



PROPHETIC & REVELATORY STUDIES

SEMESTER THREE

Streams
ACADEMY
DIPLOMA

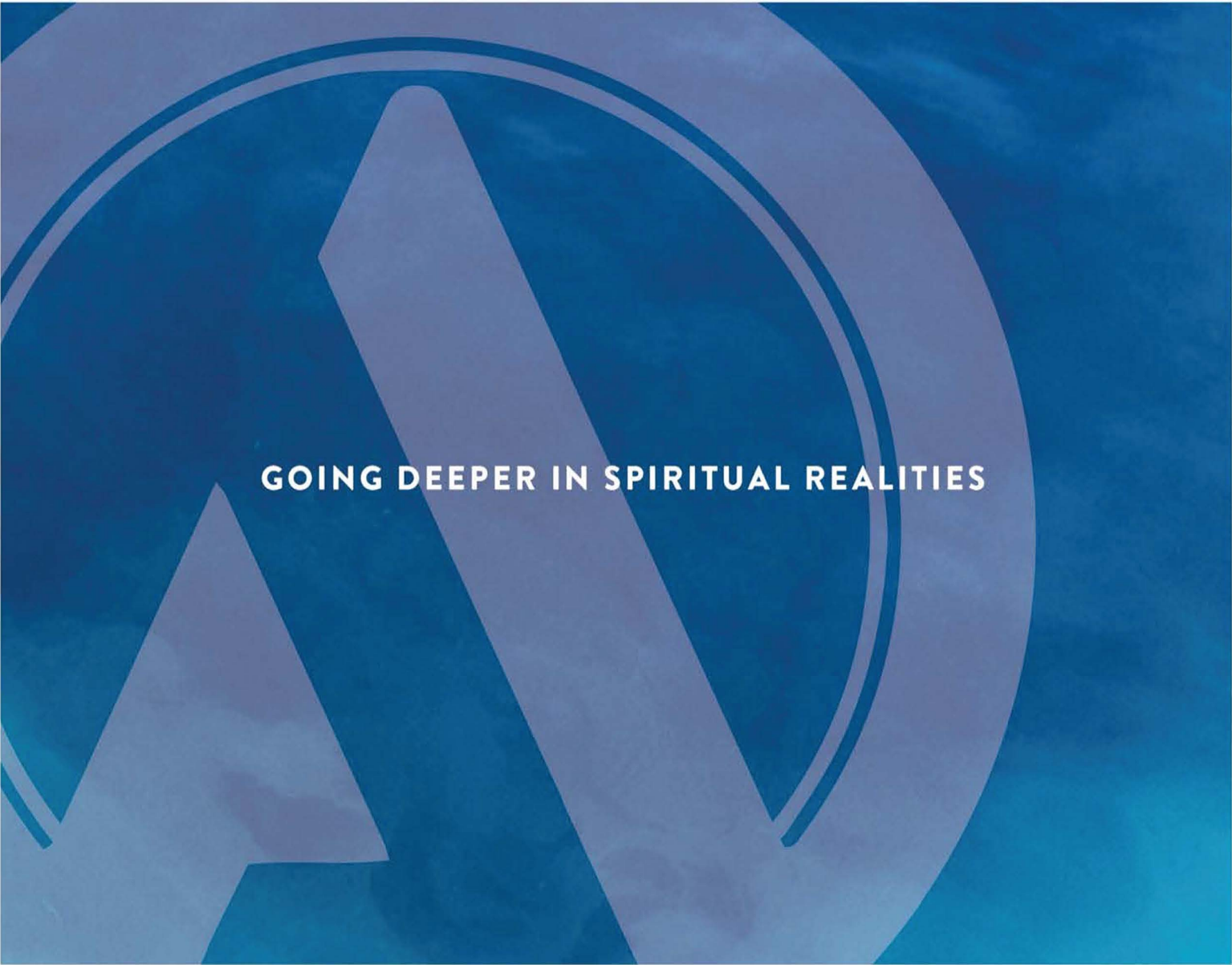


SEMESTER THREE

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GOING DEEPER IN SPIRITUAL REALITIES

MODULE 01

Growing in Kingdom Authority

ACADEMY
DIPLOMA





Streams Academy—Living in Spiritual Realities

Module 1 Growing in Kingdom Authority

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MODULE 01

Growing in Kingdom Authority

Description: The kingdom of God is the central theme that holds the story of the whole Bible together. In this module you will learn what the kingdom really is, how to discover and increase your authority in it, and keys to greater effectiveness in expanding God's kingdom in your life and in the areas God calls you into!

Unit 1: Understanding the Kingdom of God

Unit 2: The Purpose of Authority

Unit 3: Spheres of Authority

Unit 4: Prophetic Declarations

MODULE 01

UNIT 1

Understanding the Kingdom of God





Unit 1: Understanding the Kingdom of God

The kingdom of God is the central theme that holds the whole story of the Bible together. It is found in the Garden of Eden, God's activity with the people of Israel, the ministry of Jesus, the role of the Church, and in the New Jerusalem.

Part 1: The Will of the King

The kingdom of God is where God's will is done. The King's domain.

*Psalm 145:10-13 (ESV): All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.*

It is the place that is submitted to the rule of the king

Matthew 7:21 (ESV): "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."



You can recognize the manifestation of the kingdom when God's will happens in any arena.

Spiritual realm

Matthew 12:28 (ESV): *"But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."*

Physical bodies

Luke 10:9 (ESV): *"Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"*

People's lives and choices

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (ESV): *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

Entering the kingdom of God is the same thing as "being saved" or "eternal life"



Mark 10:17–27 (ESV): *And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”*

Jesus uses the phrases interchangeably

This is the new creation we discussed in Phase 1
Module 2: New Creation Realities

We are more than just subjects, we have a role in administrating this kingdom

We have some rule now and will have more in the next age



Revelation 5:9–10 (ESV): *And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”*

We have a part to play that is central to God’s plan

The kingdom was (re-)established with the coming of Jesus and will be fulfilled when He comes back.

Daniel 2:44(ESV): *And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever.*



Part 2: Paradise Lost and Regained

Before the Fall of mankind the kingdom of God was fully manifest on the earth realm.

Peace between God and man

Genesis 1:28a (ESV): *And God blessed them.*

God and mankind related as friends

They walked together in the Garden talking

God gave man identity and purpose

Who Adam was—“made in His image”

What Adam did—naming animals, caring for and expanding the Garden



Peace between man and man

Genesis 2:25 (ESV): *And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

Their concern was how to support and bless one another

Peace between man and creation

Genesis 1:28 (ESV): *And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

All plants were good and safe to eat

None of the animals harmed other animals or people

No weather or natural disasters that caused harm

No sickness or disease



Paradise Lost—the Fall

When Adam and Eve obeyed the serpent they submitted their authority to him

Everything under their authority became subject to the enemy

They lost what they had in the Garden

Peace between God and man

Adam hid from God and God punished Adam

Genesis 3:17-19 (ESV): And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken, for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



Man's shame caused him to run from God and still does

Peace between man and man

They blamed each other and started being concerned with themselves

Genesis 3:16 (ESV): *To the woman he said,
"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
but he shall rule over you."*

The next generation saw murder and wars came after

Peace between man and creation

Some plants became harmful

Animals became dangerous

Sickness came, and with it death

Storms and natural disasters



Since creation now had another authority over it, being removed from the direct connection to the Creator, it began to decay

Romans 8:20-22 (ESV): For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Satan was at work but because he still had the authority Adam & Eve gave him he was able to stay hidden

The point of the temptation was for him to receive authority

He is only mentioned four times in the Old Testament

Genesis 3

Job 1

1 Chronicles 21

Zechariah 3



But his activity is seen

Various “gods” revealing themselves to people

All demons, perhaps some the devil

Sorcery and other evil spiritual practices

Paradise Regained—the Redemption

Jesus came as the last Adam

Romans 5:12-17 (ESV): Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

The incarnation—fully God and fully man



Jesus fulfilled what Adam didn't

He lived under the authority of God fully submitted

John 5:19 (ESV): So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise."

He stayed submitted to the kingdom of God (the will of God) and brought back the kingdom to mankind

His message and ministry was that the kingdom had come back to earth

Mark 1:14-15 (ESV): Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

He restored what was lost in the Fall and proved it with His ministry

Peace between man and God



2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (ESV): *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Jesus forgave sins, removing the separation from God

Luke 7:47-50 (ESV): *Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”*

Matthew 9:2-7 (ESV): *And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home.*



Peace between man and man

There is now the possibility of truly loving relationships without needing to hide or pretend because of shame

People groups no longer need to be separated

Galatians 3:27-28 (ESV): For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Jesus taught us to remove the separation by:

Forgiving each other

Loving our enemies

Loving each other

Jesus demonstrated it by His ministry



John 4:9 (ESV): *The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)*

He healed the Centurions servant and the Syro-Phoenician woman’s daughter

Peace between man and creation

Physical healing and nature miracles

Testimonies of animals responding to the kingdom of God in people

Jesus demonstrated it in His ministry by healing the sick

Matthew 4:23-24 (ESV): *And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them.*

By silencing the storm

Mark 4:39 (ESV): *And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*



By multiplying food

Matthew 14:19-21 (ESV): Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus exposed the enemy and proved his defeat by casting out demons

Once Jesus started ministering demonic activity became obvious

Demons manifested often

Jesus cast out demons showing that the kingdom had been revealed

Luke 11:20 (ESV): But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

From Jesus' ministry on, the presence and activity of the demonic became obvious



Jesus gave us the authority of the kingdom and told us to continue that work, proving that there is now peace between man and God, other mankind, and creation

We are to make disciples, bringing them into the kingdom

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV): And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

That includes the power to heal the sick, cast out demons, and have authority over nature

Mark 16:17-18 (ESV): And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."



Part 3: Now, and Not Yet

Jesus brought His kingdom with Him but it is not fully manifested

Hebrews 2:5–9 (ESV): *For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere,*

*“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?
You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned him with glory and honor,
putting everything in subjection under his feet.”*

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

The Bible talks about the present age as well as the age to come

Titus 2:11–13 (ESV): *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*



While we live in this present age, we are also partaking in the age to come

Hebrews 6:4–5 (ESV): *For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come.*

Those who are in Christ, have the Holy Spirit, have tasted the powers of the age to come

This includes healing, deliverance, transformation

Jesus taught us to pray for this

Matthew 6:9–13 (ESV): *Pray then like this:*
“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.”

Daily bread is actually “tomorrow’s bread”

Jesus established His kingdom but He did not remove everything not subjected to it



There are still areas without peace between man and God

Matthew 7:13–14 (ESV): “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

The enemy is still alive and active

1 Peter 5:8–11 (ESV): Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Not everyone is healed

1 Timothy 5:23 (ESV): No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

2 Timothy 4:20 (ESV): Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus.



If Jesus has all authority why doesn't He make everything right?

Free will

God didn't make robots that have to operate within their programming but free agents able to make decisions

That includes the enemy

Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV): Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

When God removes sin there will no longer be an opportunity for anyone to be saved

2 Peter 3:9–10 (ESV): The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.



The first time He came He brought forgiveness but when He returns He will judge sin and all that is connected to it

Hebrews 9:26b–28 (ESV): *But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

This will be the final judgement when all who are not in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire, the second death

Revelation 20:14 (ESV): *Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

The corruption released upon creation will be removed in the same way the Fall was removed from us—death and resurrection

2 Peter 3:7, 11–13 (ESV): *But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*



When sin is removed all its effects will be gone

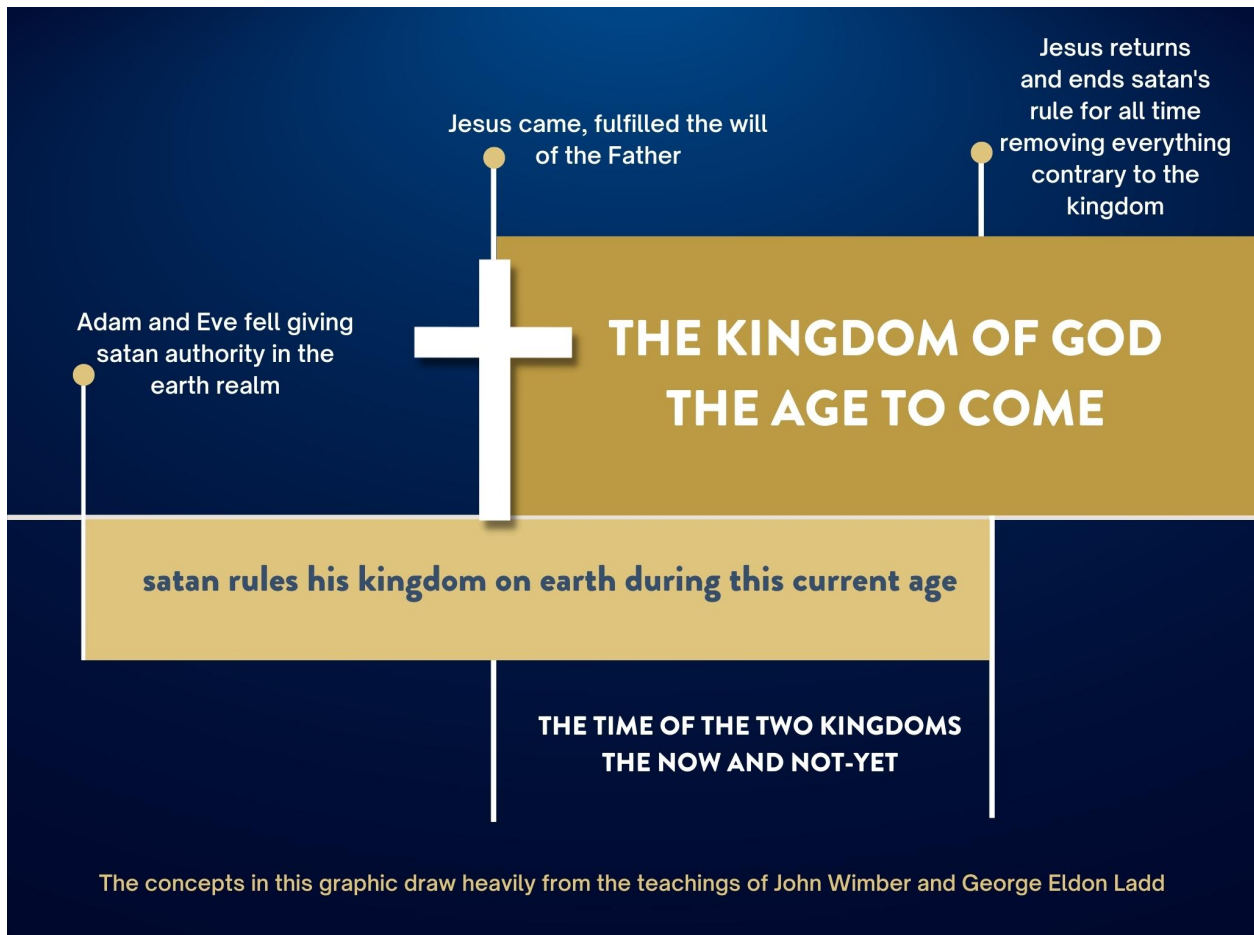
Revelation 21:3–5 (ESV): *I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”*

Everything will be fully submitted to Jesus and He will submit it to the Father

1 Corinthians 15:22–28 (ESV): *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.*



We live in the time between the two “comings” of Jesus



Both kingdoms are active

God's kingdom is here but it is not fully here



Satan's rule is still active, but not completely

Revelation 12:10–12 (ESV): *And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"*

Not everything we pray for happens

The already and not-yet of the kingdom is one reason but not the only reason

But these kingdoms are not equal, when God says it is done it will not be a fight

Satan will be bound and then thrown into the lake of fire

Revelation 20:10 (ESV): *The devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*



Until then we occupy, not fighting for victory, but fighting from the victory that Jesus won

We expect miracles, breakthrough, and freedom from sin—the kingdom manifested

But we don't get discouraged when everything doesn't go as we wanted

James was killed while Peter was set free from prison

Many were healed when John the Baptist stayed in prison and was be-headed

Matthew 11:6 (ESV): *"Blessed is the one who is not offended by me."*

We don't always get to understand why but we trust God in our confusion knowing He is good



2 Corinthians 4:7–5:5 (ESV): *But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.*

Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.



Part 4: Role of the Church

The church is not the kingdom of God but is an expression of the kingdom on the earth. She is called to represent the kingdom, proclaim the kingdom, and expand the kingdom.

Represent the kingdom

We represent the kingdom by our lifestyle

We are a “counter-cultural” force within the world that bears witness to God’s existence and rule

Acts 1:6–8 (ESV): So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

We reveal the deception of the world system and demonic wisdom so that God’s wisdom may be seen and recognized

Romans 12:1–2 (ESV): I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Our lives reveal that the power of sin and corruption is broken



We live out the truth of God's ways

John 17:16–19 (ESV): *They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.*

Our character, relationships, and community demonstrate God

Ephesians 5:1 (ESV): *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.*

John 13:35 (ESV): *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

As we live God's will we demonstrate God's wisdom

Ephesians 3:10–11 (ESV): *So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Proclaim the kingdom



We have been given a message to preach

Matthew 10:7–8a (ESV): And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.

We witness to the reality of the King’s victory calling people to be free of the influence of the enemy and find life

2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV): Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

1 Peter 3:9 (ESV): But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Our lives should be a witness, but that is not a substitute for preaching

Romans 10:14–15 (ESV): How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

As we preach, we can expect power to accompany the message



Acts 1:6–8 (ESV): *So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Every time Jesus sent His disciples to preach He told them to also heal the sick, cast out demons, to prove that there is now peace between man and God, man and man, and man and creation

Mark 16:15–18 (ESV): *And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*

Expand the kingdom

We expand the kingdom one life at a time by making disciples

Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV): *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

Disciples do all of the above



How to disciple someone like Jesus did

Demonstrate what you do

Never do ministry alone

Explain what you do

You don't have to have all the right words, just share your passion and knowledge

Have them help you do it

Let them experience it themselves

This will give them a whole new set of questions

Have them do it while you observe and advise

They need feedback, correction, and encouragement

Tell them to go do it and let you know how it went

Celebrate the testimonies



Have them go get someone else to help them do it

You haven't completely taught them until they are discipling others

This process creates community

People that know each other, have similar passions, and a shared experience

This is how kingdom churches are born

This is how we work with the Holy Spirit to infect every area of our lives and the world we live in

Matthew 13:33 (ESV): He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

The kingdom of God will never stop expanding until every wrong thing is made right!



Isaiah 9:1–7 (ESV): *But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.*

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

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HOMEWORK





HOMEWORK

Unit 1: Understanding the Kingdom of God

Read the Sermon on the Mount slowly (Matthew 5–8)

Ask the Lord to highlight the section you need to grow in the most

Ask the Lord what steps you should take to develop this area of kingdom living

Memorize two to three verses from the section He highlighted

Suggested reading: Power Healing by John Wimber

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MODULE 01

UNIT 2

The Purpose of Authority





Unit 2: The Purpose of Authority

Within the kingdom we have been given authority and kingdom authority is to accomplish kingdom purposes. We are empowered to bring God's will to bear on any circumstance we find ourselves in. Anything that does not look like peace between man and God, man and man, or man and creation becomes our target. We destroy the works of the devil, just as Jesus did.

Part 1: Restore What Was Lost

Because of the Fall the enemy has been ruling over the earth

That has allowed him to keep people in deception

2 Corinthians 4:3–4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Under the enemy's rule things are stolen, destroyed, or ruined

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they many have life and have it abundantly.

Everything under the enemy's influence is separated from the Source of light and life



When Jesus ascended to heaven He is ruling until the restoration of all things

We have been empowered to undo all that the enemy has done

Jesus said that as He was sending us with the same mandate He had

John 17:18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

1 John 3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Spend time imagining what your situation would look like if there was no sin, corruption, or other influence of the enemy

As you hold that picture in your heart, pray the Lord's prayer

Do the same for other people's lives and situations

This will increase compassion in us

Compassion is an essential key to undoing the work of the enemy



It was Jesus' compassion that prompted Him to send out His disciples with power and authority

Matthew 9:36–10:1 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

Compassion was connected to every major type of miracle Jesus did

Restoring peace between man and God

Matthew 18:7 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

It was compassion that prompted God making provision for forgiveness

Restoring peace between man and man

Mark 1:40–42 And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.



Lepers could not be touched and were separated from other people so Jesus touched him

Restoring peace between man and creation

Resurrection

Luke 7:13–15 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Multiplying food

Matthew 15:32 Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.”

Healing

Matthew 14:14 When He went ashore He saw a great crowd, and He had compassion on them and healed their sick.



Let compassion move you when people demonstrate the enemy's activity

Ask God to empower your compassion to set people free through you

As you minister life to them you are ministering to Jesus

Matthew 25:40 The King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

Let that compassion move you into your destiny

Recognizing what bothers you is a key to knowing your purpose

Start looking for ways to undo the enemies activity in that area

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Part 2: Militant Peace

When God's will is done it establishes peace between man and God, man and man, and man and creation

Bringing peace is warfare!

Romans 16:19–20 For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Accomplishing God's rule (establishing God's will) destroys the enemies activity

When we destroy the works of the devil we lessen the influence he has on the earth

Proclaiming the Gospel, healing the sick, and casting out demons is essential spiritual warfare

Luke 10:17–20 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Satan fell "from heaven" because he lost authority



When we minister freedom from fear, shame, or trauma we advance God's kingdom

We fight to bring peace in people's lives and hearts

This restores joy and hope

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Not only in individual lives but in cultures and people groups

This could be a business

Establishing equity, fair treatment, just prices, integrity in practice

What would the will of God look like in government?

Magna Carta established property rights, came out of Christian values

William Wilberforce fought for slavery to end

There is power in prayer, in preaching, and in action when done in obedience to God



Every sphere of human existence needs the kingdom

Kingdom authority

Kingdom values (fruit of the Spirit)

Kingdom power

Poverty and slavery

There is no poverty or slavery in the kingdom of God

Share what we have with others

2 Corinthians 8:13–15 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

Paul uses the example of manna in the wilderness as proof of God’s provision

Fight for the freedom of others



Sex slavery

Pornography major financial support for this

Work (domestic) slavery

Fair labor practices and wages

Military slavery

Child soldiers

The kingdom sees every person as eternal, glorious creatures made in the image of God

We fight to see people that way and treat them that way

That pushes back the enemy

We can't fix every wrong in the world

The key is finding our assignment from heaven

Resting in God's assignment



When we know who we are we can serve freely

John 13:3–5 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Know what the Father has given you

What is in your hand?

Gifts

Talents

Relationships

Resources

Passions

Know your relationship to God

You are beloved—you are not working for acceptance you are working from acceptance



John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Remember eternity and the rewards that are coming

You will see God face-to-face and receive rewards

Luke 19:12–27 He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. The first came before him, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’ And the second came, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made five minas.’ And he said to him, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ Then another came, saying, ‘Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.’ He said to him, ‘I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’ And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten minas.’”²⁶ “I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.’”



Part 3: Re-Present Jesus

The Holy Spirit is working to make us just like Jesus

Romans 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

The Holy Spirit in us develops the character of Jesus in us

Galatians 5:22–23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

What would Jesus do?

How would He respond to this person? Situation? Circumstance?

What kingdom values should inform our response?

Trust in God's provision, goodness, power, righteousness

What does righteousness look like in this circumstance?

What attribute of Jesus should I exhibit here?

What does humility look like? Service? Integrity?

What in me resists this?



This is how we find what needs ministry (inner healing)

Anything not like Jesus in a believer is based on deception

This doesn't make us work harder—it recognizes resistance so we can bring it into obedience

2 Corinthians 10:4–6 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

We will go deeper into inner healing in Phase 2 Module 3: Inner Healing and Deliverance

The Spirit in us allows us to experience adoption

It is the Spirit that filled Jesus inside of us that lets us know through experience we are the children of God

Romans 8:14–17 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Co-heirs with Christ inherit everything Christ inherits



Galatians 4:4–7 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

This is the basis for our confidence and our authority

John 14:18–20 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

The experience of God’s love is through the Holy Spirit

This gives us confidence to ask in prayer expecting an answer

John 16:23–24 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

The Spirit also empowers us for ministry

We get to live the same kind of life Jesus did



Acts 10:36–38 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Beginning after the baptism God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit

Matthew 3:16–17 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

The baptism of the Spirit comes with the proclamation of God’s love

This allows us to want to fulfill God’s will, to bring the kingdom

The baptism of the Spirit also fills us with power

This gives us the ability to fulfill God’s will

Jesus went about doing good

This connects social justice with the power of God



Not the will of man or the desire of man but the will of God

God wants to empower us to do good

2 Thessalonians 1:11–12 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We do good because we believe it is the right thing God wants us to do and God supplies power

When things happen God gets glory and so do we

God wants us to walk in power, see miracles, heal sickness, and remove demons

He doesn't do it because we deserve it, but because He is good and that is what His kingdom is like

This journey starts by believing what Jesus did, hearing His invitation, and responding in faith

It continues the same way



Galatians 3:1–6 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

As we go about doing good, God releases power, and those oppressed by the devil are set free

*Isaiah 61:1–4 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.*

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HOMEWORK





HOMEWORK

Unit 2: The Purpose of Authority

Write out the answers to these questions:

List three people you would consider successful in their Christian life (historic or currently alive)

What is it that stands out about their life?

Why do you think they are successful?

What aspect of Jesus' life and nature do they best demonstrate?



What spiritual gifts are/were evident in their life?

Which fruit of the Spirit are/were most demonstrated in their life?

Which spiritual disciplines do/did they practice or focus on?

Ask the Lord to release grace into your life to imitate them as they imitated Christ.

Suggested reading: Mystics & Miracles by Bert Ghezzi

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Unit 3: Spheres of Authority

Authority is the right or ability to accomplish something. We all have authority that differs for various reasons. We are going to discuss how we get authority with other people, in the kingdom, and how to increase our level of authority.

Part 1: Relational, Positional, Commissioned

There are different ways that we receive authority

Relational

There is authority that we have because of our relationships

When people trust us, they allow us to influence them

When we prove our trustworthiness

Sometimes that is personal trustworthiness, they believe we have their best interests in mind

Sometimes it is functional trustworthiness, since they see us as successful they will allow us to influence them so they can be successful

When they see our alignment with their values and goals



Someone with fame can have authority over someone that wants that fame, or wants to be associated with it

Same with money

When people know we love them

Sometimes the type of relationship gives us authority

Parents

Spouses

Older generations (grandparents or uncles/aunts)

The authority can be stolen as well

Abusive relationships

Bullies

This is not true authority but a power relationship

Can happen in real relationships or just perceived relationships

Other kids in school or people at work



Relational authority is limited by the strength of the relationship and level of trust

Abusive relationships still require trust, trust that the one in power will hurt or won't hurt the one being abused

The promise of restraint of power or use of power

Positional

Our position in a group can give us authority

Economic

Bosses and managers have a certain authority

Landlords have authority over tenants

People that give have authority over those they give to

More power, "I won't give unless..."

Government

Laws give authority



Police, judicial system

Threat of punishment gives authority

Social contracts give authority

You obey and we will protect, provide, etc

Religion

Teachers

Pastors

Priests

Gurus, etc

Often appointed so this can also be commissioned authority

Other social groups

Whenever people gather someone brings leadership

Professionals

Doctors have authority in the area of health



Financial advisors have authority in the financial arena

Professional authority is limited by the trust in the profession
and the individual in that position

Positional authority is limited to that social group (business, nation, etc.)

It influences to the extent the person under authority wants to be part of that
social group

Commissioned

This is delegated authority

Someone sent to accomplish what someone else had the authority to do

Commissioned is co-mission

The authority is limited by the mission

When the mission is broad the authority is broad

An ambassador to another country

When the mission is small the authority is small

Press secretary for the White House



Other considerations

Authority alone is not bad, it is good

What it accomplishes will reveal if it was good

What is the fruit?

Authority is on the road to abuse when it is based on power alone

Authority shouldn't remove self-control from those being lead

Someone in authority shouldn't remove power from those they lead

They should empower those they lead to accomplish something

Authority for authorities sake is domination, authority always has a purpose

Authority is not for personal fulfillment but to help the group being lead

We will discuss more in the next section on servant authority

Authority should be protected, not to remain in power, but to accomplish the purpose the authority was given for



Numbers 16, God defended Moses and Aaron's authority because He wanted its purpose to be fulfilled

The people to come into the Promised Land as His people

You have authority to the extent you submit to authority

Luke 7:8–9 For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."

Ultimately all authority comes from God—relational, positional, and commissioned

Romans 13:1–7 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

[illegible]



Part 2: Servant Authority

Servant authority is the intention of God. If there had not been a Fall it would be the only kind of authority in existence. As representatives of the kingdom, this is how we should understand any authority we have been given to administer or to follow.

God's example

God used His authority to bless others

Creation wasn't required by God but an overflow of His love

The ways (laws) He put into place are the best for His creation to flourish and accomplish the purpose He created it for

God has never been selfish, every act of His authority is a manifestation of His love

He gave Adam authority with the intention that Adam would serve creation bringing it into the goodness that was in the Garden



Genesis 1:26–28 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

*So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.*

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Even after the Fall He used His authority to make right what was wrong

Not by removing power from others but by empowering them

Not by coercion but by lovingly inviting us into what is best for us and through us for all of creation

Jesus ministry on earth was also an expression of appropriate authority

He clarified what was right, what was His intention for our good

The Sermon on the Mount



He paid the price for us to be restored to our right position (peace with God, others, and creation)

He taught the right use of authority

Mark 10:42–45 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Everyone that has authority will give an account to God for how they used that authority

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

It is a stewardship, managing what belongs to another

Authority at every level is the right and ability to bring God’s will to bear in the situations we have influence over

2 Corinthians 10:8 For even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed.



We need to know where we have authority and don't have authority

Where we have authority we will be effective in advancing the kingdom

2 Corinthians 10:13 But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you.

The opposite of servant authority

Narcissism

Oxford Dictionary: extreme selfishness, with a grandiose view of one's own talents and a craving for admiration. Self-centeredness arising from failure to distinguish the self from external objects.

Narcissists see the world through the lens of their picture of themselves

Unable to empathize with how their choices affect others negatively

See others as a way to fulfill their personal plan/agenda

In the church they see "their" ministry tied to their self-worth

Very concerned with appearances and reputation

Can't separate the kingdom from their ministry



Will lack appreciation for other's success unless it reflects on them

Will end up threatened by anyone that has a call that does not promote their agenda or that starts getting attention for gifting or success

Saul's response to David's success

Narcissistic structures

Everything is about the "man or woman of God"

People are promoted because they flattered the leader or are useful to the leader rather than the call of God or true character

When people are no longer useful they are forgotten or ostracized

Anyone who challenges a weakness or mistake of the leader is "demonized"

Meaning they become the enemy of the group in the leaders view and speech

Systems get set up to protect the reputation of the leader and their reputation becomes conflated with the "glory of God" or reputation of the kingdom



They don't have the capacity to be vulnerable

Only share struggles they have overcome and it gets shared in a "look at my victory" way

Power becomes the focal point

Charismatic power (people like me)

Intelligence power (I know more)

Success power (people want to be like me)

Religious power (I am closer to God, have more gifting)

In the prophetic they always talk about their encounters and can't admit when they were wrong

Structures of relationships or organization get built to protect their power



Things are done to keep people following them

1 Samuel 13:10–12 As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. Samuel said, “What have you done?” And Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the LORD.’ So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering.”

I am doing this for God is actually not true

Saul spared Agag and some animals “to sacrifice to the Lord”

These leaders will often say “God told me” when questioned on a decision or direction

No real accountability

Other people that think for themselves and can challenge, advise, and/or correct

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Part 3: Faithfulness and Loyalty

Once we find the limits and the possibilities of our authority and recognize its purpose we should seek to grow that authority

What does God look for when increasing authority?

Faithfulness

Luke 16:10–12 One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

God gives you authority, how you use it determines if you get more

Authority over self

Authority over finances

Authority in relationships

Authority in groups

Authority in the spiritual realm



Loyalty

Proverbs 3:3–4 *Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
So you will find favor and good success
in the sight of God and man.*

Sometimes God aligns you with someone else to prove your faithfulness

Elisha washed the hands of Elijah

Apostles served Jesus

Paul supported Barnabas in Antioch

How you support someone else's vision affects how others
support yours

David refused to steal authority from Saul

He remained loyal in the face of rejection



Sometimes God will make sure you see the weakness of your leader to reveal your heart

Noah and his sons

Honor is key

Ephesians 6:2–3 Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.

Spiritual application: How you honor those that mentor and lead you will determine how long you stay in your destiny

That doesn’t mean ignoring sin

Learn from but don’t ridicule

Don’t talk about it to others

Confront using the principles in Matthew 18

Be a David to a Saul, not an Absalom to a David

Saul was demonized but David honored his position

David was wrong to not punish Amnon, but Absalom was wrong to “steal the hearts of the people”

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Part 4: Righteousness

Understanding spiritual authority

You give away your authority to that which you obey

Romans 6:16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

This is the principle the devil understood when he tempted Adam and Eve

The enemy has as much authority over you as you have agreement with him

John 14:30–31 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

You have as much authority over the enemy as you have agreement with God

This is general and specific

General: Your level of submission to the ways of the King determines your kingdom authority

We talked about faithfulness earlier



Specific: We can have more, or less, authority in certain areas based on our personal level of victory in that area

If you have not overcome a certain area, and you are not overcome by that area, you will have average authority

If you have a testimony of having overcome in that area you will have greater authority based on your level of victory

Not falling, but struggling with temptation

Some authority

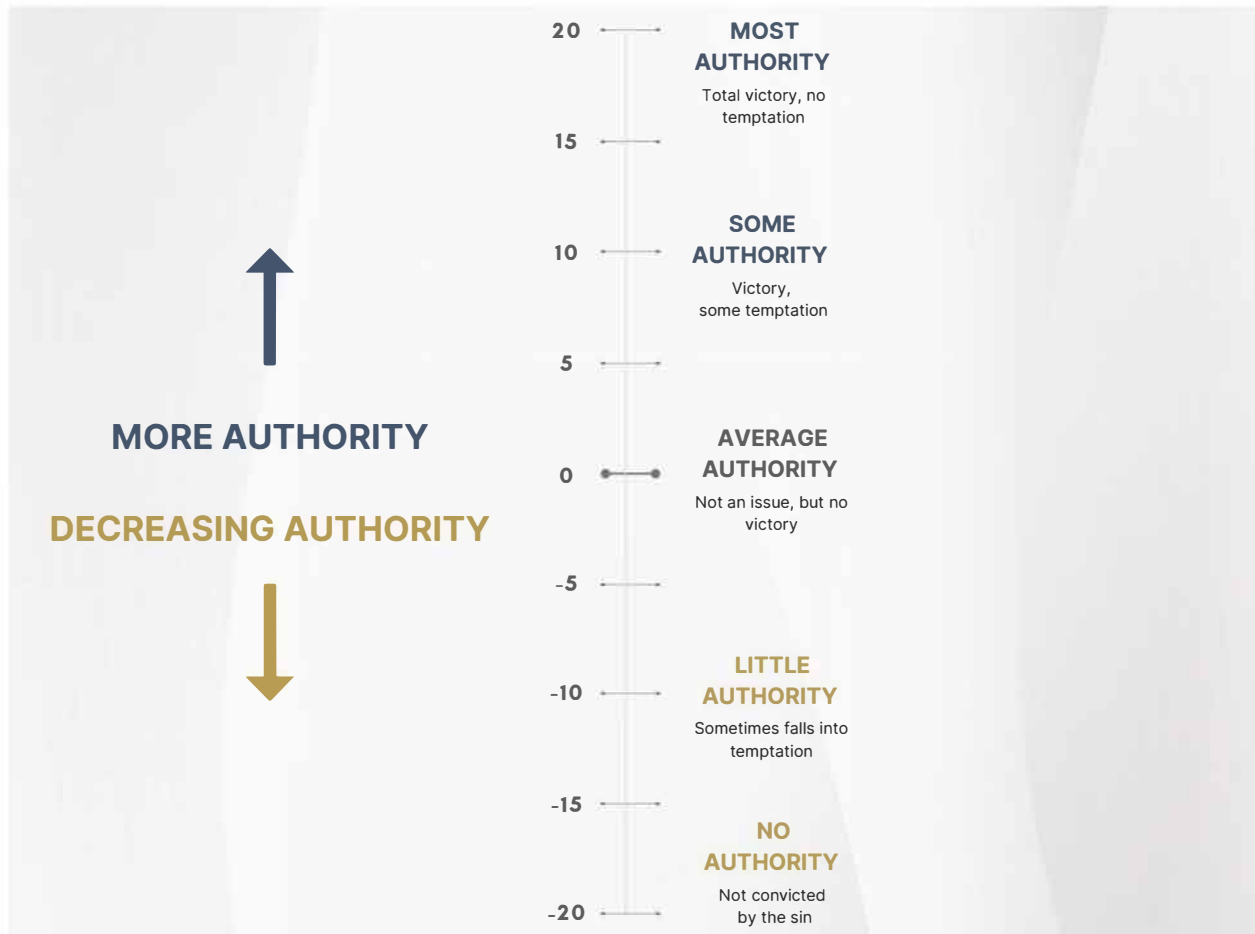
Overcoming temptation though it comes regularly

More authority

Not even tempted by it, total victory

Most authority

Examples: addiction, radical salvation, healing, prophetic encounters, financial breakthrough





Where the kingdom has victory in our life or through our life we have greater authority

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

We still have authority in other areas if we believe God can do it

Do we believe His word is true?

Do we see it in His character?

Are there testimonies that we trust and know?

When someone that has the victory commissions us (usually through the laying on of hands) we can walk in their level of authority for the mission

We will find God putting us into situations where the gifts that we have and the authority we have is needed

One way of recognizing when we move from operating in a gift to having a ministry

God strengthens us so that we can have victory then makes sure we get into the battle we are supposed to win



*Psalm 105:24–25 And the LORD made his people very fruitful
and made them stronger than their foes.
He turned their hearts to hate his people,
to deal craftily with his servants.*

God is building His church on kingdom authority through revelation of Jesus

The gates of hell won't prevail against that church

Gates don't move, we are the ones advancing into enemy territory

We need authority to set the captives free!

NOTES

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HOMEWORK





HOMEWORK

Unit 3: Spheres of Authority

List the people you have authority over right now (individuals or groups)

What is your strategy to influence them into kingdom purposes and values?

If they are not in a ministry setting (e.g. workplace), how can you do so without losing influence with them?

Ask God to show you how to pray for them. What is their destiny? What does God see in them? What gifts, talents, or potential do they not realize they have yet, or haven't fully stepped into?

Ask God to show you how you can serve them so they step into the fullness of His plan for them.

Suggested reading: Redeeming Power: Understanding Authority and Abuse in the Church by Diane Langberg

MODULE 01

UNIT 4

Prophetic Declarations





Unit 4: Prophetic Declarations

St. Patrick's Breastplate

*I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the
invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the
Oneness
of the Creator of creation.*

*I arise today
Through the strength of Christ's
birth with His baptism,
Through the strength of His
crucifixion with His burial,
Through the strength of His
resurrection with His ascension,
Through the strength of His
descent for the judgment of
doom.*

*I arise today
Through the strength of the love
of cherubim,
In the obedience of angels,
In the service of archangels,
In the hope of resurrection to
meet with reward,
In the prayers of patriarchs,
In the predictions of prophets,
In the preaching of apostles,
In the faith of confessors,
In the innocence of holy virgins,
In the deeds of righteous men.*

*I arise today, through
The strength of heaven,
The light of the sun,
The radiance of the moon,
The splendor of fire,
The speed of lightning,
The swiftness of wind,
The depth of the sea,
The stability of the earth,
The firmness of rock.*

*I arise today, through
God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's host to save me
From snares of devils,
From temptation of vices,
From everyone who shall wish
me ill,
afar and near.*

*I summon today
All these powers between me
and those evils,
Against every cruel and
merciless power
that may oppose my body and
soul,*

*Against incantations of false
prophets,
Against black laws of
pagandom,
Against false laws of heretics,
Against craft of idolatry,
Against spells of witches and
smiths and wizards,
Against every knowledge that
corrupts man's body and soul;
Christ to shield me today
Against poison, against burning,
Against drowning, against
wounding,
So that there may come to me
an abundance of reward.*

*Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man
who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone
who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me*



Part 1: The Power of Declarations

Declaring God's word removes roadblocks

Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?— Jeremiah 23:29

God's word, not man's

Good when we have resistance to what we know God spoke

Declaring God's word establishes God's purposes

You will decide on a matter, and it will be established for you, and light will shine on your ways.—Job 22:28

ESV decide, NASB decree

Book of Remembrance

Declaring God's word releases angelic assignments

Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of His word!—Psalm 103:20

They only "harken" to the word of God, not man



We co-labor with that by speaking out what God is saying

Declaring God's word builds faith

Faith essential to God's purposes in our lives and in the lives of those we are given authority over

Speaking what God said releases faith

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.—Romans 10:17

Not what we say, the word of Christ.

The Lord gave the word; great was the company of those who proclaimed it. —Psalm 68:11



Part 2: What Are They and What Aren't They?

Not a prayer

We are not asking, we are saying, commanding

Either communicating what is already true in the Spirit or declaring what we have revelation of that is coming

So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard me. I knew that You always hear Me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that You sent Me."—John 11:41–43

If commanding we are talking to the situation or the person—the created order—never God

We can't command God.

We might say to God, "God, You said that... You are saying that..."

And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel, and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that You, O Lord, are God, and that You have turned their hearts back." Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.—1 Kings 18:36–38



We are causing something, not asking for something

Creative—God spoke creation

Doesn't have to be said in the realm or to the person it is over or about

Sometimes we speak to the person while they are there and other times when they are not

I have used to break strongholds, someone communicates something based on a stronghold and I just speak the opposite

If God says it, otherwise it is just a faith declaration

“I never do anything right.” “God is so proud of you, you are a good son.”

This is an aspect of basic prophetic ministry and breaks strongholds and releases deliverance

Sometimes we perceive the lie and speak the opposite

Sometimes better when the person is not present

They aren't ready to agree



Rebellious children

Unbelievers

Conflict in a situation

Sometimes better when they are present or you are there

Over churches

Businesses

Land, etc.

Authority issue, do they receive you?

No distance in the spirit

Differences between a prophetic declaration, a faith declaration, and a declarative prayer

Prophetic declaration

You know that God said it



You have revelation saying it is so

Faith declaration

Either you know it should be because you understand God's ways

Sometimes this is the above on breaking strongholds

Or, there is faith in your heart for what you say but you don't have specific revelation

This is often the case in ministry settings, especially healing and miracles

It can be a manifestation of the gift of faith

The faith can be yours or theirs

He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking.—Acts 14:9–10

This is the principle spelled out in Romans 10



Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak.—2 Corinthians 4:13

Declarative prayer

You pray over a situation by declaring what you want or think God would want in the situation but you do not have specific revelation or absolute assurance that it is going to happen as you speak it (gift of faith versus general faith)

Appropriate in some situations but you must be careful of manipulation

Not what we want, that we just ask God

This is appropriate if it is clearly God's will based on our knowledge of Scripture

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Part 3: How to Use Them

Prophetic declarations create or initiate something or stop something

Sometimes it takes time for the structure in the spirit to be established

Can take time or be instant

Faith declarations are immediate

If it was the gift of faith immediately something happens, even if the full result takes some time

Declarative prayer completely depends on God's response

It is done with the heart of submitting to God's will if we are not going in the right direction or the right timing

Prophetic declarations we keep declaring until:

God tells us not to vocally

The burden (desire) is lifted

We see the thing established



And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.—

Hebrews 6:11–12

Faith declarations are usually just one time with immediate response

The one time may be in the moment, meaning we say it a few times right then and there but usually not over hours, days or weeks

Declarative prayer we can continue or stop depending on our passion

We should be doing this with the expectation that God will guide us into or out of this at any time

When it feels like we are trying to force something it is becoming witchcraft and we need to turn it into a request of God—not a declaration to something or someone

Prophetic declarations operate out of authority, the level of authority God put on the revelation and on the person who received that revelation, when it was given

Faith declarations operate out of power and depend on the gift in the moment or the gift that the person carries

Declarative prayer is relational, it is the individual co-laboring with God trying to be a good steward of the relationships and responsibilities they have been given



Part 4: How to Craft Prophetic Declarations

You can craft a declaration over a specific person, situation, church, ministry, destiny or your life.

They can be for a specific purpose, like a promotion, a difficult situation we are facing.

Sources that we draw from:

Words spoken over us and to us

Experiences we had (testimonies)

Scripture that Holy Spirit breathed on to apply personally or experientially

Write out any true and weighty prophetic words about the particular purpose for this declarative prayer and look for key phrases or concepts

Have you had any experiences with The Lord (miracles, visitations, miraculous intervention or provision) that relate?

Personalize it to the purpose of the declaration

If to another person use their name



If to an organization—like a business, ministry, or church—use that name

Sometimes we start with acknowledging The Lord said it, "Lord you said..., so I say..."

This is not the only tool, but it is one of the tools.

This is one way we wage war with our promises.

This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.—1 Timothy 1:18



John Paul Jackson's declarative prayer:

I am the light of the world because the Light of the World dwells in me. I will bear Your Light oh God, to change a world of darkness. Your kingdom will come, Your will, will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven, and it will begin in me, as I am made of the dust of this earth.

No one will meet me and not be changed because no one can meet You and not be changed.

I will become increasingly aware of the light that I carry, I will grow in You and I will grow in this Light. I will become a change-agent in this world as your Light radiates from me.

I will believe the unbelievable about me, and what is not yet-I will become. I will come to understand where I am in You, and I will see my future more clearly than I've ever seen it before.

The gifts You have given me will flourish as I began to understand Your ways. Nothing will prosper that comes against me because I live a repented life before You. Because I live a repented life before You, You will answer my prayer.

I will become what You have called me to become, I have been placed here for such a time as this, and I live where I live because You placed me here. I am not here by accident; I am here by your divine appointment.

My neighbors will prosper because You are in me, all of those I touch will prosper because of You in me.

It is impossible for me to pray for anyone who is not touched by You because You flow through me. It makes no difference if that person recognizes it or not, You will touch them. You will touch others more times than You do at other times, and I will not judge my relationship with You based on what they feel.

I relate to You because of who You are in me, not because of others, not because of my emotions, not because I feel saved, not because I've ascended to greatness through intellect, but because of what You alone have done in me.

I am procreated in You, I am regenerated, I am born anew, your seed has entered me, my spirit is alive and quickened because your breath is in me. I will become quickened to You, fine tuned to Your Spirit, not doing what You're not doing and doing all that You are doing. I will become a witness for You because Your Light in me will prove to others You exist. With Your help, when people see me, they will see You.

Soon there will be a clear distinction between those who know You and those who don't know You and there will be a clear distinction between me and those who don't know You. People will see me and they will



know that I am a follower of Jesus because I bear Your Light. For Your glory this will happen, taking the foolish things to confound the wise.

Thank You for finding me, thank You for choosing me, thank You for pursuing me, to become a change agent for Your glory in this earth for the sake of Your kingdom.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

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HOMEWORK





HOMEWORK

Unit 4: Prophetic Declarations

Declare John Paul Jackson's declarative prayer over your self out loud once a day for a week.

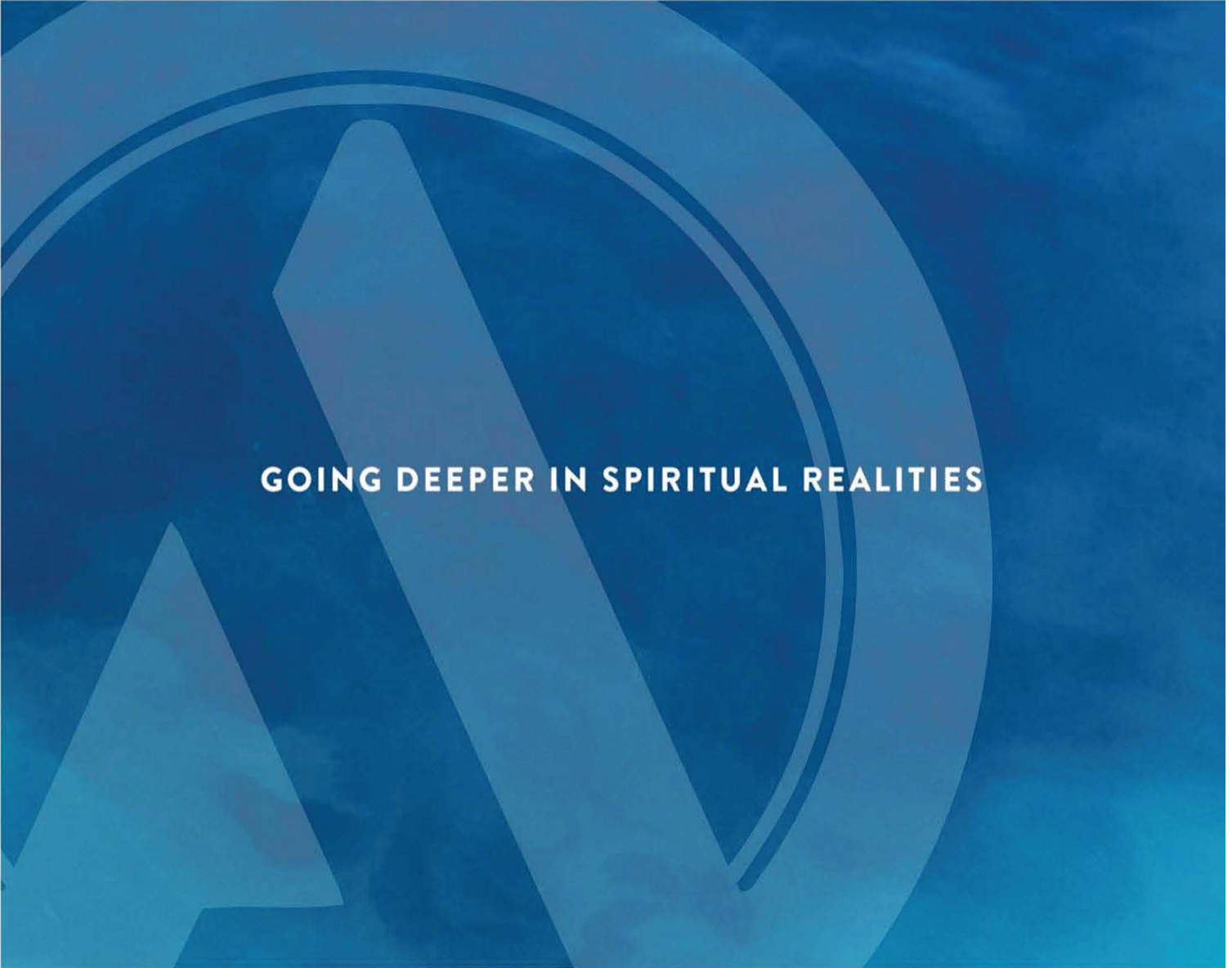
Using what you learned in this unit, craft a prophetic declaration or a declarative prayer.

Share your declaration with a fellow student or mentor.

Declare it out loud on a regular basis until the Lord says it is done or you see the breakthrough manifest.

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GOING DEEPER IN SPIRITUAL REALITIES

MODULE 02

Theological Foundations

ACADEMY
DIPLOMA 



Streams Academy—Living in Spiritual Realities

Module 2: Theological Foundations

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MODULE 02

Theological Foundations

Description: Is theology really important? What about encounters with Christ? Does doctrine quench the Spirit? Join us as we explore these questions and more. You will develop a Biblical worldview, learn how to study the Bible and understand its major themes, and see how that interacts and supports a truly spiritual life with the God we love!

Unit 1: Word & Spirit

Unit 2: Apostles' Creed

Unit 3: Knowing Your Bible

Unit 4: Biblical Worldview

MODULE 02

UNIT 1

Word and Spirit





Unit 1: Word & Spirit

Jesus told the Sadducees, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.” (Mark 12:24) When we know both the Scriptures and the power of God, we will not only understand God more, but we will also be better equipped to represent Him in this world. Both the Word and the Spirit are essential to effective ministry!

Part 1: The Divorce and Remarriage

Examples of the separation

Heard in a gathering of leaders, “We should stop focusing on doctrine and just teach people how to have encounters with Jesus. Doctrine just causes arguments, but real transformation comes from encounter.”

What is wrong with that statement?

Without doctrine, how do we know if we met the right Jesus?

Encountering the wrong Jesus causes the wrong transformation



Heard during a message, “I went to cemetery once, oops, I mean seminary.”

What is wrong with this statement?

Without giving a reason or explanation it inspires a dislike for theology

Blanket statements without clarification lead to many conclusions

Why did it feel like a “cemetery”?

What is the answer?

“I am called by God; I don’t need a paper to validate my ministry”

What is wrong with this statement?

What is said may be true but the implications lead to error

A calling is a holy stewardship, it should be cultivated and grown

2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV): *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

The paper may not validate the ministry but it can show it was taken seriously

It is not the paper itself but the willingness and discipline to study and grow that is important



When did this start in the church?

Montanism and the New Prophecy

Montanus was a new believer and around 177AD fell into a trance, started prophesying, and two young women had the same experience

They had a strong emphasis on moral purity and on the gift of prophecy

They started to say that they were the ones that truly heard from the Paraclete (Holy Spirit) and began to question others that didn't have the trances they did

At first the church accepted them, but when they started hearing things that contradicted the teachings of Jesus and the apostles, that changed

Eventually they were removed from the church because of heresy (false doctrine), but the cult they started lasted for centuries after

This caused the church to establish more clearly what we believe

Reformation and Enlightenment

The Reformation started in 1517 with Luther posting his Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany

The invention of the printing press allowed this to have broad influence

It was a pushback from cultural and political Christianity that kept the power in the hands of the elite (clergy) and allowed spiritual and financial abuse



A key emphasis was the priority of Scripture as the standard of faith

Sola Scriptura—Scripture alone

Sola fide—faith alone

Sola gratia—grace alone

Sola Christus—Christ alone

Sola Deo gloria—God’s glory alone

This movement became marked by a resurgence of theological understanding

The Roman Catholic Church pointed to the miracles of the saints, historical connection to the Apostles, and their power and influence as reason the reformers were wrong

This caused the reformers to develop arguments against each

Popular opinion or influence is not *the* clear sign of God’s favor

The true “church” would be seen by fidelity to orthodox theology, not just historical position

“Miracles are not needed anymore because we have Scripture”

Jack Deere proves this direction clearly in his book *Why I Am Still Surprised by the Power of God*



An allergy to supernatural phenomena developed and some people started downplaying spiritual gifts

This is not true of all the reformers, but it is true of some

This was happening around the 16th and 17th centuries

In the 17th and 18th centuries the Enlightenment dominated Europe

The “god” of the Enlightenment was reason

Now that we have progressed intellectually, we no longer need to believe in supernatural phenomena

Miracles are just the response of ignorant people to something they don’t understand

“Magic is just science that hasn’t been popularized yet”

Sherlock Holmes, developed by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, was an attempt to show that all supernatural activity had a natural cause that could be understood with more intelligence



Many in the church made the same mistake the Catholics had made—friendship with the world system of thinking and doing

The Roman Catholic Church used wealth and political power to gain acceptance and influence

That was the primary concern of the elite of their time

The reformers used intellectualism to gain acceptance and influence

That was the primary concern of the elite of their time

They both made the same mistake

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.—James 4:4

Twentieth century revivals

Around 1900 revivals started to happen in various places around the world

One of the more famous in America is the Azusa Street Revival

William Seymour—hunger and belief that there was more

After months God showed up and people followed



Charles Parham—theologian and recognized preacher

Also racist—upon visiting Azusa and seeing various races worshipping together declared that “God is sick at His stomach” because “white people [were] imitating unintelligent, crude, negroisms of the Southland, and laying it on the Holy Ghost.”

This led to a divide between those “unintelligent” people overemphasizing the Spirit and the “respectable” theologians

This divide birthed many new denominations

It also increased the popular divide between Word & Spirit in modern time

Throughout the Church’s history

God does not always choose to move on those with the best theology

His movement is always an invitation to know Him more

Both to those that think they already know and to those who don’t

When the Word and the Spirit work together there is a spiritual helix that draws us higher and deeper

The Spirit’s movement reveals who He is confronting, misperceptions, and rigid doctrine not based on intimacy



As we engage His presence He causes Scripture to come alive

We see things that were hidden before

How the mystery was made known to me by the revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.
—Ephesians 3:3–5

The Scripture and doctrine give us the standard to discern what is really God and what is not

John the Revelator clearly communicated that good doctrine is a test for “good” revelation

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.—1 John 4:2–3

They need to carry equal value in our hearts and minds



Part 2: Word-Informed Spiritual Activity

What do we mean by Word-informed spiritual activity?

Scripture is a plumb line by which all revelation and spiritual activity is judged

A plumb line is different than a box

Standard, not “borders”

God does more types of things than what is found described in Scripture

Now there were also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them written, I suppose the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.—John 21:25

A standard sets a norm, or normal pattern, by which other things can be compared

God will not violate His own nature

He is a particular person with particular attributes and unique personality

He remains true to Himself

The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself.—2 Timothy 2:11–13 (emphasis added)



Examples:

Love

God is love, anything He does will be loving (1 John 4:8b)

So spiritual activity can be judged by the presence of love

This is the principle that Paul applies in 1
Corinthians 12–14

Righteous

The way God uses His authority is based upon what is right

*Righteousness and justice are the foundations of Your
throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.*
—Psalm 89:14

Any spiritual activity that is contrary to God's definition of
righteousness can easily be discerned

He won't tell anyone to commit fornication

He won't use spiritual activity to abuse anyone

He wouldn't expect someone to consult with the
dead

*There shall not be found among you anyone who
burns his son or daughter as an offering, anyone
who practices divination or tells fortunes or
interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a
medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of
the dead, for whoever does these things is an
abomination to the Lord.—Deuteronomy
18:10–12a*



Truth

What God does and says is true and faithful

He is not going to flippantly change His mind or purposefully deceive

Every good and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”—James 1:17

When God speaks, His words are trustworthy

And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent His angel to show His servants what must soon take place.”—Revelation 22:6

If it does not come to pass we can know that it is not from God

And if you say in your heart, “How may we know the word that the Lord has not spoken?”—when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.—Deuteronomy 18:21–22

These examples are not exhaustive



God will not contradict doctrine taught in Scripture

Who God is:

Creator

Savior

Trinity

More in Unit 2: Apostles' Creed

How God saves

Jesus' sacrifice to forgive sins is the only way to the Father

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."—John 14:6

From the beginning the enemy has tried to introduce questions about God's nature, intentions, and revelation

Did God actually say...?—Genesis 3:1



Part 3: Revelation Opening the Word

God loves to reveal Himself to His people—He wants us to know Him

Encountering God often leads to a better understanding of Who He is

Job had this experience

Life had caused him to question what he understood

When He met God his questions weren't all answered but he came to know God better

Then Job answered the Lord and said: "I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."—Job 42:1–6 (emphasis added)

One of the fruits of true encounters with God is that knowledge gets replaced by experience

This does not contradict what God has revealed but clarifies it

Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274AD) after writing *Summa Theologica*, a 22-volume theology had a vision that caused him to say, "I can do no more. Such secrets have been revealed to me that all I have written appears to be of little value."



The New Testament is full of experiences with God and revelations that changed the current understanding of Scripture

These encounters didn't change Scripture, just people's understanding

They actually clarified what was there already

This was how the Church came to accept Gentiles as fellow believers without having to convert to Judaism first

Peter's angelic encounter that led him to Cornelius and the Holy Spirit falling on Gentiles (Acts 10)

His defense to those that questioned is revealing

"And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as He gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."— Acts 11:16–18

God's word along with spiritual activity

At the Jerusalem Council the same pattern is repeated

Peter shared his testimony (Acts 15:7–11)



Paul and Barnabas share about signs and wonders confirming the word (Acts 15:12)

After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, ‘After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the Lord, who makes these things known from of old.’”—Acts 15:13–17

When the decision was written down and sent to be communicated to the churches, they sent prophetic people to confirm the doctrine

And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.—Acts 15:31–32

The church in the New Testament did not separate Word & Spirit

Paul uses the word mystery often to describe something that was clearly written but veiled until God made it clear

Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.—Romans 16:25–27



The Gospel of Jesus Christ was already communicated in the Law & Prophets

But it required revelation to be able to recognize it

The revelation was proof that it was from God

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.—Galatians 1:11–12

Supernatural activity is supposed to witness to the reality of God and the truth of the message we have been given

Proclaim as you go, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.—Matthew 10:7–8a

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."—Mark 16:15–18

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.—Acts 1:8



And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to Your servants to continue to speak Your word with all boldness, while You stretch out Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.— Acts 4:29–30

It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.— Hebrews 2:3b–4

When another message accompanies supernatural activity it proves the source was not God!

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.—1 John 4:1–3

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” And no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.—1 Corinthians 12:3

We are not going to have new doctrine being introduced through revelation today

Revelation can illuminate lost or forgotten doctrine

It can draw attention to something for a person or a group

John had a vision of Ezekiel’s river that revealed the Trinity



If it is God, it will be found clearly in Scripture

It will not require “special intellect” or “special revelation” to understand it

One of the proofs of authentic doctrine is that once revealed it becomes self-evident to others as well

This is why knowing church history can be helpful

The things being “discovered” today are not new, just forgotten

If someone comes up with a doctrine that is not at least 2000 years old, run

God has made Himself understandable and approachable by anyone that believes

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.—1 Corinthians 1:26–29

One of the errors of the Montanists was the idea that only those with special revelation could truly understand

Everyone else needed to learn from them

Anyone that disagreed was wrong



The Apostle John dealt with a similar mindset

I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in Him.
—1 John 2:26–27

True doctrine will be recognized by the Church

Not necessarily the institution, but the people

We have two millennia of God opening His word to His people

“In essentials, unity, in doubtful matters liberty, in all things charity” (unknown source)

The essentials are clarified in the Apostles’ Creed (see Unit 2)

The nature of God

How to be saved

There are many other topics that are not essential

We can apply this principle to revelation and encounters

There will be no new revelation about the nature of God or how to be saved



This has already been clarified

It may be confirmed, but not changed

The truth for all people at all times

But there may be a truth for some people at a particular time

This will not be a new doctrine but may be a practice

This pattern is true in Scripture

Jericho's walls fell down after a seven-day march

That didn't start a new doctrine for how to do warfare

But it was God and was true

The pattern of Scripture is to lay hands on the sick and they will recover

But God led people to do other things as well

Jesus made mud and put it on blind eyes
(John 9:6–7)

Peter walked by people and his shadow
healed them (Acts 5:14–16)

Some people took Paul's used hand cloths
and put them on people (Acts 19:11–12)

These are not doctrinal but practical



God can do anything, but He has chosen to not violate His own nature or His revealed Word

The more we know about God, the better discernment we will have

But this knowledge must not be mere head knowledge, it must be experiential



Part 4: Only God Interprets God

One encounter with God can change everything

Mere information can be deadly

We need the Spirit to give it life

For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.—2 Corinthians 3:6b

It takes the power of the Spirit to truly grasp the gospel

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.—2 Corinthians 4:6

The new birth in and by the Spirit of God changes us so that we can grasp what is true about God

If we do not have the Spirit we will not be able to really know God

When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is Mine; therefore I said that He will take what is Mine and declare it to you.—John 16:13–15



This was Paul's point to the Corinthians

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him”—

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.—1 Corinthians 2:6–16

The Spirit of God within us reveals what is true and who God is

As already discussed, we discern if it is the Spirit of God by what He has already revealed

Scripture as a plumb line

Sets the standard



Spirit as a light

Illuminates what is there

Human intellect alone can never comprehend the ways of God

True theology is not the realm of the intelligentsia

It is relegated to those that have a real relationship with God

People in a fan club can relate all the facts

People that are friends truly know someone

The practice of Lectio Divina is essential (see Unit 3 Part 1 of this module)

Seek supernatural encounters and revelation for the sake of intimacy, not power

Our cry as we approach encounters with God and reading or studying
Scripture echoes Moses' prayer

Now therefore, if I have found favor in Your sight, please show me
now Your ways, that I may know You in order to find favor in Your
sight.—Exodus 33:13

We want to be like the Apostle John when He asked the Lord for
information

So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to Him, "Lord,
who is it?"—John 13:25

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



HOMEWORK





Journal your reflections on encounters you have had with God that illuminated a Scriptural truth

Did the encounter start with Scripture (through reading, study or asking God questions)?

Or did the encounter lead you to Scripture? Did you understand something you later found in Scripture? Did it clarify something you found difficult before? Did it make a truth more real and tangible in your experience?

MODULE 02

UNIT 2

Apostle's Creed





Unit 2: Apostle's Creed

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the

forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.



Part 1: God the Father

I believe in God

What makes God God? Five unique attributes only God has:

Omnipotence

Omniscience

Omnipresence

Immutability

Eternality

Omnipotence—all-powerful

There is no limit to what God can do

Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for Me?— Jeremiah 32:27

For nothing will be impossible with God.— Luke 1:37



God's omnipotence is demonstrated by His creation

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?

“Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken.

“Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this.

“Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great!

“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?

“Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt, to bring rain on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man, to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass?



“Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew? From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the frost of heaven? The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion? Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?

“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that a flood of waters may cover you? Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are’? Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or given understanding to the mind? Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, when the dust runs into a mass and the clods stick fast together?—Job 38:4–38

There is nothing too big and nothing too small

He does not have to reserve His power for the big things

Omniscience—all-knowing

There is nothing in all creation that He does not know

For whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything.—1 John 3:20

There is nothing in all time that He does not know—past or future

Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, “My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.”—Isaiah 46:8–11



Open theism denies this truth

God is inside time and is still learning (is a biproduct of process theology)

Intended to allow free will

Open theism and process theology argues that if God knows what someone is going to do before they do it, then He caused it, so there is no true free will

This argument has roots in Greek philosophy—does prophecy reveal what the “fates” are forcing to happen, does it predict what people would do based on knowledge of their personality and intellect, or does the knowledge of the future cause that future to happen

The Bible teaches that God knows exactly what will happen in the future and it also teaches that people and spiritual beings have free will

This directly affects our understanding of prophecy

Omnipresence—present everywhere simultaneously

There is no place that God is not

○ LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, ○ LORD, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.



Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.—Psalm 139:1–18

There is no place in creation that He is not already there

There is no place in time that He is not already there

Immutability—does not change

This gives us great confidence in Him

Because He is immutable He will always be faithful to what He has said and determined

We can trust a God who does not change

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.—James 1:17



Because He doesn't change, we can know who He is by looking at who He has been and what He has done

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.—
Hebrews 13:8

He was just yesterday so He will be just today He

was loving yesterday so He will be loving today He

healed yesterday so He will heal today

He spoke yesterday so He will speak today

This unravels extreme dispensationalism

Dispensationalism—God acts differently in
different time periods

Eternality—no beginning and no end

Everything that has a beginning must have a cause

Something has to happen for nothing to become something

God has no cause—He is the cause

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed
the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
—Psalm 90:2

He has always been and will always will be



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.—John 1:1–3

He created time and is not limited by time

The Father almighty

Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer to call God Father

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.—Matthew 6:9–13

Why Father and not mother?

God's choice to reveal Himself this way, does not mean He is masculine

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."—Genesis 1:26–27

God is neither male nor female, but it takes both male and female to reveal His image



Why “our Father”?

God is Father specifically to believers

But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.—John 1:12–13

Is He every person’s father?

In one sense no, only believers have been given the right to call Him Father, but in another sense all created things can call Him Father

Do you thus repay the Lord, you foolish and senseless people? Is not He your father, who created you, who made you and established you?—Deuteronomy 32:6

How are we given the right to call Him Father?

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.—Romans 8:14–17



Because the Spirit dwells within us we can call Him Father

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.— John 14:15–18

Why Father? What does it mean to us that we can call Him Father?

The world is trying to mar the image of Father by wrong projections of fathers and men

Think of media norms:

Lazy father that is uninterested

Deadbeat dad that left (usually for someone else)

Sex addict that can think of nothing else

Overly macho, can beat anyone up but is distant and not tender

Basic imbecile

Pray this prayer until you feel the change:

“God, I want to see You as the Father You are. Forgive me for judging my father and men in general. Show me any beliefs that I have about men or fathers that are not true to who You are, the perfect Father. Come and be a Father to every part of my heart and let Your Holy Spirit rise up in me crying out, Abba Father!”

Listen to the message Father God is Love for a full ministry session on the Father’s love



Knowing and experiencing God as a good Father gives us:

Confidence in prayer

What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!—Luke 11:11–13

God cares like a good father

He provides like a good father

We can have access to His resources

And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.—Ephesians 2:17–19

A promise of love—we are not slaves, we are friends

Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”—John 14:23

A promise of inheritance

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.—Galatians 4:4–7

A promise of provision

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.—Matthew 6:31–33

A good Father disciplines

Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by Him. For the Lord disciplines the one He loves and chastises every son whom He receives.”

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.—Hebrews 12:3–13



Father speaks identity

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.—Ephesians 3:14–19

Creator of heaven and earth

God is the only Creator of all things and the God that we worship is the same God that created

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.—Genesis 1:1

If God created all things, He must be uncreated

God is the only thing that has no beginning

God created the heavens—the spiritual world and all that is in it

This truth refutes myths like eternal evil

God created all things good

Satan and all his demons have a beginning

They are less than God, not equal in power or authority



John 1:1–5 tells us that nothing was made without Him

If this is true then the enemy can't create

He can only twist what has already been created

Like spiritual gifts and spiritual powers

God created the earth—the physical reality

He created all stars, planets, and moons

All plants, animals, oceans, and nations.

There are 100 to 200 billion galaxies

10 million to 1 trillion stars in a galaxy

That gives us around 10^{22} to 10^{24} stars that we know of

He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.—Psalm 147:4–5

And this God cares for us!

In Job 38–41 God recites creation and how He orders all of these pieces

He is omnipotent and omniscient and omnipresent



What does that mean for us in our lives other than our trust in Him?

He gives the universe its order

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.—Romans 1:18–21

As the one that created it and understands its purpose He has the right to determine what is right and wrong

As the creator of the natural order, He is the author of moral order

God said marriage is between one man and one woman

He [Jesus] answered, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”—Matthew 19:4–6

God has put limits on sexual activity

Truth is essential to good relationships and freedom

We have a moral responsibility to live life the way God intended



If something is created with purpose it must fulfill that purpose

God's judgement will be based on the fulfillment of purpose—did we do what we were created to do?

First, love God

Second, love others as self

God has given us limits

One reason for the tree of knowledge was to tell us that God determines our limits

Not what we can do but what we should do

There are limits to what is right in the manipulation of created order

This includes scientific exploration

How we use natural resources

How we treat plants and animals and the world we live in

The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.—Revelation 11:18

God determines what is right and beautiful

Created order gives an objective definition of beauty



Sin is not beautiful, even if its ugliness is attractive

It is only attractive to what agrees with it

God created something good for us to enjoy

Hebrew for good is tob or tov which means pleasant, agreeable, good, beautiful

The purpose of creation is for God

To reveal His goodness

To give expression to His love

To demonstrate His glory

God giving us commandments and standards allows us to know the path to enjoy life to its fullness and live in joy

And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as we are this day.—Deuteronomy 6:24

You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.—Psalm 16:11

God created perfectly—He is the Author and the Finisher

He determines what is right and true

He originally created all things for good

Sin has defiled the good He intended



He will remake the heavens and the earth and His plan will be fulfilled!

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”—Revelation 21:1–5



Part 2: Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

Understanding Jesus is essential to knowing God and Christianity

The idea that God has a Son and the incarnation (He came in the flesh) is unique to orthodox Christianity

The issue of who Jesus is and His relation to the Father was one of the major reasons for the creeds being developed

Various heresies that developed caused the Church to define what Scripture actually says about Jesus

These heresies, as they grew in influence, were the reason for the Councils that the creeds were named after

The issue of Jesus being divine was clarified at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD

The issue of Jesus being fully human was clarified at the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD

The issue of Jesus being a unified person was clarified at the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD

The issue of Jesus being human and divine in one person was clarified at the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD

What does the Bible say about Jesus?

The Son is God “with us” and He is divine

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.—Isaiah 7:14



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.—Isaiah 9:6–7

The Son is the Word who is God, the Creator of all things

Logos is a Greek word meaning word, thought, or understanding

It is where we get our word logic

In Greek philosophy logos had started to take on a personification as understanding became the god of the philosophers

John borrows this image but shows how their understanding was wrong—the Word is a person—God revealing Himself

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.—John 1:1–5

If everything made was made through Him, He could not have been made.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.—John 1:14–18



Jonathan Edwards further developed an understanding that Augustine (354–430) introduced:

As God with perfect clearness, fullness, and strength, understands Himself, views His own essence, . . . that idea which God hath of Himself is absolutely Himself. This representation of the Divine nature and essence is the Divine nature and essence again: so that by God's thinking of the Deity, [the Deity] must certainly be generated. Hereby there is another person begotten, there is another infinite, eternal, Almighty and most holy and the same God, the very same Divine nature. And this Person is the second person in the Trinity, the only begotten and dearly beloved Son of God. (Works of Jonathan Edwards, 21:116–17)

The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus not only revealed God, but was exactly like Him to the extent that He is Him

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.—Hebrews 1:3a

But of the Son He says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.”—Hebrews 1:8

Paul told the Philippians that Jesus was in very nature God

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage.—Philippians 2:6 NIV

Jesus is the Son of God, which is God the Son!

While we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and savior, Jesus Christ.—Titus 2:13

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.—2 Peter 1:1

To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.—Romans 9:5



Jesus understood Himself to be God

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.—John 10:27–30

He didn't dispute that He made Himself to be God

Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords—titles for God

I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in His testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will display at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light.—1 Timothy 6:13–15

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with Him are called and chosen and faithful.—Revelation 17:14

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

The One who was fully God was also fully man

He was not born of man, but of a virgin

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."—Luke 2:35



He had to be human to pay for humanity's sin

Understanding justice

Because humankind had sinned, humankind had to pay the price for that sin

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.—Romans 5:12–19

There had to be a price paid

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
—Hebrews 9:22



In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.—1 John 4:9–10

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.—Isaiah 53:4–6

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous one, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.—Isaiah 53:10–12

In the Mosaic Law, God made a way for sin to be paid for until the true sacrifice came

He even made skin clothing for Adam and Eve

They would lay hands on an animal, confess their sin, and watch it die

This is why Christians confess sin in coming to Christ—there is a power of freedom from sin in the act of confession

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.—James 5:16



He had to be human to sympathize with us

He was the sacrifice and He was the priest

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.—Hebrews 4:14–16

As a human, He shares our humanity

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.—Hebrews 2:14–18

He became the mediator that was required

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.—1 Timothy 2:5–6



He had to be human to show us how to be human

He taught us that humans serve one another

When He had washed their feet and put on His outer garments and resumed His place, He said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.”—John 13:13–16

He taught us to look to the Father and listen to His voice

So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.”—John 5:19

He taught us to submit our will to God’s will

And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”—Matthew 26:39

All our lives should imitate His— perfectly submitted to the Father’s will

But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.—Ephesians 4:20–24



He had to be human to get back the authority Adam gave away

Adam gave away authority to Satan by submitting to him

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.—Romans 6:12–14

Adam's dominion came under the power of the one who tempted him to sin

This is why we fight for righteousness—not just to please God—but to not give our authority to the enemy

Jesus took back the authority given to the enemy by not submitting to him

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on Me, but I do as the Father has commanded Me.—John 14:30

This was seen in the wilderness temptation—Jesus came out victorious!

Matthew 4:1–11

That is why He could say, “All authority has been given to Me” (see Matthew 28:18–20)

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.—Philippians 2:5–11



This is what God had promised from the very beginning

The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”—Genesis 3:14–15

He suffered under Pontus Pilate,
Was crucified,

Why did Christ suffer?

To show the cost of sin and pay that cost

Sin causes suffering

Someone has to suffer

Because Christ suffered under sin we can be free of the suffering of sin

Shame: The first response in the Garden—Adam and Eve hid

Let us lie down in our shame, and let our dishonor cover us. For we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day, and we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.—Jeremiah 3:25

God offers an exchange

Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.—Isaiah 1:18



Sin required blood, like crimson

Blood was paid, now they are white

Doing righteous deeds does not pay for past
sin

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They
have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of
the Lamb.—Revelation 7:14

Sickness: If there was no sin there would be no sickness

The point of Isaiah 53 is that the Messiah paid this price

And behold, some people brought to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed.
And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic,
“Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” And behold, some of the
scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus,
knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?
For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and
walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on
earth to forgive sins”—He then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up
your bed and go home.”—Matthew 9:2–6

Matthew makes the connection between Jesus’ sacrifice and sickness
being healed clearer

That evening they brought to Him many who were oppressed by
demons, and He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who
were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:
“He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”—Matthew 8:16–17

He suffered so we could be free of suffering



It was a complete exchange

He took all that was ours so we could take all that is His

Christ became sin

For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.—2 Corinthians 5:21

He became both the victim and perpetrator

This is why He sweat blood!

Under Pontus Pilate

An actual historical person actually suffered

Roman torture has plenty of historical records

Read Medical Account of Crucifixion
https://www.dtodayarchive.org/images/file/Crucifixion_Medical.pdf

Sin gives the enemy authority

Because we are forgiven the enemy has no right to us!



See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.—Colossians 2:8–15

This is why Paul said the most important part of the Gospel is the forgiveness of sins

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.—1 Corinthians 15:3–4

What does this mean to us?

Refuse shame!

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—1 John 1:9

Pray for healing—sickness should have no place where sins are forgiven



Forgive sins

If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.—John 20:23

Walk righteously

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?—Micah 6:8

Remove the oppression of the devil!

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.—1 John 3:8

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”—John 20:21–23

Expect to walk in Christ’s righteousness!

Died, and was buried.

Jesus was the innocent one that died

He resisted sin all the way

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.—Hebrews 4:15



Because He stayed obedient to the Father in all things He corrected the wrong of Adam and Eve

In Luke 4:1–13 He faced three temptations by the devil

Turn these stones to bread

Throw Yourself down from the temple

Obey Satan to receive authority

These were the same temptations that Adam and Eve faced in the Garden

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.—Genesis 3:6

These are the same temptations that John warned us about in 1 John 2:15–17

Lust of the eyes

Lust of the flesh

Pride of life

For more on this subject review Streams Academy Phase 1 Revelatory and Prophetic Training Module 2 New Creation Realities: Walking in the Spirit

Emotions	Will	Mind
Money	Sex	Power
Gold	Girls/Guys	Glory
Economics	Religion	Politics
Stones to bread	Throw Yourself down	All these kingdoms/authority
Lust of the eyes	Lust of the flesh	Pride of life
Pleasant to the eyes	Good for food	Makes one wise
Emotions	Will	Mind



Jesus conquered them all and when He came to die, He was completely innocent

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on Me, but I do as the Father has commanded Me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.—John 14:30–31

Because He didn't sin death had no right to touch Him

Romans 5:12–19

Because of God's pronouncement, death had been given power over all who sin

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."—Genesis 2:16–17

God's word is His oath. It can't be broken

Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives?—Romans 7:1

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.—Romans 7:4

Death's power is only over those who sin, so when death touched One without sin it was unjust



The injustice of a perfect One dying broke the power of death

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.—1 Corinthians 15:54–57

For those who are in Him—He died, so we died

He was buried so that He may rise

We also join in His burial and resurrection

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.—Romans 6:3–11

Our uniting with Him in death pays the price of sin in its entirety

This is the power of baptism

It is a symbol, yes, but it is more than a symbol



It breaks the hold that sin has on us and frees us from the power of those that hold the rights to sin

Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.—Colossians 2:12–15

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.—1 Peter 3:18–22

Have you been baptized in water since you believed?

He descended to hell

What is hell?

Two Greek words translated as hell in KJV, Hades and Gehenna

Hades similar to Hebrew Sheol– the grave, where dead people go



This is not clearly differentiated in the OT

Mainly used of righteous people, but sometimes of anyone who dies

This is different than the promise of judgement that is also communicated in the OT

Let's start with the difference between the two, then discuss what is meant by this statement

Hades: grave, the place of the dead, both righteous and unrighteous

Jacob knew he would go to Sheol

All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him.— Genesis 37:35

Moses spoke of it the same way as being buried

But if the Lord creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that these men have despised the Lord." And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.— Numbers 16:30–33



In the OT it was understood as the same as being dead

What man can live and never see death? Who can deliver his soul from the power of Sheol?—Psalm 89:48

But there was hope for something more on the other side for the righteous

Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; death shall be their shepherd, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning. Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell. But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Selah—Psalm 49:14–15

I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death. O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes.—Hosea 13:14

Those that are dead—while waiting for the resurrection of the body—are in one of two places

Pleasure or torment

Abraham's bosom or outer darkness (Matthew 8:11–12)

Paradise or fire

The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us."—Luke 16:22–26



Gehenna: what we often think of as hell, a place of judgement and punishment

The word comes from the Valley of Hinnom which is used as a picture of torment for the wicked in ancient Rabbinic sources

It is the same as the lake of fire

It is consistently understood as a place of torment for the unrighteous throughout Scripture

Isaiah 66:15–16 Isaiah

66:22–24 Matthew

5:22, 29–30 Matthew

25:41, 46

2 Thessalonians 1:7b–9

Hebrews 10:26–27

Jude 6–7

Revelation 19:20–21

Revelation 20:15

Key points about Gehenna or the lake of fire from these verses:

It is punishment

It is torment

It is experienced

It is eternal



It was created for Satan and his demons but all those who follow him will join him there

For a great response to a popular false teaching that says there is no hell, or at least it is not a place of torment, read the book *Erasing Hell* by Francis Chan

There is a common teaching in some segments of the church that Jesus went into hell, preached to the dead there, and declared His victory

Can we find it in Scripture?

First, it assumes there is (or at least was) a second chance for salvation after death

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes the judgement.—Hebrews 9:27

First, did Jesus go to hell?

Not if we mean the lake of fire

His suffering all happened leading up to and while on the Cross

And He said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise.” Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”—Luke 23:43, 46



This phrase in the Apostles' Creed was first added around 350

It was another way of saying He was buried—Jesus went to the grave like all who die

It disappeared until around 680

Not all versions of the Apostles' Creed include it

What about the Scriptures that are often referenced to support the idea that He went to the place of torment victoriously?

Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)—Ephesians 4:8–10

The lower regions were not hell, but the earth

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.—1 Peter 3:18–20

His Spirit was in Noah as Noah preached while building the ark

This is understood when we look at a later point in the same passage



With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.—1 Peter 4:4–6

Peter is saying that in the same way the spirit of Christ preached through Noah to “spirits in prison” so do we as we live out the same faith in a deliverance as Noah did in his day

“He descended to hell” means that for 3 days Jesus’ body stayed in the grave while His spirit went to the Father, then He was reunited with His body in resurrection as the first fruits of the resurrection of the dead

In the same way our soul and spirit will immediately be with the Lord when we die while we wait for the resurrection to come

On the third day He rose from the dead.

This simple statement (He rose from the dead) is so important

The resurrection is a clear sign that Jesus is different from any other prophet

Mohammed didn’t rise. His grave is under the Green Dome in Saudi Arabia

Confucius didn’t rise. His grave is in China



Buddha died and his remains were found in China

Joseph Smith is buried in IL

But you can't find Jesus' remains—His body was resurrected and He lives.

Read John 10:1–18

As they were talking about these things, Jesus Himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Touch Me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, He said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate before them.

Then He said to them, “These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”— Luke 24:36–49

It is important to realize that His body was raised

We will look at that more when we talk about the resurrection of the body



His resurrection is the promise of our resurrection!

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.—1 Corinthians 15:20–26

Real people actually saw Him alive

If they had made it up they would not have died for it

All of the apostles were martyred except John

The resurrection is a major theme in the messages recorded in Acts

What does this mean for us?

His sacrifice was accepted

Death had no right to Him because He had never sinned, so the injustice of His death broke the power of sin and death

The blood forgives sin

The death breaks the power of sin



The resurrection gives us the power to live in new life

Because He lives, we live.

His life in us gives us the power to live free of sin

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with Him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.—Romans 6:1–11

His life allows us to have spiritual life.

Adam was told, “In the day you eat you will die”

A physical day is 24 hours

A spiritual day 1000 years

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.—2 Peter 3:8



In the physical day (24 hours) that he ate his spiritual life died

In the spiritual day (1,000 years) that he ate his physical life died

We have been given back both!

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.—Colossians 3:1–4

His resurrection is the firstfruits of the redemption of everything physical

All of creation will go through a death and a resurrection

Our spirits at salvation

Our souls through sanctification

Our bodies through the final resurrection

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.—Romans 8:18–25



He is our firstfruits

We are creation's firstfruits

The power of His resurrection is seen in miracles

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.—Acts 4:8–10

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.—Acts 4:33

The resurrection gives us strength to endure suffering now

Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.—2 Corinthians 4:13–18

Also, read Romans 8:18 and Philippians 3:8–11



Because we are now dead to sin, let us recognize, consider, write it in the ledger, that we are alive to God, not under sin, but under grace!

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.—Romans 6:12–14

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

He not only rose from the dead but He ascended into heaven and was given a throne

He has the right to rule

All three synoptic Gospels quote Jesus at His trial before the Sanhedrin

Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”— Matthew 26:64

Jesus is alluding to Daniel 7:13–14:

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.



Because He ascended to the Father, He poured out the Holy Spirit

Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.—Acts 2:29–33

The reward for His faithfulness was a people anointed with the Spirit

When He ascended He was able to pour out the Spirit on those united to Him by faith

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.—John 16:7

This includes access to ministry functions

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers.—Ephesians 4:7–11

Paul quotes Psalm 68—read it as homework



Because He ascended and is seated on the Throne, He rules over all

He is both God and man

A man to fulfill what Adam lost—authority

God to rule over even more—spiritual and physical realms

The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth He has given to the children of man.—Psalm 115:16

He rules over principalities and all spiritual forces

Because He ascended He can remove the authority of the spiritual powers that held us in wickedness

Read Ephesians 1:15–2:10

Because He rules we can rule over sin. We are not subject to the elemental principles (elemental spirits) of this world.

He rules over mankind

Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.—Philippians 2:9–11



He will one day rule over every nation

And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.—Daniel 2:44–45

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.—Revelation 11:15–17

He reigns until everything is subject to Him

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under His feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that He is excepted who put all things in subjection under Him. When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to Him who put all things in subjection under Him, that God may be all in all.—1 Corinthians 15:25–28



Right now, not everything submits to His reign—the enemy, people, even nature—but one day it all will

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to Him, He left nothing outside His control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to Him. But we see Him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.—Hebrews 2:5–9

This is the now and not yet of the kingdom we discussed in Module 1

Our job, as ones seated with Him (meaning that we have the authority of the kingdom), is to enact that will everywhere

Preach the Gospel

Heal the sick

Cast out demons

Because He reigns we can until He comes! (See Matthew 28:18–20)

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

There is a modern allergy to the topic of judgement



It is not actually new, it has always been

After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you.”—Acts 24:24–25

The coming judgement is a core element of the gospel

When Peter first preaches the gospel to Gentiles this is how he presented Jesus

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him. As for the word that He sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree but God raised Him on the third day and made Him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with Him after he rose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.”—Acts 10:34–43

Jesus Himself said this about Himself

For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.—John 5:21–24



This was a promise about the Messiah

Behold My servant, whom I uphold, My chosen, in whom My soul delights; I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up His voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed He will not break, and a faintly burning wick He will not quench; He will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for His law.— Isaiah 42:1–4

His judgement is not harsh but just!

Jesus' resurrection from the dead was proof that He would be this judge

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.—Acts 17:30–31

The judgement to come and God's right to judge is central to the Gospel

On that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.— Romans 2:16

This is why we must be saved!

This is why we compel people to respond to God's invitation

There seems to be two “types” of judgement described in Scripture

Books were opened, then the book of life was opened



Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. From His presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.—Revelation 20:11–15

The book of life determines if one goes to the lake of fire or the New Jerusalem

Do you know Him?

This is not about works, being good enough, or having a religious pedigree

Those whose names are written in the book of life enter the New Jerusalem

But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.—Revelation 21:27

Read Matthew 25:31–46

There is still a judgement for those that are written in the book of life based on what we have done

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.—Revelation 20:12



This judgment is not for punishment but for rewards

Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before Him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed His name. “They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up My treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.— Malachi 3:16–18

Sins that are not under the blood will bring discipline, which is judgement, on this side of eternity

If we don’t repent now, sins will lessen our rewards

But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.—1 Corinthians 11:31–32

Since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.—1 Peter 1:16–19



How do we judge our sins?

Repentance!

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.—1 John 1:7–10

What types of deeds done in the body are judged in this final judgement for believers?

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.—2 Corinthians 5:9–10

We will be judged on:

Our love and how we treat other people, especially our enemies

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?—Matthew 5:46

Giving, prayer, fasting

Matthew 6:1–6

Our faith

Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.—Hebrews 10:35–36



And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.—Hebrews 11:6

Our work, both ministry and secular

For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.—1 Corinthians 3:11–15

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.—Colossians 3:23–25

The peoples lives we have touched

For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at His coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy.—1 Thessalonians 2:19

Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.—Philippians 4:1



Our faithfulness to what we are called to even when it is difficult

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.—2 Timothy 2:3–7

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.—2 Timothy 4:6–8

Holding on to right teaching

Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.—2 John 1:8–9

Enduring difficulties with patience

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.—James 1:12

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.—Matthew 5:10–12



Caring for and leading God's people

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.—1 Peter 5:1–4

Being a martyr

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.—Revelation 2:10–11

What we do in this life determines our position and responsibilities in eternity

Temporary difficulties give way to eternal glory!

Keep the faith

Continue to love God and neighbors

Maintain your purity

It is worth it now and will be worth it then!



What about the mindset that says, I don't need a reward, I don't deserve it

God promises us rewards and He knows better than us

Repent and tell God you believe Him

He has more in store than you can believe!



Part 3: Holy Spirit

I believe in the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God

He has the attributes of God

Eternal (John 14:16; Hebrews 9:16) Omnipresent

(Psalm 139:7–8)

Omniscient (2 Corinthians 2:10–11; John 14:26)

Omnipotent (Luke 1:35–37; Acts 10:38)

He does the things that God did

Creating (Genesis 1:1–2; Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30)

Conceiving Jesus (Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35)

Making us a new creation or born again (John 1:12; 3:5)

Raising Jesus from the dead (John 10:17; Galatians 1:1; Romans 8:11)

He is a real person with a personality

He has a mind (1 Corinthians 2:11; Romans 8:27)

He has a will (Acts 15:28; 1 Corinthians 12:11)

He has emotions (Isaiah 63:10; Romans 5:5; 15:30; 1 Thessalonians 1:6)

He interacts with us personally



The Spirit in us, uniting with our spirit, is the new creation (1 Corinthians 6:17)

What is the role of Holy Spirit in the children of God?

He sanctifies us

And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My rules and obey them. And they shall be My people, and I will be their God.—Ezekiel 11:19–20

He makes us like Jesus

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.—2 Thessalonians 2:13

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.—1 Corinthians 6:11

The life of the Spirit in us bears fruit that looks like God

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.—Galatians 5:16–17

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.—Galatians 5:22–25



He is the Spirit of life that allows us to live God's life

Peter says we partake of the divine nature through the promises (2 Peter 1:4)

Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father

Not just moral choices but the transformation of the Spirit

He gives us the experience of the Father and the Son

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that He will take what is mine and declare it to you.—John 16:7, 13–15

Because He is the Spirit of the Son, His uniting with our Spirit causes us to experience the adoption as God's children

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.—Romans 8:13–17



The Spirit causes us to experience the love God has for us

Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.—Romans 5:5

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.—John 14:16–20

He speaks to us and guides us

When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.—John 16:13

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.—Acts 16:6–10

God speaks to us by His Spirit

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out My Spirit.—Joel 2:28–29



Prophecy comes from the Spirit

And the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and He said to me, “Say, Thus says the Lord.”—Ezekiel 11:5

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.—2 Peter 1:21

He empowers us to overcome the power of the enemy and release God’s kingdom

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.—Acts 10:38

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.—Isaiah 61:1–3

This power is key to representing Jesus in the world

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses.—Acts 1:8a

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”—John 20:21–22



What was Jesus sent to do?

Destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8)

There are “two” fillings of the Spirit

The indwelling of the Spirit allows us to connect to God

For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.—
Ephesians 2:18

The baptism of the Spirit is for empowerment for service

For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ.—Romans 15:18–19

Have you received power since you believed?

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for He had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.—Acts 8:14–17

Father, thank You for the sacrifice of Your Son. Jesus, thank You for redemption by Your blood. Father, because of the sacrifice of Jesus would You pour out Your Spirit upon me? Jesus, please fill me afresh with Your Spirit. Spirit, I want to know You and completely surrender to You. Please come and meet with me and draw me into a greater submission to You. Do whatever You want to do in and through me. Give me power to fulfill the destiny You have given me. For Your glory!



Part 4: The Church and Man

The holy catholic church.

There is one church in many places with many faces

The word catholic comes from a Greek word meaning universal

Descriptive, not a title until much later

As heresies began to be disputed the term was used to mean those that stayed true to the faith handed down by the apostles

In the fourth century there were 5 patriarchs—Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria, Constantinople, Rome

Roman Empire split into Western and Byzantine

Western spoke Latin included Rome

The other four spoke mainly Greek

Constantinople was the new capital of the Roman empire

In the midst of theological and political disputes the bishop of Rome named himself the leader of all five and eventually excommunicated the bishop of Constantinople in 1054

This is called the Great Schism



The Roman church called herself Catholic after the Creeds, the rest of the church called herself Orthodox because it held to the doctrines passed down and believed Rome didn't

So catholic in the creed isn't about the Roman Catholic Church

It is saying that there is one holy catholic (universal) church in the world

Jesus said He would build His church

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."—Matthew 16:15–19

The church is God's family

This includes all believers through all time

But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.—John 1:12



For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.” And again, “I will put my trust in Him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.” Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.—Hebrews 2:10–18

Union with Christ has made us part of God’s family

The Church is Jesus Bride

The Bride was the point of creation

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.



Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of His body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.—Ephesians 5:22–33

Jesus, as the final Adam, also was given a bride

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.—Genesis 2:21–24

Jesus slept in the tomb

His side was opened by the spear

The church was born and is one spirit with Him

He left heaven to be with us and will reign on the earth with us



Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.—
Revelation 21:9–14

The Church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets

The Church is the Body of Christ

The three major sections of Scripture discussing spiritual gifts all teach that we are the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4—each one of us doing our part reveals the fullness of who Christ is to the world and we all mature together

1 Corinthians 12—we are all parts of the Body and each part is important

Romans 12:3–8—each part has a unique role

Not only individual believers each have a part but different churches and denominations have their part



Jesus is our High Priest that enters into the heavenly tabernacle on our behalf

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.—Hebrews 9:11–12

Like the original High Priest, He has a breastplate with the tribes written on them

Israel had twelve tribes, but they were all Israelites

We may have our denomination or church group, but we are all part of the one holy catholic Church

Jesus' breastplate says Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Assembly of God, Nazarene, Church of Christ, Vineyard, Mennonite, Brethren, Anglican, Orthodox, Christian Missionary Alliance, Foursquare, Calvary Chapel, Quaker, Messianic Jews

The one Body, one Church has unity because God is One

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.—Ephesians 4:1–7



We (the whole church) are the temple—the dwelling place of God

As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.—1 Peter 2:4–5, 9–10

Together, we are being built up to hold God's presence

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.—Ephesians 2:13–22



The communion of saints

We have been given the unity of the Spirit

If we are one with the Spirit, we are one with one another

Remember Ephesians 4:1–6

The Church is one family

Communion = common union

When we gather, He is there

For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them.—Matthew 18:20

The communion of saints is bigger than any single gathering

Old Testament believers were also called saints

The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.—Matthew 27:52

The communion of saints includes believers from all ages, before and after Christ's sacrifice

What does saint mean?

Holy, set apart, like God

Serving only Him



This term is also used of angels, holy angels, holy ones

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.— Hebrews 12:1

This includes those mentioned in chapter 11

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.— Hebrews 12:18–24

There is an ultimate fulfillment of the communion of saints pictured in Revelation

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”



Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”—Revelation 7:9–12

Even though it is to come we live in it now

Don’t seek to contact the saints departed

If God chooses to let you encounter one keep your focus on Him!

And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him. And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”—Matthew 17:1–5

God put the focus back on Jesus. All true encounters will point to Him

Live with the ones you see

The communion of saints is deeper than family connections, national connections, social connections

Other believers are our “first family”!

That there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.—1 Corinthians 12:25–26



Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.—2 Corinthians 13:11

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.—Galatians 6:2

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.—Ephesians 4:32

Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.—Ephesians 5:18b–21

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.—Colossians 3:16

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.—1 Thessalonians 3:12–13

Encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.—1 Thessalonians 5:11

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today', that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.—Hebrews 3:13–14

Let us consider how to stir one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.—Hebrews 10:24–25



Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.—James 5:16

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.—1 Peter 4:8–10

Some practical applications

Find ways to meet with other Christians to talk about God, discuss His ways, worship together, and minister to one another in the power of the Spirit

Realize that forgiveness is essential to maintain community

Be aware that you are part of something bigger than you—an eternal family in heaven and on earth, people and angels, living and dead (but all are alive to God)

What you do as part of His body is part of a bigger picture that is revealing Christ to the world

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.—1 Peter 1:10–12

They are cheering us on!



The forgiveness of sins

Our God is a forgiving God

The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”—Exodus 34:5–7

Even when Israel was in rebellion, He planned to forgive

Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as they were at first. I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.—Jeremiah 33:6–8

One of the benefits of worshipping Him is forgiveness

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.—Psalm 103:1–14



He doesn't just forgive; He removes sin

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.—Micah 7:18–20

Forgiveness is God's nature

Before the sacrifice of Jesus there was already forgiveness available

Remember Isaiah 53

God's forgiveness is so complete that it doesn't just remove the label of sin but its power

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.—Romans 8:1–4

It is so complete we can live as if we had never sinned

Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins?—Hebrews 10:2



The law of sin is the power of sickness and death

In forgiveness there is healing of body, soul, and spirit

There is a direct connection between forgiveness and healing

And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when He saw their faith, He said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.” And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.”—Luke 5:18–26

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.—James 5:16

Because we have been forgiven, the Holy Spirit can live within us and fill us

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”—Acts 2:38

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus.—Acts 3:19–20



Forgiveness also frees us from the claim of the enemy

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.—Colossians 2:13–15

This is why repentance and forgiveness are essential to inner healing and deliverance!

Because we are forgiven, we are called to forgive others

Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.—Colossians 3:13

Our forgiveness is tied to our forgiving others

So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.—Matthew 18:35

We have been given the ministry of forgiveness

We have the authority to forgive sins so that people can be set free from the enemy's works (John 20:21–23; 1 John 3:8)

When we sin we can confidently come and ask for forgiveness, if we confess and repent of our sin

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—1 John 1:9



The resurrection of the body

Just as Jesus was resurrected with a body we will be too

It was proof that He had accomplished redemption

We will not be without a body in eternity

There is a common Charismatic saying:

“I am a spirit, I have a soul, I live in a body”

Not true

Avoid dualistic thinking (spirit good; physical bad)

“I am not a human having temporary spiritual experiences, I am a spirit having a temporary human experience.”

Also false

The Corinthians had someone teaching that there was no resurrection so Paul had to clarify what was true in 1 Corinthians 15:12–58

Our resurrected form will not be spirits or spirits and souls without a body, we will have a body

Our resurrected body will be like Jesus’ resurrection body



He was the firstfruit

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.—Philippians 3:17–21

Think about Jesus' resurrected body

He was only recognized after He said her name

Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).—John 20:14–16



He showed up in a locked room

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”—John 20:19

He still had His scars

Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”—John 20:27

He still ate

Luke 24:36–43 and John 21:1–14

We will recognize people we knew here, but there will be differences

And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.”—Luke 20:34–36

Our hope in resurrection gives us the context for choosing difficulty over compromise

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.—2 Corinthians 4:16–5:10

An eternal mindset says, “I can sacrifice a little now for greater reward later. I can choose to not gratify the flesh now because I want an eternal reward.”

Remember the Great White Throne Judgement

The life everlasting

What is the everlasting life we were promised?

The most famous verse in Scripture (John 3:16) promises everlasting life

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”—John 11:25–26



If we die in the body before Christ returns, we are immediately with the Lord

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.—Philippians 1:21–24

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.—2 Corinthians 5:6–10

Those who die before Christ returns will be coming with Him when He returns

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.—1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Everything must go through a death and resurrection

Even earth and heaven



But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.—2 Peter 3:10–13

All that has been touched by sin has to die according to Romans 8:18–25

After all is done, there will be a new heavens and a new earth

Revelation 21:1–7

What is the New Jerusalem?

The holy catholic Church—all believers from all ages

The Bride of Christ

Revelation 21:9–14

What will we be doing for eternity?

We will reign on the earth

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”—Revelation 5:9–10

What does that look like?

We don’t know completely but we know some aspects



Everything that was lost in the Garden will be restored

Peace between man and God

Peace between man and man

Peace between man and nature

Animals will be at peace with one another and with humans

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.—
Isaiah 11:6–9

Read all of Isaiah 11:1–10 and compare verse 4 with 2
Thessalonians 2:8

It will be a return to the original plan—but better

Genesis 2:1–10

Adam and Eve tended the earth under God's supervision

There was a river with trees around it

God's presence was there

Revelation 22:1–5

There is a river with trees around it

God's presence is there



Genesis 3:22–24

Adam and Eve were removed from the Garden lest they eat of the tree of life

Revelation 22:14

We are given access to eat of the tree of life

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HOMEWORK





Read *The Knowledge of the Holy* by A. W. Tozer

For extra credit (or just to dive deeper) read the expanded version called *The Attributes of God* Volume 1 & 2 also by A. W. Tozer

MODULE 02

UNIT 3

Knowing Your Bible





Unit 3: Knowing Your Bible

Knowing the Bible is what allows us to recognize if our theology is correct or not. It is the plumbline for all spiritual experiences. God constantly encouraged His people to read, talk about, and think about His word. The Bible reveals what the world is really like which allows us to operate well within it. It includes stories of how God interacted with His friends over the ages which helps us recognize His work in our life and expands our expectation for what He may do in and through us!

Part 1: Eat the Scroll

So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, “Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.” And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.—Revelation 10:9–10

If we want to get everything available from the Word we must do more than look at it

Trust the Scripture

Textual criticism has proven the authenticity of our current text

Research how we ended up with the books we have in the Bible

By the year 200 we had a list of all the books we currently use in the NT except 3 John

By 400 there was an official canon of Scripture as we know it

Trust the inerrancy of Scripture—Scripture is without error or fault in its original manuscripts



Scripture is God's words to mankind

Scripture testifies of this

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.—2 Timothy 3:16–17

The Holy Spirit bears witness to Scripture

There are testimonies throughout history of how Scripture changes lives and reveals God

Scripture is essential to life

The Word, when experienced with the Spirit, carries life

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.—John 6:63

The Word illuminates the path we should take (the way we should live)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.—Psalm 119:105



The Word reveals what in us is of the spirit or the soul

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.—Hebrews 4:12

The Word is a weapon to fight the enemy and defeat his strategies

The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.—Ephesians 6:17b

Jesus responded to the enemy with, “It is written”

Getting the Word in us gives the Spirit something to remind us of

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.—John 14:26

How do we eat the Word?

Take a bite

This is reading it

Do you have a plan to read through the whole Bible?



Yearly plan

Start in Genesis and read through

Three chapters a day, five on Sunday—Mama Lindsey

Some from OT and some from NT

Chronological

M'Cheyne Bible Reading Plan

Create your own

Chew

This is Bible study

Inductive studies

Topical studies

Individual books or authors

Tools that can be helpful (digital or physical)

Concordance

Find a word throughout Scripture

Basic definition

Hebrew and Greek words derive specific meaning from the context

Don't just choose the definition you like and apply it to that text

Compare translations



Study Bibles

Cross-reference Bibles

Commentaries

As good as the author

Expository commentaries very helpful

Logos or other software

www.blueletterbible.org is a free resource

www.biblegateway.com is good for comparing translations

Digest

Contemplation and meditation

Christian meditation fills the mind with Christ

Eastern meditation empties it

Memorize verses or phrases

Use them as words for prayer

Read *The Art of Praying the Scriptures* by John Paul Jackson and John E. Thomas



Invite Holy Spirit to illuminate His word

Hold onto His presence whenever you are reading, studying, or meditating on Scripture

Remember Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ
Through Prayer by Madame Guyon

This is not just to get better understanding or revelation on Scripture

We are looking for the life God put in His word to encounter our spirits so that we become transformed

Information does not transform anyone—revelation does

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me that you may have life.—
John 5:39–40

As we bite, chew, and digest the Word we will find spiritual nourishment



Part 2: Old Testament Survey

Taught by Paul Cheatham

Introduction

- I. What is Old Testament Survey?
- II. Why Study the Old Testament?
 - A. Is it Obsolete?
 - B. Is it Relevant?
 - C. Reasons to study it.
- III. Where did it come from?
 - A. Who wrote it?
 - B. How was it formed?
- IV. Old Testament Survey from a Literary Perspective
 - A. The Books
 - B. Literary Divisions
 - C. Proper Hermeneutics regarding each Literary Style.
- V. Old Testament Survey from a Historical Perspective
 - A. Historical Timeline
 - B. Key Historical Events
 - C. Important Characters associated with Key Events



- VI. Old Testament Survey from a Covenantal Perspective
 - A. The Edenic Covenant
 - B. The Adamic Covenant and its Redemptive Theme
 - C. The Noachian Covenant
 - D. The Mosaic Covenant
 - E. The Promised New Covenant

- VII. Old Testament Survey from a Messianic Perspective
 - A. Jesus in the Old Testament
 - B. Jesus Prophesied in the Old Testament

- VIII. Old Testament Survey from a Geological and Sociological Perspective
 - A. The Land of Israel
 - B. Places in the Land
 - C. People in the Land



Part 3: New Testament Survey

The NT was written to explain how the hope of the Messiah in the OT had been fulfilled and what it means to those who believe in that hope

Gospels

The Gospels were written to clarify what Jesus, the Messiah did and taught

As the church spread and it was harder for the Apostles to reach all believers, they chose to write out their “witness” to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus

These writings were understood to be Scripture very early and were read and discussed in gatherings of believers

They separated the actual account of Jesus’ life from the stories that were being told

Each Gospel had a specific intent and audience

Matthew was one of the twelve apostles, also known as Levi

Matthew was writing to a mainly Jewish audience

He regularly references OT passages and shows the continuity of the OT promises being fulfilled by Jesus

He wrote his Gospel sometime around 85–90AD



Mark wrote mainly to the Romans

It is believed that Mark's main source was Peter

It seems Mark (or John Mark as he is called in Acts) was a member of the household that hosted the Last Supper

It was likely that home that was also the Upper Room where the Holy Spirit first fell on the Church

Mark focuses on Jesus' power and authority with many miracles being documented

Mark's Gospel was the earliest written—sometime around 60–70AD

Luke wrote mainly to the Greeks

He was a physician and traveling companion to Paul

He also wrote the book of Acts

He states that his intent was to write an “orderly account” of all that Jesus did and said

He highlights prophecy and Holy Spirit and develops a good “pneumatology” (a study of the Spirit)

He spends more time on the back story His

Gospel advances like a great Greek play

It was likely written around 64–65AD



John's Gospel was written last, most likely around 90–110AD

The church had developed and spread into many cultures

It was starting to have to deal with gnostic influences

Gnosticism emphasized “spiritual knowledge” that had to be revealed, either by experience or through a teacher

This knowledge put the person on a higher spiritual level than those without it

It often also embraced dualism, the idea that the cosmos is separated into a good spiritual realm and an evil physical realm

So, what is spiritual is good and what is material either does not matter or is inherently bad

John anchors his Gospel in the physical incarnation (Word made flesh) and physical resurrection of Jesus

He also clarifies that only Jesus has access to full spiritual knowledge and it is His words that have life, not the words of a teacher or some spiritual experience

The Gospel of John has more theological discourse than the others



Matthew, Mark, and Luke are often called the Synoptic Gospels

They share many stories and similarities

Acts

Written by Luke as a follow up to his Gospel account

Since it does not reference the destruction of Jerusalem it was likely written before then

Around 64–65AD fits with Paul's imprisonment in Rome

It was written to show how Jesus, as the resurrected Lord, continued to work in and through His church

It continues many of the themes of Luke's Gospel

It further develops his pneumatology

Paul's Epistles

The name of the epistle (letter) is the audience it was intended for

Mostly churches that Paul had started, dealing with ongoing discipleship issues

Clarifying questions, encouraging faith, correcting abuses



Romans was not a church Paul had started

He was hoping to go there to clarify his theology

Some were written to individuals

Timothy was a disciple and friend to Paul Titus

was a disciple and fellow worker Philemon was

someone Paul had ministered to

Paul wrote the epistles between 48AD (Galatians) and 65AD

Most were written during his imprisonments

Other epistles

The Apostle Peter wrote to the Jewish Christians dispersed through
mainly the Greek speaking world

He was encouraging them during persecution He

was clarifying important points for their faith

Most likely written from Rome between 62–68AD

Peter was martyred around or before 68AD



James was the brother of Jesus, not the apostle James

He was the leader of the church in Jerusalem

Most likely written between 45–50AD

It may be the earliest of all NT writings

Carries wisdom and clarity and assumes a Jewish audience

Hebrews is the one book that doesn't fit a normal "letter" format

It is also unclear who wrote it

Some suggest Paul, but the writing form and use of Greek is very different from his style

Some suggested Barnabas who was a Levite, or Apollos who was known for his eloquence

Some have suggested Priscilla

Origen concluded, "who wrote the epistle, God only knows"

Likely written before the destruction of the Temple in 70AD

It was written to Hebrews and uses OT imagery liberally

Clearly communicating how Jesus both fulfilled and was better than all the OT shadows of Moses, High Priest, Joshua, Tabernacle, and covenant

For those wanting to understand the "Jewish roots" of Christianity, this should be their first source



Jude was written to remind people of the teaching they had been given

Jude was another brother of Jesus

Most likely written 60–65AD

John's epistles

Written by the apostle John around 85–90AD

Written to encourage the faithful to not get caught up in heretical teaching that had affected the community

Clarifies the divinity and humanity of Jesus

Highlights the importance of love as the central Christian virtue

Revelation is an apocalyptic book also written by the Apostle John

Apocalypse is Greek for revelation or unveiling

Because of the destruction referenced in the book, the word apocalypse came to be used as meaning the end of the world

The apostle John wrote Revelation from Patmos around 80–95AD

It is a description of a vision, or series of visions, John had



It causes the greatest difficulty in interpretation

Like all metaphoric imagery (think dreams) it is too easy to read into it one's own experience and opinions

Our mindset in approaching it is important

If we are trying to "figure it out" and come to "understanding" we will most likely miss the benefit

Much revelation is intended to be understood after its fulfillment rather than before

It should inspire awe and faith in the God being revealed rather than fear of what may happen

In the end, it is the Revelation of Jesus Christ– it reveals Him, not just what He will do

Even if we don't know what it will look like, and the timeline it will happen in, we can experience the beauty of Jesus and respond in worship



Part 4: Historical Context and Commentaries

In our desire to understand Scripture there are resources that can help us. We are going to look at some of these and help you recognize which ones are helpful for different aspects of understanding.

Understand Scripture in its historical context

Knowing the original audience is helpful

When looking at the Gospels and some of the epistles in the NT Survey, we mentioned the audience they were written to

How did the original audience hear this?

What were cultural norms of the time?

Something that seems odd to us in our culture may have been normal in their culture

What kind of life did they live?

Agricultural society thinks different than an industrial society

Living in the Western world today is very different than other places and other times

Our “normal” experience will cause us to pay attention to certain things and ignore other things



When reading the story of the prodigal son, someone from the West would highlight the younger son's partying (Luke 15:13) as the reason he became so poor he thought of eating the pig's food (Luke 15:16)

Someone from a poor area or time period would point to the famine (Luke 15:14)

Some in the West wouldn't have remembered there was a famine

This is why context is so important– we will see things differently

This point relates to worldviews which we will be looking at in Unit 4

Allowing ourselves to enter into the story helps this endeavor

Imagine what it would be like walking through the streets of Jerusalem to Solomon's temple

What noises would be heard?

What would it look like? What

smells would there be?

Find resources that help understand the times and culture

Don't base an understanding on one source– find confirming sources



We are searching to learn and understand, not to confirm what we already think

This requires great humility and self-honesty in our study

We want to see the passage we are understanding in the context of the rest of Scripture

Is it Old Testament or New Testament?

Is it history, law, wisdom, prophecy, or theology?

God revealed things over time. Someone in Genesis had less understanding than someone in the Gospels, and that was different than after Jesus' resurrection

We not only look at it from the perspective of the audience, we look at it through the lens of the Gospel

The Law and Prophets were given new understanding after Jesus was raised

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.—Luke 24:45

We get the perspective of the life and work of Jesus to understand Scripture through

It doesn't change it, but it reveals it

How to use commentaries and other study aids

Know something about the author



A commentary is as good as the author. Their theological bias, way of approaching Scripture, and the culture/time they are from will affect what they write

If they don't believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, you want to know

Do they hold to a theological bias that you disagree with?

Calvinism or Arminianism

Complementarianism or egalitarianism

Cessationist or continuationist

Historical accuracy or myth-based allegory

"Hyper-grace" or legalistic

Jewish or Christian

Liberal or conservative

We can learn from anyone

Knowing their bias allows us to be more aware

If God led us to the source then we want to find the truth that He has hidden in the midst of what we know is wrong

Hungry, humble, and teachable

Exegetical versus topical

Exegetical starts with one passage and draws out all the meaning then looks at other things through that lens



Topical looks at a topic through the whole of Scripture to develop an understanding to look at a particular passage through

Both have strengths and weaknesses

Allegorical and “prophetic” interpretations

Paul said there was an allegorical meaning to the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites

Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.—1 Corinthians 10:11 (see verses 1–13)

This did not remove the historical accuracy of the account but revealed a message hidden in the story

Not only did it happen, we can apply the lessons to us

This can happen with much of Scripture

Levels of Scriptural understanding

Literal

Reveals doctrine or historical facts

Moral

Gives application and reveals God’s ways



Allegorical

Sometimes universal but often individual

For inspiration or encouragement

Mystical

May teach the ways of God but care must be had to avoid gnosticism

Devotional or inspiration for worship

May recognize the ways of God underneath the story

Could be a prophetic message to some people at some time, but not all people at all times

How does it compare to the rest of Scripture, the nature of God, and the understanding of the church?

Whatever resources you use, be sure that Scripture itself is your main guide

Only God can interpret God

Scripture explains Scripture

Trust that the Word and the Spirit will work together to lead you into all truth

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HOMEWORK





Read *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart

Make a plan to read through the Bible in the next twelve months and as you get to each book, first read the corresponding section in *How to Read the Bible Book by Book* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart

MODULE 02

UNIT 4

Biblical Worldview





Unit 4: Biblical Worldview

The presence or absence of a Biblical worldview can make a significant difference in our lives. It affects the kind of faith we have, the character of that faith, and informs decisions that we make. It informs our response to the voice of God and how we see core doctrines of Christianity.

Part 1: Understanding Worldviews

What is a worldview?

As the word suggests, it is how we view the world

Not just information, but a fundamental philosophy of reality that informs how we see the world, what is right or wrong, and how we understand our experiences

It is a type of “lens” that everything we experience gets filtered through

Because it is fundamental, it is often not conscious

Said another way, it is often unsaid assumptions about everything

Most people would not be able to define their worldview without time to think it through

Even then, one’s capacity for self-honesty would inform how complete their recognition of their worldview is



Most people in the Western world do not have a Biblical worldview—even those that identify as Christian

Most common worldviews according to Dr. James N. Anderson of Reformed Theological Seminary

Naturalism: there is no God; humans are just highly evolved animals; the universe is a closed physical system

Based on modernism and the Enlightenment, reason is king

Postmodernism: there are no objective truths and moral standards; “reality” is ultimately a human social construction

Trying to get away from institutions and standards, experience is king

Pantheism: God is the totality of reality; thus, we are all divine by nature

God is everything, so nature is divine

A foundation of some New Age philosophies

Pluralism: the different world religions represent equally valid perspectives on the ultimate reality; there are many valid paths to salvation

Also a New Age philosophy, usually is expressed as “I am spiritual, not religious”

Islam: there is only one God, and He has no son; God has revealed His will for all people through His final prophet, Muhammad, and His eternal word, the Qur’an



Moralistic therapeutic deism: God just wants us to be happy and nice to other people; He intervenes in our affairs only when we call on Him to help us out

This is the most common worldview in America according to Barna surveys

These worldviews overlap. It is rare that one is exclusive though one is usually primary

A change of worldview can be referred to as a “paradigm shift”



Part 2: What is a Biblical Worldview?

A Biblical worldview is one that is informed by the truth revealed in Scripture

Discipleship is at its core a “paradigm shift” bringing us to a Biblical worldview

We learn to see reality, God, and ourselves as God does

Because worldview is deeper than merely thought, this requires a radical transformation

It affects our emotional norms

How we feel in circumstances and/or about people

What our “normal” emotional response is

It also informs our will, the choices that we see as right or logical

This work of discipleship is what Paul meant in Romans

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.—Romans 12:1–2



Developing and maintaining a Biblical worldview is one way that we escape the influence of the “elemental spirits” or principles of this world

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.—Colossians 2:8

What does a Biblical worldview look like?

The Apostle’s Creed

Clear understanding of who God is and who He is not

Informed by the nature and ministry of Christ (see Colossians 2:8)

Recognizing the spiritual world and supernatural activity

Some of our Biblical worldview gets formed by recognizing and agreeing with what the Bible assumes

Spiritual beings and their influence on humans, human systems, and nature

Valuing supernatural activity, like healing and deliverance

Letting the values of the kingdom inform our values

Defining success according to God, not man



Defining wisdom according to God, not man

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.—1 Corinthians 1:22–25

A worldview is more than a thought pattern; it is a complete reorientation of our perceptions

This changes how we act and interact

We truly become disciples, not just pupils

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”—John 8:31–32

The word for “know” here means to have experience that informs our thinking

We need to think about what we think—most people don’t

What belief do I have that makes this decision hard or easy?

What belief do I have that makes me angry or bitter when God asks me to do this?

What belief do I have that lets me question miracles, or not expect them

A paradigm shift requires study and inner healing, and sometimes deliverance



Part 3: The Mystery of Identity

Watch the Dreams & Mysteries episode: The Mystery of Identity

Dreams & Mysteries Notes

The Mystery of Identity

Introduction

From the beginning, the question has been, who are you? Or rather, what are you? The lack of the answer to this question is the root of every wrong choice mankind has ever made. The issue of identity—what and how we think about ourselves, is so central to the human experience that it is the foundation of every temptation the enemy throws at us. Who or what decides who you are? Are you a product of the experiences around you? Or are you who and what the Creator says you are.

How do we choose to do good or bad?

- The choices we make stem from what we _____ about ourselves, and the world around us.
- The _____ recognized this from the beginning—but so did God.
- God called all of creation good—but He called mankind _____ We were very good because the image of God was in us.
- Then, temptation came. Satan told them if they ate of the forbidden fruit, they would know good from evil.
 - The _____ was that they would become like God. But God had already done that.
- But they had forgotten their _____.

Adam failed, so a second Adam came.

God took on flesh and grew up like anyone else. Then He went out to the Jordan River where His cousin John was baptizing people. After He was baptized, the Holy Spirit came upon Him in the form of a dove. An audible voice came from Heaven, saying, “I am so happy that You are My Son!”



Then the Spirit prompts Him to go out into the wilderness and fast for 40 days. At His weakest point, the tempter comes— “If you are the Son of God...”

- The temptation was not to make the stone turn into bread; it was to make Jesus _____ that He was the Son of God.
- During the second temptation, Satan would offer Jesus every kingdom in the whole world.
- Again the third temptation attempts to place doubt in Jesus’ mind about His_____.

The temptation is the same now

“Will God really back you up? Are you sure you are who God says you are? Are you sure you have what God says you have? If so, then demonstrate it—authenticate it!”

We know who we are because of what Jesus did. We are:

- Chosen
- Made in the _____ of God
- Accepted
- Assured in the _____ of His love
- Assured that God is for us and will never leave us

This is the _____ that we face—who are you?

- Is Christ really in you?
- Is God really with you?
- Will God really back you up?



Dream—

This was an actual series of dreams that caused _____ and doubt in the dreamer, until they got up and used the weapon they had with them all along.

- Guns are often a metaphor for authority in dreams.
- The enemy was trying to cause them to think that they didn't have the authority to stop his attacks.

Who are you? Do you know how to answer that question? In life, each of us will face temptations. They can spring from

- Our flesh, desires
- The world around us
- Satan

Our _____ to all of these comes from one place; we don't know who we are.

Will we listen to the questions that ask if we are good enough, smart enough, religious enough, _____ enough, strong enough, _____ enough or will we listen to the word of God?

Will we try to earn _____ or _____ through our own efforts, or will we trust that He is our strong tower?

Who we really are is found in His words over us.

- We're made in His image.
- Beloved son or daughter
- The one who makes God _____—this is who we really are!



The enemy has been trying to hold us back from God's love and acceptance from the very beginning.

- Implying that God is holding something back from us
- Suggesting that we have to _____ to get His love.

Some have given up.

- They've accepted what they have come to learn from their education, culture, and experiences and are running from God.
- Giving into their desires, they run from one tree to the next, desperately seeking _____.
- Eventually, all that they had hoped for fails them. They have to try one more time, or give in to the despair that they have been ignoring.

Some work harder.

- They've found a religious system that works for them.
- They do all the right things.
- They serve and sacrifice in their churches, mosques, or synagogues, wondering if they've done enough.
- Fighting their own desires with their own _____ so they don't offend a god that's looking over their shoulder

Neither of these will ever find peace.

Both of them are trying to find their identity from somewhere other than the word of God.

- One defines themselves by their desires, emotions, or _____.
- The other by their religious activity



Both are performing for the gods they perceive.

- The laws of nature
- The god of religion
- Both _____ gods—suggested by the original deceiver

There is only one God.

- One way to please Him
- Only one way to know who you truly are.

He is the way, the truth and the life. His name is Jesus.

- He denied Himself for the will of the Father because you _____.
- He endured the weight of the world pressing down on Him, trying to conform Him while saying no to the expectations of society.
- Fulfilling the plan of God because you can't.
- He looked satan in the eye and spoke the truth of Scripture to him, saying, "Satan, it is the Lord your God that you shall worship!"
- Jesus took the full brunt of all the weight on the cross, taking the weight off of us so you and I could find our identity in the _____ of God.
- He rose from the dead and from His throne in heaven, invites you to join in His victory.

You can find your identity in Jesus, and when you do, the full inheritance for His obedience becomes yours. And you become His.

Is this who you are?



These are the identity statements at the end of the video with the supporting verses

You are a child of God (John 1:12)

You are loved by Him, chosen by Him (1 Thessalonians 1:4)

Because you belong to Jesus you are now one spirit with Him (1 Corinthians 6:17)

You are brand new, the old you is gone (2 Corinthians 5:17)

God really enjoys giving you His kingdom (Luke 12:32)

You were known, chosen, and adopted before God had created the world (Ephesians 1:3–6)

Nothing can ever disconnect you from the love God has for you (Romans 8:35–39)

God is for you and no one can stand against Him (John 10:29)

You can hear God's voice, He will guide you and protect you (John 10:27–28)

You will live forever (John 3:16)

God's Spirit lives within you producing love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23)

You have power from God (Acts 1:8)

You are the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21)

You have been seated with Christ in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6)

You participate in God's divine nature because of the promises God has spoken over you (2 Peter 1:3–4)

God will never leave you or abandon you (Hebrews 13:5–6)

You are becoming just like Jesus (Romans 8:29)



Part 4: What is Mankind?

A major part of our worldview is understanding what it means to be human

We are the image of God in the earth

That is why we included The Mystery of Identity

We were created good

Humanity was not a mistake

Our view of humans should reflect the Biblical account of creation

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.—
Genesis 1:26–27

When we interact with other people we are interacting with the image of God in creation

Even fallen people carry something of that image, however marred it may be



“It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all of our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”

—C. S. Lewis in *The Weight of Glory*

When we minister to His people—those that know Him or those who haven’t surrendered yet—we are touching something glorious

There should be a holy awe and reverence when we relate to people

What we are now is still not complete, there is more coming

Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.—1 John 3:2–3

Knowing that we represent God, not as mere carriers of information, but image bearers that are the witness to His existence and authority, should inform all our lives

We have authority now, but we will have more

We get to release His kingdom by healing, delivering, and proclaiming now



In the future we will judge angels and rule on the earth

Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more then matters pertaining to this life!—1 Corinthians 6:3

Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.— Revelation 5:9–10

The more we know Him, His ways, and His nature, the more we will be able to emulate Him in the earth

The more we emulate Him, the more effective we will be in expanding His kingdom

The more we expand His kingdom, being faithful with what we have been given, the more we will be trusted with

All of this factors into the rewards we receive when we stand before Him

For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.



Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.—1 Corinthians 3:11–23

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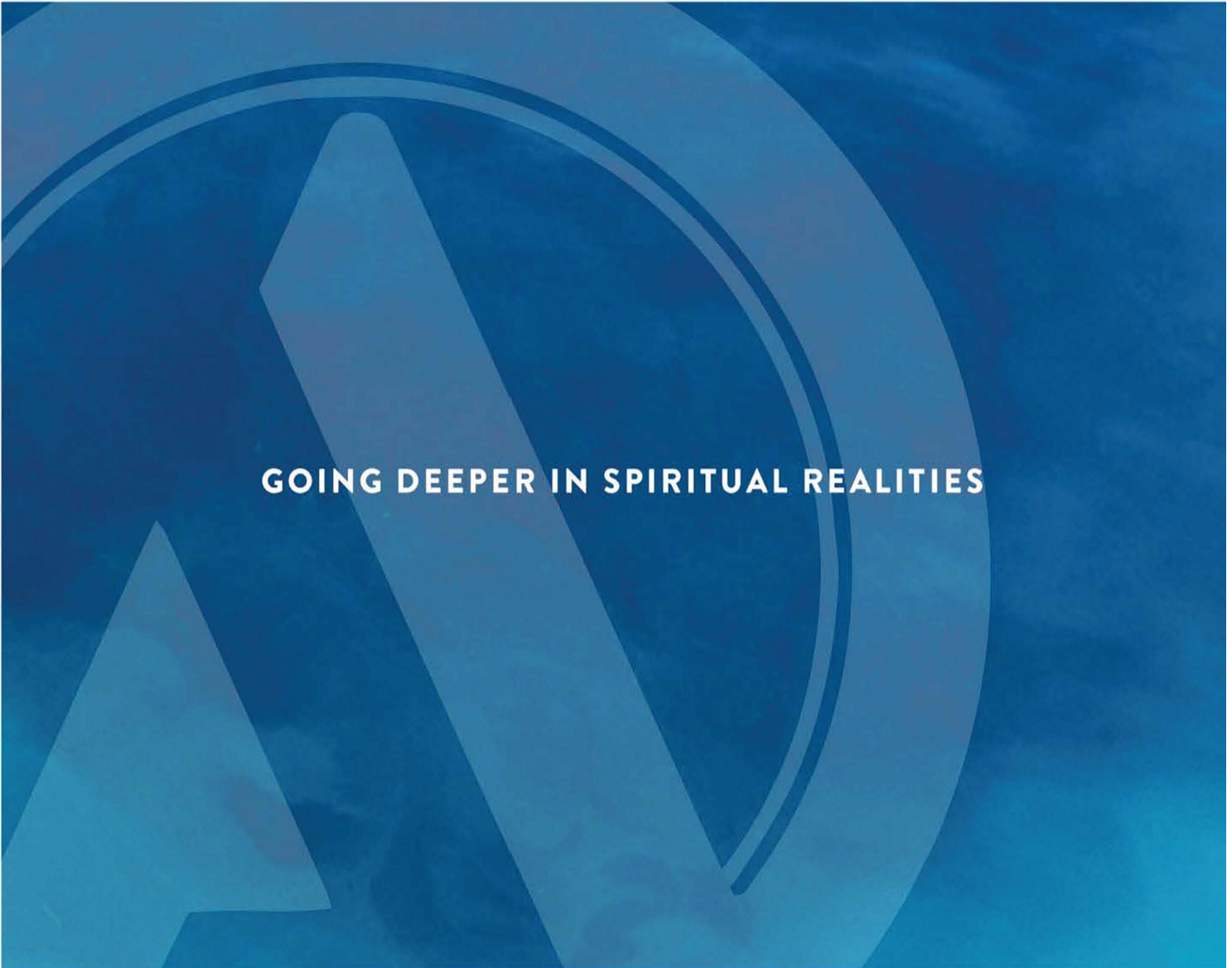


HOMEWORK





Read the declaration statements of identity from Part 3: The Mystery of Identity. Take the time to look up each verse and declare these truths out loud over yourself daily for at least a week. 21 days would be best as repeating something daily for 21 days creates a habit.



GOING DEEPER IN SPIRITUAL REALITIES

MODULE 03

Inner Healing and Deliverance

ACADEMY
DIPLOMA 



Streams Academy—Going Deeper in Spiritual Realities

Module 3: Inner Healing and Deliverance

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MODULE 03

Inner Healing and Deliverance

Description: What are demons and where did they come from? Can a Christian have a demon? Does your family's history affect your life today? In this module you will discover answers to these questions as well as how to recognize and remove strongholds. You will be equipped to minister inner healing and deliverance, discerning strategies that keep you and others in patterns of defeat and learn how to remove those hindrances so that we can walk in the "abundant life" Jesus promised us.

Unit 1: Understanding Demons

Unit 2: Strongholds

Unit 3: Inner Healing

Unit 4: Generational Dynamics

MODULE 03

UNIT 1

Understanding Demons





Unit 1: Understanding Demons

What are demons and where do they come from? We want to make sure our understanding is based on Scripture, not myth or conjecture. This will inform how we interact with demons and cast them out. If our foundations are wrong we run the risk of superstition, underemphasizing, or overly exalting demonic activity. Understanding demons is also helpful for discerning spiritual activity.

Part 1: Where Did They Come From?

The origin of demons

Essential understandings

God created all things

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.—John 1:1–3



That means God created all spiritual things as well as physical things

Everything God created was good when He created it

*And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good.
And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.—Genesis 1:31*

Evil spiritual beings started out good but at some point became evil

Then He will say to those on His left, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”—Matthew 25:41

Satan was at one time a good, created spiritual being

He had authority given by God and a role to play in creation

He was in the Garden of Eden before he fell



Thus says the Lord God: “You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.”—Ezekiel 14:12–17

He was perfect, wise, and beautiful

The Garden was a tabernacle, a place of the presence of God

The nine stones mentioned on this being are nine of the twelve stones on the breastplate of the High Priest

Exodus 28:17–20

He became focused on his own beauty which corrupted him



He tried to rise above all other spiritual beings to take God's place

How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.—Isaiah 14:12–15

Either at his fall, or sometime after, other spiritual beings followed him in his rebellion (Matthew 25:41)

These other spiritual beings that also rebelled against God are demons or fallen angels

The Bible says it was one third of the spiritual beings

His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth.—Revelation 12:4a



Oecumenius, from the 6th century, wrote this in his *Commentary on the Apocalypse*:

“He says, ‘And with his tail he swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them down to the earth.’ For he cast down with himself a very great number of the angels, persuading them to rebel with him against God, and so he has made the heavenly beings earthy, and those who were bright as stars he has turned into darkness. With his tail means that he has done this by means of his uttermost and hindmost trespasses; for when he first considered his mad rebellion, and then went on consciously to nurture it in the arrogance of his purpose, he thus came to destroy the rest too.”

These fallen angels, or spiritual beings, had different levels of power and rank before they fell which they kept after they fell

Paul talks about different ranks of evil spiritual forces

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.—Ephesians 6:12

See Heavenly Beings Study Card



Jesus told his disciples that certain types of demons require more prayer and fasting

And when He had entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And He said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”—Mark 9:28–29

Some of these demons took on flesh before the Flood

When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.—Genesis 6:1–4

Evil spirits (watchers according to 1 Enoch) came down, married human women, and had children

1 Enoch, and other early Jewish sources, say that they taught humans secret knowledge, especially divination and magic



Since there were Nephilim after the Flood they must have done it again

So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”—Numbers 13:32–33

Some evil spirits revealed themselves as gods

They stirred Him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded. You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth.—Deuteronomy 32:16–18

These demons inspired “worship” of themselves that included rebellion to God



Sacrifice of children

Ritual sexual activity

Witchcraft and sorcery

There was still some access to heaven and God's presence

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.—Job 1:6

They could still influence people

And Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside Him on His right hand and on His left; and the Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said one thing, and another said another. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, saying, 'I will entice him.' And the Lord said to him, 'By what means?' And he said, 'I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And He said, 'You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.' Now therefore behold, the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the Lord has declared disaster for you."—1 Kings 22:19–23



Some were still part of the council of God in heaven

God has taken His place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods He holds judgment: "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince." Arise, O God, judge the earth; for You shall inherit all the nations!—Psalm 82

More on this in Module 5: Spiritual Warfare

Some evil spirits focus on rulers and those in power while others afflict anyone they can

Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone. When their drink is gone, they give themselves to whoring; their rulers dearly love shame. A wind has wrapped them in its wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.—Hosea 4:17–19



Other origin theories

Some have suggested that some demons are the spirits of people that have died

One suggestion is that they are the spirits of the Nephilim from Genesis 6 and since they are partially human and partially angels they were treated differently

This comes from the Book of Enoch which describes the spirits of the Nephilim after they die as evil spirits

If they are the source of demons, there shouldn't be that many

The population of the earth was not many and only a small portion were Nephilim

No place in Scripture supports this conjecture but Scripture does support that they are fallen angels

Can the spirits of dead humans stay on earth?

The Bible says that when we die we go to paradise or Gehenna (read Jesus' parable about Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16:19–31)



The rich man could not choose to go back to earth—he was imprisoned

Evil spirits (familiar spirits) can pretend to be dead people and “haunt” places or inspire mediums to deceive people

What about Samuel being summoned by the witch at Endor? (1 Samuel 28:6–20)

The passage clearly states that it was Samuel, and to say otherwise is to change the plain meaning of the passage to something else

That leaves us with questions—how and why did God allow it?

There is a power that can pull the spirits of the dead onto the earth

Jesus spoke with Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration
(Matthew 17:1–8)

Because of the righteous dead walking the earth at Jesus’ death, it seems the right or power to bring the dead to earth has been removed from the enemy



Jesus was victorious over death and the grave and will destroy both at His ultimate victory (1 Corinthians 15:20–26)

There is no Biblical support for the theory that the spirits of the dead demonize people today

Demons are fallen spirits and since Jesus has defeated every enemy we have authority over them

And He called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.—Luke 9:1–2

In the next chapter Jesus extends this to the 72—it is available to every believer



Part 2: What is Demonization and Can Christians Have Demons?

What is demonization?

There is no word for demon possessed in Scripture

The word (diamonizomai) is demonized—demon-possessed is a mistranslation from KJV

“Possessed” denotes ownership and that is not the issue

When someone is demonized, the Bible speaks of the demon coming out of them

That evening at sundown they brought to Him all who were sick or oppressed by demons (diamonizomai). And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew Him.—Mark 1:32–34



The Bible also talks about some people “having a demon” but uses it interchangeably with “demonized”

When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met Him a man from the city who had demons.—Luke 8:27a

This was the one called the Gadarene demoniac

There are multiple levels of “demonized”

Evil spirits can suggest thoughts, feelings, and desires

This starts with them “speaking” to someone

That communication can be discerned and rejected—but if it is accepted it allows the spirit influence

To the degree one agrees with it, the influence increases



This is why James warned us against demonic wisdom

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.—James 3:14–16

This is why Paul warned us about our responses to our emotions

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.—Ephesians 4:27

Paul also warned about doctrines that are inspired by demons

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.—1 Timothy 4:1



If we allow these demonic communications space and cultivate them we can be influenced by them and eventually take action on them

If we don't repent at this point the demon is given access to us at a higher level

Examples of demonic communication

Peter was influenced in his thought life by satan and spoke demonically inspired words

But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to Me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."—Matthew 16:23

He wasn't "demonized" but influenced by a demon

Ananias and Saphira allowed this to go even further



But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?”—Acts 5:3a

Judas went even further in the same thing when he betrayed Jesus

Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”—John 13:27

Evil spirits torment people in their souls or in their bodies

Saul was tormented by a spirit that caused depression and rage

Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him.—1 Samuel 16:14

In the beginning the anointed worship of David was able to make the spirit leave

As Saul gave himself to the spirit, this stopped having the same effect and eventually Saul came to the point of attempting murder



The Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter was tormented in some way

And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."—Matthew 15:22

She says the demonization was severe, showing that there are different levels

There are Biblical accounts of physical ailments caused by demons

A demon gave Peter's mother-in-law a fever

And He arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to Him on her behalf. And He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.—Luke 4:38–39



The word used for rebuke is the same word used when Jesus rebuked demons in other passages—it means to censor or silence by force

A demon caused a woman to be deformed

And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself.—Luke 13:11

A demon caused a man to be deaf and mute

Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to Him, and He healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.—Matthew 12:22

A demon caused epileptic seizures specifically trying to kill a boy

And someone from the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought my son to You, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid.”—Mark 9:17–18



At some point the demonization can become so severe it takes over the personality and grants supernatural strength

And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before Him.—Mark 5:2–6

Tell story of Jack Colby

Evil spirits can be allowed access to spiritual gifts and talents

This is the power behind witchcraft, sorcery, necromancy, and mediums



Paul dealt with a spirit of divination in a slave girl

As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.—Acts 16:16

Spirit of divination is spirit of Pythos

Pythos is the region in Greece where the “Oracle of Delphi” was from

This spirit revealed itself in the form of a snake

Other Scriptural examples are Jannes & Jambres (the Egyptian sorcerers), the medium at Endor, the prophets of Baal confronted by Elijah, and the Chaldeans who performed sorcery in Babylon

Paul dealt with this in Elymus the magician

The Apostle John tells us clearly that unclean spirits will perform signs



And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.—Revelation 16:13–14

Types of demonic influence

Temptation in the form of a thought, feeling, or desire

Fantasies and/or dreams leading to false revelation

Mental health issues—depression, psychosis, suicide

Physical health issues—sickness and disease

Personality issues—addictions, obsessions, fear/anxiety, rage, insecurity, self-hatred, lust

Manipulation of physical items—sounds, things moving around, doors opening or shutting



Spiritual activity—witchcraft, divination, fortune-telling, spiritism, necromancy

This includes “white” and “black” magic

Good and evil are both the fruit of the tree

Can a Christian be demonized?

Does the Bible say demons can affect Christians?

Jesus taught us to pray, “Lead us not into temptation, deliver us from the evil one.”

We are told to pray this way because the enemy can attack us

James told us to resist the devil

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.—James 4:7

Paul told us we needed armor to protect against attacks from the enemy



Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.—Ephesians 6:11–12

The case of Ananias and Sapphira

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit.”—Acts 5:3a

Paul was tormented by a demon

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.—2 Corinthians 12:7

This was an “angel” of satan that caused some type of harassment—either a physical illness or stirring up strife among the Jews

Jesus cast a spirit of affliction out of a woman He called a “daughter of Abraham”

There are different levels of affliction or oppression by evil spirits, but it seems clear that Scripture says they can affect believers



This is not possession, but it may be anywhere from temptation to demonization

Many believers have been affected by demons since the start of the church

Tertullian (155–220AD) wrote: *The Lord Himself is witness that we have the case of the woman who went to the theater and came back possessed. Accordingly, in the exorcism, when the unclean creature was rebuked for having dared attack a believer, he firmly replied, “And in truth I did it most lawfully, for I found her in my domain.”*

Many demons are cast out of believers even today

What about the theory that since the Holy Spirit indwells a believer they can’t be demonized?

That plays to the affections of mankind but it is not found in Scripture

The agreement that people have determines what spirit gets access to them

When we agree with God, the Holy Spirit has greater access to us



When we agree with the enemy, evil spirits have greater access to us

Lanctantius (250–325AD) wrote: *As long as there is peace among the people of God, these spirits flee from the righteous and fear them. And when they seize the bodies of men and harass their souls, they are adjured by [Christians] and are put to flight at the name of the true God.*

Paul warned us to not give place to the enemy, NIV translates that as “foothold” (Ephesians 4:27)

Jesus told us to pray, “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil [one].” (Matthew 6:13)

When we succumb to temptation the enemy has a right to attack us

The enemy is also a liar, thief, and murderer

He doesn’t always have a right to attack someone
We should live in such a way that the enemy only attacks us illegally!



I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on Me, but I do as the Father has commanded Me.—John 14:30–31a

We should not fear the enemy

We have been given authority over all kinds of demons

Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.—Luke 10:19–20

God living in us is more powerful than any evil spirit, no matter what rank it may have

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.—1 John 4:4

There is no demonic power or scheme of hell that can separate us from God's love!

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.—Romans 8:37–39



Part 3: How to Cast Them Out

The word used in Scripture to depict demons being removed means to cast out, often by force

How did Jesus cast out demons?

With a word

That evening they brought to Him many who were oppressed by demons, and He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.—Matthew 8:16

There was at least one time Jesus repeatedly told the demon to leave before it did

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before Him. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have You to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure You by God, do not torment me." For He was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are



many.” And he begged Him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged Him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” So He gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.—Mark 5:1–13

Jesus rebuked demons

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him.—Mark 1:25–26

A rebuke expresses sharp disapproval and the Greek word carries the implication of a threat

Cyprian (200–258AD) wrote this: Oh, if you could only hear and see them when they are adjured by us. For they are tortured with spiritual scourges and are cast out from the possessed bodies with tortures of words. Howling and groaning at the voice of man and the power of God, they feel the stripes and blows and confess the judgement to come.

The presence and the power of God reminds them of the judgement to come



Often, when Jesus came near demons they would cry out and ask not to be tormented (Matthew 8:29; Mark 1:24; 5:7; Luke 8:28)

The disciples cast out demons in various ways

By telling them to leave (Luke 10:17; Acts 8:7; Acts 16:16–18)

By walking by them (Acts 5:15–16)

Through items used by disciples touching demonized people (Acts 19:12)

The authority to cast out demons comes from the name of Jesus

Jewish exorcists had some success using various names of God and rituals to remove demons even before Jesus came

And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges.—Matthew 12:27



At one point some of them also tried to use Jesus' name

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.—Acts 19:13–16

There is power in the Name because of relationship

Because we know Jesus and we are in Him, we have authority

That authority is increased by the level of submission to Jesus

The more like Him we are the greater authority we carry in the spiritual realm

That authority is also increased by our assignment



Some people will have greater authority over demonic issues because God has assigned them a task to deal with them

This may be over specific types of demons or specific issues that demons cause

If we find a demon in our path, we should assume we are sent to remove it

What if the demon does not come out with a word?

Understanding open doors to demonic activity

The enemy has as much power over a person as they have agreement with it

When we remove the agreement, the evil spirit has to leave

Agreement starts with belief

The enemy suggests a thought or feeling and we believe it

It continues with action and then alignment



How do we remove agreement with the enemy and close any “open doors”?

Repent

This is more than just saying, “I repent”

There is often a sense of sorrow

We “re-think” the issue and come to a different conclusion

True repentance is seen by a change in behavior

Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.—Matthew 3:8

If the person has not received Jesus as Lord, this is a good time

Sometimes the demon will leave when they receive Jesus

If it does, you still want to renounce and replace (see below)



Renounce

To renounce is to make a public statement against

“I will have nothing to do with...”

“I want no part in...”

“I stand against...”

Remove

This is where we tell the demon to go

“I command every spirit connected with... to leave now in Jesus’s name”

“I command every demonic attachment and any effects of evil to be removed from body, soul, and spirit”

It is helpful to include body and soul as that can release healing as the demon leaves



Replace

Where there has been agreement with evil we want to replace that with agreement with God

We replace the agreement through prayer and action

Prayer: “Holy Spirit, would You come fill every place this demon has occupied?”

If the person has not been baptized in the Spirit, this is a great time to do so!

“Father, I have renounced the lie...what truth do you want to give me in its place?”

It is good to have the person receiving ask God directly

Action: what habits or beliefs will remove access?

Commit to not doing what opened the door in the first place (this is included when we renounce)



Commit to living a righteous lifestyle, “Go and sin no more”

That may include avoiding certain things, activities, or people

It will often include spiritual disciplines

The reason we want to replace the lie and fill the space the demon occupied is to keep it from returning

Jesus said that when a demon is cast out it may try to come back

When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.—Luke 11:24–26



Do you need to talk to the demon?

Some teachings suggest we need to get information from the demon

Why would we trust a liar to tell the truth?

If we do get information from the demon we need to check it with God to know if it is truth or a distraction

Do we have to get the demon's name?

When casting out the demons from the Gadarene demoniac Jesus asked its name

This is the only example in Scripture of someone getting a demon's name during deliverance

Jesus did not use the name to cast out the demon



In the dark arts, knowing the name of a spirit gives one access to its power

This is not how it works in the kingdom

We cast out demons because we know Jesus, not because we know the name of the demon

If the Holy Spirit prompts one to get the name of the demon then obey His voice

Delivering yourself versus delivering someone else

Sometimes we can walk ourselves through deliverance using these steps

Sometimes we need someone else to pray with us

If you don't see the fruit of change or recognize the demon hasn't left, get someone else to pray with you



This may be because we need the power of agreement

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them.—Mathew 18:19–20

It might be because we need to let someone else know our story

There is power in repentance to another person (James 5:16)

Telling someone else breaks the power of shame

It breaks isolation—the lie that if someone really knew who we had been or what we had done we wouldn't be loved or accepted

It fosters community (Biblical fellowship)



When you are walking someone else through deliverance

When possible it is good to pray with others as a team

A witness so there is less room for false accusation

Someone else to help discern and avoid deception

There is greater authority when we work together

One person takes the lead and the others support

Only one person should be addressing the spirit

Confusion in authority or rebellion gives the demon the right to stay

If you get something while another is leading, ask if you can share it with them (the leader) at an appropriate time

The leader may choose to give someone else the lead but that should never be taken or assumed



The leader needs to protect themselves from pride

“I am the one gifted enough to deal with this”

Honor is essential and the way that looks should be agreed upon by the leader and the team

If there is a third person they should act as a scribe

It is very helpful if someone takes notes about the ministry time

This may be of memories, lies broken, spirits removed, sins forgiven, truth received, words of knowledge, etc.

Sometimes there is something to return to and go deeper

Sometimes it is helpful to give the recipient something to remind them of what God did



The scribe is a silent intercessor during the ministry session

If they sense something they can write it down to offer to the leader at an appropriate time

How do you know you are dealing with a demon?

We want to discern if this is the person's pain, sin, a stronghold, or demonization

It is usually a demon when there is compulsive behavior (may also be mental illness)

When the person hears the voice of the demon

They often try to disguise as the person's thoughts

This can come to the surface in anointed moments or when confronted with truth the demon is resisting



There may be manifestations

Convulsing

Distortion of body

Involuntary movements

Screaming or groaning

A different voice coming out of the person or speaking in the third person

Burping, yawning, sleepiness

Supernatural activity in the room (items moving, sounds)

Some manifestations can come from another source so don't trust your knowledge, ask God

When you are praying for someone and a demon manifests, tell it to stop in Jesus' name

They have victimized the person enough



Often demons will manifest to impress people with their power

Sometimes they manifest to impress the person praying with their “great anointing” which leads to pride and opens the door for attack

Discerning of spirits

A revelatory gift that allows one to recognize spirits and discern their activity

Smell

Sight

Feeling—physical or emotional

Knowing

Be careful to not assume everything is a demon

Be careful to not assume nothing is a demon



Dealing with the strongman

There is some teaching that all demons work in groups and to remove all the demons in that group you have to deal with the “strongman” (the strongest demon or ruling demon) first, then you can cast out the rest

This concept comes from Jesus’ teaching

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons He casts out the demons.” And He called them to Him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.”—Mark 3:22–27

First, Jesus is not teaching how to cast out demons but refuting the idea that He is casting out demons by using a stronger demon

In the context of Jesus’ ministry and how He communicates this, it is better to see this as Jesus being the one who comes in and binds the strong man (satan) which allows his house to be plundered—people delivered of demonic oppression



If the demonized person is the “strongman’s house” then it says satan owns that person

On the Cross Jesus bound satan so that those he had bound could go free

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.—Colossians 2:13–15

Is it okay to use sacraments to cast out demons?

What are sacraments? Sacred rituals or elements that convey spiritual grace

Communion and baptism are the most widely recognized

Anointing with oil is another sacrament

The Bible clearly connects baptism with freedom from demonic powers in Colossians 2:8–15



Partaking of communion is often recognized to carry healing power as we align with the sacrifice of Jesus

It would make sense that it could also free one from demonic bondage

Some debate if a demonized person should be anointed with oil

Some believe that touching a demonized person can open one up to that demonic power

There is no Biblical backing for this, but we are told to believe that the One in us is greater than the one in the world (1 John 4:4)

Anointing with oil is an outward sign asking the Holy Spirit to come upon someone

It would seem to be a very good thing for someone afflicted by a demon!



The power of sacraments is faith not superstition

Do we feel God leading us? If so, then do so in faith

Are we trying to manipulate a result with our activity? That is dangerous

Intrusion or invitation

Intrusion is illegal

The enemy is a thief and murderer (John 10:10)

Neither thieves nor murderers have permission to act

Some demonic activity has no “legal right” to happen



Invitation—open doors

Sometimes the enemy takes advantage of “open doors” that allow his activity

We discussed how this happens earlier—let’s look deeper at what these open doors are

Similar to a thief coming in a house, if the door is open it is really easy

Sin is an open door that allows the enemy to attack us

When we submit to him (when we sin) we give him authority over that part of our lives

Four main open doors according to Pablo Bottari

The main four doors are taught by Pablo, the sub-categories were not copied from any specific source



Fear

Anxiety

Worry

Control

Isolation

Depression

Addiction

Religion (superstition)

Unbelief

Compulsive behavior (clean, order, etc.)

Coveting

Manipulation



Hatred

Rage/uncontrolled anger

Self-harm

Unforgiveness/bitterness

Gossip/slander

Self-hatred/low self-esteem

Racism

Judgmental or critical disposition

Easily offended/upset

Rape/murder



Sexual sin

Pornography

Fornication

Fantasies

Perversion

Adultery

Flirtatious behavior

Voyeurism

Sexual dress and action to cause attention

Homosexuality/lesbianism

Cross-dressing



Occult/witchcraft

Horoscopes

Mediums

Fortune-telling

Witchcraft

Divination (witching rods, omens, tarot cards)

Idol and ancestor worship

False religions and cults

Yoga

Necromancy and voodoo

Seances and rituals

Angel worship



Review

Cast out demons in the name of Jesus because we have relationship with Him

If they resist leaving follow the steps to close any “open doors”

Repent (forgive)

Renounce

Remove

Replace

Don't be afraid of demonic powers

Don't be flippant about them either

Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.” But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.—Jude 1:8–10

ADDITIONAL NOTES

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HOMEWORK





HOMEWORK

Unit 1: Understanding Demons

Find someone to minister deliverance to. Take at least one other person (two if possible) and use the tools you just learned to set them free.

Reflect on the experience afterwards. How was God speaking to you?

What did you learn?

Did things go the way you expected? How so, or how was it different?

Ask Holy Spirit to make you more sensitive to demonic oppression and use you to set people free.

MODULE 03

UNIT 2

Strongholds





Unit 2: Strongholds

Every person, family, church, nation, and group has strongholds. Strongholds are different than demons though there is a relationship. You tear down strongholds and cast out demons. Recognizing and removing ungodly strongholds is a key element of discipleship and ministry.

Part 1: Defining Strongholds

What is a stronghold?

In ancient cities, walls were the first major defense—if the walls were breached they would retreat to the stronghold

It was well-fortified and able to withstand sustained attack

Paul uses this metaphor with the Corinthian church talking about their thinking



For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.—1 Corinthians 10:3–6

He compares destroying strongholds with destroying:

Arguments

Lofty opinions against (or contrary to) the knowledge of God

He says this takes thoughts captive so they agree with Christ

This requires spiritual weapons—it is not a natural process

Meaning that just changing thoughts is not the issue

In the context of 1 Corinthians, Paul is talking about what he will do to the Corinthian believers, not what they will do to themselves

It is still appropriate to apply this to ourselves



A stronghold is a well-fortified and defended position

Strongholds are built to affect souls—mind, will, and emotion

They can include a position of thinking, feeling, or wanting

They are most easily seen in our arguments and opinions

What do we argue about?

What do we have an opinion about?

John Paul Jackson puts it this way in his book *Unmasking the Jezebel Spirit*:

“A stronghold is an area of the mind where darkness reigns. It is a system of logic, rooted in a lie, that an individual has come to accept. This system of thought is formed behind any habitual response, addiction, fixation, compulsion, obsession, and/or inordinate fear.

“As such, a stronghold is any thought pattern alien to the Word of God. It serves as a mental or emotional ‘command post’ to which the enemy has access. This mental or emotional word or thought system is designed to create misinformation and thereby affect an individual’s decision-making ability. Consequently, a stronghold keeps a person from embracing true Christlikeness.”



Strongholds become filters, or “colored lenses”, which affect the way we experience certain things

If someone has a stronghold of racism, they will find it hard not to see people from that race differently than the stronghold presents them

If someone has a stronghold about politics, they will see everything related to their platform

If someone has a stronghold of insecurity, they will see themselves as less, others as judgmental, opportunities as dangerous, etc.

Wealth or poverty can become a stronghold

A rich man’s wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination.—Proverbs 18:10

This tells us that strongholds affect imagination



There are general and specific strongholds

Some are related to whole areas, like the ones above

Some are directly related to how we interact with another person

When spouses have a mutual stronghold, arguments seem to go the same way every time

It can feel like the script is already written

They can cause an automatic response to stimulus

A topic is brought up and the same phrase is repeated

e.g. “That is just a religious spirit” when someone mentions righteousness

It often gets revealed in “all” or “never” phrases

“All pastors are controlling”, “all Christians are hypocrites”

“I never get ahead”, “God never answers my prayers”



How are strongholds built?

The process is similar to demonic oppression

They come in through agreement with the stronghold

Strongholds start outside of the person, but as they agree with it they internalize it and eventually identify with it

It can come through our response to trauma—judgements or inner vows

It can come through outside influence

The only way it establishes hold is through agreement and alignment

When we align with the enemy it gives him a place or position in our lives

*Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
and give no opportunity to the devil.—Ephesians 4:26–27*



NIV translates opportunity as foothold—it is literally a place of habitation

Strongholds are often unknown or assumed

They seem self-evident and the person assumes everyone else thinks, feels, and/or wants the same thing

When I was doing drugs, I thought everyone did drugs

There are individual strongholds and corporate strongholds

An individual stronghold affects one person

A corporate stronghold affects a group of people that are connected



Families have strongholds

“Blood is thicker than water”

“Success looks like...”

When we teach family commandments in Unit 4 we will look at this more

Businesses have strongholds

Unsaid value systems

Ways of responding to others—customers, competition, vendors, etc.

Workaholism can be a corporate stronghold

It can also be personal, or a demon

Churches and denominations have strongholds



Charismatics can have a stronghold that causes them to see
“Baptists” in a certain way

They can be related to finances, success, spiritual gifts

One church that held gifting over character saw many people
fall

The actions of the group all lined up

Leaders promoted them

People exalted them and overlooked warning signs

Everyone was surprised each time even though the
pattern and behavior was obvious

Revelation is more important than doctrine

People read the Bible less and value experiences more



Ends up in deception or heresy

Cultures and nations have strongholds

How we see people—ourselves and others

How we respond to opportunities

What is normal and what is not

Sweden—lagom

Lagom in the Swedish language literally means not too much, not too little, the right amount, and is a philosophy that aims to balance, in every area and juncture of everyday life. Lagom is the secret that explains a lifestyle based on social awareness, moderation, and sustainability. From <https://www.technogym.com/us/newsroom/5-tips-lagom-lifestyle/>



Every nation and people group have their own strongholds—
these are just some examples

Other social groups

Political parties

Societies like Freemasons

Fraternities and colleges

What impacts how much influence a corporate stronghold has on someone?

Level of identity with that group

Level of agreement with the stronghold

Level of awareness of the stronghold



A corporate stronghold can be broken off an individual but still affect others in the group

Once it has been broken off that person they can resist its influence

This can cause those still under the influence to react

Strongholds protect themselves

This is why renewing the mind is so important

Paul says it is key to resisting the influence of world systems

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.—Romans 12:2 NLT



The difference between a stronghold and demonization

Not all strongholds have demons and not all demons have strongholds

The stronghold is a house that is comfortable for demons but they don't always inhabit them immediately

When a demon is in a stronghold, demolishing the stronghold will make it much easier to cast it out

Sometimes demons come in and build strongholds

Sometimes strongholds attract demons

Review

An unrighteous stronghold is a pattern of thinking, wanting, or feeling that is contrary to how God thinks, desires, or feels

They can be individual or corporate

Every person and group has them



How do you recognize them?

Responses that seem automatic

Behavior that seems compulsive

Common arguments or patterns of behavior

Someone not affected by the stronghold pointing it out

Either by communication or exemplifying different behavior

Why does this seem normal to me and not to other people?

When a demon manifests and reveals its home

When they are confronted by truth from God

Anointed teaching

Prophetic word

Scripture being made alive by Holy Spirit



Part 2: Demolishing Strongholds

Once strongholds have been recognized they need to be demolished

How do we demolish strongholds?

The steps to freedom are similar for demolishing strongholds, casting out demons, and inner healing

Something must go to the Cross to die and an exchange is made for resurrection life

Repent—repent for any agreement or alignment with the ungodly belief

This will include confessing any sins committed related to the stronghold

Repent of any argument identified with the stronghold



Renounce—a public announcement of distance from the thought, emotional pattern, or desire

Renounce any opinions that oppose the knowledge of God

This could be knowledge about who God is or His ways

This could be the knowledge that God has about us

Remove—asking God to unravel, dismantle, and demolish all thought patterns and habits of spirit, soul, and body that have been defiled by the stronghold

For demonization we cast out the demon; for strongholds we demolish the patterns and habits

We tear down strongholds and cast out demons

If we have recognized a demonic assignment or habitation in the stronghold we cast it out at this point



Replace—ask God for revelation of the truth that He wants to give you to replace it

This will often include developing new habits of thought or behavior

Memorizing Scripture

Other spiritual disciplines

This is the second step to taking every thought captive

Strongholds can take a long time to develop and sometimes take time to demolish

Contend with the revelation that God gave

Taking every thought captive

Start recognizing any time the stronghold begins to speak and deny it access to your mind, will, or emotions



We seize forcefully our thought life and order it according to revelation

Someone once said, “You can’t stop a bird from flying over your head but you can stop it from making a nest in your hair.”

This is where the sword of the Spirit and other weapons come into play

Using the divine weapons of war to demolish strongholds

Paul said he had weapons with divine power

In other places Paul describes these weapons

The sword of the Spirit

God’s word is a weapon

The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.—Ephesians 6:17b



This sword not only cuts through deception but also discerns what is the soul, the spirit, and the thoughts and intents of the heart (Hebrews 4:12)

It has power to push back the enemy's advances and remove any place he tries to establish

Jesus used Scripture to cancel out the temptations of the devil in the wilderness saying "*it is written*"

Prophetic words are also used as a sword to fight spiritual battles

Timothy was told to wage war with the prophetic words spoken over him

This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.—1 Timothy 1:18

Prayer is an important spiritual weapon to demolish strongholds

The root of prayer is asking—ask God to remove the stronghold

Pay attention to what He says and agree with Him



Keep praying until there is fruit

Pray this prayer every day for the next 90 days and see what happens:

Father, I ask that You reveal any stronghold that I have. Would You bring it into the light so that I may repent for agreeing with a lie. Reveal and remove any stronghold that is in my family, business, church, nation, or any other group that I am part of. I want to think what You think, feel what You feel, and want what You want. I surrender every part of my soul to Your Spirit. Have Your way in me. And Father, please remove any defilement of spirit, soul, or body that I have from strongholds I have agreed with. I renounce and refuse every argument and/or opinion that would try to exalt itself above the knowledge of You. I dedicate every part of my soul to You for Your purposes. Sanctify me, oh Lord, for the sake of Your Son. It is in His name that I pray. Amen!



Part 3: Strengthening Righteous Strongholds

If there are unrighteous strongholds it would make sense that there are righteous ones as well, and the Bible reveals this

What are righteous strongholds?

A set way of thinking, feeling, or desiring that agrees with God and His ways

At a time when disappointment and fear was trying to grab hold of the people of God and cause them to expect more bad things to happen, God reveals an answer

Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.—Zechariah 9:12

God wanted them to have hope as a stronghold

Hope would be the filter that they saw themselves and their circumstances through



Any of the fruit of the Spirit can become a stronghold

God's name can be a stronghold

It becomes an automated response to a stimulus

How do we develop and strengthen righteous strongholds?

The same way we come under unrighteous ones

Agreement

Alignment

As we meditate on God's ways, precepts, names, and truths they establish a "foothold" or place for the Holy Spirit to dwell

It sets us up for success and growth

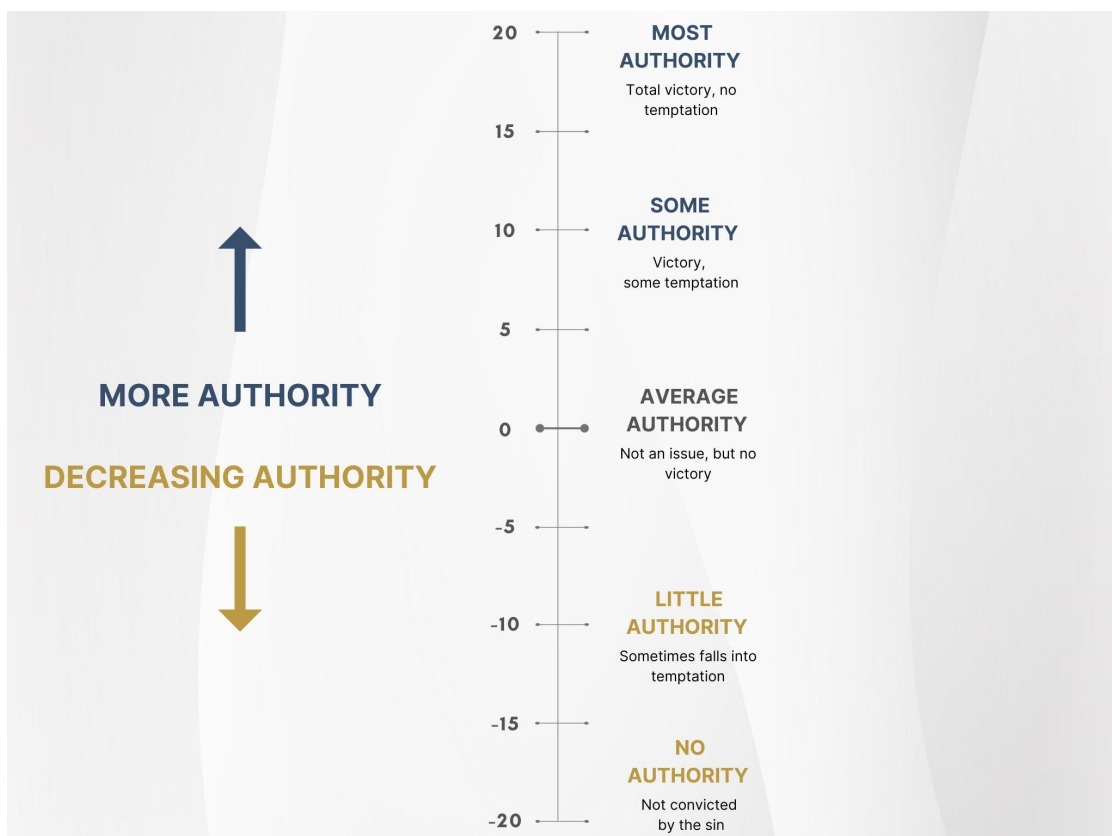


David wrote the longest Psalm (119) with this as its main theme

Paul encouraged Timothy to do this

Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.—1 Timothy 4:15

Alignment with truth affects authority and strongholds attribute to this





When we have a righteous stronghold we have more authority in that arena

When we have an unrighteous stronghold we have less authority in that area

Steps to establish strongholds

Think on them, meditate on them

Speak about them to yourself and others

Strategically make decisions based on them until it becomes habit

Pray and ask God to establish them and fill them with His Spirit

Sow a thought, reap an action. Sow an action, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny.—Author unknown

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HOMEWORK





HOMEWORK

Unit 2: Strongholds

Homework

Pray the suggested prayer daily for 90 days.

For extra credit read *Demolishing Strongholds* by David Devenish. It is an excellent book with great examples and stories of individual and corporate strongholds and even more training on how to deal with them!

MODULE 03

UNIT 3

Inner Healing





Unit 3: Inner Healing

Part 1: What is Inner Healing?

Defining inner healing

“Prayer and counsel for sanctification and transformation...a ministry within the Body of Christ to enable believers to come to more effective and continual death on the cross, and resurrection into the fullness of Christ...an application of the crucified and resurrected life of Jesus Christ and His blood/evangelism to the unbelieving hearts of believers.”—John Sandford [emphasis added]

“Inner healing is the process of dying quicker.”—John Thomas

“There is no ‘healing of the soul’ unless by that we mean death and rebirth into newness of life.”—John Sandford



Inner healing searches out and discovers the beauty of repentance and forgiveness

Repentance is one of the kindest words when understood in the context of the gospel

It produces *life*

When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”—Acts 11:18

It is a key that unlocks total freedom and brings about restoration

After David is confronted by Nathan about Bathsheba, David repents, and restoration is brought forth



Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your word, and blameless in Your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.— Psalm 51:1–17

It is a *gift* from the Father as part of our sanctification process

As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.—2 Corinthians 7:9–10



It conforms us into the image of Christ for His glory!

For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.—Romans 8:29–30

Inner healing is allowing the truth of the gospel to move from our heads (cognitive knowledge) to those unbelieving parts of our hearts (experiential knowledge)

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.—Hebrews 3:12

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.—Romans 10:9–10



Inner healing is soul care and part of the sanctification process

Sanctification is the work of God's grace, accomplished by the Word and the Holy Spirit, resulting in holiness and purification of sin.¹ It is *instantaneous* before God through Christ Jesus and *progressive* through obedience to the Holy Spirit and the Word. [emphases added]

Some inner healing is instantaneous upon salvation, some is progressive through obedience

Remembering that our soul is made up of our mind, will, and emotions, inner healing is actively encountering Jesus in those areas which allows submission to the Spirit, bringing about our sanctification process

Mind: may yield to unbelief, confusion, lies, etc.

Taking our thoughts captive by demolishing anything yielded that doesn't align with the Word or the nature or character of Christ

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.—2 Corinthians 10:5

¹ Concept from The Hayford Bible Handbook, page 776, defining sanctification.



Will: may yield to disobedience

The Greek word for will is *thelēma* and its definition is: 1) what one wishes or has determined shall be done 2) will, choice, inclination, desire, pleasure

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.—

James 1:14–15

Emotions: may yield to extreme responses, bitterness, anger, lust, etc.

The head believes for salvation. Applying the gospel to the heart leads to sanctification.

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.—Mark 12:30

Healing and deliverance happen when we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us to love Jesus with our whole heart ²

² See homework assignment to read *Streams of Healing* and the section from Reverend Andrew Miller on Theology for Inner Healing for an in-depth look at a divided heart.



Inner healing is a divine exchange. It's the active yielding of our souls to Him in exchange for His divine healing, which restores our beauty, in turn revealing His glory

The divine exchange requires a reckoning

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—1 John 1:9

The divine exchange requires death and resurrection

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God.



So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.—Romans 6:1–14

The divine exchange requires appropriation

Merriam Webster defines appropriate as “taking exclusive possession of”

“The extent of what you are able to appropriate through the cross will be the extent of your spiritual experience and riches. I want to say this most emphatically. God has no other basis upon which He will supply our needs and do what needs to be done for us other than the cross.”—Derek Prince ³

³ Link for free copy of The Divine Exchange in homework and here: <https://www.derekprince.com/en-us/free-1>



Ten points from *The Divine Exchange* by Derek Prince to ponder as it relates to inner healing and what we're appropriating:

Jesus was punished that we might be *forgiven*

Jesus was wounded that we might be *healed*

Jesus was made sin with our sinfulness that we might be made righteous with His *righteousness*

Jesus died our death that we might share His *life*

Jesus was made a curse that we might receive the *blessing*

Jesus endured our poverty that we might share His *abundance*

Jesus bore our shame that we might share His *glory*

Jesus endured our rejection that we might have His *acceptance with the Father*

Jesus was cut off by death that we might be *joined to God eternally*

And finally, our old man was put to death in Him that the *new man might come to life in us*



The divine exchange requires an act of giving one thing and receiving another

Isaiah prophetically portrays Christ's divine exchange:

*To grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress **instead** of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.—Isaiah 61:3 [emphasis added]*

The divine exchange is a lifestyle of yieldedness

But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.—Isaiah 40:31

What is my response telling me about me?

In what areas am I not yielded to or entangled with Jesus?



Follow this link for the song, Divine Exchange by
Charity Gayle: <https://youtu.be/NSv7qWnySbA>

Inner healing allows us to have inner transformation which produces external fruit

It is the expression of the fruit of God's Spirit manifested in the life of the believer who has been given truth, healing, and freedom

Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.—Psalm 51:6

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.—Romans 12:2

To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.—Ephesians 4:22–24

Read how The Message Bible communicates this passage

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.—Colossians 3:2–3



But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.—Galatians 5:18–24

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.—Ephesians 2:10

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.—Ephesians 1:9–11



Part 2: Biblical Basis for Inner Healing

Isaiah's prophecy

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.—Isaiah 61:1–4

Jesus fulfills this prophecy

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” And He rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”—Luke 4:17–21



Here, at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry He tells us His purpose: healing, liberty, recovery, freedom, and to proclaim the Lord

All throughout John, Jesus tells us that His ministry continues through the Holy Spirit or Counselor who came when Jesus left the earth

Galatians 4 tells us that God sent His Spirit into our hearts

The Holy Spirit convicts, brings darkness to light, guides us into all truth, and the truth sets us free

The Bible calls for the continual process of daily dying to areas of our sinful hearts. God will continue to reveal them

Paul says he faces death daily

I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!—1 Corinthians 15:31



The Bible commands us to bring to death conforming to the patterns of the world but instead to renew our minds

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.—Romans 12:2

What Inner Healing is Not

Therapy

Fixing someone

Comfort or making someone feel better

Imagination

Who Needs Inner Healing

Everyone!

Fruit to root

The Word reminds us that out of the overflow of our heart our mouth speaks



The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.—Luke 6:45

What we think, say, and do originates in our hearts

You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.—Matthew 7:16–20

The Pharisees demanded the external evidence of righteousness and often contended with Jesus to make an outward demonstration in keeping with the “tradition of men” (Mark 7:8), but Jesus knew the core of human temptation and the source of all unrighteousness:

And He said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”—Mark 7:20–23



Extreme heightened emotion

Implicit memories

Begin as far back as the womb

Neuroscientist Dr. Daniel Siegel says: “What’s crucial to understand about implicit memory is that implicit memories cause us to form *expectations* about the way the world works based on our previous experiences.”⁴
[emphasis added]

Implicit memory creates something called priming in which the brain readies itself to respond in a certain way

The brain is an anticipation machine that shapes ongoing perception by what it automatically expects based on prior experiences

⁴ <https://neurosciencenews.com/fetus-memory-learning-2211/>



“In neglecting our intense emotions, we are false to ourselves and lose a wonderful opportunity to know God. We forget that change comes through brutal honesty and vulnerability before God.”—Pete Scazzero

Repeated cycles or feeling “stuck” reveals areas of our heart not converted by truth (we know the Word, but it hasn’t changed our hearts/actions/behaviors)

Emotionally unhealthy believers



Part 2: The Unredeemed Areas

Key to remember when working toward healing hearts: The blood of Jesus is central to healing the human heart

Since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.—Hebrews 10:21–22

“May every Christian never forget the greatest tool of power God has placed in his hands—the blood of Jesus. The Word of God is given for a mighty tool, for it is ‘the power of God for salvation:’ (Rom 1:16). But the blood of Jesus is the foremost power for the cleansing of the heart: ‘And to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel’ [which cried to the Father from the ground] (Hebrews 12:24).”—John Sandford

Lies We Believe

Our battle is not with flesh and blood but with powers and principalities of darkness



For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.—Ephesians 6:12

This battle makes our soul susceptible to lies from the enemy

And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.—Revelation 12:9

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.—John 8:44

Experiences happen. We make interpretations of those experiences. We put meaning to the experiences and then we make an agreement with the meaning we put to it. We make a choice about what to believe.

Restoring the Foundations inner healing ministry founders, Chester and Betsy Kylstra, call these lies ungodly beliefs and define them this way:



All beliefs, decisions, attitudes, agreements, judgments, expectations, vows, and oaths that do not agree with God (His Word, His nature, His character)

Dictionary.com defines the words in that definition this way:

Belief: something believed; an opinion or conviction: *a belief that the earth is flat*

A belief does not have to be true in order to be believed. It just has to feel true—a conviction comes after a trial. It's done, it's sealed

Agreements: *a contract* or other document delineating such an arrangement

Judgments: the forming of an opinion, estimate, notion, or conclusion, as from circumstances presented to the mind: *Our judgment as to the cause of his failure must rest on the evidence*

Even dictionary.com understands spiritual things!

A judgment includes the forming of an opinion of what you believe is true. The judgment can be about God, others, or yourself



Expectations: the degree of probability that something will occur: *There is little expectation that he will come*

An expectation is a strong belief that something is going to happen based on past negative experiences, or implicit memories, that are then assumed for the future

The “perfect” ungodly belief or lie is one that appears to be absolutely true based on the facts of our experience and yet it is absolutely false based on God’s word

Here is how that plays out in real life:



Experience: I was sexually abused

Shame/Thought/Emotion: I feel ashamed. I must have wanted it

Agreement/Judgment: I am a bad person. I deserve to be treated this way



Belief: I don't deserve pure love

Expectation: People don't love me the right way so I better protect myself

Because lies are rooted in our stories, they feel real!

While these seem true, you've come into agreement with the father of lies. You've made an agreement with evil and pledged yourself to take on a task you can't accomplish, or you've decided how someone else will respond to life's situations

False beliefs create strongholds in our mind

False beliefs cause us to want to justify our actions

There are two types of lies we deal with:

Identity lies are false beliefs we have about ourselves

Identity lies involve some sort of performance to make yourself acceptable to God and others.

We can have identity lies and identity truths—both are beliefs

Bitter root judgements are false beliefs we have about others



We can make judgements about good and evil—this is a holy judgement

We rightly judge or appraise people and situations daily in life situations

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.—Hebrews 12:15

When we judge with an impure heart, we bring about recompense

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.—Matthew 7:1–2

This is the principle of sowing and reaping

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.—Galatians 6:7



John Sandford in his book, *Transforming the Inner Man*, states it like this:

“Every time we do a deed or hold a judgment in the heart, that can be compared to throwing a ball against a wall. If a physicist knows the weight and size of the ball, the distance to the wall, and my hurling power, he can predict when and with what momentum the ball will return. That is natural law. We comprehend that easily enough. But God has not made one law for the natural and another for the spiritual. All things are governed by the same basic laws. The law expressed in physics is, ‘for every action there must be an equal and opposite reaction.’ In chemistry it is expressed, ‘every equation (or formula) must balance.’ In moral and spiritual life it is, ‘whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap’ and ‘judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again’. All things will come to resolution and balance (justice).”

What is judging from an impure heart?

It’s not good to judge from a place of self-righteousness



Rooting Out the Lies

Questions to ask Holy Spirit or self when you may be believing lies:

Ask the Lord for a right view of the other person

Some lies can block forgiveness—if you are struggling to forgive, ask the Lord what will happen if you do so

What is my response here revealing about me?

Where have I stepped out of love in judgment?

Why am I protecting myself?

The only way to root these lies out is to acknowledge them, replace them with truth, and then renew our minds with the truth

Repent (and forgive)

Renounce (the lies, the agreement with the enemy, the assignment)



Remove (demonic spirits attached to lies)

Replace (ask Holy Spirit for the truth)

Sample prayer: (not a formula!)

I repent for believing the lie that_____. I forgive those that contributed to my believing this (ask Holy Spirit who). I ask You, Lord, to forgive me.

In the name of Jesus, I renounce and break all agreement with this lie and with the powers and principalities of darkness. I break all agreement with the assignment from the enemy on my life. Based on the finished work of Christ on the Cross, and my authority as a believer, I command any demons associated with this lie to leave me now in the name of Jesus.

Holy Spirit, instead of this lie, what do you say?

Inner Vows

An inner vow can be defined as: a declaration made to protect your heart from any future harm

Most inner vows we make as children. Many are made rashly in the moment



It is a snare to say rashly, "It is holy," and to reflect only after making vows.—
Proverbs 20:25

Because we are children we can be led astray in our innocence and ignorance
of God's ways

*Therefore my people go into exile for lack of knowledge.—*Isaiah 5:13

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.—*Hosea 4:6

Inner vows are usually made as a way of trying to break generational patterns or
correct our behavior in our own strength

Bitter root judgments bind us to the vow and puts all the burden of
transformation on self instead of upon the Lord

Vows usually begin with "I'll always", "I'll never", "I can't", "I won't", etc.
because they're definitive

"I'll never be like my mother"



Inner vows will feel true: “this is just the way it needs to be” or “well, I *don’t* want to be like my mother so it’s okay to have this vow”

Inner vows are usually hidden

Inner vows resist change

Inner vows make it easier to be mad than to be vulnerable

Inner vows are based in fear and hurt

Not all strongholds are inner vows & judgments, but all inner vows and judgments that bear fruit are strongholds

Inner vows, like outer vows, are very binding as the scriptures reveal:

If you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin. You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the Lord your God what you have promised with your mouth.—Deuteronomy 23:21–23

I must perform my vows to You, O God; I will render thank offerings to You.—Psalm 56:12



When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.—Ecclesiastes 5:4–5

How to get rid of inner vows

The Lord allows forgiveness of vows when we bring them to Him

The only difficult part to breaking inner vows is realizing where we have made them

We must ask the Holy Spirit for discernment and recollection

Repent (and forgive)

Renounce (the vows, the agreement with the enemy, the assignment)

Remove (demonic spirits attached to the vows)

Replace (ask Holy Spirit for the truth)



Sample prayer:

I repent for making the vow that_____. I forgive those that contributed to my forming this vow. (Ask Holy Spirit who.) I ask You, Lord, to forgive me. Based on Your forgiveness, Lord, I choose to forgive myself for the ways I've believed and operated out of this vow. I do choose to be totally set free.

In the name of Jesus, I renounce and break all agreement with this vow and with the powers and principalities of darkness. I break all agreement with the assignment from the enemy on my life. Based on the finished work of Christ on the cross, and my authority as a believer, I command any demons associated with this vow to leave me now in the name of Jesus.

Holy Spirit, instead of this vow, what do you say?

Wounds and Trauma

God wants to engage us in our actual stories in a way that brings healing to our deepest wounds

We tend to minimize wounds



We believe lies like “once you’ve forgiven others, you’ll be completely healed”

Or “why do we need healing, Jesus did that already?”

A healed heart is the divine exchange Jesus promises

When you offer Jesus your broken heart, your lies, your vows, your unforgiveness—He gives you healing in exchange

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.—Isaiah 61:1

Hope and intimacy with Him comes from a confident knowledge of who He is, and then a holy expectation that God will continue to do this divine exchange which ultimately changes me into His image

In the morning, Lord, You hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait expectantly.—Psalm 5:3 NIV



To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.—Colossians 1:27

It's all about loving and serving Him

He made you beautifully and with gifts and talents to offer the world, and the enemy has made it his #1 goal to rob you of those

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.—Psalm 73:26

At the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet You brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.—Jonah 2:6

Every one of us have experienced some form of trauma

Wounds inflicted or an emotional shock that causes long-term damage to your spirit, soul, and/or body

Two types of traumas:

Type A: something *not* done for you—neglect or the absence of basic necessities in our lives



Type B: Something done *to* you—trauma that usually involves abuse or devastation

These situations are a result of the fall of man

You were created for Eden but corrupted by the actions of people

Most wounds are caused by people very close to us

Mother/Father Wounds

Dawna DeSilva, with Bethel Sozo Ministries, states that so much of our view of the Godhead comes from our parents. She uses a tool called the Father Ladder to introduce people to the needs we all have as children. It also shows how each member of the Godhead meets these needs. ⁵

Father God	Identity (value) Protection Provision	Father Male teachers/pastors Male scout leaders/coaches Grandfathers Uncles
Jesus	Companionship Communication	Siblings/Friends
Holy Spirit	Comfort Teaching Nurture	Mother Female teachers/pastors Female coaches/activity leaders Grandmothers Aunts

⁵ <https://dawnadesilva.com/an-overview-of-sozo-tools/>



When any of these needs aren't met, it can result in wounds and we start to believe lies from the enemy. These are only removed once the person forgives their offending parent(s) and renounces the lie that God will treat them the same way.

Wounds open the door for the enemy to cause great emotional and mental pain by feeding us lies to blame God

There is this moment in the questioning where I want to *be* God. Because if I were God, I would never let this happen. The wrestle in our hearts in that moment is, "Can I trust God? Is He really good?"

A common saying is that whatever doesn't kill us makes us stronger

Paul says though that Christ's power "is made perfect in weakness"

But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.—2 Corinthians 12:9



We become less, and Christ becomes more

He must increase, but I must decrease.—John 3:30

Suffering allows for sanctification

The outpouring of God's goodness is sometimes mysterious, especially in the form of suffering

For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor?—Romans 11:34

I write these notes today, many years down the road from the worst moment of my life, able to look you in the eyes—those of you that have never conceived, or have buried a baby, been raped, or abused, or made choices similar to mine that led to destruction, and say that *good often comes to us in a form we can't recognize* because God did not have our pleasure in mind. My earthly good and eternal good truly are often two different things.

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.—Romans 5:3–5



In Isaiah 61:1-3 we know our hope comes in the form of an eternal Jesus who drags us out of the pit of darkness and despair

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.—Isaiah 61:1–3 NIV

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed.—Isaiah 53:4–5

These verses are clear, we have *hope* because we know God wants to heal our wounds

The key is trusting Him to do so



Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise.—Jeremiah 17:14

When we have been wounded through experience, it takes an experience with the Truth to heal us!

You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.—John 8:32

Many times we will find ourselves trying to find comfort or receive healing through our sheer will—it takes an encounter with Jesus!

Healing of the Wounds

Our current emotional pain has a root found in the past

We ask Holy Spirit to reveal the root

We don't make assumptions that we know the root, we yield

Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.—Psalm 51:6

We can't talk ourselves out of the wound—we must encounter Truth (Jesus) there



And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.—2 Timothy 2:24–26

Steps to Freedom

Ask God to reveal the memory or hurt that contains the starting point of the pain you are dealing with

Listen as the Lord reveals this

How old are you, who is there with you, what is the memory, what are you feeling?

Lament

Tell the Lord how you feel—express hurt and pain to Him

It's only in our lament to God, being real and vulnerable without trying to put theology on it, that real freedom comes



Everything you just expressed you were feeling, lay at the foot of the Cross where it has been paid for you to exchange it for all that Jesus' death gave you

Jesus, I give you the _____. Repeat with each feeling

Invite Jesus to heal your heart. Listen and watch for what He says or does. Allow Him to minister to you through words, presence, feeling, picture, etc.



Part 3: Breaking Curses

Curses

Defining a curse: A curse comes in a way that names you and harms and destroys

You *are* something and the something is contrary to the beauty that God put inside of you

A curse is something created by evil and *very* specific to our stories

Its purpose is to derail or defile your gifting

Generational Curses

We will discuss these at length in Unit 4



Word Curses

Restoring the Foundations defines word curses as negative words spoken with authority and received by the person being spoken to, causing the person to think and feel negatively about themselves, thereby *empowering them to fail*

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.— Proverbs 18:21

Word curses usually come by people who are important to us

Most times curses are a way to join that person with something the other person thinks is true

We as Christians curse ourselves and others

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.—James 3:9–10

Word curses can form in our hearts and have an effect.

We must take our thoughts captive!



Even in your thoughts, do not curse the king, nor in your bedroom curse the rich, for a bird of the air will carry your voice, or some winged creature tell the matter.—Ecclesiastes 10:20

Word curses can be unintentional and come when we put our trust in others rather than God

Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.—Psalm 146:3

A curse without cause cannot stick unless there is agreement

Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying, a curse that is causeless does not alight.—Proverbs 26:2

We define agreement the following way: an agreement comes when *you own the curse* as yours, this becomes true in your heart

However, a curse without cause still needs to be dealt with

Go after each specific word curse spoken by you and others



Sample prayer

I repent for receiving the word curse that_____. I forgive _____ (myself or name the person) for cursing me. I release her/him and bless her/him to be all that you've called her/him to be.

Repeat the first step for each curse and then move on to the rest of the prayer.

I ask you to forgive me, Lord. I cancel all word curses spoken over or received by me. I renounce and break all agreement with these curses and with the powers and principalities of darkness. I break all agreement with the assignment from the enemy on my life in the name of Jesus. I command any demons associated with these curses to leave me now in the name of Jesus.

Holy Spirit, instead what do you want me to know today?

Curses from dishonor

Honoring your father and mother is fundamental to inner healing ministry

Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you.—Deuteronomy 5:16



This commandment holds a promise:

Honor = it goes well

Dishonor = it does not go well

In every area we have judged and dishonored our parents, that area will not go well for us

The spiritual laws of judgment apply here:

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.—Galatians 6:7

Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.—Matthew 7:1–2

Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.—Matthew 7:17–20



Parents are the trunk and roots of our life

Whatever fruit we're producing now, we can trace back to the roots



We must remember in doing so, however, that we are responsible for our own lives

Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load.—Galatians 6:4–5



We don't blame parents for our actions, we become curious investigators

What fruit am I seeing that doesn't align with the nature and character of Christ?

Where have I judged my parents in this area?

Repentance and forgiveness is key here!

Curses from Sin & Disobedience

David, in the book of Psalms, asked God to search him and to see if there is any offensive way in him

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.—
Psalm 139:23–24

We are also instructed in the New Testament to examine and test ourselves to see whether we remain in the faith

*Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!—*2 Corinthians 13:5



When there is fruit in our lives that points to a curse operating, we ask Holy Spirit to reveal sins in ourselves and then confess and repent to break the power of the resulting curse

Open Doors

Four Doors from Bethel Sozo used to help identify sin in a person's life

Demonic oppression (see Unit 1: Understanding Demons)

Sexual sin

Soul ties

There are Godly soul ties

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.—Genesis 2:24

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.—1 Samuel 18:1



Ungodly soul ties come through sexual sin:

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ Himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But whoever is united with the Lord is one with Him in spirit.—1 Corinthians 6:15–17

Ungodly soul ties can also come through unhealthy relationships

Fear

Most frequently encountered in the ministry room

Usually fear of shame or hurt causes us to make inner vows

Shame > Fear > Control



Shame

Most of us live with a shame identity and 100% of us have had events that caused shame

Rather than walking in the reality of who we are in Christ, our life experiences, other people's words, our failures, and our thoughts lead us to shame

Shame damages our personality and touches us deeply

It is about our worth, not just our performance

We think, "something is very wrong with me!"

Many times, we are held in place or feel stuck because of shame

In my personal story, I had lots of things that brought me deep shame

You may interchange the words guilt and shame quite a bit, but they are actually two different things

Guilt and holy shame can help you understand how your actions impact others, but oppressive shame is an inward-facing emotion that reflects how you feel about yourself



Guilt says, “I did this thing”

Shame says, “I am this thing”

Shame is the lie that becomes deeply rooted, usually as a result of an experience

We will do anything to avoid feeling that shame

Some root causes for shame:

Rejection

Abandonment or neglect

Any form of abuse

Some fruits of shame—things to look for when dealing with this cycle

Unworthiness

Victim pattern



Over-apologizer

Avoiding conflict

Performance

Perfectionism

Bitterness

Anger

Jealousy

Control

Pride

We see these, then we can begin to identify our enemy: shame

When we have shame, we begin to operate in fear and control



Wherever you are right now, have compassion on yourself!

Fear

You are afraid and *never* want to feel that way again

You decide how to survive and how not to feel shame ever again

Fear can cause you to become passive and withdraw to hide, or become aggressive to hide by deflection

Fear of feeling shame *can* look like:

Anxiety

Bewilderment

Burden

Dread

Heaviness

Over-sensitivity



Timidity

Worry

Fear of: abuse, being alone, being a victim, being wrong, conflict, exposure, failure, inadequacy, looking stupid, losing control, performing, rejection, unknown, etc.

Control

Because of these feelings you resort to a way to make yourself *not* feel those again

You begin to control to stay safe in an unsafe world

This is a new orientation I now have to life

Because I've now learned that this thing is true and I need to protect myself from it

Let me show you how this could play out in a real-life scenario:

Let's say that God created you to be a deep feeler so that you could connect intimately with people to minister to their hearts. But when you're a kid your



parent gets on to you and you cry. Your parent tells you that you are too sensitive, and that the world will hurt you—you better toughen up. Don't be a baby. Big girls don't cry. Boys don't cry. Whatever. Several things happen in that moment.

The event occurs and the *word curse or wound* has landed. It has one intent and one intent only, to distract you from who God made you to be and to bring about shame.

You're seven, you're not equipped, so you *agree* with this lie. "You're right, I'm too sensitive." "I need to toughen up." "Boys don't cry." Etc.

You don't want to ever feel the *shame* of that feeling again. You are now operating in *fear*, so you make a *vow*, "I'll never let someone see my emotions again." "I'll never let someone in close enough to hurt me." "I'll show the world how tough I am."

This becomes your new truth. It forms all sorts of *ungodly beliefs* about yourself, others, and even God. You don't realize you've come into agreement with the enemy.

You base your decisions around that, and you become more and more hardened. You must now *control* your environment.

Operating out of this causes you to miss the prompting of the Lord when He wants you to connect and feel with someone.

This shame, fear, and control cycle just got in the way and robbed you and others of the glory God intended when He made you. The Eden you!



The fruit of control can look like:

Anger

Appeasement

Denial

Domineering

Enabling

Intimidation

Jealousy

Manipulation

Passivity

Pride

Selfishness

Threats

Withdrawal

Can you see this cycle? Shame > Fear > Control?



These lists are a tool to use when walking through healing hearts—your own and others; however, we don't want to put anything in a box and say it's *a/ways* this. Rely on Holy Spirit first and foremost!!! Lord, what are you showing me about myself or this person that you want to work on?

What is the solution? It is again, a *new experience*. It is an encounter with the living God that engages your story and acknowledges the cycle. It includes repentance, forgiveness, renouncing and breaking the agreement, and meditating on the truth of who God made you to be.

Hatred

Can Christians hate? We have the choice

Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.—1 John 3:15

Can interchange the word hate with bitterness or unforgiveness



Part 4: What is Real Forgiveness?

Unforgiveness is one of the greatest hindrances to healing

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.—Ephesians 4:30–32

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in Heaven may forgive your sins.—Mark 11:25

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.—Colossians 3:13

A mandate from the Lord: God forgave you, therefore you forgive

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.—Matthew 6:14–15



Acknowledging the truth of the situation

Be honest

This takes courage—a willingness to ask yourself, “What is the way that I’m responding telling me about me?”

May need a community—you may need a prayer partner, counselor, or inner healing to really dig in deep

Acknowledge those that meant you harm—tell your story to the Lord

Go deep and ask the Lord to reveal to you how that initial sin against you prompted more sin in your life—fully forgive, including yourself, and God

There can be times when you think you have fully forgiven someone, and then the Lord circles back to take you deeper

Be willing to go deep



Practical Tools

Lament—experience the truth of how you're feeling, take it to the Lord

God is not afraid of your emotions

Read and resonate with what connects in the Psalms

Write your own Psalm

Release—give the person and situation to God in faith—God will be judge

If you still have an expectation of that person to do something, that may be an area where you are still needing to forgive

Either we want someone else to be held accountable and we would also be held accountable, or we want to be free, therefore we must want others to be free

Pray for that person!!! Ask the Lord to bless them!!!



What forgiveness is not

Should not be something we have to force, go to Jesus

Not a “feeling”

Not pretending or forgetting

Not sugarcoating

Not accepting or condoning

Not waiting on repentance from the offender

Not necessarily reconciling with the offender

Not necessary to tell the person you forgive them

This could be dangerous, requires wisdom or Holy Spirit revelation



What if it was a crime?

We don't supersede natural laws

What if they're dead?

Forgiveness is not about the person, it's about your heart before the Lord,
it can happen anyway

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a vision of how He sees that person

This gave me deep compassion for even the worst offenders

Results of Unforgiveness

We can't be *free*

There is a lack of freedom for us when we don't forgive



Sowing and Reaping

We can't ask for something we are not willing to give

If we want to be forgiven, we must forgive

Demonic oppression—a huge open door to the enemy—they know the law!

Unforgiveness kills relationships

Because unforgiveness is bitter and poison inside of you, it causes that to come out in other relationships

We become punisher for people we love

We have to make a decision—is this actually important?

Do I really care about this or is there something deeper?

Am I harboring unforgiveness and looking for ways to punish them?



Sickness—it's literally a poison inside of you

Can cause physical harm

Unforgiveness leads to judgement

When we are walking in unforgiveness we are allowing our soul to rule, not our spirit

Ask the Lord to increase your spirit's capacity—seek growth

Forgiving Yourself

What about me?

What if I feel shame?

When we walk around with unforgiveness, we are saying that what Jesus did on the Cross (the very gospel we embrace) is not enough

Ask Holy Spirit for a right view of you



Activation

Steps of inner healing: confess the sin, forgive others, and then ask the Lord to forgive you

Say “I choose to forgive _____ for _____.”

Be very specific

Choose to forgive all who have hurt you out of their own hurts and who have led you into sin

Release them from any debt you thought they owed you

Let go of any judgement or desire for punishment for that person

Ask the Lord to bless them

Lay all of this at the foot of the Cross and completely surrender it to Jesus

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HOMEWORK





HOMEWORK

Unit 3: Inner Healing

Read *Streams of Healing: Finding Your Way to Wholeness with Key Leaders in the Inner Healing Movement* compiled by Cathy Little & Melinda Wilson available through Streams Ministries or Amazon

MODULE 03

UNIT 4

Generational Dynamics





Unit 4: Generational Dynamics

Part 1: Generational Sin & Iniquity

Spiritual DNA is as real as physical DNA

God is outside of time and has this bigger view of our lives

Much of how we are viewed is in terms of generations or families (see Matthew 1)

Yes, individually but also very much corporately

Generational sins, iniquity, and transgressions are handed down to us through the generations

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”—Exodus 34:6–7

Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And You forgave the guilt of my sin.—Psalm 32:5



In the above verses three words (sin, transgression, and iniquity) are similar but slightly different:

Sin = sin, you shouldn't have done it, including habitual patterns—you can fall into sin (oops!)

Transgressions = rebellion, willfully choosing sin, you know you sinned, and you chose to do it anyway

Iniquity = the root is to be twisted, propensity to sin, passed down generationally

All of these include patterns of behavior that keep us in bondage

However, each person is responsible for their personal sin

Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!—Ezekiel 18:30–32



Once a sin pattern begins in a family, if not put to death, it can continue and multiply among members

There is a potential for it to carry on for generations and become a stronghold and oppression for the entire family unit

A few biblical examples of generational sin patterns:

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—*deceit*

Abraham lies about Sarah

As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.”—Genesis 12:11–13

Isaac lies about Rebekah

When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” because he was afraid to say, “She is my wife.” He thought, “The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful.”⁸ When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah. So Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, “She is really your wife! Why did you say, ‘She is my sister’?” Isaac answered him, “Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her.”—Genesis 26:7–10



Jacob lies and pretends to be Esau

So he went in to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?” Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.” But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the Lord your God granted me success.” Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.” So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands. So he blessed him. He said, “Are you really my son Esau?” He answered, “I am.”—Genesis 27:18–24

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—*favoritism*

Abraham prefers Isaac over Ishmael

And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.” And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, “Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring.” So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.—Genesis 21:8–14



Isaac prefers Esau over Jacob

*Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.—
Genesis 25:28*

Jacob prefers Joseph over his brothers

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.—Genesis 37:3–4

David, Amnon, Absalom, and Solomon—sexual sin and murder

David commits adultery with Bathsheba

And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant.”—2 Samuel 11:3–5



David murders Bathsheba's husband, Uriah

In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die."—2 Samuel 11:15

David's son, Amnon, rapes his sister, Tamar

But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister." She answered him, "No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing. As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you." But he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her.—2 Samuel 13:11–14

David's son, Absalom, murders his brother, Amnon

But Absalom pressed him until he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him. Then Absalom commanded his servants, "Mark when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon,' then kill him. Do not fear; have I not commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant." So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded.—2 Samuel 13:27–29



David's son, Solomon, has 1,000 wives—inappropriate sexual addiction and alliances

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart.—1 Kings 11:1–3



Part 2: Blessing and Curses

Generational influences can bring blessings into your life

God is good and loves to bless!

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations.—Deuteronomy 7:9

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.—James 1:17

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.—Ephesians 1:3

He blesses us with spiritual gifts

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.—Romans 12:6–8



For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills.—1 Corinthians 12:8–11

Obedience can birth blessings

I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.—Genesis 22:17–18

And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.—Deuteronomy 28:1–6



Through Christ, the Offspring, the promise of blessings is fulfilled for *all* who believe.

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.—Galatians 3:16

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.—Galatians 3:26–29

God is not chasing the enemy, the enemy is chasing God!

Often curses we see are in opposition to the blessing God has for us specifically

Curses can also run along blood lines

You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.—Exodus 20:5–6



Some evidence of curses

Deuteronomy 28:15–68 contains fifty-three verses listing generational curses. Here are just a few of the possible symptoms of curses listed there:

- Poverty
- Lack of provision
- Inability to have children
- Confusion
- Frustration
- Desolation
- Disease
- Infirmity
- Defeat
- Fear
- Physical manifestations such as lesions, tumors, boils
- Mental illness
- Depression
- Violation
- Adultery
- Perversion
- Child abuse
- Suicide
- Destructive attitudes & behaviors

While this list is not exhaustive, each of these can be, but are not always, the result of a generational curse, and most have their root in idolatry and iniquity



Many times, we exhibit the same negative emotional characteristics as ancestors.

Can you identify any of these patterns in your family line?

See Unit 1 for Generational Curses from occult activity

The Solution

Generational sins, iniquities, transgressions, and curses come through the bloodline and must be cancelled by blood

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.—Hebrews 9:22

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins.—Romans 3:23–25

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”—Galatians 3:13



We appropriate the blood of Jesus with identificational repentance

To intercede through identificational repentance we identify or stand in place of a particular corporate sin (family, ethnic, religious, etc.) and represent the perpetrators of the sin by repenting

But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against Me, and also in walking contrary to Me, so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.—Leviticus 26:40–42

If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.—2 Chronicles 7:14

Isaiah repented on behalf of the Israelites

And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”—Isaiah 6:5



Daniel's identificational repentance delivered God's people

To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you.—Daniel 9:8

While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God.—Daniel 9:20

Go after specific patterns of behavior you can see—fruit to root

Ask Holy Spirit to reveal any patterns you are unaware of or are hidden by the enemy

Do one at a time

**Sample prayer:**

I confess the sins of my ancestors and my own sin of _____.

I forgive my ancestors as well as anyone else who may have influenced me in these sins and curses (ask Holy Spirit who).

I ask you, Lord, to forgive me. Based on your forgiveness, Lord, I choose to forgive myself for the ways I've operated out of these sins and curses. I do choose to be totally set free.

In Jesus' name, I cancel all curses associated with this sin from my bloodline. I renounce and break all agreement with these sins and curses and with the powers and principalities of darkness. I break all agreement with the assignment from the enemy on my life.

I command any demons associated with these sins and curses to leave me now in the name of Jesus.

Holy Spirit, instead of this curse, what blessings do you have for me?



Part 3: Family Commandments

In Unit 2: Strongholds we mentioned that every family has strongholds. In this section we are going to teach you how to discover those strongholds. This tool will also help you uncover family blessings and curses. It is called a genogram.

Defining family commandments

Each family has a set of rules they live by

Some are said and some are left unsaid

Alignment with these commandments can influence acceptance

These commandments may be righteous, but they can also be unrighteous

But to the people under them, they seem right

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.—Proverbs 14:12



Examples of family commandments

“Don’t share family business”

Secrecy and often a cover for issues

“If mamma ain’t happy, ain’t nobody happy”

Enmeshment, or permission for one person to be controlling

“Blood is thicker than water”

Prioritize family over anyone/anything else

“We don’t beg for handouts”

Pride, perhaps trauma in the family’s past

“Sex is shameful” or “Sex is everything”

What gets talked about, what is acceptable



“Having money/things proves success”

“Having education or acclaim proves success”

“We don’t talk about that...(pain, loss, disappointment, etc.)”

Family commandments become foundations that filter how we see things

What is acceptable and what is not

How we interact with other people, races, religions

How we handle and think about money and possessions

Norms in relationships and communication

Religion and our relationship with God



Discipleship confronts all our assumptions, conscious and unconscious, with the truth revealed by God

“Jesus may live in your heart, but grandpa lives in your bones.”—Peter Scazzero

Genogram

A visual tool that helps you recognize family patterns, commandments, blessings, and curses

See next page

You can get a full-size version of this in the suggested resource *Explore Your Genogram Workbook* by Peter Scazzero

Keys to using the genogram

Fill this in based on how you remember things being when you were 8–12 years old

The top line is where you will put your grandparents

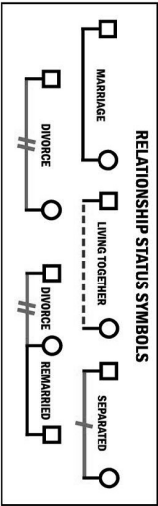
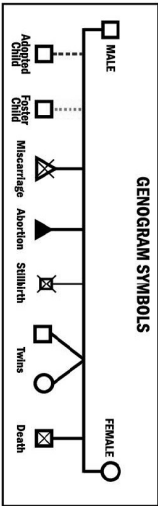
The second line is where you put your parents



RELATIONSHIP	RELATIONAL DYNAMICS	SYMBOL
Conflicted	A consistent pattern where issues do not get resolved between people.	
Cut Offs	People in the family stop talking to one another or avoid contact.	
Distant/Poor	Low or minimal emotional connection between family members.	
Enmeshment	Pressure is created for family members to think, feel and act alike. There is low tolerance for people to be separate, to disagree, or be different.	
Abuse	A severe crossing of personal boundaries, whether it be sexual, emotional, or physical, severely injuring the dignity and humanity of another.	

THEMES

EARTHQUAKE EVENTS





Make a line down from the connecting line between your parents for you and each of your siblings, your line should be longest

Make a connecting line from you to your spouse if you have one

Add any divorces or other relationships with children using the relationship status key

Add your children and their spouse if they have any

Fill in relationship dynamics—as many as you are aware of

Beside each person, in one- or two-word phrases, write out two or three positive and two or three negative character traits, spiritual gifts, and natural talents

Earthquake events are major things that shake the family like bankruptcy, going to war, suicide, death of child, disabling accident, etc.

There is a link to Peter Scazzero's *Explore Your Genogram Workbook* in the suggested resources at the end of this manual

That will help you understand better and get more from this



Pray through this genogram and ask God to show you a couple gifts to begin praying to receive and a couple items that He wants you to get ministry for

Use the tools you have learned in this module to minister to yourself

If you recognize a strong emotional reaction or spiritual resistance ,find another (trained) person to minister to you

Start writing down any family commandments you recognize, either previously or through doing your genogram

Take each commandment to the Lord and ask Him to show you what He thinks about that

He may give you a revelation

He may lead you to a Bible study or Biblical resource

Use the tools for dealing with generational sin with each commandment that He does not agree with

Repent for yourself and ancestors (by name)



Renounce

Remove any spiritual attachments affect on spirit, soul, or body

Replace with truth

Take time to meditate and pray through the truths God gave you each day for at least the next 30 days, asking Him to make the information revelation so that you are transformed

If you are a parent, or will be, how are you going to teach your children the truth God says and break the cycle of this commandment being passed to the next generation?



Suggested Resources

Deliverance From Evil Spirits by Francis MacNutt

Demolishing Strongholds by David Devenish

Joy Restored Podcast, Chariti Kupiec

Bait of Satan by John Bevere

Total Forgiveness by RT Kendall

The Mystery of Forgiveness, *Dreams & Mysteries*: RT Kendall:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-KOuLpsfXs>

The Divine Exchange by Derek Prince: <https://www.derekprince.com/en-us/free-1>

Explore Your Genogram Workbook by Peter Scazzero: <https://www.emotionallyhealthy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/GENOGRAM-WORKBOOK.pdf>

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