



My Identity in Christ

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MY IDENTITY IN CHRIST

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LESSON ONE

WHO AM I?

Write Out 2 Corinthians 5:14-16

Write Out 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Read Luke 15:11-24

- † When we separate from God, we lose our identity that was birthed for us to inherit.
- † The prodigal son goes back to his father = symbolic of Christians coming back to Christ.
- † God gives us garments of righteousness, rings of authority, feet shod for inheritance.

God-Given Identity

- ✓ God calls us the sons of God; the righteous.
- ✓ God calls us more than conquerors and overcomers.

Do Not Allow Circumstances to:

- ✂ Determine the value you hold in the Kingdom.
- ✂ Determine who you are in Christ.
- ✂ Determine whether God is with you or not.
- ✂ Determine whether God has heard your prayers or not.
- ✂ Determine if you are a conqueror or a loser.
- ✂ Define who you are. (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

Establishing Your Identity in Christ

- ✂ You can *proclaim* your identity, but circumstances want to *redefine* your identity.
- ✂ When you believe who you really are in Christ, then you will act like a child of God.

How does a child of God act?

Circumstances That Attempt to Redefine Your Identity

- ✗ Storms in your life can cause you to begin to lose your identity in Christ.
- ✗ Sickness tries to destroy your health and your identity as one who is healed.
- ✗ Financial pressure tries to redefine your identity.
- ✗ A broken marriage tries to redefine your identity.
- ✗ Circumstances of your past try to steal your identity in Christ.
- ✗ Your physical outward appearance can define your inward identity.
- ✗ Religion can give you a confused picture of who you are in Christ. (John 8:31-32)

Key Verse

Who are you according to the Bible?

<hr/>	Ref: <hr/>

LESSON TWO

I AM IN CHRIST

Read Ephesians 4:20-24

Write your thoughts:

Write Out 1 Peter 3:4 & Ephesians 1:7

Read James 1:22-25; Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 2:10

Phrases That Identify Who You Are In Christ

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. "In whom" | 6. "With Him" |
| 2. "By Christ" | 7. "By Me" |
| 3. "In the Lord" | 8. "In Me" |
| 4. "In the beloved" | 9. "In My Love" |
| 5. "In Him" | 10. "Through Him" |

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18

- "Glory of the Lord..." means glory that He has crowned man with.
- False images will give us insecurities about what God said we can do.
- The devil will use different phrases to change our identity.
- The reflection of the Word empowers us in:
 - Action
 - Reaction
 - Speech
 - Motive
 - Purpose

God's Word and Your Identity

- ✎ When Christians continue to view the scriptures, they are supernaturally changed from who they were before they met Christ, to who they are after they met Him. (2 Cor 3:18)
- ✎ When we go to the scriptures to seek our identity, the enemy seeks to fog our identity.

Read Judges 6:1-10

- ✓ Fear entered them, it changed their identity, and they became disobedient.
- ✓ The voice of experience tries to redefine our identity.

Read Judges 6:11-16

- ✗ When you lose the identity that Christ has purchased for you, you will always be a victim.
- ✗ You cannot allow your past experiences to keep you in a shell and a victim forever.
- ✗ You need to forget the old things and draw into the new things.
- ✗ God has a future and an identity for you.
- ✗ Don't let the 'voice of experience' dictate who you are in Christ.

Let go of your past identity

"I am no more _____"

"But I am now _____"

The World's Identity

- ✎ The world has a false identity about themselves - they think they're gods.
- ✎ They think that whatever they are doing is always right.
- ✎ The world tries to give us a false reflection of ourselves.

The Voice of God

- ✎ Christians are the voice of God.
- ✎ The world needs Christians.

Key Verse

LESSON THREE I AM A NEW CREATURE

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

- 📖 “*He is a new creature*” = something that never existed before.
- 📖 We are something new, and we need to find out as Christians who we are.

Read Titus 3:4-5

- 🕊️ “*Washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost*” - It is one word.
- 🕊️ When we got saved there was a divine work called the “baptism of the Holy Ghost”, the work of the Holy Ghost whereby we were born again - not the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:13

- ✝️ We are baptized into Christ.
- ✝️ This is how it happens: It’s called the baptism of the Holy Ghost, or the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost = when someone comes to the altar and confesses Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
- ✝️ When this happens the Holy Ghost falls upon this unsaved person, and the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost occurs where He baptizes, covers, and saturates. When that divine work, that regeneration or renewing takes place, then it means there is a remodeling taking place. Now that person is changed from being a sinner (a child of the devil) - to a saint (a child of God).

Tell your story of the new birth:

Read Luke 13:10-16

- ✘ Jesus categorized her identity ... categorized her right to an inheritance of healing.
- ✘ When we discover our identity in Christ, we are discovering our rights and privileges.

Read 1 Peter 2:24

- ✓ If you are identified with Christ, you are dead to sins. If dead to sins, you should live unto righteousness.
- ✓ There is healing provided for you.

Have you been healed? _____

Read James 1:22-23

What did you learn? _____

How will you apply this in life? _____

Key Verse

LESSON FOUR

I AM NO LONGER A VICTIM

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-18

What does this mean to you?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:10

📖 Translated in Greek = Every voice that the world presents - whether from the devil, past, ability, etc. - tries to give us an identity.

Victim Mentality

- ✓ Victim identity directs our motives, purpose, speech, and action by continuing to reestablish who we were before in the past.
- ✓ Where we came from does not determine who we will be in life.

Newness in Christ

Write out Colossians 3:3

Read Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 4:16; 1 Peter 3:4

Who Knows Your Identity? [Acts 19:13-15]

- ✗ The devil knows your identity, and God knows your identity.
- ✗ God wants you to know your identity.

Do you know?

Discovering Your Hidden Identity

- We must discover it in the Word of God.
- We must meditate on it in the Word.
- We must live it and act as if it is true.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18

- ☞ “*With open face*” = God wipes the mirror off.
- ☞ There is nothing that hides the identity of the inner man from God.

Read Roman 8:36-37

- ✘ When problems arise in our lives, God wants us to say that we are more than conquerors through Him.
- ✘ If we stay committed to our identity, God will enforce the identity.
- ✘ If we relinquish the identity, then the enemy will enforce the identity.
- ✘ Whatever mirror you look in, and whatever you see, it will determine the way you walk, talk, and react.

Read Romans 8:38-39

- ✝ In our identity we become unconquerable.
- ✝ We always triumph in Him.

Key Verse

Life Change

LESSON FIVE

I AM THE BELOVED

Read James 1:22-25

- ✓ When we discover our identity, it reveals to us our purpose and our work.
- ✓ Certain identities bring about certain purposes and works in life.
- ✓ When we discover, accept, and act on our identity, we live in blessing.

Read Galatians 3:13

- God wants us to be free from the curse.
- Christ has redeemed us from all curses.

Read Ephesians 1:3

Who are you in your eyes?

Who are you in God's eyes?

Read 1 John 4:1

- ✗ "*Beloved...*" = who we are to God ... to be the favorite one, to be favored.
- ✗ We are preferred above everything else.

Read Matthew 3:16-17

Who was Jesus, and who are you in Him?

LESSON SIX DISCOVERING MY MOTIVATIONAL GIFT

Lay the Foundation – Read Romans 12:3-8

- When you are born again, you become a part of the Body of Christ.
- Every born again believer is given a gift, which we call motivational in this lesson. It's what makes you tick as a Christian. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Colossians 1:18)

Ministry Gifts in the Body of Christ (different than motivational gifts)

A. Five-Fold Ministry Gifts (Ephesians 4:11-12)

1. Apostle
 2. Prophet
 3. Evangelist
 4. Pastor
 5. Teacher
- These are only for those who are called and appointed to the offices.**

Do you feel called to one of the five?

B. Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

1. Word of knowledge
 2. Word of wisdom
 3. Discerning of spirits
 4. Gift of faith
 5. Gifts of healing
 6. Working of miracles
 7. Tongues
 8. Interpretation of tongues
 9. Prophecy
- These are for every believer who will covet them, put the Word in action, and move out in faith.**

Are these nine gifts at work in your life?

Motivational Gifts (Romans 12:3-8)

→ **Prophecy** - Character study: John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-12)

Tell about someone you know who acts like John and is motivated by this gift:

What traits do you see?

Do you have these traits? If so, are they

_____ Strong _____ Mid-range _____ Weak _____ Not at all

→ **Ministry or serving** - Character study: Martha (John 11:5; Luke 10:38-42)

Tell about someone you know who acts like Martha and is motivated by this gift:

What traits do you see?

Do you have these traits? If so, are they

_____ Strong _____ Mid-range _____ Weak _____ Not at all

→ **Teaching** - Character study: Paul (1 Corinthians 11)

Tell about someone you know who acts like Paul and is motivated by this gift:

What traits do you see?

Do you have these traits? If so, are they

_____ Strong _____ Mid-range _____ Weak _____ Not at all

→ **Exhortation** - Character study: Barnabas (Acts 4:36-37)

Tell about someone you know who acts like Barnabas and is motivated by this gift:

What traits do you see?

Do you have these traits? If so, are they

_____ Strong _____ Mid-range _____ Weak _____ Not at all

→ **Giver** - Character study: Abraham (Genesis 14:18-24)

Tell about someone you know who acts like Abraham and is motivated by this gift:

What traits do you see?

Do you have these traits? If so, are they

_____ Strong _____ Mid-range _____ Weak _____ Not at all

→ **Ruler** - Character study: David (2 Samuel)

Tell about someone you know who acts like David and is motivated by this gift:

What traits do you see?

Do you have these traits? If so, are they

_____ Strong _____ Mid-range _____ Weak _____ Not at all

→ **Mercy** - Character study: Good Samaritan (Luke 10:33-37)

Tell about someone you know who acts like the Samaritan and is motivated by this gift:

What traits do you see?

Do you have these traits? If so, are they

_____ Strong _____ Mid-range _____ Weak _____ Not at all

What character study best matches your attributes, gifts, and desires?

(This will help you identify which motivational gift you are strongest in.)

No Motivational Gift is Greater Than Another (1 Corinthians 15:10)

- ↪ We are gifted by God, not ourselves.
- ↪ Gifts are used to fulfill purpose and give God glory.
- ↪ It is God's will that we seek, not ourselves. (Matthew 26:39)
- ↪ We are not to compare ourselves with others. (2 Corinthians 10:12)

1. Discovering your primary motivational gift will help you see more clearly who you are in Christ.
2. To try to live in the identity of another will never be prosperous, but will only engender strife in you.
3. You must determine to live fully in the gifts and calling of God.
4. Recognize your strengths, and let go of your weaknesses by pressing in to be all that God has called you to be.

LESSON SEVEN THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

What Fruit? - Galatians 5:22-24

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

- ↪ The fruit of the spirit is the fruit of the recreated human spirit, not the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- ↪ The fruit of the spirit is the voice (or proof) of your conversion.
- ↪ The fruit of the spirit identifies who you are in Christ.
- ↪ The fruit of the spirit is the fruit of sonship, the fruit of the Christ-like nature in you after you are born again.
- ↪ The fruit of the spirit declares that you are a Christian, one who crucifies the flesh and lives a holy life.

Read Matthew 7:15-20

- Notice the word fruit. When you are saved and have the fruit of the spirit abiding in you, you will be holy as He is holy.
- If you have areas where you need help, God will chasten you according to Hebrews 12:5-14, and the work of that chastening will be the peaceable fruit of holiness.
- The fruit of the spirit produces holiness, and it is by this fruit that believers are known.
- Matthew 7:21 - You develop the fruit of the spirit so that you can live eternally with God.
- Matthew 7:22-23 - In other words, you cannot expect to go to Heaven without a life filled with fruit, no matter what works you have done.
- Every believer’s motive, everything that he or she does, should be fruit of the spirit motivated; in other words, love-based.
- No matter what you do, it will profit you nothing when you face judgment in eternity unless it is accompanied by the fruit of the spirit.

The Fruit of the Spirit is in Seed Form in Every Believer

- ➔ It grows and is developed in individuals in different ways and at different rates because of personal background, personalities, etc. (Romans 5:8)
- ➔ It grows by the individual’s faith and use.
- ➔ God has given us promises, that when accessed by faith, develop the fruit and produce godly lives. (2 Peter 1:3-4; Hebrews 4:2)
- ➔ You are empowered by faith and the Word to defeat the flesh and produce the fruit of the spirit. (Romans 8:11-13)
- ➔ The fruit of the spirit enables us to imitate our Heavenly Father, and Jesus, the light of the world. (Ephesians 5:1-2)
- ➔ The fruit of the spirit produces motives that reflect in all we do and how we do what we do.

- When the fruit of the spirit is developed, sin is hindered in our lives.
- The fruit of the spirit is the basis of a life controlled by the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16-23)

Identify the Fruit of the Spirit at Work in Your Life:

Love _____
Joy _____
Peace _____
Longsuffering _____
Gentleness _____
Goodness _____
Faith _____
Meekness _____
Temperance _____

Key Verse

Where is Life Change Needed?

Notes

LESSON EIGHT

DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

What is Character?

Definition of Character

- ↪ Character is to know what is right and do it even when no one is looking.
- ↪ A lifestyle that demonstrates the fruit of the spirit developed through a right-standing relationship with God.

Examples of Good Character Traits

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ➤ Hungering for righteousness | Matthew 5:6 |
| ➤ Led by the Spirit | Romans 8:14 |
| ➤ Faithful | Revelation 17:14 |
| ➤ Loving | 1 Thessalonians 4:9 |
| ➤ Obedient | Romans 16:19; 1 Peter 1:14 |
| ➤ Attentive to Christ's voice | John 10:3-4 |

How many of these are active in your life?

Examples of Evil Character Traits

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| → Alienated from God | Ephesians 4:18 |
| → Boastful | Psalms 49:6 |
| → Corrupt | Matthew 7:17 |
| → Deceitful | Psalms 5:6; Romans 3:13 |
| → Delights in the iniquity of others | Proverbs 2:14; Romans 1:32 |
| → Disobedient | Nehemiah 9:26 |

The Character of a Christian

Fruit of Developed Character

- ↪ Galatians 5:22-23
 - a. Love – developed through daily fellowship with the Father.
 - b. Growing in the characteristic of love develops all parts of the fruit of the spirit.
- ↪ As we grow in the nature of God, we begin to take on His character through our thoughts, words, and actions. We begin to express ourselves with His love nature.

