

PROPHETIC & REVELATORY STUDIES

SEMESTER FOUR

Streams ACADEMY DIPLOMA

SEMESTER FOUR

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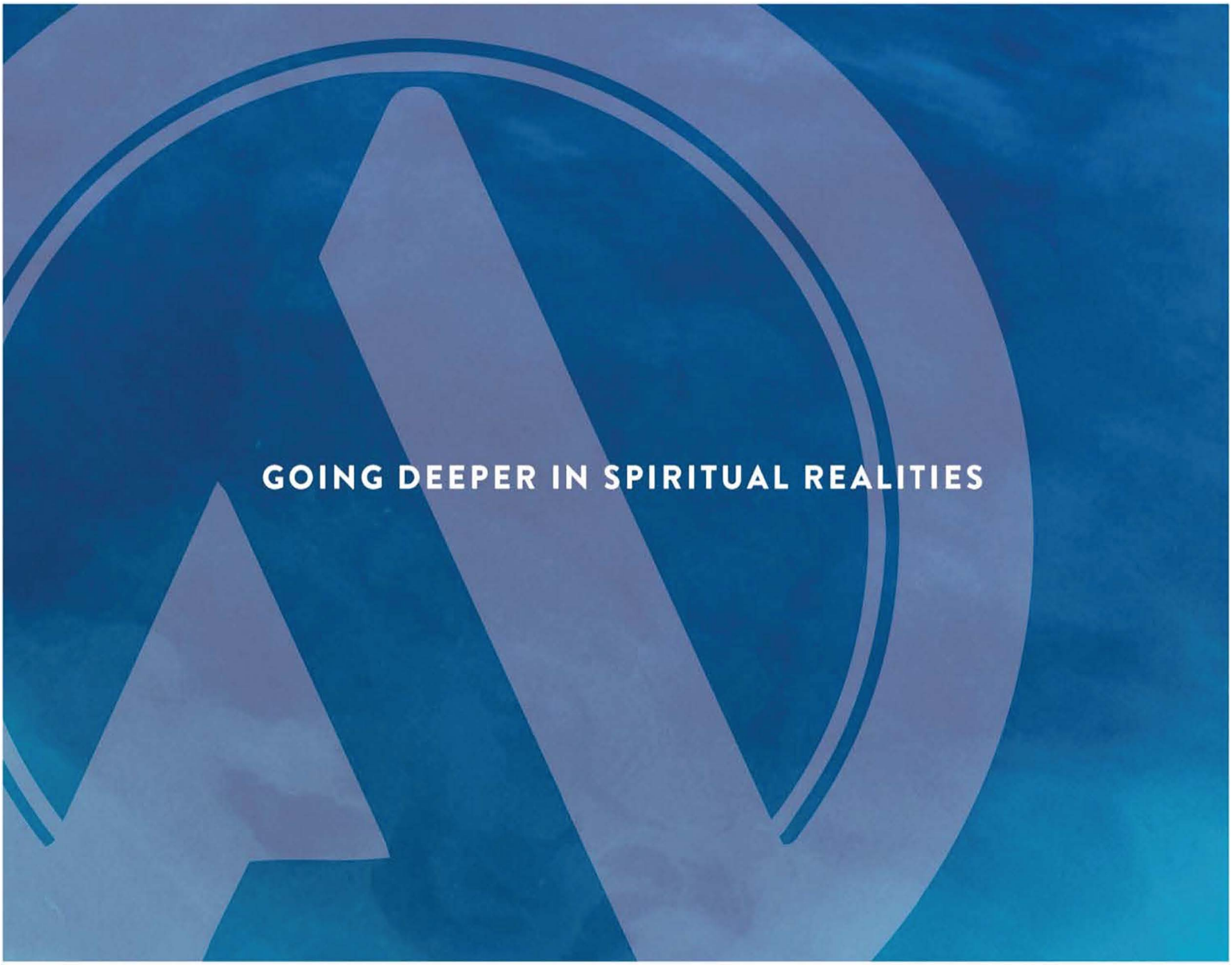

MODULE 04

The Spiritual Life

ACADEMY DIPLOMA

Streams Academy—Going Deeper in Spiritual Realities
Module 4: The Spiritual Life

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MODULE 04
The Spiritual Life

Description: What is true spirituality? Since people started walking with God there have been those that delved into the deeper spiritual life and found a path to peace, victory, and intimacy with God. In this module you will learn how to pattern your life accordingly and start walking that path (to peace, victory, and intimacy) more than ever before. You will explore the ways of God that are hidden for the childlike and be able to share those ways with others.

Unit 1: Contemplative Spirituality

Unit 2: Emotional Health

Unit 3: Outreach and Service

Unit 4: Stewardship

MODULE 04

UNIT 1

Contemplative Spirituality

Unit 1: Contemplative Spirituality

Contemplative spirituality has a long and rich history. Isaac meditated in the field daily, Joshua meditated on Scripture twice daily, David prayed seven times a day, Daniel prayed three times a day, Peter & John had set hours of prayer, and the desert fathers and mystical writers throughout the history of the church have continued this practice. How can we take the wisdom they have handed down to us and apply it to our day and experience?

Part 1: Sabbath

A theology of sabbath

God established the sabbath at creation

> *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all His work that He had done in creation.*—Genesis 2:1–3

Sabbath is built into the fabric of creation

Six days of work, one day of rest, then a new start

The Israelites were commanded to sabbath before the Law was given

It was connected to God's provision of manna

> *Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none."*—Exodus 16:25–26

God gave the Israelites the sabbath for two reasons

Because God rested, His people should rest

> *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*—Exodus 20:8–11

The primary purpose of the Ten Commandments was to show people how to bear the image of God, to be like Him

Because we are no longer slaves, but are free, God's people should rest

> *Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.*—Deuteronomy 5:12–15

> The sabbath is a constant reminder that we have been set free and are not slaves to the world system

Didn't Jesus do away with the sabbath?

Jesus did not remove the Law but fulfilled it

> *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*—Matthew 5:17–19

Jesus did clarify the sabbath

> *One Sabbath He was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, His disciples began to pluck heads of grain. And the Pharisees were saying to Him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" And He said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."*—Mark 2:23–28

There have always been exceptions because higher laws supersede lower laws

> Weightier matters of the Law are justice, mercy, and faithfulness according to Matthew 23:23

Weightier matters give clarification and value to less weighty matters

> This is why in the Matthew version of this story (Matthew 12:1–8) Jesus quotes Hosea, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice"

The sabbath was made for man

This tells us that man gets more benefit from the sabbath than the sabbath gets from man following it

There is something good God intended for us in it

He went on from there and entered their synagogue. And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked Him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse Him. He said to them, "Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other.—Matthew 12:9–13

Jesus clarifies that acting on compassion in a moment is not violating sabbath

Earlier in this passage He compares it to the priests working in the temple on the sabbath (Matthew 12:5–6)

Jesus did assume that His disciples would still honor the sabbath after His death and resurrection

When prophesying of the fall of Jerusalem that happened in 70AD He said to pray that believers would not need to flee the city on the sabbath (Matthew 24:20)

This assumes that they would want to observe the sabbath at that time

Even in the prophetic writings God communicated that Gentiles who joined themselves to the believing people would honor the sabbath

He connected it to the “house of prayer” that Jesus talked about

Read Isaiah 56:1–8

What are the benefits of observing the sabbath?

Greater levels of peace and well-being

God has ordained rhythms in creation

Seasons in the year

Day and night

Sabbath in the week

When we stay within those rhythms we have greater peace

We are not fighting against how God created us

We need times of both activity and inactivity

We work better with proper rest

Studies have shown that sabbath-keeping increases longevity and improves mental and physical health

It is also connected to increased creativity, problem-solving capacity, and productivity

Deeper spirituality

A true sabbath deepens our connection to God

It is a time for prayer and worship and thankfulness to God

Sabbaths give us time to bring our soul back into submission to our spirit

There is time for prayerful reflection

Sabbaths remind us that we are not God

Humans are created with limited capacity

We do violence to ourselves when we try to pretend otherwise

The world will continue without our constant activity

We are not as necessary as we thought

This develops humility in us

It develops greater trust for God in us

Keeping the sabbath is a spiritual declaration

To ourselves: God is essential, we are not

To principalities and powers: We are not slaves to fear but we trust God

To God: We are His servants and we will submit to His ways

We actually believe that He is good and knows best

We trust Him more than our ability to control our lives

To all: That we are practicing the true sabbath to come

When we sabbath we are tasting something that has been promised and is yet to be completely fulfilled—the rest Jesus prophesied when He said, "It is finished"

For as long, then, as that promise of resting in Him pulls us on to God's goal for us, we need to be careful that we're not disqualified. We received the same promises as those people in the wilderness, but the promises didn't do them a bit of good because they didn't receive the promises with faith. If we believe, though, we'll experience that state of resting. But not if we don't have faith. Remember that God said,

Exasperated, I vowed, "They'll never get where they're going, never be able to sit down and rest."

God made that vow, even though He'd finished His part before the foundation of the world. Somewhere it's written, "God rested the seventh day, having completed his work," but in this other text He says, "They'll never be able to sit down and rest." So this promise has not yet been fulfilled. Those earlier ones never did get to the place of rest because they were disobedient. God keeps renewing the promise and setting the date as today, just as He did in David's psalm, centuries later than the original invitation:

Today, please listen,
don't turn a deaf ear …

And so this is still a live promise. It wasn't canceled at the time of Joshua; otherwise, God wouldn't keep renewing the appointment for "today." The promise of "arrival" and "rest" is still there for God's people. God Himself is at rest. And at the end of the journey we'll surely rest with God. So let's keep at it and eventually arrive at the place of rest, not drop out through some sort of disobedience.—Hebrews 4:1–11 The Message

How do we keep the sabbath?

One day of each week is set aside for sabbath

It doesn't matter what day

Jews observe sabbath on Saturday in keeping with creation

Christians started celebrating on Sunday in keeping with the resurrection

Which day we choose is not as essential as having a day

Paul wrote this to the Galatian church which was being taught that observing the Jewish law made them closer to God or more spiritual

> *Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? You observe days and months and seasons and years! I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.*—Galatians 4:8–11

It is not a religious requirement but a wisdom principle

We will not lose our salvation if we don't sabbath

But we will miss out on something good He intended for us

Elements of a grace-filled sabbath (borrowed from Peter Scazzero)

Stop

We cease from work

That can mean different things for different people

If we feel like we need to, it is work

E-mails

Cooking

Cleaning

Rest

As sleep replenishes the body, rest replenishes the soul

We rest from busy-ness

We enter into the experience of the rest God offers us

> *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*—Matthew 11:28–30

We fill the space with things that give us life

Delight

We infuse our sabbath with things that bring us joy

Walks in nature

Exercise

Hobbies

Enjoying food

Friends and family

Intentional enjoyment

Contemplate

Sabbaths should be worshipful

The Jews set aside time on the sabbath to study and worship

The sabbath is a time to practice awareness of God's presence

When we "delight" we turn that joy into worship

Thanking Him for His good gifts and provision

Christians historically sabbathed on Sunday to honor the resurrection

It is not necessary to have corporate worship

It is good to spend extra time in prayer, study, and worship

A sabbath is holy unto the Lord

Eugene Peterson called a day off a “bastard sabbath”

It is not “me time”, it is time to be more aware of the holiness of all things

Part 2: The Prayer of Examen

The Prayer of Examen is a phrase made popular by Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556), the founder of the Jesuits. It has been adapted many times and has come to include other aspects of meditation and a contemplative discernment process that many have found helpful. This section will be a distillation of some of these principles and practices and may not be exactly as Ignatius taught but have been found helpful for spiritual growth.

Examen is a spiritual practice that helps us see where we are with the Lord

The word is Spanish for exam—a way we test ourselves

It is a daily review where we invite Holy Spirit to show us how attentive we were to Him

We focus on the presence of God and invite Holy Spirit to come search us

> *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

As we are prayerfully aware of His presence we ask Him to show us the invitations He gave us that day and how we responded

Did we miss them? Then we repent

Did we respond to them? Then we thank Him

We also ask Him to show us the temptations and tests we faced that day

Where we sinned, we repent

Where we resisted temptation, we thank Him

This is a good time to ask Him to show us what in us allowed our response

Ask Him to deepen the righteous habits and responses

Deal with any strongholds, vows, or judgements He reveals

Discernment—understanding consolations and desolations

In our examen we will find ourselves reflecting on good and bad experiences

These may be consolations or desolations

Recognizing and discerning consolations and desolations are key to recognizing and responding to God's direction for our life

Consolations give life

A consolation is when we experience God's pleasure in an action, thought, or circumstance

This may be an experience in our spirit or in our soul

It can include spiritual manifestations

A sense of peace

The direct movement of Holy Spirit's presence experienced through a physical manifestation

A sense of things being "right"

It can also be a movement in our soul

An experience of happiness and other positive emotions

Our desires are aligned with our activity—we want this

We find the sense of being alive or receiving life

It doesn't drag us down or wear us out but fills us up

Desolations steal life

We feel like this thought, action, or circumstance is sucking the life out of us

It can be a spiritual experience

Unrest or a lack of peace in our spirit

The sense that it is wrong or harmful

It can also be an experience in our soul

We feel worn out and depressed

We are disturbed, don't want to do it, or feel resentful

To discern correctly our spirit must be ruling over our soul

The sense of desolation can come when we are in rebellion to what God is asking of us

Can we honestly say with Jesus, "Not what I will, but what You will" (Luke 22:42)

The sense of desolation can also come because of relational issues

When there is unresolved conflict with others in the situation

When we pretend things that hurt us are not a big deal

When we allow others to speak negatively (complain) to us

Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."—
1 Corinthians 15:33

The sense of consolation could come from our soul getting what we want instead of the experience of God's pleasure

To the extent our spirit rules over our soul we can discern correctly

Sometimes we need other spiritually mature people we trust to help us discern

A sense of consolation or desolation could also be spiritual warfare

How to discern using consolations and desolations

They are one tool but should not be used alone

When recognized we then talk to the Lord about the situation

If it is an assignment that He gave us previously we should have equal or greater revelation to leave as we did at first

It can be good to have a leader, a spiritual mentor, or director to discuss this with to help us discern

Consolations and desolations don't carry enough "weight of revelation" to make a big decision

Review Phase 1 Module 4: Types of Revelation and Dreams

When discerning if we should do something, we can imagine ourselves doing it and see if there is a sense of consolation or desolation

Again, this is "low-level" revelation, but it can be helpful

Imaginative Prayer

One way to meditate is to use our imagination

Read through a passage of Scripture and do your best to picture it

Ezekiel 1

Sometimes that imagination will take a life of its own and may become revelation

Honest discernment is needed before we share that experience with anyone as a message

Look for fruit or confirmation before sharing

Some use this tool and call it prophetic—that is lying

These can be impactful times of prayer that change us and release something from heaven into us

We can also use our imagination in prayer

God can hear our hearts and knows our thoughts

A picture is worth a thousand words

You can picture what you want and invite God into that imagination

Keep your posture one of request

We are not demanding God do it our way

We are not allowing ourselves to think that our imagination is a promise from God

We are using our imagination instead of our words to make our requests known to God

Both imaginative contemplation and prayer should be done in the presence of God

We start and end by focusing on Him until He comes, then we pray

As we do this, we will find our soul submitting to our spirit more and more

Sometimes God will take over our imagination and reveal things to us

Over time we find our gift of faith growing and our expectation of what God can and will do increasing

All of these are ways that we practice the presence of God

As we practice these habits intentionally, we will find them working unintentionally

As we are going through our day we sense God's invitation because we have practiced looking for it

We miss God less and resist the enemy more

We find the sense of His presence abiding and directing our thoughts and actions

Our conscience becomes more sensitive

Our spiritual sight becomes clearer and clearer

Part 3: Rule of Life

The Greek word for "rule" means trellis. A trellis is a structure that holds the weight of a plant as it grows so that it grows straight and can support the fruit that will come. A rule of life is a structure we put into our lives to support spiritual growth and the fruit of the Spirit. St. Benedict (6th century) developed the first rule of life to help his community grow closer to God and stay focused on Him.

The goal of a rule of life

A rule of life supports growth—what kind of growth do we want to foster?

The goal of the Christian life

> *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*—Matthew 22:36–40

We need to plan on growing in love for God and love for others

"Those who fail to plan, plan to fail"

We must be intentional to grow in love

Dealing with issues in us that hinder love

Strongholds, inner healing, and deliverance

Develop habits that support love

Spiritual disciplines

Relational skills

Jesus is the only one that can transform us

We don't need religious activity

We need a life oriented around the presence of Jesus

Jesus gave us means to transformation

When Mark (12:29) shared Jesus' interaction with the scribe, Jesus started by quoting from Deuteronomy

> *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*—Deuteronomy 6:4–9

This shows us three areas to include in our rule of life

What we do: "bind them as a sign on your hand"

What we think: "as frontlets between your eyes"

Our relationships: "door posts of your house (family) and on your gates (friends)"

How to develop a rule of life

Write down all the spiritual disciplines that you practice now or in the past

Note the following:

Which ones do you enjoy the most?

Which ones has God specifically told you to practice?

Which ones bear the most fruit (effectiveness)?

Are there any that you haven't practiced that you think you should?

Ask God to clarify whether you should

Respond to conviction, resist condemnation

Write down other activities, habits, or places that bring you consolation or desolation (noting the difference)

Ask the same questions as above

Sort the above into these categories:

Prayer

This includes disciplines like praying, meditating, silence, fasting, etc.

Relationships

This will include fellowship, mentoring and/or being mentored, small groups, etc.

Also include game nights, meals with friends

Family relationships, spouse, children, parents, singleness

Relational skills like communication, clean fighting, clarifying expectations

Work

This includes your work for pay as well as your service to God

Your job—how much time will you spend, won't you spend

Limit your work to support your life, not the other way around

Spiritual disciplines like service, helping the poor

Rest

Sabbath, silence, solitude

Vacations

Hobbies

Things that restore your soul (walks, nature, movies, etc.)

As you write out each of the categories, include two sections:

Things you will make sure you do

What fosters connection to God and others?

Things that you will not do

What hinders connection to God and others?

Have your spouse, mentor, or spiritual director help you discern your rule of life

Is it reasonable? Can you actually do this?

A rule of life should not be so detailed that it is overwhelming

A trellis is a loose structure that supports the plant's growth

It is not a cage that limits the plant's growth

Some elements of your rule may need timing

How often will you do this?

Once a week? More? Less?

What did you miss/overlook?

When should you review and adjust your rule of life?

Yearly

When you have a major change in your life

Serious sickness

Change careers or move to another state

Receive a new assignment from God

When you recognize that something isn't working or doesn't have grace on it

Consolations and desolations

Individuals, families, and tight communities can develop a rule of life

Corporate and individual rules of life should not conflict

They support each other

What do you do when you mess up?

Forgive yourself and pick up where you left off

A rule of life is not a law of life, it is merely a structure that supports growth

Keep growing

NOTES

MORE NOTES

MORE NOTES

HOMEWORK



HOMEWORK

Unit 1: Contemplative Spirituality

Read *The Way of the Heart* by Henry Nouwen

NOTES

MODULE 04

UNIT 2

Emotional Health

Unit 2: Emotional Health

Part 1: Self-honesty and Humility

Self-honesty and humility work together. While not exactly the same they build upon each other and foster a life of transformation into the image of Christ. They become a foundation for growth and maturity that can stand the weight of true spiritual authority.

Self-honesty

If we don't see what is going on in our own lives we will not know what to focus on

This includes our strengths as well as our weaknesses

When we can't see the strengths, we miss opportunities

God gives everyone strengths that allows us to build His kingdom

When we don't admit our weaknesses, we don't change

We continue to hurt others

We are open to attacks from the enemy

We give permission for strongholds to remain

Self-honesty is not introspection

The trap we must avoid is self-focus

This requires us to know we can't truly know ourselves without revelation

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?—Jeremiah 17:9

If we don't recognize we can be deceived by our own heart, we have already been deceived

We will continue in deception which will bring harm to ourselves and those around us

There is an answer!

> *"I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."*—Jeremiah 17:10

Ask God to show us our heart

> *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

This connects back to the Prayer of Examen

Honesty with ourselves allows us to be honest with others

Humility includes an honest appraisal of ourselves

Admitting our strengths as well as weaknesses

Do we have an allergy to either of those?

First, we must see ourselves honestly—then we can communicate who we are to others

Communication doesn't require talking, this is about lifestyle

We step into roles that fit us

We don't grasp for things that don't fit us

> *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*—Romans 12:3

We don't need position or recognition to give us value

Our value comes from our relationship with God—not people

This allows us to be other-focused rather than self-focused

> *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*—Philippians 2:3–4

An honest self-appraisal allows us to put others first

When we get our identity from what He says about us we don't need to perform for approval or be given titles or position to feel important or secure

Honesty and humility allow us to truly be servants

This protects us from needing to fight for what we think is ours

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…—Philippians 2:5–7a

The ESV footnote on "grasped" says: a thing to be held onto for advantage

Humility allows us to not hold onto our position or reputation by using force

This example of Jesus is seen most clearly at the Last Supper

> *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.*—John 13:3–5

Jesus knew His authority—"the Father had given all things into His hands"

Jesus knew His identity—"He had come from God"

Jesus knew His destiny (purpose)—"and was going back to God"

This allowed Him to wash His disciples' feet

Being secure in our authority, identity, and destiny allows us to serve others instead of requiring them to serve us

Humility is more concerned with others than self

> "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less"—C. S. Lewis *Mere Christianity*

We find we are humble when we stop thinking about being humble

The ability to focus on others is the fruit of true humility

Humility allows us to fulfill Jesus' commandment to love others

Without humility we pretend to love for our sake

Our reputation

To receive love back

How we respond to love that is not reciprocal reveals our true intention

When we are offended it proves we wanted something back

Our love was not real, it was for our sake, not theirs

We are called to love like Jesus

> *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*—John 15:12–13

Humility allows us to forgive

We are not focused on our pain but God's kingdom

True humility can only come from the nature of Christ

This is not a religious requirement but a participation in His life

> *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

We can't do this in our own effort, but when we see the beauty of the humility of Jesus it changes us from the inside out

Meditate on His humility (Philippians 2:1–11)

> *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*—2 Corinthians 3:18

Part 2: Loving Well

Love is the primary goal of Christianity. It is the call of God on our lives. Jesus said that loving God and others are the most important things we can do, and as we do that, we fulfill all of God's commandments. But many have not thought seriously about what loving well means.

What is love?

> Unselfish, loyal, and benevolent intention and commitment toward another.[1]

> The Hebrew term *chesed* means covenant love

> God's activity is the greatest expression of love

> *God is love.*—1 John 4:8b

> This does not mean that love is God, but that all God does is loving

[1] *David Lanier, "Love," in Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, ed. Chad Brand et al. (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 1054.*

What does love look like practically?

Self-sacrifice for the sake of the other (John 15:13)

Doing good for others (Romans 12:9–10)

Helping with practical needs (1 John 3:17–18)

Love is patient and kind

Love does not envy or boast

It is not arrogant or rude

It does not insist on its own way

It is not irritable or resentful

It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.—1 Corinthians 13:4–7

Love forgives even when it is costly (Ephesians 5:2; 1 Peter 4:8; 1 John 4:10–12)

Love is concerned for another person's conscience (Romans 14:15)

Love gives generously to help others in need (2 Corinthians 8:8)

Love shows hospitality and serves other people (Galatians 5:13; Hebrews 6:10; 3 John 1:5–6)

Love's patience puts up with other people to maintain unity (Ephesians 4:1–3; Colossians 3:12–14)

Love speaks truth, not just what the other person wants to hear (Ephesians 4:15)

Love, in humility, considers other people's interests as important (Philippians 2:1–4)

Love does not show partiality (James 2:8–9)

Love for others causes us to live according to God's standards (1 John 5:2–4; 2 John 1:5–6)

We need to develop skills to love well

How can we apply the Scriptures above practically?

Communication is key in relationships

Have we taken the time to develop communication skills?

Do we know how to lovingly negotiate differences?

Pay attention to our relationships—when we hurt others, we need to be honest and find what needs to change in us

When we get hurt, we also need to ask God what needs to change in us

That doesn't mean what they did was okay

It recognizes we can't change them, but we can change ourselves

This is the fruit of self-honesty and humility

Forgiveness is the greatest key to love

Forgiving ourselves and forgiving others

Loving others well allows our life to be a prayerful presence that expands God's kingdom

It is the practical expression of our love for God

> *We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*—1 John 4:19–21

Part 3: Enjoying Life

"If you asked twenty good men today what they thought the highest of the virtues, nineteen of them would reply, Unselfishness. But if you asked almost any of the great Christians of old he would have replied, Love. You see what has happened? A negative term has been substituted for a positive, and this is of more than philological importance. The negative ideal of Unselfishness carries with it the suggestion not primarily of securing good things for others, but of going without them ourselves, as if your abstinence and not their happiness was the important point. I do not think this is the Christian virtue of Love. The New Testament has lots to say about self-denial, not about self-denial as an end in itself. We are told to deny ourselves and to take up our crosses in order that we may follow Christ; and nearly every description of what we shall ultimately find if we do so contains an appeal to desire.

"If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the stoics and is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is off ered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the off er of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." C.S. Lewis *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*

God intends for us to enjoy life

He created everything good and put Adam and Eve in the "Garden of Eden"

Eden means paradise or pleasure

The Fall was seeking that pleasure (what is good) outside of God

> *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 (emphasis added)

Our response should not be to avoid pleasure, but to find pleasure in the right ways

What was in the Garden before the Fall that gave humans pleasure?

Fellowship with God

God walked and talked with them daily (Genesis 3:8)

Fellowship with one another

God said that it wasn't good or pleasing for Adam to remain alone

God made companionship to be pleasing

Creation itself

They got pleasure from interacting with the animals and from the food they ate

Having purpose, knowing their role

God gave them authority (Genesis 1:28) and then pronounced that everything was very good (Genesis 1:31)

Humans are created to experience pleasure from:

The presence of God

Relationships with others

Enjoying creation (including food)

Fulfilling their purpose

The first of these is most important and allows the others to bring true enjoyment

When we find our greatest joy in the presence of God we can truly enjoy His gifts

When we try to enjoy His gifts outside of His presence, they bring death

Anything we set above God becomes an idol

Idolatry always leads to death

We find we are making “mud pies”

Pursuing pleasure for pleasure’s sake is idolatry

But enjoying things as gifts from God is worship

Humans must worship

We naturally praise what gives us pleasure

This started with Adam writing the first song when he saw Eve (Genesis 2:23)

This must stay in the realm of thankfulness to God

When we develop a life lived in the awareness of God we should find pleasure in life

That does not mean that we live a life seeking pleasure as a goal

It means that a life of faithfulness will be marked by pleasure

Because of the Fall we also experience pain and difficulty

We hold onto the promise of ultimate pleasure in eternity to give us the strength to endure temporary difficulty

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 4:17–18

It is the promise of true enjoyment that gives us strength to resist sin

> *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, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*—Hebrews 12:1–2

The example of Jesus enduring for joy is given as a reason to resist sin

A life of joy actively seeks to find delight in God's person and presence

In His presence is true joy

> *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

When we delight in God our desires become ones that He will fulfill

> *Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.*—Psalm 37:3–4

There is a direct connection between living according to God's commands and our ability to find true joy

The enemy wants us to think that following God's ways is a killjoy

Like the original temptation, he wants people to think God is withholding something good

God desires us to have pleasure and He offers it to us freely

How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light.—Psalm 36:7–9

The "river of Your delights" is literally the river of Eden

Find ways to enjoy what God gave us as a form of worship

His presence

Seek true joy in His presence

Delight in Him

Relationships

Next time you are enjoying someone's company turn it into worship

In your heart thank God for the gift of fellowship

Perhaps pray with that person thanking God

Have a game night as worship

Find a way to laugh with others

Nature

Intentionally become aware of God's presence as you enjoy nature

Thank Him for a sunset, birdsong, pet, etc.

Prayerfully savor good food

In your enjoyment thank Him

Receive it as a gift from Him that was intentional—He intended you to find pleasure in it

Work

Purposefully take time to enjoy the sense of fulfillment in a job completed

Thank God for the ability to work, the talents He has given you, and the way they reflect His goodness

Celebrate Him moving through your obedience

Someone getting healed, encouraged, saved, delivered

Being intentional to enjoy the small things and the big things as an act of worship infuses our whole life with a sense of holiness

We find thankfulness becoming habitual

We pray without ceasing

We experience His love more because we recognize how much He has done to give us pleasure

The sabbath gives us a regular time to purposefully enter into the enjoyment of life

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MORE NOTES

MORE NOTES

HOMEWORK

HOMEWORK

Unit 2: Emotional Health

Find three different ways that you experience true pleasure based on this teaching. Intentionally enter those experiences and write out your thankfulness to God after each one. Do this over multiple days this week.

NOTES

MODULE 04

UNIT 3

Outreach and Service

Unit 3: Outreach and Service

Part 1: Intentional Living

Each person has a purpose, a destiny, that God created them for. How are we crafting a lifestyle that fosters the fulfillment of that purpose? Are we being intentional with our choices—keeping the goal He gave us in mind?

Everyone's ultimate purpose will be defined by loving God and loving others

Every command He gives us can be summed up in these two commandments

> *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*—Matthew 22:36–40

If we are going to be intentional about living the spiritual life, these two commandments must be the lens we see our lives through

Whatever specific assignment the Lord gives us (mission, work, family, etc.)—the only way we will accomplish His will is by being loving

How do we think about our lives in light of these commandments?

Loving God

Family assignments

Every relationship is given form and boundaries by the love of God

Marriages become a prophetic sign to the world of the love God has for each person

How we love our spouse is a reflection and representation of the love we have for God

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

Our marriages should be more about fulfilling God's will than self-fulfillment

Marriage can be an idol

How can we serve God together?

Why did God put us together?

What can we do together that we cannot do apart?

How do we bring God into our relationship?

How does our love for God limit our relationship?

Parent/children relationships are a sign to the world of belonging

As parents, how are we reflecting God's love to our children?

Our parenting style should be modeled after God's relationship with His children more than popular psychology

As children, how we honor our parents is key to our destiny

> *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "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." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*—Ephesians 6:1–4

Parenting is more about discipleship than anything else

This was communicated in the Shema

> *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*—Deuteronomy 6:4–9

Friends

Are our friendships God-centered?

How we love the people in our lives is determined by our love for God

This doesn't mean every conversation is about God, but it would not be a good sign to have a friend that didn't know we are a follower of Christ

The purpose of the relationship is to love them, not convert them

But love wouldn't leave someone on the path to hell

Work assignments

Our work is a sacred assignment

Mankind was given work to do before the Fall

When Jesus lived on the earth He spent decades as a carpenter before He started "ministry"

How we do our work should be governed by our love for God

The quality of our work

Our dedication to our work

Our attitude towards work

> *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.*—Colossians 3:23–24

Our approach to work

Our jobs are a way to expand His kingdom

Kingdom values and principles

Prayerful presence as we work

People would come watch Brother Lawrence clean floors because of God's presence with him

If we are not paid to preach the Gospel we should do that on breaks

Using our work time for something other than what we are paid to do is stealing

Where we live

We should live among the people we are called to

Poor, rich, nations, orphans, etc.

Our standard of living should reflect our call, not our ego

Rich Mullin's salary

If we overextend our budget, we become a slave to our jobs

> *The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.*—Proverbs 22:7

There are times when we should not pursue promotion to focus on what God has for us

Are our decisions about our future based on God's plan or ours?

God may call us to leave what is comfortable (remember Abraham)

Are we seeking what can be found in this world or only what God can give?

> *These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city.*—Hebrews 11:13–16

Loving people

Bringing people into relationship with Jesus is the most loving thing we can do

We have been commissioned to make disciples wherever we go (Matthew 28:18–20)

Are our lives oriented around this calling?

Relational evangelism

Loving people well opens doors for ministry

We need to make room in our lives for other people

Time in our schedule

Space in our budget

> *The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.*—Luke 16:8–9

Room in our hearts

Compassion is costly

We feel the pain of others

We are confronted with our own powerlessness

Can we trust God with their pain?

If we have to control the situation we will have two choices when things don't happen the way we expected

Blame God

Blame them

Both cause us to close our hearts

Loving others takes time and energy

We do what we can and at the same time invite God to do what He can

Expect God to move

See Unit 4 Part 2 Spiritual Hospitality

Servant evangelism

Intentionally serving others

Practical acts of kindness and love that opens doors for ministry

Steve Sjogren wrote *Servant Warfare*

How can we practice the love of God for our community?

How can we be intentional to minister as we do?

Ideas to serve

Free car wash

Free Christmas gift wrapping

Free garage sale

Face painting

Give away water bottles or food

Loving God and loving others requires intention

We have to think through what we do and why we do it

We have to make intentional choices to think about others

It will not happen accidentally

Part 2: Serving the Poor

Serving the poor is an essential aspect of the spiritual life

The Bible mentions the poor over 2,000 times

Serving the poor is a practical way we serve God

> *Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.*—Proverbs 19:17

What we do for the poor God receives as if we did it to Him

> *Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And 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."*—Matthew 25:37–40

When we give to the poor it builds a memorial in heaven

> *And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God."*—Acts 10:4

Serving the poor is an essential element of authentic ministry

> *Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.*—Galatians 2:10

Ministering to the poor agrees with God's justice—those who have less in this world will receive more in the next

> *Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which He has promised to those who love Him?*—James 2:5

> This verse seems to say there is more kingdom power available when ministering to the poor

> When you pour water on the floor it will go to the lowest spot

> > When the Spirit of God is poured out He usually goes to the lowest

We are the most like God when we minister to those who cannot repay us

It is one way to earn rewards from God

> *He said also to the man who had invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."*—Luke 14:12–14

The principle of ministering to the poor can be applied metaphorically

Minister to those who can't give anything back

Materially poor

Spiritually poor

Emotionally poor

Socially poor

What you do to the least of these you do to Him!

Part 3: Follow Open Doors

God has prepared people and places where we will bear fruit. When we focus our energy there, we will have more to show for our effort.

God wants us to pay attention to favor

He tells us to focus our ministry energy on those who receive what we bring

> *After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of Him, two by two, into every town and place where He Himself was about to go. And He said to them, "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. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.*—Luke 10:1–12

We should look for the “son of peace”

Who is open to what we bring?

Who responds with generosity?

“Eating and drinking what they provide”

When our ministry is not received one of two things are going on

We are not ready

There may be more training required

We may not be sent out yet

Have we been recognized by the family God used to prepare us?

They are not ready

We may not be the one to reach that person or group of people

This principle works with people groups as well as individuals

We offer what we have and see if it is received

It is frustrating and wasteful to try to minister to people who won't receive what we have

> *Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.*—Matthew 7:6

This allows us to recognize where we have favor

Remember, our sphere of authority is recognized by where we have favor

If we share the revelation we have received, and people don't respond, we know God hasn't given us favor with them

If God wants them to respond He will put favor in their hearts

Let's use an example from outreach

We have a word to share with someone on the street

When we don't know if we have favor we ask a question, "Do you mind if I share something with you?"

Their response lets us know if we have favor

We share the first revelation—dream interpretation or word of knowledge, etc.

Their continued response lets us know where that favor stops

"How did you know that?"

We keep going

If they thank us and walk away we are done

If we share beyond the favor we have it can spoil the fruit from what we have already done

Forcing the issue can leave the person with a bad taste in their mouth

Since we are representing God, they may be more resistant to His invitations

Don't let the fear of man cause us to hold back where there is favor

Our own insecurities can cause us to misread cues

If we are ashamed of Christ we will hold back and miss opportunities

For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when He comes in His glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.—Luke 9:26

Being aware of where people are at is not the same as being ashamed

When we focus our energies on what God is doing, we will see more results

Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing

> *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

We are not looking to see *if* the Father is doing something

> *Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."*—John 5:17

We are looking for what the Father is doing

Recognizing where there is favor is one way to discern where God is working

Revelation is also key

Sometimes God will give us an assignment that we don't seem to have favor for

> Will we be faithful to what we know God has said or let disappointment steal our faith?

Revelation always trumps wisdom

Part 4: Expect Power

When we are fulfilling a kingdom assignment, we should expect kingdom power

The disciples were told to wait on the promise of the Father

> *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

Our job is to carry the message of the resurrection—His job is to back it up with signs and wonders

> *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 is normal to have signs and wonders happening around us

> *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."*—Mark 16:15–18

The power that accompanies our message is not because we have earned it

> *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?*—Galatians 3:1–5

Power comes because we believe His word

> *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*—John 14:12–14

When we ask, we receive

Are we asking for miracles?

"Whoever believes" is the same phrase as John 3:16

The same faith that saves releases power

Power is not available because of our righteousness

> *Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? …And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.*—Acts 3:12, 16

We go about doing good and expect God to show up and move in power

> *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

> God gets glory from adding power to our intention for good acted upon in faith

> > *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.*—2 Thessalonians 1:11–12

NOTES

MORE NOTES

MORE NOTES

HOMEWORK

HOMEWORK

Unit 3: Outreach and Service

Ask the Lord to show you a ministry that is serving the poor that you can help. Reach out and find a way to serve practically. Not by giving money, though if you also want to do that it is good, but by doing something practical in the presence of the poor. Examples would be serving food, helping at a food bank, etc. If you can't find a ministry to help, find someone that is poor and help them. Start a conversation with them and learn about their story. If it is appropriate, pray for them. If it is not appropriate intercede for them later.

NOTES

MODULE 04

UNIT 4

Stewardship

Unit 4: Stewardship

All of life is a stewardship. Our very breath belongs to Him. All of our resources, every moment we are given, every relationship, all of our gifts and talents—everything is His—and we will give an account for how we used it (or failed to use it) for His purposes.

Part 1: Breakthrough Generosity

Generosity is central to the spiritual life

> It is a clear sign of our ability (or inability) to "look out for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4)

> God directly connects love with giving

> *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*—John 3:16

Just as our spirituality is most clearly seen by the way we love, our love is most clearly seen by our generosity

> *But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*—1 John 3:17–18

Jesus says that how we handle and think about our finances tells us if we love God

> *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*—Matthew 6:19–24

The word for "healthy" here can mean to be generous

> We are either going to be generous and so lay up treasures in heaven or we are going to be selfish and lay up treasures on earth
>
> > One serves God, the other serves money
> >
> > One has eternity in mind, the other has right now in mind
> >
> > One walks in the light, the other fills our "light" with darkness

A "bad eye" is self-focus—we are concerned with ourselves

Self-focus causes selfishness

Trying to keep what we have from selfishness causes us to lose what we have

> *A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him.*—Proverbs 28:22

Jesus also tells us that our money is a test to see if we can handle spiritual authority

> *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? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*—Luke 16:10–13

These verses are in the context of the parable of the unrighteous steward

Our money is not our own—it is a stewardship

> How we handle it determines the "true riches" we will be entrusted with

Will we prove with our finances that we are more concerned with God's desires than our own?

That we trust Him to provide and not ourselves?

It may seem like a "small thing" but how we handle the small reveals how we will handle bigger things

Sowing and reaping

Giving is a way to sow spiritual seeds

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.—2 Corinthians 9:6–11

God connects our giving with our provision

> *One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.*—Proverbs 11:24

When we give generously, we will reap generously

> *Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.*—Psalms 126:5–6

Giving is a grace given by God

> *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

When we receive provision we should ask how much of it is seed and how much of it is bread

> Sow seed, don't eat your seed
>
> Eat bread, don't sow your bread

The key is generosity

When we give to get, we haven't given

Our heart should be to honor God and love people

Giving is an act of trust that God will provide for us

> *"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life. And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 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 6:25–34

Jesus says this right after He talks about generosity (verses 19–24)

Giving in obedience to God's prompting can activate spiritual activity

This principle underlies Elijah's response to the widow in Zarephath

> *Then the word of the Lord came to him, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." And she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.'" And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord that He spoke by Elijah.*—1 Kings 17:8–16

Elijah was operating on revelation, not merely principle

When you are the one giving, feel free to act on principle

When you are asking someone else to give, make sure it is revelation!

It would require very clear revelation if you are going to get the benefit from it

He had her sow flour and oil to receive flour and oil

He gave her a clear promise to put her faith in

Her obedience to revelation revealed her faith which activated the supernatural activity

Sacrificial giving out of love gets God's attention

Solomon offered generous sacrifices at Gilboa (1 Kings 3:4)

It was right after that God appeared and asked him what he wanted (1 Kings 3:5)

The angel that appeared to Cornelius said that his prayer life and giving had gotten God's attention

> *About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter."*—Acts 10:3–5

His devotional generosity had built a memorial before God in heaven

That was why God chose him to be the first Gentile saved and filled with the Spirit

> He wasn't giving to manipulate God, he was giving out of a heart to do the right thing

Sacrificial giving is an act of spiritual warfare

When Elijah was on Mount Carmel he asked the people to give him water

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, "Israel shall be your name," and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed. And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." And he said, "Do it a second time." And they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time." And they did it a third time. And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.—1 Kings 18:30–35

They had been without rain for three and a half years

It was their most precious commodity

He knew if they gave what was precious to them their hearts would turn

Jesus communicated this principle

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.—Matthew 6:21

Your heart moves with your treasure

The hearts of the nation moved that day

When you find your passion waning for the things of God, give sacrificially and the passion will return

It must be something that is a treasure—something costly

We don't do this to manipulate God but to move our hearts

Perhaps this is why David insisted on paying for the threshing floor

> *But the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. And David built there an altar to the Lord and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord responded to the plea for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel.*—2 Samuel 24:24–25

Understanding the connection between giving and spiritual riches is important to the spiritual life

A life of love is marked by generosity

A life of faith is marked by sacrifice

Our generosity should encompass more than our finances

How generous are we with our:

Time

Gifts

Wisdom

Prayers

Friendships

Everything we have is a stewardship—will we use it for His purposes?

Part 2: Spiritual Hospitality

Oxford Dictionary defines hospitality as "the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers". When we off er hospitality we are inviting someone into our space and making them feel at home, welcomed, and cared for. Spiritual hospitality accesses spiritual resources to accomplish this.

Two main concepts come together to help us understand spiritual hospitality

As sons and daughters of God, we are co-heirs with Christ, and have access to heaven's resources

> *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

We are called to love the people we interact with (friends and strangers) well

> *Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He finished, one of his disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." And He said to them, "When you pray, say:*

"Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
And lead us not into temptation."

And He said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 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 11:1–13

The context of this parable is Jesus teaching His disciples how to pray

He taught them to pray for God's kingdom to come

This includes the power of the kingdom—healing and prophecy

He then gives the example of someone showing hospitality

"I don't have what is needed to love this person well"

He emphasizes the importance of persistence

Ask and keep on asking

Seek and keep on seeking

Knock and keep on knocking

We are asking for kingdom provision—the power of the Spirit

God is not going to give us something less or harmful

He will make sure we have what we need to show hospitality to the people we encounter

Do we need healing?

Do we need revelation?

Do we need provision?

Do we need wisdom?

We need to increase our faith

God will back us up when we are representing Him

Our job is to be loving and serve people

Pray and ask God to move on their behalf

His job is to provide power

He promised that He would be with us to accomplish our commission (Matthew 28:18–20)

We can expect Him to show up when we are doing what He has asked

As children of God we can access the resources of heaven to make our "guests" feel at home in His presence

Part 3: Work is Ministry

Earlier we discussed the importance of doing our work in the context of loving God—working with integrity, excellence, and the values of the kingdom. Let's look at how work can be ministry.

Our job is a stewardship from God

He gave us abilities, talents, opportunities, and favor

We will give an account for how we use them

We can expect to access spiritual resources to accomplish our work

God wants to work with us in every aspect of our lives

God loves to give favor to His children

Everything that Jacob did was blessed

> *But Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that the Lord has blessed me because of you. Name your wages, and I will give it."*—Genesis 30:27–28

God even gave him a business strategy (Genesis 31:6–12)

Everything Joseph did was blessed

> *So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field.*—Genesis 39:4–5

That favor gave him a word of wisdom that promoted him (Genesis 41:33–36)

Favor will open up opportunities in our work place

Listening to God and looking for His direction will position us for more

When we are faithful in a little we will be entrusted with more

We have been put into these places to accomplish God's purposes

Look for and expect divine intervention

Prophecies for the workplace

Words of wisdom for strategies and solutions

Opportunities to transform lives

Intercessory burdens for individuals or the business

Possible applications

Real estate agent praying for properties to be cleansed and inviting peace

Financial advisor using wisdom to break fear and encourage generosity

Business owner pastoring their employees

Waitperson pulling someone out of a wheelchair

Interior designer using atmosphere design to foster healing space

Manager using kingdom principles to reverse abusive processes

Accountant using kingdom principles to foster integrity in accounting processes

Nanny walking child through inner healing and discipling them

Everything we do is ministry

As we expect God to be there we will be more aware and catch more invitations

Part 4: Spiritual Parenting

The phrase “spiritual dad” or “spiritual mom” gets thrown around a lot. Sometimes it has meaning and sometimes it doesn’t. Spiritual parenting is a form of discipleship or mentoring that includes a deeper commitment. It can be a powerful influence in someone’s formation and healing when done right.

What spiritual parenting is not

It is not a formal agreement or only positional

Spiritual parenting is more about relationship than structure

A parent has a relationship that is different

There is an emotional bond, not merely a transactional agreement

> B*ut we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.*—1 Thessalonians 2:7–8

This requires time and space—doing life together

It is not merely being a teacher

Paul said there is a difference between a parent and a teacher

> *For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*—1 Corinthians 4:15

Paul had lead them to Christ and he was intimately involved in their spiritual formation

He took responsibility for them

He was close enough to them that they could imitate his way of living

> *I urge you, then, be imitators of me.*—1 Corinthians 4:16

But a parent does teach

> *For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.*—1 Thessalonians 2:11–12

What spiritual parenting is

There is a mutual responsibility

The parent has a responsibility to the children

Share spiritual resources to help the children grow and mature

Be concerned with their progress and maturity

Watch over to protect and advise

Equip them to become what God intended them to become

Be available

Instruct and discipline

Children have a responsibility to their parents

Listen and obey

> *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.*—Hebrews 13:17

Follow their example as they follow Christ

> *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*—1 Corinthians 11:1

Honor them

> *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "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."*—Ephesians 6:1–3

What could be included in a “spiritual parenting” relationship?

Instruction in spiritual living

Sharing of experiences and wisdom

Conversations about life

Confession and forgiveness

Inner healing and deliverance

Advice and instruction

True vulnerability on both sides

Shared vision and mission

There will often be a time of working/ministering together

That doesn’t mean the one being parented will necessarily end up doing the same thing

Meals and fun

If it is only formal it is not truly spiritual parenting

Prayer

Praying for each other

Getting and sharing revelation for each other

A real heart connection that is mutual

The goal is to help them mature spiritually, relationally, and in ministry

A spiritual parent is basically a friend, mentor, and spiritual director all rolled into one

NOTES

MORE NOTES

MORE NOTES

HOMEWORK

HOMEWORK

Unit 4: Stewardship

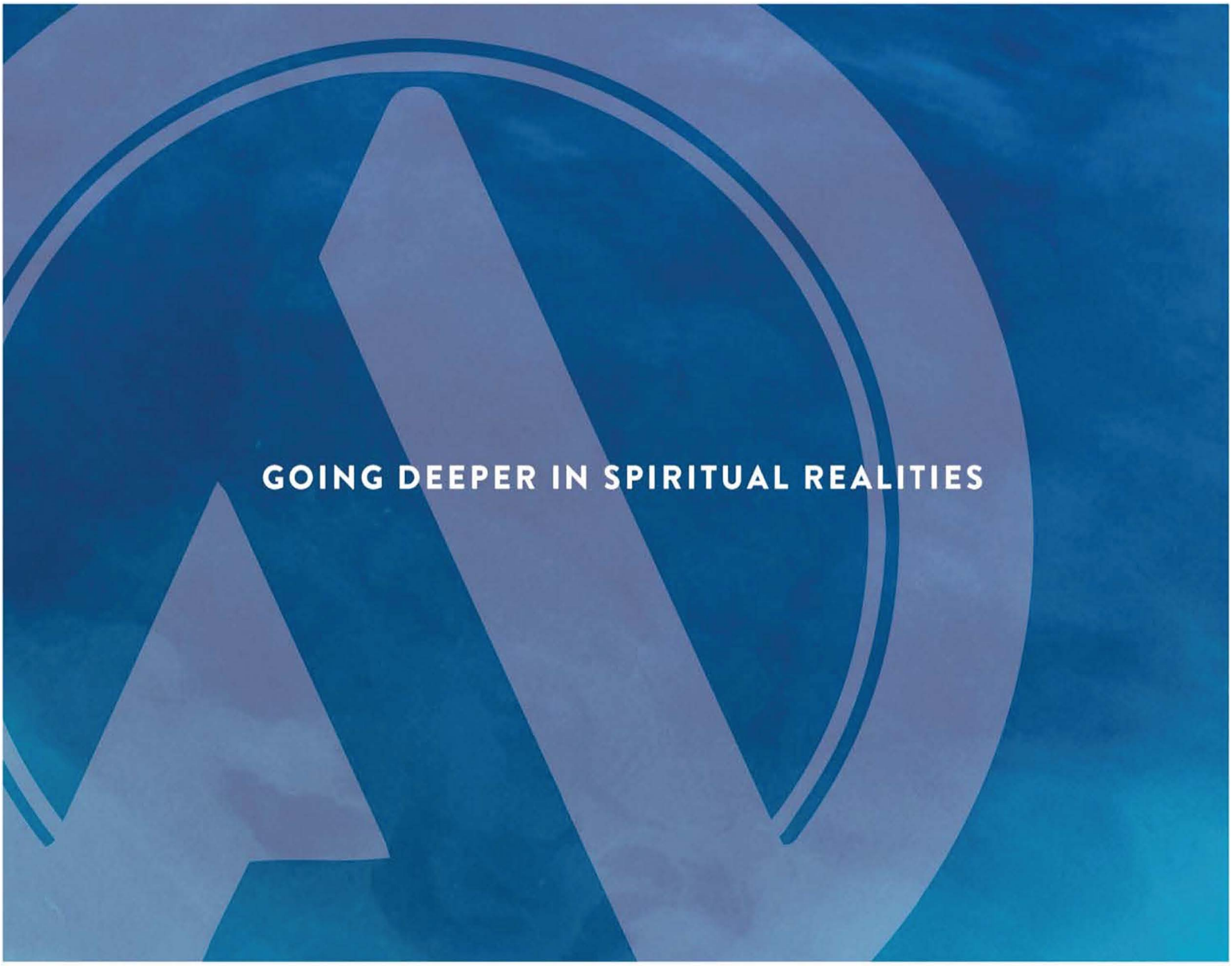
When you heard the teaching on generosity what was going on in your soul and spirit? Did you enjoy it? Find it diffi cult? Did it trigger past memories? Did it trigger strongholds? What did you learn that you have not heard before?

Write about a time when you have seen the principle of sowing and reaping abused. Was the theology wrong? How? Was the application wrong? How? What is God speaking to you through that experience?

Write about a time you have seen the principle of sowing and reaping used correctly. Were you the giver, receiver, or observer? What made it right? What did the reaping look like? How did God use that to impact your life? What is the testimony from that?

Pray and ask God if you are supposed to be a spiritual parent or if you need one (or both). Ask God to reveal what that relationship should be like and to bring the right person into your life. Ask Him to reveal His plan for the relationship to both parties. If you are married, share what you are hearing from this with your spouse and have them help you pray and discern your next steps.

NOTES



MODULE 05

Spiritual Warfare

ACADEMY DIPLOMA

Streams Academy—Going Deeper in Spiritual Realities
Module 5: Spiritual Warfare

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MODULE 05
Spiritual Warfare

Description: There are many superstitions, even in the church, when it comes to spiritual warfare. Understanding Jesus' teaching on spiritual warfare will help to remove some of the mystery about spiritual warfare. Having a healthy understanding of spiritual warfare will keep us from two traps: One, ignoring spiritual warfare and being defeated by the enemy. And two, thinking that everything is spiritual warfare and empowering the enemy's attacks.

Unit 1: Demystifying Spiritual Warfare

Unit 2: Defining Spiritual Warfare

Unit 3: Spiritual Armor

Unit 4: Weapons of Our Warfare

MODULE 05

UNIT 1

Demystifying Spiritual Warfare



Unit 1: Demystifying Spiritual Warfare

Description: *There are many superstitions, even in the church, when it comes to spiritual warfare. Understanding Jesus' teaching on spiritual warfare will help to remove some of the mystery about spiritual warfare. Having a healthy understanding of spiritual warfare will keep us from two traps: One, ignoring spiritual warfare and being defeated by the enemy. And two, thinking that everything is spiritual warfare and empowering the enemy's attacks.*

Part 1: Spiritual Worldview

Worldview—what is it and why is it important

A fundamental philosophy of reality that informs how we see the world, know what is right or wrong, and understand our experiences (See Unit 4 of Module 2: Theological Foundations)

If we don't understand the world as it is we will not act rightly

If we interpret world events from a secular worldview we will blame people or human structures for the problems and evil we see

When our worldview is deficient it affects spiritual warfare

We fight the wrong battles

We deal with fruit and not the root which causes us to be in endless cycles of warfare

We find little fruit in transforming structures around us:

Family structures

Relational structures

Business and economic structures

Governmental structures

Church structures

Biblical worldview for spiritual warfare

There are two parts of the universe—spiritual and physical

They are interrelated

It is not dualism which says that the spirit is inherently good and the material is inherently evil

Spiritual things do affect material things and vice versa

Spiritual beings affect physical realities and can take on physical forms

Example: a spirit of infirmity may be a virus

God is the creator of all things—even the enemy (see John 1:1–5)

God created all things good

Even the enemy was once good but fell (Ezekiel 28)

God and the enemy are not equal

The enemy does not rule in hell

He does not do the torturing, he will be tortured there (Matthew 25:41)

There are real demons and a real devil, they are not terms for evil or temptation

He is a person, often called satan which is a term meaning adversary or slanderer (Luke 4:1–13)

The enemy rules this world system through a network of demonic powers

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

Since the Bible says that one third of the heavenly beings fell, we recognize that there are twice as many good heavenly beings as evil ones

His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. 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 12:4a, 9

We will discuss the council of the gods in Unit 2

Jesus won the final battle on the Cross

Our spiritual warfare is enforcing that victory

> *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

Part 2: How the War Started

How did this all start?

God gave Adam dominion

> *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."*—Genesis 1:26–28

Satan's temptation of Adam and Eve was to get their authority

You become a slave of whatever you submit to

> *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?*— Romans 6:16

Satan's influence was throughout history even though it was hidden

He is only mentioned a few times in the OT as acting in human history

Temptation in the Garden (Genesis 3:1–15)

Testing of Job (Job 1:6–12; 2:1–7)

David's census (1 Chronicles 21:1)

Zechariah's vision of Joshua (Zechariah 3:1–5)

False religions are demons pretending to be a god to get worship

No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.—1 Corinthians 10:20

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.—Deuteronomy 32:16–17

Demonic powers instigated wars, sickness, disasters, and other trouble

Jesus came to defeat the enemy!

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

All sin and its results come from the devil

This includes sickness, disease, and death

Not every specific sin, sickness, death, war, etc. is directly from a demon—but some are

None of them would happen if there was not evil in the world

Jesus defeated sin and the devil on the Cross!

> *Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*
>
> *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 2:6–15

Now the enemies' activity is easily recognized

> Demons manifested throughout Jesus' ministry and He dealt with them

He gave us the commission to do the same—proclaim the Kingdom is here, heal the sick, cast out demons, raise the dead

> *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."*—Luke 10:17–20

We enforce Jesus' victory!

Part 3: Avoiding Extremes

There are two extremes we must avoid

I don't have to think about spiritual warfare, I just want to live a "normal" life

Walking into a war zone unprepared and unarmed is stupid

> *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.*—1 Peter 5:8

God has given us spiritual armor because we need it

Knowing that the spiritual and the material are interrelated causes us to seek a spiritual root to physical situations

This is part of developing a biblical worldview

Everything is caused by demons

My flat tire, my angry boss, financial difficulty, every sickness

We too often blame the devil for what God is doing and God for what the devil is doing

When we focus on the demonic, we make room for it

If we expect warfare, we attract it

"According to your faith be it done to you"—Jesus

Examples of unnecessary warfare

When something happens, ask God what the source is

The spiritual gift of distinguishing of spirits

Part 4: Three Sources of Warfare

Understand the three enemies

The flesh

> *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*—Romans 7:18

When we live according to the flesh we fight against God

> *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*—Romans 8:5–8

When we allow our flesh (our soul—mind, will, emotions) to not be submitted to the spirit it makes room for all kinds of evil

> *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*—James 4:1–3

This leads us to the next battleground

The world

The world system exerts pressure on us to conform to its image

> *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

This is why James connected our passions and friendship with the world

> *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. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"?*—James 4:4–5

When our soul is in alignment with the world, we are open to demonic influence

God put His Spirit within our spirit (1 Corinthians 6:17) so that we can escape the world with its desires

> *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*—2 Peter 1:3–4

The world has basic principles that are contrary to God and ruled over by principalities

We have been set free from them and now resist their influence in every way

> *In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 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.*
>
> *Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?*—Galatians 4:3–9

Everything that is in the world has access through our soul and is an echo of the same three temptations that Adam and Eve faced in the Garden and Jesus faced in the wilderness

> *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*—1 John 2:15–17

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

The third source of warfare is the devil

He sometimes attacks us indirectly through the temptations of the flesh or the influence of the world

> *Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.*—Luke 22:31–32

Other times the attack is more direct

> *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.*—1 Peter 5:8–9

The attacks can be through circumstances

The devil caused a band of raiders to steal Job's animals (Job 1:14–15, 17)

Fire to come from heaven (Job 1:16)

A windstorm to knock down a house (Job 1:18–19)

The attacks can be conflict with people

Judas was filled with satan to betray Jesus (Luke 22:3; John 13:27)

Jesus said the arrest and following treatment were because darkness had been allowed influence

> *Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against Him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."*—Luke 22:52–53

The attacks can be persecution

> *I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 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.*—Revelation 2:10–11

The attacks can be demonic torment

> *Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him.*—1 Samuel 16:14

> *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

In these few examples of attack from the enemy a theme emerges

God sets a limit on what the devil can do

> He has to get permission to attack God's people

There is never an attack that God allows that we cannot overcome or endure

> *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*—1 Corinthians 10:13

NOTES

MORE NOTES

MORE NOTES

HOMEWORK



HOMEWORK

Unit 1: Demystifying Spiritual Warfare

Group discussion

Get in a group with three or four other students from this module and discuss the following questions

1. Growing up, what did you think the devil or demons were?
2. Were you fascinated by paranormal activity, ghost stories, ouiji boards, tarot cards, etc?
3. