ To know and hear God's voice | John 10:3-5 |
| ✗ For victory over Satan and demons | Luke 10:19 |
| ✗ To have the mind of Christ | 1 Corinthians 2:16 |
| ✗ For victory over sin | Romans 6:11-14 |
| ✗ For the gifts of the Spirit | 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 |

I know I am righteous in God's eyes because...

JEHOVAH ROHI

Jehovah Rohi = God is my shepherd (What Christ did for one, He did for all.)

- Read Ezekiel 34:11-16; Psalm 23:1-6
- The qualities of the good Shepherd:
 - a. He searched for us.
 - b. He sought us.
 - c. He delivers us.
 - d. He feeds us in good pastures.
 - e. He causes us to lie down (rest).
 - f. He seeks that which is lost.
 - g. He brings back that which was drawn away.
 - h. He binds up the brokenhearted.
 - i. He strengthens the sick.
- Jesus has given us this ministry; we now go in His name.

Jesus identifies with us because He became one of us.

- ✓ As a shepherd, He knows what it is to be a sheep. (John 1:29; Hebrews 4:14-15)
- ✓ The qualities of false shepherd:
 - a. A false shepherd won't see the lost.
 - b. Will not bring again that which was driven away.
 - c. Won't bind up the broken; will not strengthen the weak.
- ✓ Jehovah Rohi as our shepherd knows us intimately. (Psalm 139:1-24)
- ✓ Jehovah Rohi as our shepherd knows us personally. (John 10:14)

Jesus' Promises as the Good Shepherd:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. We would hear His voice. | John 10:3 |
| 2. He calls us by name, and He knows our name. | John 10:3 |
| 3. He would lead us. | John 10:3 |
| 4. He keeps us from the false shepherd's voice. | John 10:5 |
| 5. He is the door = salvation. | John 10:7-9 |
| 6. The good Shepherd feeds us, leads us, and guides us. | 1 Peter 2:25 |
| 7. He knows what's best for us. | John 10:14-16 |
| 8. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd. | 1 Peter 5:4 |
| 9. Jesus is the Great Shepherd. | Hebrews 13:20-21 |

LESSON 25

THE NAMES OF GOD

JEHOVAH SHAMMAH, EL ELYON

JEHOVAH SHAMMAH

Jehovah Shammah = The Lord is there

First time mentioned in scripture = Ezekiel 48:35

-  Jehovah Shammah means the Lord is there, the Lord is present.
-  God's closeness and nearness

The Name of God was always designed to dwell with us.

- ✘ God walks with Adam and Eve, and His presence is first recorded in Genesis 3:8.
- ✘ The tabernacle of Moses - God is present to dwell with us. (Exodus 25:8; Exodus 26:1-37; Exodus 36:8-36)
- ✘ The tabernacle of David - a new and different form of worship. (1 Chronicles 15:1, 27-29; 1 Chronicles 16:9)
- ✘ Solomon's temple - the presence of God manifest His dwelling with his people. (1 Kings 8:10-11)
- ✘ Zerubbabel's temple - if you seek Him, He will show up. (Ezra 6:15-16)
- ✘ We are God's temple. (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:21-22)

As Jehovah Shammah, God will dwell with us forever.

- ✓ Revelation 21:22-23
- ✓ In the holy city (New Jerusalem) God will dwell and be with us forever. (Rev 21:1-3)

Jehovah's Presence Brings:

 Peace	Romans 2:10
 Joy	Psalms 16:11
 Rest	Exodus 33:14
 Refreshing	Acts 3:19
 Comfort	2 Corinthians 1:3
 Judgment	John 5:30
 Protection	Psalms 31:20
 Salvation	Psalms 85:9
 Courage	Psalms 31:24

EL ELYON

El Elyon is first seen in scripture in Genesis 14:18-22.

→ El Elyon means The God Most High or The Mighty One, the One Most High.

→ Lucifer coveted God's name. (Isaiah 14:13-14)

The Five "I will's" of Lucifer (Isaiah 14:13-14)

1. "I will" ascend into Heaven.
2. "I will" exalt my throne above the stars of God.
3. "I will" sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.
4. "I will" ascend above the heights of the clouds.
5. "I will" be like the Most High (El Elyon.)

The Five Judgments of God upon Lucifer (Isaiah 14: 15-20)

1. "You will" be thrown down into hell.
2. "You will" be gazed upon.
3. "You will" be talked about.
4. "You will" be cast out of your grave like a carcass.
5. "You will" not be remembered.

What the Name of the Most High (El Elyon) will do for the believer:

- ✘ El Elyon is our victory. Psalm 18:16-17
- ✘ El Elyon is our security. Psalm 21:7
- ✘ El Elyon performs and accomplishes all. Psalm 57:2
- ✘ Calls us children of the Most High - El Elyon. Psalm 82:6
- ✘ El Elyon is our secret shelter and abiding place. Psalm 91:1-9

What did you learn about the names of God that you did not know before?



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About the Author

Peter Doseck believes in the Word of God. It is his life-sustaining connection to Heaven, and it provides wisdom, direction, and purpose for his every move on earth. Peter Doseck also believes in the contemporary, continuing outpouring of the Holy Spirit whose gifts and anointing empower believers to do the works that Jesus did, and greater works than these. He adheres to the purity of the salvation message and proclaims the fullness of the gospel which is manifested in signs, wonders, and miracles.

For the past 27 years Peter Doseck has faithfully and zealously declared the message of faith in Christ with demonstration to the four corners of the earth. International Miracle Crusades have resulted in over two million salvations, and countless healings and miracles. Peter Doseck Ministries (PDM) has also touched more than 33,000 pastors around the world with dynamic teaching and impartation of the miraculous.

PDM is dedicated to changing lives through the uncompromising message of a man who believes steadfastly in the present day manifestation of the power of God. "Peter Doseck has a vision and anointing, and it is an honor to know and love this man of God," says Oral Roberts.

Peter Doseck is a noted author whose books have impacted countless lives, and he is also founder and senior pastor of Only Believe Ministries Christian Center (OBMCC) in Botkins, Ohio. Arising from a dirt floor garage in 1982 with only one member, today OBMCC is blessed with a growing congregation whose primary focus is winning the lost.