Integrity and Character

- Integrity is defined as: completeness, wholeness, unimpaired condition, soundness, honesty, and sincerity.
- The result of developing a godly character is integrity.
- Proverbs 22:1; Ecclesiastes 7:1

Character: The Unspoken Witness

- ⌘ We are to let our lights shine before men to glorify the Father. (Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:15)
- ⌘ 1 Thessalonians 1:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- ⌘ The world perceives your character by your walk in Christ.
- ⌘ Your character determines how they receive your witness.
- ⌘ Character is the proof of God's re-creative work in a heart.
- ⌘ Your character is your witness, and words may never need to be spoken.

Undeveloped or Evil Character

The Deceptive Character

- ➔ Paul warned of those who would come in as wolves among the flock, ready to deceive and destroy.
- ➔ The character of these will be:
 - a. Heady and high minded, lovers of pleasure and not of God (2 Timothy 3:1-5)
 - b. Selfish and unthankful (2 Timothy 3:2)
 - c. Stiff-hearted and stiff-necked (Acts 7:51)
 - d. Unprofitable (Romans 3:12)

Outward Signs of Undeveloped Character

- ✗ Disobedient, deceitful, and critical.
- ✗ Glory in their shame, minding earthly things, and also the iniquity of others (Proverbs 2:14; Romans 3:13; Philippians 3:19)
- ✗ Lovers of pleasure and not of God (2 Timothy 3:4)
- ✗ Rebellious, stiff-hearted, and stiff-necked (Acts 7:51)
- ✗ Their desire will be to please man and not God. (Romans 8:5-9)

Developing Godly Character

Godly Character

- ☑ Godly character produces a lifestyle that demonstrates the fruit of the spirit.
- ☑ An individual of character will set a standard of living for himself, and setting standards develops the fruit of self-control.

Walk in Obedience

- ✂ Romans 6:12-16 Walk according to His Word; yield to His Spirit.
- ✂ Good character is not a gift; it is a deliberate act of obedience.
- ✂ It is developed through the choices we are faced with in our everyday living.

Renew Your Mind with the Word of God

- ☞ Ephesians 4:22-24
- ☞ Romans 12:2 Don't conform to the world; be transformed through the Word.
- ☞ Make this real for you. List key verses:

Separate Yourself from Ungodliness

- ☞ 1 Timothy 6:3-5; 2 Thessalonians 3:5-6, 14
- ☞ What you allow yourself to be around, you can become.
- ☞ Ecclesiastes 4:8-12

Develop a Strong Prayer Life

- Fellowship with the Father develops an understanding of His true nature.
- Prayer develops faith and faithfulness, and gives opportunity to hear from God.

Use What You Learn

- ✂ Don't procrastinate; put it to daily use. (Hebrews 5:12)
- ✂ Mark 11:12-23
 - a. Fight spiritual battles on a spiritual level.
 - b. Learn to use your faith when you come under attack.

SUMMARY

- 📖 Good character is not a gift; it is a deliberate act of _____. It is developed through the choices we are faced with in our everyday living.
- 📖 As we grow in the nature of God, we begin to take on His character. We begin to express ourselves with His _____ nature.
- 📖 Our thoughts, desires, and feelings change as we grow deeper in the revelation of His _____.
- 📖 Our choices then become based on His Word and not on our own _____.

LESSON NINE

INTEGRITY

Read Proverbs 13:6

- ☞ The life of the upright is a life of integrity.
- ☞ Integrity means to live a life upholding the laws of God that are written on man's heart because of a relationship with Him.
- ☞ Integrity produces personal direction and convictions through the Word and through the Spirit. These may vary from person to person, but they become laws we each must keep before God, in addition to the written law of the Word. (Romans 14:1-4; Hebrews 8:10-13)

List five personal convictions in your life:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Read James 2:26

- ✗ Works are the expression of faith.
- ✗ The Bible says in Romans 1:17 that "the just shall live by faith." Part of being made just is that we are to live out righteousness in our lives.
- ✗ Our righteousness should show in all facets of our lives. Though a person is saved by grace through faith, faith without works is dead. (Ephesians 2:8; James 2:20)
- ✗ The integrity of a believer produces a just life, a life that is the fruit of the work of God which made that person a new creation through forgiveness.
- ✗ How can one live a life of integrity? Through faith and the help of the Holy Ghost, along with the empowerment of the Word. (James 1:21)

Read Titus 2:11-12

- 📖 A life of integrity will cause a collision with the fallen world of immorality.
- 📖 The world is blinded to the light of the gospel of Jesus. It is blinded to the decay of the sin it lives in as a result.
- 📖 The standards of this world fall far short of the righteousness and holiness of God.
- 📖 When a believer is living a life that is producing righteousness and holiness, it will go against and be subversive to the sinfulness of the fallen world. Though we live in the world we cannot continue to live in sinfulness as the world does.
- 📖 Our relationship with God and our living according to His standards will cause a break with the world and the standards it lives by.

📖 Psalm 12:1-8; Romans 1:18-32; James 1:19-21

📖 Keeping the law of God is the way of integrity. Integrity is walking under the authority of God and His law, and allowing our lives to be changed through our faith and God's empowerment.

List three things you do differently today than in the first year of your salvation:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Is God expecting more of you now, or less?

How?

Read Psalm 41:12

- Those who live a life of integrity will be upheld by God and will be divinely attached to His presence.
- When Adam and Eve sinned they were separated from God by their sin. (Gen. 3)
- Striving to live a life of integrity will guard against the accusation and trap of sin. It will assure us that we will not be without God or His presence.
- Psalm 24:3-4 says, *“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.”*
- Integrity is the living out of our forgiveness. It is the life that strives for clean hands (actions) and a pure heart. It is a key to accessing the presence of God.
- Psalm 7:1-17; Psalm 41:4-13

Read Psalm 139:23-24

- ✘ David knew that a life of integrity was the life desired by God.
- ✘ David asked God to show him anything that contradicted His holiness. He wanted to be sure he upheld God's integrity.
- ✘ As believers, this kind of prayer is important. We must allow God to direct us in ways to continue to grow in our relationship with Him, and part of that is the continuation of the construction of a holy life.
- ✘ When one prays this prayer, and the Holy Spirit begins to guide us in ways that we must change, we must act on His leading to see our lives become what God intends us to become. (See also 2 Kings 22:1-20)

Good Witness (1 Samuel 24:1-22; 1 John 2:1-17; Daniel 3:1-30)

- ↻ A life of integrity is one of the basics for effective witness. A person cannot be a true light in a dark world when the actions of his or her life are reflective of the fallen world.
- ↻ Only when you are consecrated to God in all things, including having clean hands and a pure heart, can you be the most effective witness you can be.
- ↻ Someone who tries to spread the message of Jesus but does not live the life of integrity is simply a hypocrite. His actions will cancel out his words.
- ↻ To live out the fullness of God's purposes a person needs to be striving to live a life of integrity; then one can uphold the callings of God on his or her life.

How is your life a good witness?

Read 1 Kings 18:36

- Elijah saw God in a mighty way because of his integrity and dedication to all God had said.
- Numbers 22:12-32 - Balaam on the other hand did not.

Notes

LESSON TEN

HONESTY

Honesty - According to Vine's Expository Greek Dictionary

- 📖 Kalos = good; admirable; becoming; the ethical meaning of what is fair & right; conduct that deserves esteem; honest occupation; good works.
- 📖 Euschemonos = becomingly; decently; rendered honestly; of the manner of life of believers as a witness to them that are without
- 📖 Sementos = denotes gravity and dignified seriousness

Honesty – According to Webster's Dictionary, Published in 1960

- ✂ Honest = that will not lie, cheat or steal; trustworthy; showing fairness and sincerity; as an honest effort; genuine and open
- ✂ Honesty = the state or quality of being honest; being truthful; upright; straight-forward
- ✂ An older dictionary defines honesty as virtuous.
- ✂ It appears that the definition has been watered down over the years.

What's in the Bible?

- 📖 Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- 📖 It is sad to note that the word "honesty" is left out of many modern translations of this verse.
- 📖 The NIV substitutes holiness for honesty. There is nothing wrong with holiness, but it does change the context of the scripture.

What Does God Say About Being Honest?

- 2 Corinthians 8:21, *"Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the _____."*
- Luke 8:15, *"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and _____, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."*
- Acts 6:3, *"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and _____, whom we may appoint over this business."*
- Romans 12:17, *"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the _____ of all men."*
- 2 Corinthians 13:7, *"Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear _____, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates."*
-

- Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”
- 1 Peter 2:12, “Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, _____ in the day of visitation.”
- Romans 13:13, “Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in _____.”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:12, “That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have _____ of nothing.”
- Hebrews 13:18, “Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live _____.”

Why is Everything Upside Down in the World?

- ✦ Our children have no true concept of right and wrong.
- ✦ Children kill their own classmates and do not see the value of life.
- ✦ God is removed from sight; therefore, His ways are hidden to this generation.

The Bottom Line

- Honesty is priceless to the Christian, and it is integral to living a moral and ethical life.
- Honesty is essential to spiritual excellence.
- Our children, as they grow up, find it confusing and sometimes impossible to tell the truth because of conflicting examples of adults. In society, some expect adults to lie regularly, to say nice things that are not true. The Bible says to love those who despitefully use us, but we should not lie to them. People expect us to say we feel well when we don't, and to compliment things that deserve criticism. This is not honesty.
- 1 Timothy 6:14-19 = live blameless before God and be true to all men.
- We should endeavor to be open and honest with all people, within and without the Body of Christ. We should live our lives as an example of the Christ in us, seeking to be pleasing in His sight always. We may fall short sometimes, and so we must ask our Heavenly Father daily to forgive us and help us be more like Him.
- In the short run, honesty can seem to cost us, but in the long run it pays off handsomely as one of the keys to eternal salvation.

LESSON 11

OBEDIENCE

Obedience

Define obedience in your own words:

- ✎ The word *obey* means to hear intelligently; to give attention to; to tell or witness to one's servitude to God; to testify of one's faith in God; to give action to one's purpose in life.
- ✎ It means to hear as a servant or subordinate; to conform to authority.
- ✎ 1 Samuel 15:16-30
- ✎ Obedience is more honorable and desired of God than offerings of things & sacrifices of self

Scriptural Definition of Disobedience

📖 Read 1 Samuel 15:16-23

- 1 Samuel 15:19 - Disobedience is evil.
- 1 Samuel 15:23 - Disobedience is rebellion, stubbornness, & rejection of God and His Word & will.
- 1 Samuel 15:30 - Disobedience seeks one's own honor over God's.

📖 Read 1 Samuel 13:8-14

- Disobedience is done by the impatient, fearful & prideful; not the waiting, faithful & humble.
- 1 Samuel 13:13 - Disobedience is foolishness, and it creates instability.
- 1 Samuel 13:14 - Disobedience is choosing another heart over God's.
- Acts 13:21-22 - David = a man after God's own heart
- Saul started out in one act of disobedience, and ended up living a whole life of disobedience.

📖 Read Galatians 6:7-9

- You may not always see the effects of disobedience or obedience right away.
- Eventually you will see the effects.

Obedience in the Christian Life

- ✂ Synonyms of obedience, or words that reflect obedience to us: Faithfulness; commitment; faith in action; holiness; reverence; trustworthiness; pleasing to God; servant to God; crucified with Christ yet living

- ⌘ Obedience is to be done whole-heartedly, not selectively.
- ⌘ Luke 6:46
 - a. Obedience declares our choice of lords.
 - b. Obedience declares our relationship with Him from our heart.
- ⌘ Exodus 5:2
- ⌘ Deuteronomy 13:1-5: Obedience proves our love, unites us of soul & spirit, declares our fear for Him and our honor to Him, establishes our service to Him, keeps us united to Him, shows faith, and destroys evil.

Obedience Stops All Opinions and Resistance to God's Will

Write out Isaiah 1:19-20

1. Acts 10:17-21
2. Opinions & resistance give birth to doubt, reason, and unfounded fears.
3. Luke 5:1-8 - Every miracle is born out of obedience.
4. 1 John 5:7 - The Word & Spirit - they are the same.
5. John 5:5-9; John 6:63
6. Acts 10:1-7 - Cornelius had been obedient to the Word, then an angel came.
7. John 9:1-7 - Go wash in the pool of Siloam (2 Kings - Naaman the leper).
8. Proverbs 4:20 - My son attend (obey) my words, incline thine ear to my sayings.
9. Proverbs 4:22 - They are life & health to all thy flesh.
10. Exodus 19:4-6; Exodus 19:5 - Obedience determines your value to God & the Kingdom.

Read 1 Peter 1:4-16

- ☞ It is a command & requirement to see God in this life & eternity.
- ☞ It promotes & protects holiness.
- ☞ A revelation of our seating in the Kingdom causes us to act on behalf of our families, churches, communities, and the world.
- ☞ Deuteronomy 30:1-14; Exodus 23:20-22
- ☞ Exodus 23:25 - You shall serve the Lord, and He shall bless thy bread and water, and heal thee.
- ☞ John 4:13-14
- ☞ John 6:35 - provision
- ☞ John 7:37-39
- ☞ Matthew 6:11; Psalm 104:15; Deuteronomy 11; 1 Samuel 12:14

New & Old Testament Definitions of Obedience

- 📖 New Testament - to hear intelligently; to give attention to; to tell or witness of one's servitude to God, one's life of faith in God, and one's true purpose in life.
- 📖 Old Testament - to hear as a subordinate; to heed or conform to authority. It indicates to stop all opinions or resistant actions.
- 📖 1 Peter 1:22; Acts 10:17-20; Luke 5:1-8
- 📖 Obedience is always based on the Word of God and may be totally opposite of your present condition, and even your or others' abilities.

Obedience - The Step to Miracles

- ➔ John 5:1-9; John 9:1-7
- ➔ Faith may not understand or see everything, but it understands that God never fails, and the promise is the end of obedience.
- ➔ Proverbs 4:20 - Obedience = life & health
- ➔ Luke 6:46 - Obedience to the Word is making the choice of lordship and relationships.
- ➔ Exodus 5:2; Exodus 19:4-6; 1 Peter 1:14-16; Hebrews 12:14

Read Deuteronomy 13:1-5

- 📖 Obedience is the foundation of our covenant in the Kingdom & priestly activity on the behalf of our families, the church, our leaders, and the world.
- 📖 Obedience proves our love and gives our whole heart & soul. (verse 3)
- 📖 Obedience is how we serve God and agree with Him. (verse 4)
- 📖 Obedience destroys evil. (verse 5)
- 📖 Joshua 24:15; Joshua 24:24
- 📖 Galatians 3:5 - Every mind is born out of obedience.

Obedience – The Foundation of the Christian Life & Service to Jesus

- Without an obedient life, people are destroyed.
- Obedience is the foundation of all repentance, faith, and holiness, which are the three essentials of the Christian walk.
- Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:9
- Deuteronomy 30:1-6; 1 Kings 2:1-4; 1 Kings 11:4-13; 1 Kings 11:28-33

Tell your story of obedience which brought provision:

Read 2 Timothy 1:6

- Refreshing = revival; refresh; a breeze as a move of God
- Recovery of breath to keep fire burning; the runner serving the Lord; doing a reversal of what the devil has been doing. One great revivalist declared that revival is a return to obedience to God, His Word & Spirit. (1 Thessalonians 5:18-20; Luke 6:46).
- In this obedient return there is a rekindling of love & faith in His Word & Spirit. (1 Samuel 3:4-10)
- Acts 16:31 - You are by birthright an obedient people, destined by God to experience revival in life, home, church & the world.
- 1 Corinthians 15:10 - By the grace of God I am what I am.
- Deuteronomy 30:6-8; Jeremiah 32:40

Read Ezekiel 36:26-27

- ☞ Obedience is the nature of the new creation. That's who you are, and you are made clean, pure, perfect, blameless, and sanctified.
- ☞ John 15:3; 17:17
- ☞ 1 Peter 2:22 - Purify your souls in obeying the truth.
- ☞ Hebrews 4:16; Hebrews 10:22

Read James 1:5-8

- ⌘ You are sanctified and separated from faith failure and fleshly dominion.
- ⌘ All things are possible to him that believeth.
- ⌘ Roman 6:14 - Because of your obedient nature
- ⌘ John 14:30 - The prince of this world cometh and hath nothing in Me.
- ⌘ Mark 7:6-9 - Sanctify yourself from false heart worship, a hypocritical life, lip service only, false doctrines, traditions, and commandments of men.

Obedience Sanctifies You From Your Carnality of Mind & Body.

- ↻ Romans 8:4-9 - From death = separation from God
- ↻ John 8:51 - Saves you from living a displeasing life before God.
- ↻ 1 Peter 1:14-16 - Separate yourself from the old man, and cause the Spirit of God to transform you into the new you. (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- ↻ Deuteronomy 30:1-9
 - a. It will turn your captivity = sanctify you from habits, bondages, and Satan's hold.
 - b. It will sanctify you from the judgment of God (compassion on you).
 - c. It will sanctify you from poverty, the curse.

LESSON 12

PROVING FOR PROMOTION

Proving

- ✂ The word proving means to test; to try; attempt to find out something.
- ✂ 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 1 Peter 1:5-9; Revelation 2:23; 1 Sam 17:39

Testing, Not Tempting

- ↪ A test is not a temptation. (James 1:13-17)
- ↪ Temptation means to entice; to scrutinize. (1 Peter 5:6-8)
- ↪ Satan will take advantage of a test and try to tempt. (1 Corinthians 7:5; Luke 4:1-2)

When God Tests

- ☞ Tests are designed by God to promote us to possession of inheritance. (Deuteronomy 8:14-17; 8:1-10.)
- ☞ A test places man in a position to have to live by the Word and faith, or by self and unbelief.

Explain the difference between a test and temptation:

Seven Things - Deuteronomy 13:1-4

- 📖 There are seven things God is looking for in a test. You can pass a test. (Romans 8:26)

Seven things to discover:

1. Do you love yourself instead of God?
2. Do you walk in your own ways, by your senses?
3. Do you reverence God, or fear failure and circumstances?
4. Do you establish your own right and wrong?
5. Do you obey other voices?
6. Do you serve other things?
7. Do you draw back instead of hold fast?

What If I Fail the Test?

📖 Read Matthew 26:41; Deuteronomy 8:14-16.

📖 Read Deuteronomy 8:4 - God gave them water, fed them, their clothes never waxed old, their enemies never defeated them, but they never destroyed their enemies either. (We get by but never possess fully.)

What to do?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Repent | Matthew 18:21-22 |
| 2. Build faith | Romans 10:17; 1 John 5:4-5 |
| 3. Strengthen weaknesses | 2 Peter 1:2 |
| 4. Add to yourself | 2 Peter 1:5-9 |
| 5. Give yourself time to grow | 1 Peter 2:2; Heb 5:12 - 6:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:3 |

Bible Tests

- ➔ Judges 7:4-6: God tested them by obedience to His voice to see if they would listen.
- ➔ 2 Chronicles 32:24-31; Exodus 16:1-4; 1 Peter 4:12-15; Deuteronomy 4:34; Mark 10:17-22; Deuteronomy 8:1-16; Matthew 25:14-29; Genesis 22:1; 1 Cor 7:5; 1 Peter 5:8
- ➔ God tests our commitment to His Word. (Deuteronomy 13:1-4)

Where have you been tested?

Read Psalm 26:1-12

- ☞ David asked for testing - see if anything I have is more important than you.
- ☞ Reins = test what I have done, and why I have done it
- ☞ Heart = will, feelings, emotions by choices

Testing! Testing!

- × God did test and does test people, but not with evil. James 1:13-17
- × Moses tested people. Ex. 18:14-23; Num. 11:16-17, 24-25
- × Jesus tested people. John 6:5
- × Jesus was tested. Luke 4:1-15
- × The disciples tested. Acts 16:14-15
- × Paul tested people. 2 Corinthians 8:1-14

What We Test

- ✦ We are to test people - their gifts, desires for offices, qualifications, etc. (1 John 4:1-3)
- ✦ We judge family order, spouses, inside & out.
- ✦ We are to test callings. Revelation 2:2; Titus 1:5-9
- ✦ We are to test leadings - by counsel. Proverbs 11:14
- ✦ We are to test voices. 1 Corinthians 14:10
- ✦ We are to test visions. Judges 6:39
- ✦ We are to test teachings. Acts 17:11; Ephesians 4:13-16
- ✦ We are to test angels. 2 Thessalonians 2:9
- ✦ We are to test & prove prophecies. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

Who is Testing?

- ⌘ Satan tests to find ways to destroy. (1 Pet 5:8; 1 Pet 1:7-9; James 1:2-3; 1 Pet 4:12-13)
- ⌘ To determine who is doing the testing, judge its purpose: Is it because of your service to Him? Is it because of your righteous life for Him? Is it trying to destroy your faith, your life, your home? Does it bring discouragement? Does it question God's faithfulness?

Proving Before Using

📖 Read 1 Cor. 14:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Acts 6:2-7; Matthew 25:21; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 16:15; Psalm 139:23

📖 What are your conclusions?

Obedience - Exodus 16:1-21

- ↻ Read Numbers 14:21-23; Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:7-12.
- ↻ God proves by obedience.
- ↻ For Israel to go beyond this moment of need, to live by faith, to go in and possess, to be promoted across Jordan, they had to obey.
- ↻ God sought to find out their heart, their faith.
- ↻ If we are like the people of Israel in times of need, it keeps us from promotion to possession.
- ↻ This was not an evil testing but a godly testing. When they failed it cost them something.

The Purpose of Godly Testing

- Read Psalm 11:5; Luke 4:1-2; James 1:13-17; Deut. 8:2, 16; Heb. 4:15 & 2:18; 1 Cor.10:1-11
- What do you see?

Proving for Promotion

- ↻ Promotions into possessions bring a test, or a choice. (1 Timothy 3:6)
- ↻ Growth in spiritual things. (2 Thess 1:3; 1 Peter 2:1; Hebrews 5:12; Rom 1:16)
- ↻ Genesis 22:1-14 was a test of Abraham's faith that proved his service, dedication to God, and priorities in life.
- ↻ Judges 7:4-6 - God tried Gideon's faith and the men's obedience.
- ↻ Deuteronomy 16:2-4, 20
- ↻ Matthew 25:14-46: Test of gifts, test of purpose & love
- ↻ When testing is of God, we will find commandment and purpose.

Key Verse

Life Change

LESSON 13

THE POWER OF FULFILLED DESTINY

What Can I Do? ~ Philippians 3:13-21

- God doesn't do things independent of us.
- **You can't change your yesterday or where you are today, but you can change where you are going tomorrow.**
- Verses 17-19 tell us of those who started and quit; those who were casualties of Satan's strategies, attacks, and snares; those whose faith died and turned to unbelief.
- Verses 20-21 tell us that we are to press on, moving on no matter what our yesterdays were filled with.
- Verses 13-16 - Paul tells us that he's pressing toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Press means to move forward without fear.

Dealing with Hindrances

- 📖 Acts 20:22-25; Numbers 13:28 - There will always be obstacles, hindrances, mountains, valleys, battles, snakes in the grass, fires in the vineyard, and changing seasons. So our apprehending the prize is only accomplished by faith which is born out of a personal revelation of God's Word in our lives.
- 📖 Matthew 4:4 - You'll never run the race, have ownership of your future in God without a life in the Word. (Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 3:16)
- 📖 James 1:2 - Count it all = an attitude or state of mind; the position of the body.
- 📖 Philippians 3:15 - Stay focused. How? Make sure your purposes aren't just momentary - surviving the moment, just getting through the immediate crisis or problem.

How can you deal with your hindrances?

Focused on Purpose

- 📖 We must always keep purpose, which keeps focus. (Hebrews 11:13)
- 📖 People marry, have kids, raise them, and then feel empty, but your purpose isn't just to raise children - it's to have a Christ-centered, Christ-reflective marriage.
- 📖 People become inspired to obtain a home, a car, a business, a harvest, or have their needs met, but after they have received they lose their purpose and their faith which was expressed in their giving, and they become stagnant.
- 📖 You must keep your purpose in front so you can keep your focus.
- 📖 1 Corinthians 14:26 - We see here people motivated to assembly because of purpose; people bound to gather in the house to impart, give, encourage, and help one another.

Never Give Up - Numbers 13:25-33

- 📖 Verse 30 - Don't count yourself out. When things seem the most impossible, God shows up and shows off. (2 Corinthians 12:10)
- 📖 Verse 31; 14:1-5 - Disconnect yourself from people who voice fear and negativity; from people who only see defeat; from those who hear the badness. You can't fly with eagles when you roost with chickens.
- 📖 Romans 8:26-28; Hebrews 4:13; Habbakuk 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 4:12-16
- 📖 Joshua 1:8 - Meditate on what God called you to
- 📖 Be still and know He is God.

List what you need to focus on without giving up:

Key Verse

Pray for Others

LESSON 14

THE LORD IS MY HELPER

The Lord is On My Side

- Hebrews 13:5-6; Psalm 118:5-13
- A confident assurance of God being my helper destroys fear of man and the devil.
- It becomes the root of my voice of truth when my enemies are encamped about me.
- When there comes out of a multitude unrealistic odds, a scream or cry, what they need is a proclamation that "God is my helper."

The Lord is My Help

- 📖 Psalm 33:20; Psalm 37:40; Hebrews 4:13
- 📖 2 Corinthians 4:8 - Things come, things happen, but the Lord delivers me out of it all.
- 📖 2 Corinthians 11:30 - The strength of our joy is knowing that God is our helper.

Read Psalm 54:4-7

- ↪ There is a song in every battle, persecution, tragedy, need, and desire. There is a desire and a dream when you know He is your helper.
- ↪ Fear dies when you have a revelation you are not alone. (David and Goliath)

Tell your story:

Examples

- ✂ Acts 16:25-31 (Paul and Silas)
- ✂ Matthew 28:18; Mark 9:24
- ✂ Luke 17:12-19 - His faith came by hearing about Jesus.
- ✂ Romans 10:17 - where faith came from
- ✂ 1 Peter 1:12 - where the Word came from
- ✂ So everything that faith did throughout the Word, God was in partnership to do for those people, and He is in partnership with us today.
- ✂ In the obtaining of faith - use it. God is helping your unbelief.
- ✂ Acts 3:6-10; Acts 10

Read Mark 9:17-27

- Jesus helped their family, and He'll help yours.
- God is not a respecter of persons, and Jesus is the truth today and forever.

Angels are Helpers from God

1. Hebrews 1:14 (Psalm 91)
2. John 5:1-9 healing angels
3. 1 Kings 19:1-8 - provision
4. Acts 12 & Daniel 6 - deliverance angels
5. Psalm 91:9-12 - protection
6. Acts 10:3 - direction and information
7. 2 Kings 6:17 - angels of war

Write Out John 16:23

- ☞ It's a covenant of help.
- ☞ Romans 8:26 & Hebrews 7:25
- ☞ Prayer is a revelation of God's desire to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)
- ☞ He listens to make intercession for each of us.
- ☞ Philippians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 9:10 - He is ready and willing to help us.
- ☞ Philippians 4:13 - The ability with wisdom in spirit, strength, and power

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- 📖 God's Word in us is purging us and cleansing us in order to stop the work of Satan, and it closes the doors of Satan into our lives.
- 📖 It is revealing to us our inheritance, our authority, and our power in Christ.
- 📖 Hebrews 13:5-6; Psalm 46:1-5; Genesis 28:11-16; Romans 8:5-10

Read Proverbs 3:5 & Isaiah 26:3

- ✂ We live with ease in the mind of the Spirit when we lean not to our own understanding, but trust in His.
- ✂ How easy it is to live in peace of mind when we know He is our helper.
- ✂ 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Read Acts 4:31 & Philipians 4:8

- ↪ Faith, boldness, courage, and confession flow when we know He is our helper.
- ↪ Romans 8:31-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of God?
- ↪ Psalm 107:2; Hebrews 12:2; Mark 9:24; 2 Corinthians 12:9

Read Luke 4:35

- Life can quickly change from joy to great affliction and hardship, but God is always there.
- 2 Corinthians 12:9; Psalm 22:11; Psalm 72:12-13

Read Mark 5:1-5

- ➔ He was bound by Satan and his demons. Whenever there are hardships, destruction, history of death, sickness, broken homes, broken finances, disease, trouble, or sorrow, it is the work of the enemy. Many people may want to blame Jesus, but it isn't Him. Jesus went to the man who was held by Satan to help him. Jesus is coming to help you and is here.
- ➔ So many times no one knows our pain or the hurt, the struggle, the heaviness of our burdens. It seems we are alone in our battles against our problems, but we don't stay alone. Jesus comes where you are. He came to this man's tomb.
- ➔ Vs. 4 - Men had bound him with fetters & chains, trying to help him by giving him some kind of peace and rest. The Bible says that he broke them (fetters & chains) into pieces, and no man could tame or help him.
- ➔ Maybe you had people try to help you with your problems, your marriage, your money, your children. Maybe doctors have tried to help your disease or sickness, but you and those who tried to help have found that man is no match for Satan's works. Only Jesus can help and heal.
- ➔ Jesus is going to come and help you. All you need to do is call upon Him in your trouble, and He will hear your cry. He will help you, heal you, and loose you from Satan's power. When the prayer of faith is prayed, reach out to Him, and He'll reach out to you. Worship Him, begin to praise & thank Him for healing you.

Key Verse

LESSON 15

I FEEL BROKEN – WHAT CAN I DO?

What Can Break a Heart?

- ⌘ Rejection (Matthew 26:69-75)
- ⌘ Reproach which causes heaviness (Psalm 69:20)
- ⌘ Joylessness, bad attitude (James 1:2; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; Proverbs 17:22)
- ⌘ Missed direction of the Spirit
- ⌘ Afflictions & travails (Psalm 34:17-20)
- ⌘ Slander, rejection, and constant vexing or plotting against (Psalm 31:12-13; Job 19:2)
- ⌘ Problems left unresolved (Proverbs 24:30-32)
- ⌘ Lack of temperance or hope deferred, i.e. credit card debt (Proverbs 25:28)
- ⌘ Natural failure as well as spiritual failure (Proverbs 17:22)
- ⌘ Lack of counsel; becoming ashamed or confused; failure because of the sadness
- ⌘ Disobedience or rebellion to the ways and Word of God
- ⌘ Betrayal of a confidence or the repeating of a matter (Matthew 26:47-48; James 5:16; Proverbs 17:9; Proverbs 11:13)

Results of a Broken Heart

- Proverbs 18:14; Proverbs 17:22 - “Broken spirit drieth the bones”
 - a. “Drieth” = wither away, confused, disappointed, failing
 - b. “Bones” = self, skeleton, strong (Proverbs 15:4,13)

What do “dry bones” represent?

- Broken-hearted people cannot be all, do all, or receive all that God has for them.
- Broken-hearted people are easy prey for Satan & people of error and deceit. (Ps 109:16)
- Broken-heartedness stops God’s plan. (Luke 22:31)

What is the Heart?

- The heart is the center.
- It is the will, emotions, and intellect of man = the soul.

Describe your heart

How to Begin Recovery

- ↪ Forgive others and yourself, and then protect yourself. (John 2:24-25; Ephesians 4:30-31; Matthew 5:44; Galatians 4:19; 1 Corinthians 13:11)
- ↪ Don't reject people, but prove them and see what they can bear - 30/60/100. (Mark 4:20)
- ↪ Know the truth and apply it. (Matt 5:9-11; Eph 5:18-20; Jam 5:16; Rom 12:17-21)
- ↪ Edify yourself. (1 Corinthians 14:2-4; Jude 19-20)
- ↪ Practice entering into and being mindful of His presence. (Psalm 16:10)

Understanding the Soul

- ☑ We are three part beings – spirit, soul, and body – (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
- ☑ When we are born again, we are made in the image of Jesus. (1 John 3:1-3; 4:17)
- ☑ The soulish condition is a progressive condition. We put on the new man by the renewing of our minds. (Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:10)
- ☑ There is an ongoing soul transition that every Christian must go through that brings us to the point where we live the Christ nature through our physical bodies.
- ☑ Read Ephesians 4:17-24
- ☑ Our spirits are born again. They are righteous before God, holy before the Father.
- ☑ Our minds are the problem. Our minds must be renewed in order to connect them with the ability of the born again spirit.
 - ♦ If you do not become renewed in your mind, the old man will dominate your life.
 - ♦ The Bible says, “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.” (Proverbs 23:7) So we must renew our minds to the Word of God.
 - ♦ If your mind is always like the old man, lacking renewal, you will always act like the old man, and sin.
- ☑ Our bodies must be controlled. (1 Corinthians 9:27)
- ☑ Sin does not happen in the born again spirit, but in the unrenewed soul of man. (Galatians 5:16; 1 John 2:16)

The Renewing of the Mind

- ☞ If I want to keep you from becoming like Christ in the flesh, all I have to deal with is your mind. (The mind is the soul = the will, emotions, intellect, and thinking capacity.)
- ☞ The devil knows this, and he uses it to his advantage.
- ☞ If you do not renew your mind to the Word, you will never make spiritual connections, and your body will never be controlled.
- ☞ You can only renew your mind if your soul is intact and able to hold what you put in it. This is why the devil is after your soul, because if he can wound your soul, he can cause the Word you put in to leak out, and you will be dysfunctional.

Restoration ~ Read Psalm 23:1-6

- X In verse 3, the word “restoreth” means to turn back; to redo something; to build again; to rescue from the hands of the destroyer; to refresh, recover, restore; make like brand new.
- X When something needs restored, it indicates it was taken from its former place.

Describe “restored”:

- X This is why Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted. He came not to just heal the broken spirit (that is born again) but to heal the broken soul.
- X A broken soul is one that is separated from the knowledge of God, from the intimate relationship and sonship with God we were created to walk in. When we are separated in this way we have no understanding of what God is thinking, so we conjure up our own thoughts about ourselves which are totally wrong.
- X Read Luke 4:18-19
 - Jesus understands that in the fall of man, there is not only a breach between the spirit of man and God’s Spirit, but there is a destruction of the human soul.
 - Jesus said He was anointed to restore, to heal, to turn the captivity, to mend the brokenhearted – to heal the broken soul. (Isaiah 61:1-4)

Read Mark 5:25-34

- ➔ When Jesus said, “Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.” in verse 34, He was not just talking about her body; He was referring to the entirety of her being.
- ➔ **The word “whole” comes from the Greek word “sozo” which means: thoroughly saved. Not just saved, not just healed, but thoroughly infused with the restorative power of God.**
- ➔ Her body was loosed from the plague, but even more her mind was restored and her soul healed from all that this disease had stolen from her in life.
 - ♦ This woman had been broken, not just in body, but in her soul, in her entire being.
 - ♦ For 12 years she had been an outcast in society because of her plague. It had broken her heart (her soul), and it had affected everyone around her.
 - ♦ As a result, her mental condition had probably been worse than her physical condition ever was.
 - ♦ Diseases that go on for long periods of time are strategically prolonged for the purpose of not only the destruction of the body, but for the destruction of the soul.
- ➔ This woman went through so much, but Jesus healed her body and soul, and He restored her to wholeness in every area of life.

What Mark 5:25-34 Means to You

- ☞ This is a great miracle that reveals that no matter how long you've been dealing with a problem, if you will hold fast, God will be faithful.
- ☞ God always puts in your life a moment when you can be changed, if you will reach out and touch Him.
- ☞ This story reveals the magnitude of God's power for you in the midst of your hopelessness.
- ☞ Whatever hand life has dealt you, or whatever attack the devil has launched against you, Jesus is here to heal you and make you whole, just as He did this woman.

Where do you need to be made whole?

The Truth

- ✗ God is with you, and there is nothing impossible to you.
 - You are the greatest thing that has ever been created as one made in the image of Jesus.
 - You are the apple of God's eye and the pinnacle of His creative power as He expressed Himself in you.
- ✗ Yet, many who are living for God are struggling daily.
 - Questions abound in minds that are unrenewed.
 - Once a seed is sown in a mind, it begins to reproduce itself, and soon all thinking is contaminated, and the soul can be destroyed.
 - Broken souls cannot hold what God has done for them. It's like pouring water into a rusty bucket. You can pour all the water you want, but it will leak out all of the unseen holes.
 - A wounded soul cannot receive faith, express faith, or hold it fast. It cannot resist opportunities to think wrong thoughts because it is broken.
 - No matter how much goodness you pour in, you cannot get beyond the damage. (Hebrews 12:15)
 - The only remedy is for God to heal and restore the soul.

How to be Healed in Your Soul

- ☞ Recognize that you may have forgiven someone, been healed physically, recovered from a financial disaster, recovered lost dreams, or gone through the grief process after the loss of a loved one, but the damage from the wounds may still be evident in your soul.
- ☞ Read Psalm 51:10-13
 - ♦ "Create" = make new; a redo; a second chance
 - ♦ "Renew" = restore; rebuild; reconstruct what once was solid and good
 - ♦ "Cast me not" = a desperate cry
 - ♦ "Then I will teach" – Notice the ability for David to carry out his call had everything to do with being renewed and restored.

- Ask God to heal your soul, to restore your mind and deliver you from the wounds you have accumulated in life.
- It's not about going back to those places, but about allowing God to heal you in the inner man.

Pray now:

LESSON 16

DEALING WITH DISCOURAGEMENT

Discouragement Defined

- ↗ “Discourage” means to deprive of confidence, assurance and hope; to lose faith in one’s ability and in the reality of God and His promise; to lose faith in the power of the gospel or the Word.
- ↗ Discouragement is a strategy of Satan against the believer to keep him from the fullness of the gospel and from his destiny as an individual.

Discouragement as a Strategy of the Devil

- A strategy is a plan devised and used to achieve a goal. It is the act of military command to meet the enemy in combat in order to get an advantage over, in order to defeat.
- Discouragement is a weapon of the devil against the church, against which he is no match. The gates of hell will not prevail. (Matthew 16:18; John 1:4; Romans 8; Luke 10:17-19)

The Devil’s Devices

- 2 Corinthians 2:11 - To get an advantage means to be superior, to gain over another.
- 1 Peter 5:8-9 - The devil is trying to break through a strategy to weaken and discourage.

Resist the Devil

- ✘ James 4:7-8 - You must resist = to be aggressive against, not passive with.
- ✘ You may say it’s not your nature to be aggressive, but yes it is.

Name 2 ways you can resist the devil:

NO Fear - Read Joshua 1:5-9

- Find God’s plan, will, and promise - then don’t fear or become discouraged.
- Fear and discouragement are two sure keys to failure.

Read Deuteronomy 1:22-28

- ☑ Discouragement shows up as: Rebellion - verse 26; Believing a lie - verse 27; Rejection of a promise - verse 28; Loss of faith - verse 29
- ☑ Verse 28 - “Whither shall we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts.”
 - a. In other words, “How can we, when we don’t have what it takes anymore?”
 - b. They had what it took when they came out of Egypt, but not now, (or so they thought).

What Discouragement Does

1. It steals the joy of the Lord, the strength of the believer, the reality of God's presence, power, and plan.
2. It causes you to trust in your senses and not in Him. (Numbers 13)
3. It steals the dreams you have been apprehended to fulfill. (Philippians 3:10-14)
4. It kills your identity in Christ, and it destroys your faith and your confession.

Think Right - Read Isaiah 41:10

- ↪ Discouragement comes when a believer thinks God isn't big enough, and won't provide.
- ↪ Discouragement comes when a believer thinks God won't help or protect, and that He won't uphold or maintain you.
- ↪ Read Joshua 2:11 - Discouragement comes when we compare ourselves with others. - Three comparisons: What we have - Where we are - What we are doing
- ↪ Read 1 Chronicles 22:12-13 - Discouragement comes as a strategy to keep you from prospering. We are not to be discouraged. (Galatians 6:9; Luke 18:1-8; 2 Timothy 4:5)
- ↪ Don't look at what the devil puts in front of you or listen to what he says about you.
- ↪ Don't look at where you are now or what you have.
- ↪ Only see, speak about, and listen to what God says through His Word.

Overcoming Discouragement

- ☑ Be aggressive and start doing what God says to do, no matter what obstacles get in the way, or how many times you try. (James 4:7-8)
- ☑ Get aggressive about your thinking. (Romans 12:2)
- ☑ Get aggressive about what you see, hear, and say.
- ☑ Pray in tongues. (1 Corinthians 14:1-6)

Don't Be Discouraged...

- ✘ By the rejection of people or the rising of storms.
- ✘ By the length of the battle, or by delays or hindrances
- ✘ By the seasons of life or the need to restart in order to finish in victory
- ✘ By falling short, seeing imperfections, or if you have to make alternative plans

Promises to Remember

Psalm 34:19; 2 Timothy 2:3; 2 Timothy 3:11-14

LESSON 17

HOW TO CONQUER WORRY

Worry Definition

- To choke; to harass with striking at; to distract; to change position of or adjust by repeated pushing; to make unsure by constant pressure; to lose heart; borrow trouble; have a prey mentality; negativity
- Worry is an attempt by Satan to change your position of faith and trust in God.
- God is not the cause of worry; His love and provision are the remedy for it.
- Exodus 16:2-3, 15-16; Exodus 17:2-7
- Read about the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17) & the widow with the multiplying oil (2 Kings 4).

Read Luke 12:22-32

- ⌘ Worry distracts from the real goals of God & service to Him.
- ⌘ When worry rules, faith is not found.
- ⌘ Mark 4:35-41 - Worry blinds us to God's provision, presence, & willingness. It blinds us to our position, authority, and power.
- ⌘ 2 Corinthians 4:8 - Perplexed = at a total loss for help.

Write Out Matthew 13:22

1. Worry is just as effective as deception and other works of Satan against the Word in the believer's life.
2. It causes the Word to be unfruitful.
3. James 1:5-8 - Worry separates us from the peace of God by bringing double-mindedness; thus, separating us from receiving God's provision, which He is ready to give
4. Mark 13:11 - Worry will allow Satan the upper hand in battle and will stop our ability to respond. Worry causes unscriptural divisions, actions, and responses that lead to destruction and failure.

Read 1 Peter 5:6-8

- Worry is a doorway to the adversary that allows destruction of faith, peace, joy, confession, rest, and soundness of mind.
- Worry leads to spiritual activity that unseats us from our Christ-given position and power. (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Psalm 37:8 - Worry leads to other manifestations of unbelief that give place to carnality and attitudes other than faith in God.

How Worry Enters In

- ↻ Worry can enter in by lack of understanding of spiritual things. (Mark 13:3-8)
- ↻ Worry can enter in by uncertainty of God's will. (Mark 4:35)
- ↻ Worry can enter in by vain imaginations or making mountains out of molehills. (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)
- ↻ Worry can enter in by not knowing God, His power & provision; by lack of faith & its use. (Philippians 4:6)
- ↻ Worry can enter in by temptations of Satan. (2 Thessalonians 2:2)
- ↻ Worry can enter in by disappointments & reliving past failures. (Philippians 3:13-14)

Worry Can Cause:

1. Sleeplessness, mental unrest, depression, loss of appetite, unsound thoughts, irrational reactions
2. Domestic turmoil & violence, spiritual indecision in life & in battle
3. Business failures, moral failures, insecurities
4. Mental illness, stress, physical illness, ulcers, cancer, heart failure
5. Prayerlessness, Wordlessness, joylessness, no love for self & others

Are you experiencing any of these?

What will you do?

What is Worry?

- ✘ Worry is satanic, and it works like its author, Satan. (Matthew 13:39)
- ✘ Worry begins by a thought, hearing, or sight.
- ✘ It is a seed process leading to harvest dominion over you.
- ✘ If not dealt with, it grows.

Dealing with Worry

- We must be aggressive against worries that attempt to come in and trouble us. (John 14:1-3; Matt.4:4)
- Don't handle life or battles by your own understanding. (Luke 6:46)
- Build faith in God's provision & deliverance. (Isaiah 26:3)
- Keep your mind on these things and God, not on your needs. (Philippians 4:8)
- Don't deal with needs on your own; put faith in motion. (Phil 4:6; Hebrews 4:16)
- Don't depend on your ability; depend on His. (Philippians 4:13; Psalm 37:39)
- Don't make anything more important than serving Him. Sometimes our dreams, our wants, and our needs become more important than just Him, and we worry about acceptance, success, and natural things.
- Refuse to speak negative. (Proverbs 21:23)
- Watch your thoughts. (Matthew 6:34)
- Stay filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)
- Don't worry, pray! (Philippians 4:6-8)

Name Five Things You Can Do to Stop Worry:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Key Verse

Notes

LESSON 18

DEALING WITH UNFORGIVENESS

Forgiveness

- 📖 Read Mark 11:25; Luke 6:37; Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 5:8
- 📖 Free from anything that soils; being unattached to the old way, the old man. (Romans 13:14; Colossians 3:12-15; Ephesians 4:29-32)

Unforgiveness

- Unforgiveness is sin, the way of the unclean, unrighteous, and wicked.
- God is always ready to forgive. (Psalm 86:5)
- The wicked servant did not forgive. (Matthew 18:32-35)
- The tormentor is Satan, the author of sickness, vexation, storms, captivity, and poverty (Luke 13:10-18; Ex.15:25-27; Matt.15:22-28; Mark 4:35; Job 42:10-12; 2 Thess.3:2; Deut. 28:16).

The Results of Unforgiveness

- ↪ Satan can get an advantage over us through unforgiveness. (2 Corinthians 2:10-11)
- ↪ Unforgiveness will cause devilish wisdom, a vengeful spirit. (James 3:13-18)
- ↪ Unforgiveness separates us from our benefits, privileges, and rights, and stops our fellowship with God.
- ↪ Unforgiveness is a growth inhibitor, an anointing stopper, a revelation destroyer.
- ↪ Because of a lack of judgment, an accumulation of unforgiveness turns to bitterness, inward poison, hardness of heart, faithlessness, blindness, and death. (Proverbs 13:23)
- ↪ By unforgiveness we keep ourselves from receiving from God. (2 Timothy 2:23-26)

Have you experienced any of these in the past?

The Refreshing

- Acts 3:19 (Darly's New Translation)
“Repent therefore and be converted, placed in right standing with God, filled with faith, the promises, and fruit of the spirit because of the blotting out of your sins so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”
- There are two times of refreshing - congregational times of worship and personal times of prayer and worship. (Isaiah 61:2-11; 1 Corinthians 14:3-4)

Why We Must Forgive

- ✘ God resists the unforgiving. (Mark 11:25; Matthew 5:38-45; Luke 6:17-36)
- ✘ The righteous become wicked when they don't forgive. (Matthew 18:32-35)
- ✘ Unforgiveness is sin. (Isaiah 59:2)
- ✘ Unforgiveness separates the believer from his benefits, privileges, rights, and authority.
- ✘ Satan is subtle and uses unforgiveness to get an advantage over one of greater power - you.
It is a strategy of Satan to get a foothold in your life to affect the Kingdom of God. (2 Corinthians 2:10-11)
- ✘ Satan uses unforgiveness to destroy those who have been made conquerors.
- ✘ The word advantage means to make gain, lay hold of, to over-reach. (1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 4:27)
- ✘ Satan has a two-fold strategy in unforgiveness - to separate you from God (Isaiah 59:2) and to separate you from others affecting the overall Kingdom. (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- ✘ One of the ways to keep Satan from gaining supremacy over our lives, stopping our faith, having access to our families, stopping our service to God and from God in gifts, anointing, etc. is to not give him place by an unforgiving spirit.
- ✘ Unforgiveness is a future destroyer, prison maker, vision stealer, tomb maker, snare maker; a perfection blemisher, prize thief, reach shrinker, and mind blinder. (Phil. 3:12-15)

Forgive Like God Forgives

- ➔ As new creatures in Christ, all things are of God - our minds, our identities, our motives, our hearts. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Ezekiel 36:26-28)
- ➔ God is a forgiving God. (Psalm 86:5)
- ➔ As children of God, those who have God's heart, we are always ready to forgive, as we as believers put on the new man, the man created anew in Christ. (Ephesians 4:24-32)
- ➔ Vs. 32 tells us that an identifying nature of the children of God is we are those who are forgiven, those born of God, and we are kind, tender, and forgiving.
- ➔ We are to be imitators of God who is a forgiving Spirit. (Ephesians 5:1; Matthew 5:43-45; 1 Peter 2:1)

Have you forgiven yet?

- ➔ A forgiving spirit reveals your identity and establishes to others your name. It identifies who you are born of and what your heart is full of. (Colossians 3:10-14)
- ➔ When God forgives, He is known as merciful, loving, kind, understanding. (Psalm 25:11)
- ➔ People should never call us unmerciful, hard-hearted, resentful, unforgiving, carnal, wicked, loveless, or hypocrites - those declared to be children of God but not like God. (Ephesians 4:17-22; Matthew 24:12; 1 Timothy 4:2; 2 Peter 3:3)

Forgive by Faith

- ↪ Forgiveness is the result of two major things - love and faith. We forgive because we love God, and we forgive by faith. (Luke 17:3-5; Matthew 18:21-22)
- ↪ Forgiveness is human (by will & decision) and divine (by empowerment). When we decide to forgive, God empowers us to do so.
- ↪ 2 Corinthians 2:10 says: _____

- ↪ We forgive by faith, not feeling or evidence; not by human standards of judgment.
- ↪ Forgiveness is against the tide of human thinking. It doesn't consider the hurt (even though it is there) or your inability to do it. It may seem impossible, and it is impossible without God. (Romans 4:18-20; Philippians 4:13)

Forgiveness Does Not Consider...

1. The injustice it suffered; the opinion of others; the misunderstanding
2. The desire to be justified before others; vengeance
3. Anger, or the storytelling of others, the bitterness that is seeking a home
4. Giving place to self-pity; the accusation of Satan

Forgiveness Does...

- Declare its intention - "I forgive!"
- Resist Satan and the carnal mind, the other things spoken of it.
- Deal with unforgiveness every time it tries to rise up and speak or creep in. Just like Jesus in Matthew 4:4, "It is written..."
- Resist unforgiveness when it tries to come back or find a place (it's Satan's plan). Forgiveness resists by speaking faith, acting in faith, doing in faith. (Romans 12:16-21)

Forgiveness is...

- The foundation of fellowship. (1 Samuel 15:25)
- The establishment of your identity and name. (Psalm 25:11; Micah 7:18)

How do you forgive?

Enemies of Forgiveness

📖 There is the enemy of...

- a. The carnal mind that tries to get you to justify yourself for not forgiving
- b. Other carnal people who will side with you
- c. Self-justification - "They don't know my side."
- d. The devil
- e. Hurts and misunderstandings
- f. The spirit of self-pity
- g. The deception of all involved

📖 The evidence that a person has truly been forgiven of his debt is the willingness to forgive others. (Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 6:27-37)

Unforgiveness Stops God's Purpose for You. He Wants You...

- ☑️ Forgiven, but you're not.
- ☑️ Free from Satan, but you're not.
- ☑️ Free from the curse, but you're not.
- ☑️ Free from sickness, but you're not.

Read Ephesians 4:24-28

- ✂️ The Jewish mindset is to forgive your neighbor, and then your sin will be pardoned.
- ✂️ Paul encourages Christians to forgive those who sin in order to stop the two-fold strategy of Satan - to separate and put away from others shunned for their wrong, broken because of rejection - and to separate from God because of the wickedness of the unforgiving heart. (1 Peter 5:6-9) We are members one of another.
- ✂️ To live in unforgiveness in one's life is to live the carnal life, separated from God, instead of living the life of the spirit.

The Price of Unforgiveness

- ➔ Unforgiveness is unrighteousness. (John 7:18)
- ➔ Unforgiveness is the spirit of hypocrisy without Christ. (John 8:3-7)
- ➔ Unforgiveness seeks to stop the fruit of righteousness as well as its works.
- ➔ Unforgiveness stops relationship with God. (Matthew 6:11-12)
- ➔ Many times unforgiveness is not evident to those who have it. If you get irritated by something, or a person's name, or if your thinking always goes back to another time, there is unforgiveness. (Ephesians 4:4)

Reasons for Unforgiveness

- 📖 Matthew 18:21
- 📖 We didn't understand what they were trying to do or misread their motive.
- 📖 Choice - We choose not to forgive. (We should be like God in Psalm 86:5.)
- 📖 Wrong associations - Sometimes you are around people who breed and keep alive unforgiveness. Know this: The friend who is sowing bad seeds into you will eventually turn and sow bad seeds about you into others.
- 📖 Your love level is low. (1 Peter 4:8)
- 📖 Not enough Word in you
- 📖 Been hurt in the past
- 📖 Mistrust
- 📖 Not active about the Father's business; self-absorbed

How Can I Forgive Those Who Have Wronged Me?

- ↪ Pray for them. This will soften your heart toward them.
- ↪ Set in motion acts of love toward them.
- ↪ Protect your mind.
- ↪ Speak the Word.

What will you do?

The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

- When the son came home, the first thing he told his dad was, "I have sinned against Heaven" (or against God) "and I have sinned against you."
- When you trespass against your brother, you trespass against God.
- Genesis 50:17

The Adamic Nature

- 2 Corinthians 2:11 - Satan gets an advantage over us when we do not forgive. It leads to anger, hate, vengeance, speaking against others, repeating a matter.
- Christ's nature is to forgive. It is hard to forgive trying to go from the Adamic nature to the Christ nature. The flesh lusts against the spirit. (Galatians 5:17-18)

Missing the Refreshing

- Acts 3:19 *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord”*
- If you don’t forgive others, then your sins are not forgiven. So when times of refreshing come, such as in a service or in a prayer line, reading the Word, worshiping personally, praying in the Holy Ghost, etc., the refreshing can’t come to you. The prophecy that came to comfort, edify, and exhort will not be received by you.
- That which God has designed to refresh you cannot happen if you have unforgiveness.
- 2 Timothy 2:24-26 - People can oppose themselves by unforgiveness.

Other Scriptures

Ezekiel 25:15-17; Luke 6:27-31; Romans 12:19; Romans 13:9-13; 1 Cor 6:4-8;
Micah 7:18; Numbers 14:19; Exodus 23:21

Have you truly forgiven?

Prayer for Help to Forgive

LESSON 19

LIVING THROUGH FAILURE

The Nature of Failure

Read Proverbs 24:16; Romans 8:35-39

- A failure is something or someone that falls short of a goal, something or someone that caves in before victory or success is seen.
- God declares that when we come into Christ, He gives us a new identity that is not one of failure, but of victory. That's what God has destined for you.

Failure has Satan's nature and desire in it. (John 10:10)

- ↪ Failure will steal, kill, and destroy if not handled by faith, the Word, and the Holy Spirit.
- ↪ Failure can steal your true identity as a winner and a conqueror.
- ↪ Failure can destroy your ability to function properly in life and the Kingdom of God.
- ↪ Failure can kill your ability to dream. (Romans 5:2-5)

Why Failure Happens

Not all failures are caused by Satan's attack...

(...but he will take advantage to gain leverage over you and your family, no matter who or what caused the failure.)

- Temperance failures (1 Corinthians 9:27; Colossians. 3:5; 2 Timothy 2:24-26)
- Moral failures (1 Corinthians 7:3-4)
- When failures happen, don't run from God, but run to Him. (Luke 4:18)

Marriages fail for a number of reasons.

- 📖 Neglect - of responsibility, of attention one to another
- 📖 Neglect - of conversation, sharing, and complimenting
- 📖 God's Word gives instruction on marriage so we can succeed in it.
- 📖 See John 4:6-29: This woman had failed at 5 marriages before she met Jesus.

Failure can be caused by outside pressures that affect our natural and spiritual reactions.

- ➡ Failed faith endeavors - like asking for something, then neglecting to do what faith needs done to produce provision, such as sowing or praising God.
- ➡ Neglect of education can lead to failures to get promotions, better jobs, higher productivity in ministry, family, and overall life.
- ➡ Failure can come from impatience. (Hebrews 6:12)

- ➔ Failure can come from neglecting to protect the mind. (James 1:5-8)
- ➔ Failure can come from neglecting to stay focused through thanksgiving, promise confession, keeping the Word before you.
- ➔ Failure may be authored by a lack of temperance or poor choices.
- ➔ Failure can come from low self-esteem or lack of knowledge. (Hebrews 4:6)

Write out Isaiah 54:17

- Satan does author failures in our lives. They are his wiles and weapons against mankind.
- 2 Corinthians 11:14; Ephesians 6:10; Romans 15:22-33; 1 Thessalonians 2:18

Failure can come by lack of ability - natural and spiritual.

- Peter didn't catch fish one day until he obeyed Jesus and launched back out. (Luke 5:1-9)
- Peter denied Jesus, then later Jesus restored him. (Matthew 26:31-34; John 21:15-17)
- 2 Corinthians 4:7; Zechariah 4:6
- 2 Samuel 22:34 - Hinds' feet = divine change and supply
- God is a help in the time of trouble.

Other Ways Failure Happens

- ➔ Attacks from Satan (Isaiah 54:17; Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
- ➔ Sin (John 8:34; Joshua 7:1-26)
- ➔ Not knowing or gathering information (Luke 14:28-30)
- ➔ Through ignorance, wrong thinking, lack of counsel, or wrong counsel
- ➔ Quitting too soon (Judges 20:14-46)

Where have you failed?

Why?

How to Deal with and Live Through Failure

Failures need to be viewed as successful discoveries of ways things won't work.

1. Thomas Edison tried hundreds of times before he got the light bulb right.
2. Babe Ruth kept swinging though he was struck out more than any other player.
3. A missed mark or falling short doesn't mean you have lost or failed. (Hosea 4:6)
4. Failure isn't the end, but it can become the stepping stone to winning.
5. 2 Samuel 11-12 David's failure had led to him refocusing on his commitment to God.

Recognize the Consequences

- It can bring the consequences of guilt or strong regret for trying.
- Failure can produce loners. People withdraw many times when failures happen.
- Failure can cause the false seeding of Satan, and destroy faith's habitation.
- Failure can affect the mind until it has no interest to learn or dream.
- Failure destroys champions.
- Failure affects the emotions, producing bad attitudes, feelings of insecurity and inaction.
- Failure steals strength and stamina, endurance
- Failure can cause condemnation and false views of oneself and others.

Decide What You Want

- ❖ Make a judgment, make up your mind. This judgment should be in line with God's will for you. (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)
- ❖ Decisions stop double-mindedness and unclear focus. (James 1:5-8)
- ❖ Decisions bind our natural & supernatural abilities together in order to fulfill purpose.
- ❖ Failure must not become a habitation or be accepted in any way. You have a divine decree over you and yours. (Romans 8:34; Psalm 37:23-26)
- ❖ If failure is allowed to become a habitation it will attack and create familiar spirits and create in our generation a cursed life through teaching by example. (Romans 8:34; Psalm 37:24; Proverbs 24:16)
- ❖ Exodus 3 - Moses had to make a decision to do what God told him to.

Get Violent = get intense about possessing the Kingdom - Matthew 11:12

- Get aggressive. Invade your promises. Become single-eyed with single purpose.
- 2 Corinthians 2:14 - Don't try to do it all at once; do things one at a time.
- Become hostile toward failure and where you are at. Become bold and demanding.
- Resist everyone and everything that pacifies your failure.
 - a. Blind Bartimaeus - Mark 10:46-52
 - b. Woman with the issue of blood - Mark 5:25-34
- Leave those who aren't with you on the other side. (1 Samuel 30:1-25)
- Joshua 24:14-15, 21-23
- Joshua 1:14-18

Stop Visiting Your Failure ~ Philippians 3:13

- ☑ Stop rehashing it through thinking and talking about it with others. There is a time we go through to go on, but we don't stay there.
- ☑ There needs to be closure. (Romans 10:17)
- ☑ Pursue, look forward and not around. (1 Samuel 30; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18)
- ☑ Failure can damage your ability to hear rightly. What you hear is what you have faith in. What you hear is what you think. What you think is what you see. (1 Kings 19:1-3)
- ☑ How to stop visiting failure:
 - Incorporate the help of others. Become accountable, teachable, and rebukable. (Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 15:22)
 - Deal with doors to the devil by thinking on right thoughts. (2 Corinthians 6:17)
 - Renew your thinking by putting something else in its place. As you do, you'll get mindless of the failure around you, and you will rise up and possess. (Psalm 107:20; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:8)
 - Deal with false pictures and images by pulling them down through your words. (2 Corinthians 10:3-6; 1 Corinthians 2:16)

Reseed Your Mouth ~ Proverbs 15:4

- ⌘ Your mouth is a seed sower. (Mark 4:4)
- ⌘ Life and death are in the power of your tongue. (Proverbs 18:21)
- ⌘ Words are life. By giving yourself over to the Word, what's in your mind is in your mouth. What's in your ears is in your mouth. What's before your eyes is in your mouth. (Proverbs 4:20-22)
- ⌘ Proclaim the promise and praise God for its fulfillment. (Romans 4:17-21)

Other verses:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Forgive Yourself and Others ~ Ephesians 4:32

- ↪ Peter, Paul & David all needed God's forgiveness and to forgive themselves.
- ↪ Forgive others who were directly or indirectly involved in the failure. Unforgiveness keeps pain alive. Don't let pain and failure keep you from tomorrow's dreams.
- ↪ Unforgiveness...
 - ♦ ...will hold you in a victim pattern
 - ♦ ...controls your mind, thoughts, and emotions
 - ♦ ...stops your faith and the godly input that produces dreams and visions
 - ♦ ...stops a good confession & praise
 - ♦ ...gives place to attack of others, complaining, murmuring

Start Doing or Continue Doing the Word.

- James 1:22
- Luke 5:2-8

Get Involved with Others.

- Luke 6:38
- Galatians 6:1-2
- Philippians 2:3-6

Take a Break.

1. Fatigue can open the door for failure to keep dominion in one's life.
2. Jesus rested. (Matthew 14:23)
3. The disciples rested. (Mark 6:31)
4. Rest closes the mind of depressive thoughts.
5. Rest enables us to:
 - a. think clearly
 - b. reassess things
 - c. revitalize
 - d. refocus
 - e. hear clearly
 - f. set new strategies

Plans for a break:

LESSON 20

WHAT CAN I DO TO RELEASE MYSELF FROM YESTERDAY?

(If it's going to happen, it's up to me)

Start in Philippians 3:13-21

- You can't change yesterday. The things that have happened, have happened. The things that are done, are done. The things that have been said, have been said. Disappointments in self and others, bad decisions, failures, abuses, divorce, abortions, tragedies, accidents - you can't change them, but you can move on.
- In God's plan for you, He never keeps you connected to your past. Things gain strength when you dwell on them or stay connected to them.
- Micah 7:19 - sea; Psalm 103:12 - east to west
- Colossians 2:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18
- Ephesians 2:10 - You are God's workmanship.
- Philippians 4:13-16 - There may be a struggle to move on or out of your past, but Philippians 4:13 = Philippians 2:13 - It is God who works in you both to will and to do His good pleasure. (1 John 4:4)

What Do I Do with My Past? (How can I release myself from my past?)

- ⊗ Make peace with it. How? Forgiveness.
 - ♦ Forgiveness is connected with remembrance because of the hurt that's still there.
 - ♦ Forgiveness releases moving on power. (2 Corinthians 2:5-11)
 - ♦ An offense will keep you in your present state, keeping you from being released into destiny. (Proverbs 12:16; 17:9) - Forgiveness of self and others.
- ⊗ Repentance = a turning from - 1 John 1:9
- ⊗ Restitution - Luke 19:4-8 (Zaccheus)
- ⊗ Renewing of the spirit of the mind (Ephesians 4:17-24; Romans 12:2)
- ⊗ Forget ~ Philippians 3:13 ~ Reaching forward is greatly hindered by looking back.

What are you holding onto?

You Can't Change How You Got to Where You Are

- Where you are = "I'm broken, hurt, old, not educated. I don't have a job. My relationships are bad. I don't like who I am. I'm sick, depressed, poor. I'm not good at anything..."
- You may not have been able to control what brought you to where you are, but you don't have to stay there. (Philippians 4:13/2:13; 1 John 4:4)
- You don't know what evil may come. (2 Corinthians 1:8-11)
- Your present state is always changing and is subject to change. (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

You Can Make It Work for You

- ↪ Acknowledge where you are in your present state. Denial gets you nowhere.
 - Proverbs 13:23
 - It's good to evaluate, but not to the point of self-destruction, condemnation, negative comparisons, or negative assessments.

- ↪ Make a choice.
 - Deuteronomy 30:19-20
 - 2 Kings 7:1-20
 - 1 Kings 17:1-24

- ↪ Learn where you are.
 - 2 Corinthians 1:2-4
 - Learn about attitudes. (James 1:2)

Do you see the glass ½ full or ½ empty? _____

- ↪ Grow in love and service, judgment, giving, patience (unchanging in change).
- ↪ Don't just sit there, get busy! (Philippians 4:15; 1 Corinthians 4:12; 2 Thess. 3:7-13)
- ↪ Know that God doesn't do things independent of us. He does them with and through us.
 - 2 Corinthians 9:10
 - Galatians 6:7
 - Romans 8:26-28

You Can Change Where You Are Going (Your Future)

- Set your course on your future based on God's purpose for you. You are anointed for your purpose. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- Your purpose may be to be a better husband or wife, father or mother, a better Christian, a better servant.
- Acceptance of identity, position (Judges 6; 1 Samuel 30)
- Faith, diligence
- Proclaim, fight the fight (Psalm 2:7; Psalm 119:13)
- Look forward (Hebrews 11:13)

How can you press forward for all God has for you?

LESSON 21

AGREEING WITH THE WORD OF GOD

The Word of God

- ✓ Known also as the Bible, scripture, prophecy, word of salvation, Word of God, will of God, grace, word of the gospel, the truth, word of promise, word of life, Holy Scriptures, the voice of God, the word of faith.
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 14:36; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 1:1; Romans 10:8; Acts 28:25; 2 Corinthians 6:7
- ✓ It is inerrant = it contains no mistakes. It is absolutely infallible. (John 10:35)

The Word Shows You How to Live (2 Timothy 3:15-16)

- 1 Peter 1:10; 2 Peter 2:13-21; 1 Thess 2:13; Acts 10:36; Numbers 22:38, 23:5, 23:16
- Genesis 15:1,4; Numbers 3:16, 51; 4:45; Ezekiel 37:4-10
- Psalm 33:4; 33:6; 107:20; 119:9, 11, 16, 17, 25, 28, 38, 41, 42; Isaiah 1:10; 2:3

Write out Psalm 18:30

- ✗ The Word is God's Word, not man's.
- ✗ God's Word is God Himself.
- ✗ 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Thess. 2:13-17
- ✗ Acts 4:29 – speak the Word boldly

The Word of God in Written Form

- ☑ Acts 4:31; 6:2; 8:14, 25; 10:36; 11:1,16; 12:24; 13:5, 7, 44, 46, 48-49; 15:35-36; 16:32; 17:13; 18:11; 19:10, 20
- ☑ 1 Cor. 14:36; 2 Cor. 2:17; 4:2; Eph. 6:17; Col. 1:25; 3:16; 1 Thess. 1:8; 2:13; 4:15;
- ☑ 2 Thess. 3:1; 2 Tim. 2:9; Titus 1:3; 2:5; Heb. 4:12; 6:5; 11:3; 13:7
- ☑ 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 3:5; 1 John 2:14; Revelation 1:2, 9; 6:9; 19:13; 20:4

Attributes of the Word

- ▶ It is surer than any experience, thought, philosophy, theory, or tradition. (1 Pet 1:13-21)
- ▶ It is unchanging. (2 Peter 1:13-15; Luke 6:46-49)
- ▶ It cannot be broken. (John 10:35)
- ▶ It is no respecter of persons. What it says of or requires from one it does for all. (2 Corinthians 1:20-21; Acts 11:16; 28:25; Romans 10:9; Mark 13:37)
- ▶ The Word is an established boundary for spirit, soul, and body; for worship, marriage, family, money, life, purpose, and responsibilities. (Deut. 4:2; Josh 1:7; Prov. 30:5-6)

Jesus is the Word Made Flesh (John 1:1-4, 14)

1. He is Lord to the extent that the Word rules over your life.
2. Matthew 10:40; Luke 6:46; Acts 13:48; Numbers 20:24

What is your relationship with Jesus, the Word?

The Word is the Basis of All Faith

- ↪ Acts 4:4; Romans 10:8; 10:17
- ↪ John 1:14; 1 Peter 1:21
- ↪ Acts 6:7 – Word of God = obedient faith
- ↪ Acts 12:24; 15:7
- ↪ 1 Peter 1:25 – We preach the word of faith, which comes by hearing.

What is the most important scripture you are standing on today?

The Effects of the Word

- 📖 Transformed and protected mind – Romans 12:2; Ephesians 6:17
- 📖 Builds up, reveals inheritance – Acts 20:32
- 📖 Gives wisdom, doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness; makes one perfect and thoroughly furnished for good works – 2 Timothy 3:15-17
- 📖 Cleansing – Psalm 119:9; John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26
- 📖 It gives confidence in the day of judgment; makes our lives productive – Philippians 2:16
- 📖 Reveals what is ahead of man in eternity – Colossians 1:5
- 📖 Divides spirit, soul, and body; reveals the origin of action and motive – Hebrews 4:12
- 📖 Causes the new birth – James 1:18
- 📖 Brings redemption by the blood of Christ – 1 Peter 1:18-20
- 📖 Reveals courses of action or faith that deliver – Psalm 107:20
- 📖 Reveals the identity of every believer – James 1:23-25
- 📖 Is the basis of all spiritual growth – 1 Peter 2:2
- 📖 Is the basis of all purity, fruitfulness, unity with Him, answered prayer – 1 John 5:3-8

- 📖 Is our weapon of protection & response – Eph 6:17; Matt 4:4-10; Ps 147:18; Prov 30:5
- 📖 Protection from man and Satan – Psalm 17:4
- 📖 The foundation of all righteousness and justice – Psalm 119:11
- 📖 Gives hope – Psalm 119:49
- 📖 Revives the weary – Psalm 119:50
- 📖 Lights our way, gives direction – Psalm 119:105,133
- 📖 Reveals the actions of God when we do right – Psalm 119:123
- 📖 Gives understanding – Psalm 119:169
- 📖 Shows the heavenly and earthly moves to fulfill His Word – Psalm 148:4-14
- 📖 When submitted to or obeyed, brings reward – Proverbs 13:13
- 📖 Reveals the effects of disobedience – Isaiah 5:24

Speaking the Word

- ➔ When someone speaks God’s Word in faith, it is as if God Himself is speaking. (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)
- ➔ Speak boldly in the Lord. (1 Peter 1:13-16, 21)
- ➔ Mark 11:6; Ecclesiastes 8:4; Ephesians 6:17; Ezekiel 37
- ➔ Psalm 147:18 – He sends it through your mouth.
- ➔ Acts 2:4; Psalm 33:6
- ➔ Hebrews 11:3 – We create His will and order when we say the Word. (Isaiah 55:8-13; Genesis 17:1-6; Romans 4:17-20)

What will you say about yourself from the Word?

The Word is the Basis of...

- ⌘ Salvation – 2 Timothy 3:15
- ⌘ The Holy Ghost’s activity in one’s life – Hebrews 11:3
- ⌘ Signs and wonders - Acts 14:3; Mark 16:18-20
- ⌘ All answered prayer – John 15:7

Symbolisms of the Word

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Fire – Jeremiah 23:29 | 10. Gold – Psalm 19:7-10 |
| 2. Hammer – Jeremiah 23:29 | 11. Honey – Psalm 19:10 |
| 3. Lamp – Psalm 119:105 | 12. Pricks – Acts 9:5 |
| 4. Mirror – James 1:23 | 13. Nail – Ecclesiastes 12:11 |
| 5. Milk – 1 Peter 2:2 | 14. Bread – Matthew 4:4 |
| 6. Rod – Revelation 11:1-2 | 15. Pearl – Matthew 7:6 |
| 7. Seed – 1 Peter 1:23 | 16. Anchor – Hebrews 6:18-19 |
| 8. Sword – Hebrews 4:12 | 17. Star – 2 Peter 1:19 |
| 9. Water – Ephesians 5:26 | 18. Meat – Hebrews 5:14 |

The Word of God is a Revelation of God and His Will

- 📖 John 3:14-18; 2 Peter 3:9; 2 Corinthians 9:6-12
- 📖 Isaiah 53:3-12; Galatians 3:13-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:15-22
- 📖 Hebrews 13:15; Philippians 4:4-8
- 📖 It reveals God's plans. – Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14

Key Verse

Life Change

LESSON 22

INTEGRITY OF THE WORD

Definitions

- ↪ Integrity means honesty; soundness; incapable of being false, deceptive, or untrue.
- ↪ The integrity of the Word of God and the integrity of God are one and the same.

The Word of God = the foundation of absolutes in a world void of them

1. Hebrews 6:11-12
2. Numbers 23:19
3. 1 Kings 8:56
4. Psalm 12:7; 89:33-44; 119:89; 119:160; 93:5
5. Ezekiel 12:25-28
6. Jeremiah 1:12
7. Luke 6:46-49; Matthew 5:18

Jesus Faced and Overcame Temptation with the Word

- ✓ He stopped Satan from creating inroads to build strongholds, thrones, places of dominion in His life by placing faith in the Word and its unquestionable outcome in every area.
- ✓ He declared the Word was His governor, not His emotions, senses, or outside information.
- ✓ A soundness of faith in God's integrity brings fruit of a fearless life and closes doors to Satan. (1 Peter 5:8-9; Psalm 34:19)

Read Mark 4:35-41

- 📖 When direction for one's life comes, there will always be uprisings of Satan to oppose and abort it.
- 📖 Direction means dreams, plans, goals, purposes; promises that come from different ways through the Word - through godly visitation, through God speaking to you, through dreams, through different offices in the Body of Christ, through prophets, apostleship, teachers and evangelists, through the pastorate, and through spiritual relationships.

How have you been directed by the Word?

Read Numbers 13:1-33

- Some were fearless, unshakable, confident.
- Others were fearful, shakeable, filled with discouragement.
- The difference was confidence in the Father and the integrity of the Word.

Write out 2 Corinthians 10:3

Joseph's Testimony (Genesis 37:5-9; 41:42-44)

- ✘ Joseph dreamed a dream, and it came to pass.
- ✘ Pharaoh put a ring on his finger, arrayed him with fine linen, put a gold chain around his neck, made him 2nd in command, and the people bowed to him, as did his family.
- ✘ Joseph raised a standard of godliness, conviction, principles of right and wrong
- ✘ Genesis 39:1-23
 - ♦ Potiphar is a type of the law or government, and his wife is a type of sin, wrong, wickedness, the wicked one.
 - ♦ Joseph resisted temptation. He did not commit great wickedness by forsaking godly lifestyle and principles to get ahead.
 - ♦ Joseph labored as a slave and was faithful in hard places.
 - ♦ Joseph was silent amid foul and false accusations and appearances of guilt, through unjust punishment.
 - ♦ He had a revelation of the integrity of God, the soundness of His promise.

Daniel's Testimony (Daniel 1:1-21)

- ▶ Daniel refused to defile himself with the things of the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar.
- ▶ God promoted him with spiritual things of knowledge, learning in all wisdom, understanding in the true meaning of dreams & visions, and the way to bring them to pass.
- ▶ Like Daniel, we should:

- ☞ Do the ethical thing. _____
- ☞ Stay morally sound. _____
- ☞ Be honest. _____
- ☞ Be content. _____
- ☞ Do right. (Matt 6:33) _____

Noah's Testimony (Genesis 6)

- ✍ Noah had an almost impossible task for man, but not for God.
- ✍ He stayed in it in the midst of rejection and weariness.
- ✍ Noah did not give up no matter how it looked to the entire world around him.

David's Testimony (2 Samuel 11:2-5; 12:15-25)

- ✍ David sinned, and it was not hidden, neither was his reward for his sin.
- ✍ David overcame guilt and condemnation of his sowing & reaping.
- ✍ David had destroyed lives and brought the sword into his house forever.
 - Afterward, his son Amnon raped his daughter Tamar.
 - Then his other son Absalom killed Amnon.
 - Through Absalom comes division to the kingdom.
 - Then Absalom is killed.
- ✍ David overcomes the guilt and condemnation by remembering God's Word. The integrity of God's Word was the foundation of moving on, as it is to us. (1 John 1:9)

Peter & Gideon

- ✓ Peter had to overcome the remembrance of the fear and guilt of denying Jesus, and preached the first message after Pentecost. (John 21:15-19)
- ✓ Gideon couldn't accept the idols that his father had established and their impact on him. He couldn't overcome the adversary that kept stealing his harvest of labor, and he couldn't reign in the kingly seat God had for him. But when he got a revelation of the integrity of the Word of God about him, he became an awakening giant that the enemy couldn't handle. Gideon became redefined, as did those with him because of his faith in the integrity of the Word. (Judges 6)

Other Testimonies of God's Integrity

1. 2 Chronicles 20 _____
2. Acts 27:13-44 _____
3. Mark 5:21-43 _____
4. 1 Samuel 30:1-20 _____
5. Joshua 6:1-21 _____
6. 1 Thessalonians 5:24 _____
7. Philippians 1:6 _____
8. Romans 8:31 _____
9. Ephesians 3:16; 6:10 _____

Our Testimony

- 📖 As believers or believing ones, doers & not hearers only, those who are spiritually minded, ruled & governed, and not governed or ruled by Satan's world or man's ideas, it is of the utmost importance to have a revelation of the integrity of the Word of God.
- 📖 Without a revelation of the integrity of the Word, faith is never born. (Romans 10:17; Romans 4:21; Proverbs 4:20-24)

God's Voice

- ➔ Hebrews 3:7 - *"Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear His voice..."*
- ➔ First establish in your heart that the Bible is the inspired Word from God to you – 2 Timothy 3:15-16; Jeremiah 11:3-7; 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- ➔ The Word is God, and God is the Word.
- ➔ The Word is delivered by men, (1 Peter 1:12; Titus 1:13; 1 John 1:4-5; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2) but nevertheless it is God's Word. (Hebrews 1:3)
- ➔ Much of the failures in our lives come because the power in the Word was never released to uphold our position; because faith was not mixed; because we didn't believe the written Word was God's voice to us as if He was standing there.

God's Word Never Fails

- ✂ God's Word never fails because He never fails. (Hebrews 6:11-12; Numbers 23:19)
- ✂ God keeps His Word. (Psalm 12:7; 1 Kings 8:56; Ezekiel 12:25-28; Jeremiah 1:12; Psalm 93:5; Deuteronomy 32:4)
- ✂ God is eternally able. (James 1:18; Hebrews 1:12; Psalm 102:27; Malachi 3:6)
- ✂ God is not a respecter of persons. (Romans 2:11; Galatians 6:9; Colossians 3:25; Romans 10:13; John 6:37)

Hebrews 3:7-13

- ▶ A lack of revelation of the integrity of the Word will make you tempt God, test or try Him; it will make you ask for a fleece, a seeking of outward evidence of His truthfulness.
- ▶ Err = a lack of knowledge of His way.
- ▶ Unbelief, then departing, hardness of heart.
- ▶ When we don't have a revelation of the integrity of the Word - our redemption, our identity in Christ, our position in Him, and authority over Satan and his works, our faith, boldness, and holiness are at risk.
 - ◆ We seek to ride out the storm instead of speak to it.
 - ◆ We go around the mountain instead of moving it.
 - ◆ We co-habit with Satan instead of defeating him.

The Effects of Faith in the Integrity of God's Word

- ✧ It is the foundation of solidness in adversity, tragedy, persecution, and battles. (2 Corinthians 11:22 -12:9)
- ✧ It becomes the root of our rejoicing when weakness, helplessness, and the impossibilities of man break forth. We know our ability isn't the last line of defense against Satan's attacks. (2 Corinthians 12:10)
- ✧ It is the soundness of our thoughts and meditation which becomes the ordering of our steps by the Holy Ghost. (Proverbs 6:20-22; Psalm 37:25; Psalm 5:1-12; Philippians 4:8; 1 Peter 3:12; Romans 8:28; Psalm 3:1-8) Out of the act comes a song of faith assurance. (Acts 16:25-33)

Do you trust God's Word? _____

How? _____

Abraham (Genesis 12:1-4; Romans 4:17-22)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Birthed his confession | Romans 4:17 |
| 2. Embraced hope against hope | vs. 18 |
| 3. Was not sense-dominated or ruled | vs. 19 |
| 4. Was a praise giver | vs. 20 |
| 5. Stayed immovable | vs. 21 |
| 6. Was rewarded | vs. 22 |

Enemies of Faith in the Integrity of God's Word

- Satan
- Tradition and man's commandments – they always question the integrity of God's Word. They become faithless, fearful, sin-producers when the Word is not believed and trusted (as when Eve listened to Satan and allowed the Word to be taken out of its rightful place of government over her life. It was placed there by God to protect and keep blessing in her life, and the joy of fellowship with man).
 - ⊖ When faith in the integrity of God's Word is stolen, sin looks like God instead of ugly and dangerous. You see living as a Christian as hard, burdensome, and joyless. The sufferings of Christ become heart-breaking and hard instead of places of joy and revelation, showing you that Satan fears you and is seeking to break you free from your dominion and reigning power of authority over him. (James 1:12) It never makes you more; it always makes you less.
- Disobedience - a lack of persuasion, assurance, and faith in the integrity of God's Word.
- A lack of commitment, diligence, persistence, and an abundance of questions that engender more questions & strife.

LESSON 23

IT IS FINISHED

The Past Tense of Our Redemption

Read John 19:30; Romans 12:3; 2 Peter 1:1-4

Write your thoughts:

Read 2 Corinthians 1:20-21

- ✦ A revelation of Jesus' past tense work or completed work is the foundation of a strong, active faith that apprehends and possesses God's fullness.
- ✦ It is the foundation of the Christ life, the victorious life, the blessed life, the overcoming life.

Read Genesis 12:1-6 (24 years after Genesis 12, see Genesis 17:2-3)

- ✓ Abraham's faith was to possess a son, not just a dream of love.
- ✓ It caused Abraham to transform in many ways.

Read Romans 4:17 - (Abraham spoke things that were not as though they were.)

- 📖 He stopped speaking like a man and started speaking like God. He had a faith language.
- 📖 A name change. He spoke things that were not to the senses or human eye but were reality based on what God made him.
- 📖 Vs. 18 - He believed against hopelessness and dared to think that it could be possible. His mind was transformed.
- 📖 Vs. 19 - He was strong in faith. He didn't consider himself, his limitations, or the limitations of others (Sarah).
- 📖 Vs. 20 - He didn't stagger or become double-minded. He didn't cast away his confidence in faith. He didn't draw back from action or saying, but he glorified God.
- 📖 The revelation of "it's done, finished, in the past tense" affected his mouth, mind, and actions.

What do you speak as though it is, even if you cannot see it?

Read John 4:46-53

- ➔ The man believed = to have faith.
- ➔ He was changed from an asker to a receiver.
- ➔ The man believed = to assent, to agree with.
- ➔ He believed = the constancy of profession or confession.
- ➔ The state of being freed from change despite changing conditions.

Different Kinds of Faith

Mary's Kind of Faith

- ➔ Luke 1:26-38
- ➔ Mary said, "Be it unto me according to thy Word."

God's Kind of Faith

- ✘ Mark 11:23-24
- ✘ It's the foundation to every answered prayer and every mountain being removed from your life.

Peter's Faith

- ▶ Acts 9:32-34 - Peter's actions & announcement weren't based on what he saw, but were born out of a revelation of Jesus' accomplished, finished, past tense work.
- ▶ 1 Peter 2:24 - Peter shows the response of one who realizes that Jesus has already done something = to relax in what was done, not hope that it will be done.

When It's Done, It's Done!

Read Genesis 17:15-19 - A season to sow, to grow, and to harvest

- ✧ When God says something, it is considered done. It becomes past tense truth.
- ✧ When God said what He would do, Sarai changed her name to Sarah.
- ✧ Numbers 23:19
- ✧ Jeremiah 1:12; Psalm 89:34
- ✧ Hebrews 6:12-18
- ✧ Hebrews 11:8-12 Abraham had the same attitude of faith that Mary had. The attitude which allows God to govern us.

Read Joshua 8:1-3 (see 2:3-5)

- ✓ Ai overturned, trouble came.
- ✓ I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Write Out 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

- ✦ Don't look at what is going on, what is changing or not changing.
- ✦ Don't break down because of the violence.
- ✦ James 1:2 - Stand steadfast in rejoicing. Don't be dismayed, discouraged or confused.

More

Rom. 10:8; 2 Tim. 1:12; Judges 7:9-14 (see 19-22); Titus 3:8; 2 Tim. 1:7; 2 Chron. 20; Judges 6:33-40; 2 Tim. 1:12; 1 Sam. 30; Gal. 3:13; Rom. 6:22; 6:14; Col. 1:13; Matt. 8:17; Isaiah 53; Luke 17:12-19; Lev. 14:1-7; 2 Peter 1:3-4; 2 Cor. 2:14; 1 Peter 4:19; Rom. 8:28; James 5:10; Rom. 5:1-3; Col. 1:21; Rom. 14:3; 1 Cor. 1:30; 12:12-18; Rom. 5:11; 5:5; 1 John 5:13; 1 Thess. 4:1; 2 Thess. 2:15; 2 Peter 1:19; 1 John 4:21

God's Kind of Peace

📖 Read John 14:27; Luke 22:35

📖 Romans 5:1 - “*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...*”

1. Peace = health, welfare, prosperity, good, happiness, tranquility
2. Peace = Shalom = wholeness, soundness, health, well-being, prosperity
3. Peace means no battle or war. When God gives us peace, we understand that we may be attacked, but since He fights our battles, we have peace.
4. God reveals the end before the beginning.
5. We release faith in the peace of God so that we may declare it and praise Him for it.

Evidence of Peace – Romans 5:5

- ✘ We are unoffendable.
- ✘ We are brothers.
- ✘ We are forgiving.
- ✘ We prefer others.
- ✘ We are burden bearers.
- ✘ Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14; John 10:4; Jam. 5:14-16; 1 Sam. 30:1-8; 2 Pet. 1:1-4; 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 1:6-9; Mark 11:23-24; 1 John 5:13-15; 1 Pet. 2:24; Rom. 6:22; 6:14; 1 John 2:12-14; 2 Cor. 5:17; Matt. 8:16-17; Isaiah 53:4-5; 1 John 4:4; Heb. 2:14-15; Matt. 28:18; Romans 5:1

Write Out 1 Corinthians 1:30

- ▶ I have the peace of God.
- ▶ I'm not troubled or worried.
- ▶ John 10:4 - I need to know God's voice.

How Am I Supposed to Live?

Think on These Things

📖 1 Thessalonians 4:1

📖 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 1 John 4:21; Romans 5:1-2 ; 5:11

Pray

- 🔑 James 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 9:10; Mark 11:23-24
- 🔑 We must believe it is a past tense receiving.

Read Acts 9:32-34

- ✓ Peter's actions, announcements, and boldness towards Aeneas' state weren't based on what Peter saw; they were discovered out of revelation that healing is a past tense for everyone.
- ✓ 1 Peter 2:24
- ✓ We see the same boldness from the hypocritical ruler of the synagogue in Luke 13:14.
- ✓ Aeneas's response when he realized he was healed, was to rise.
- ✓ We see faith born and then re-learned by our mouth and action - based on persistence.
- ✓ The releasing of our faith which brings us into the fullness of the Jesus life comes through the revelation of, "It's done!" (Matthew 8:13)

Only Believe (Mark 5:22-24)

✗ Hebrews 10:35-39

✗ John 19:30; 2 Chronicles 20

✗ John 4:46-53

- ◆ Believe - to have faith
- ◆ Persuasion - a changing of a person; assenting to agree with
- ◆ Constancy in profession
- ◆ The state of being free from change despite changing conditions

His Past Tense Work

Read John 19:30; Luke 17:5-6; Romans 12:3; Hebrews 4:1-2; 2 Peter 1:1-4

Write your thoughts:

Fill in the Blanks (2 Corinthians 1:20-21)

“All the _____ of God in Him (Jesus, His church, the believer) are yea and amen unto the glory of God by us. Now He which _____ us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God.”

Read Genesis 17:1-6

- ✓ Out of this revelation of the past tense position of God, Abraham’s faith was born for a son.
- ✓ Romans 4:17-21: It caused Abraham to do several things:
 - a. Vs. 17 - He spoke things which be not as though they were.
 - b. Vs. 18 - He believed against hopelessness.
 - c. Vs. 19 - He was strong in faith.
 - d. Vs. 20 - He didn’t become double-minded but stayed strong; didn’t cast away his confidence.
 - e. He didn’t draw back, but gave glory to God.
 - f. It affected his mouth, mind, and actions. (Hebrews10:35)

Key Verse

LESSON 24

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO ME

God Does not Lie

- ↪ God doesn't lie. What He says, He brings to pass. (Numbers 23:18-20)
- ↪ Hebrews 6:12-20

Romans 4:17-25

- ✓ Vs.18 - When Abraham became persuaded & got a revelation, then God performed what He said. Abraham was able to have faith in a hopeless situation.
- ✓ Vs. 19 - Abraham considered not his own body, nor Sarah's dead womb. (2 Cor. 4:17-18)
- ✓ Vs. 20-21 Abraham didn't give in to unbelief when it came. He continued to praise God for the answer, the fulfillment of the promise.
- ✓ Abraham's faith was based on what he believed God was able and willing to perform.
- ✓ Acts 26:15-26; 2 Kings 20:1-11; Elijah - 1 Kings 17:8-16
- ✓ David stood in front of Goliath. (1 Samuel 17:36-37; 45-50)

God Watches Over His Word to Perform It

- ⊗ Every prophet that has ever prophesied believed that God watches over His Word to perform it. (2 Chronicles 20:16-24)
- ⊗ When we believe God will perform His Word, it becomes the foundation of our faith's confession.
- ⊗ Jer.1:12; Ez.12:25-28; Gen.17:1-7; Rom.4:17-21; 1 Ki. 8:56; Ps. 93:5; 89:34; Dan.9:3-5; 11-15

What God Says, He Will Do (Hebrews 6:12-20)

- 📖 Inherit - Means to pass as one's own, through a channel or an act of something.
- 📖 Faith - A revelation of God watching over His Word, and knowing God will fulfill it.
- 📖 Patience - Means fortitude, strength, calm endurance, forbearance, temperance, long-suffering, endurance. The strength and peace of patience destroys fear. (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Where has God been faithful to you?

LESSON 25

STAY FULL TO LIVE ABUNDANTLY WITH PRAISE AND WORSHIP

I. PRAISE

What is Praise?

1. Praise acknowledges what God has done. (Deuteronomy 15:15)
2. Praise acknowledges what God is doing. (1 Chronicles 16:9)
3. Praise acknowledges what God is going to do. (Deuteronomy 26:17-19)

Why Do We Praise?

- 🔊 We are commanded to. (Psalm 150:6; Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 47:6; Psalm 66:8)
- 🔊 We are appointed by God to praise Him.

Results of Praise

- 🎵 It silences the enemy. (Psalm 8:2; Matthew 21:16)
- 🎵 It shows our love for God. (Psalm 5:11)
- 🎵 It breaks the chains of bondage. (Acts 16:25-32)
- 🎵 It prepares our hearts for worship by focusing on God.
- 🎵 It glorifies God. (Psalm 50:23)
- 🎵 It is a weapon against our enemy. (Psalm 149:6)
- 🎵 It confuses the enemy. (2 Chronicles 20:20-24)
- 🎵 It supplies us with an acceptable sacrifice. (Hebrews 13:15)
- 🎵 It shakes our enemies, and looses us from the bonds of wickedness. (Acts 16:25-26)
- 🎵 God inhabits the praises of His people. (2 Chronicles 5:13-14; Psalm 22:3)
- 🎵 Praise brings deliverance to the oppressed. (1 Samuel 16:23)
- 🎵 When we praise, God goes before us and destroys our enemies. (2 Chronicles 20:22-24)
- 🎵 Praise makes known God's wondrous works to the world. (Psalm 105:1-2)
- 🎵 Praise will lift the spirit of heaviness. (Isaiah 61:3)
- 🎵 It drowns out the complaints of our adversaries. (Ezra 3:11-13)
- 🎵 It fulfills one of God's main purposes for creating and redeeming mankind. (1 Peter 2:9)
- 🎵 It can be a breeding ground for prophecy. (2 Kings 3:15-19)
- 🎵 Praise lifts up Jesus and draws the lost. (John 12:32)
- 🎵 It gives strength and stills the enemy. (Psalm 8:2)
- 🎵 It is a sign of God's perfection in and through us. (Matthew 21:16)

Why do you praise?

How Do You Praise Him?

⇒ With your hands (what you do)	Psalm 134:2; Psalm 47:1
⇒ With your feet (where you go)	Psalm 149:3
⇒ Leaping and whirling	Acts 3:8; 2 Samuel 6:16
⇒ Dancing	Psalm 150:4; 2 Samuel 6:14
⇒ With your mouth (what you say)	Psalm 145:21; Psalm 66:8
⇒ Lifting your hands	Psalm 134:2
⇒ Singing	Ps. 96:2; 30:4; Eph. 5:18-19; 1 Cor. 14:15
⇒ With all your heart	Psalm 86:12

Obedience

- ↗ Lifestyle of praise and worship = the highest form of praise and worship to God.
- ↗ 1 Samuel 15:22; Isaiah 1:10-20; 1 Peter 1:13-17, 22; Genesis 8:20-22

Expressions of Praise

- 📖 Glorify = to be rich with; to honor
 - ♦ Glory = numerous, weighty
- 📖 Honor = admire, value, respect, esteem, praise, worship
- 📖 Exalt = to be high and lifted up
 - ♦ High = supreme; exalted in quality, character, or rank
- 📖 Magnify = to make large; boast, increase; to declare great
 - ♦ Large = abundant, many, vast
- 📖 Wonderful = marvelous; separate, distinguished
 - ♦ Marvelous = wondrous things and works; amazing, extraordinary, incredible, excellent, admirable
- 📖 Extol = to be high and lifted up
 - ♦ Lifted = take hold of and raise to a higher place or position; keep in suspense; raise or carry
- 📖 Adore = to love or honor with intensity
 - ♦ Intensity = extreme force, concentration, quality, strength, extreme effort
- 📖 Alleluia = 10,000 praises; an adoring exclamation
 - ♦ Exclamation = an abrupt or emphatic utterance, outcry; an apprehension of another's state or condition

What is your favorite expression of praise?

II. WORSHIP

What is Worship?

- Worship is an intimate conversation between God and man; a conversation that should be continual throughout the Christian life.
- Worship is a conscious choice. We must know and believe what we say in worship.
- Worship is the highest point man can reach in response to the love of God.
- Worship is one's heart expression of love, adoration, and praise to God for who He is.
- True worship is based on God's love for you, not on what He can do for you.
- True worship is awesome wonder and overpowering love in the presence of God.
- Worship is the ability to magnify God with our whole being (spirit, soul, and body.)
- Worship is the unashamed pouring out of the inner self upon the Lord Jesus Christ in affectionate love.
- Worship is extravagant love and extreme obedience.
- Worship is the act of the mind, will, and emotions responding gratefully to the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, as the Holy Ghost brings revelation.
- True worship is to quietly lie prostrate before the Lord as an act of submission and reverence.
- A relationship is required for worship, because worship is two-fold, involving both giving and receiving. When God calls us to worship, He calls us to give our bodies as living sacrifices, and He calls us to receive the fullness of His presence.
- Worship can be intense, but it is an intensity initiated by God rather than by us. We should not strive and strain to enter into something climactic. It should be relaxing and enjoyable, yet full of enthusiasm and vitality.

Why Do We Worship?

† Because He is our Lord.

† Write out Psalm 45:11

† In worship, we acknowledge the Lord for who He is.

Why do you worship?

Be Still and Know He is God

✂ Write out Psalm 46:10

✂ God is calling us to cease from all workings, forsake all worldliness, and come away to a quiet place to know Him. He wants to flood us with His very being, with all that He is, so that we may experience Him in His fullness.

How do you do this?

The Importance of the Blood of Jesus

⇒ Hebrews 9:14; Hebrews 10:19

⇒ We worship without sin-consciousness, through the blood of Jesus.

Sing a New Song

🔊 Psalm 33:3; Psalm 40:3

🔊 Revelation 5:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15

Worship...

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Gets God's attention | Matthew 15:25-28 |
| 2. Fulfills a commandment by God | Deuteronomy 6:13 |
| 3. Moves the hand of God | Matthew 8:2-3 |
| 4. Is the breeding ground for miracles | Matthew 9:18-26 |
| 5. Shows our true love for and trust in God | Matthew 28:9 |
| 6. Opens the door for God to hear us | John 9:31 |
| 7. Shows our separation from the world | Philippians 3:3 |

To Worship...

- ✂ Means to prostrate oneself in due reverence and adoration; to bow oneself down, fall down flat; make to stoop, crouch.
- ✂ In the fear of the Lord Revelation 15:4; Psalm 5:7
- ✂ In the beauty of His holiness Psalm 29:2
- ✂ In the multitude of God's mercy Psalm 5:7
- ✂ In spirit and in truth John 4:23-24
- ✂ In the knowledge of who He is John 4:22
- ✂ In the heavenly sanctuary Hebrews 9:11; 10:19
- ✂ In liberty 2 Corinthians 3:17-18
- ✂ In His glory Revelation 21:23-24

III. RELATIONSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Why Relationship?

- 📖 Relationship with God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit will enable us to fulfill our commitments in spiritual matters.
 - 📖 Relationship is the foundation of all praise and worship. You can only praise and worship the God that you know.
 - 📖 Write out John 17:3
-
-

- 📖 In the beginning, God would walk with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day.
- 📖 Enoch walked with God.
- 📖 Abraham was the friend of God.
- 📖 Moses talked with God face to face.
- 📖 The focus and purpose of our Christian life should be relationship. We need a minute by minute, intimate relationship with the one true living God.

Fellowship

- ↻ Fellowship is God sharing Himself with us, and us sharing ourselves with Him.
- ↻ It is coming to a quiet place to talk with Him.
- ↻ In fellowship, God speaks to us and reveals His mysteries. He also changes our thoughts and attitudes, and shapes our character.
- ↻ Fellowship is the birthplace of vision.
- ↻ Healing and provision come through fellowship.
- ↻ Fellowship with God is reflected in our interaction with the world. We cannot fellowship with the world and act like Jesus, and we cannot fellowship with Jesus and act like the world.
- ↻ You will worship the one you fellowship with.



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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.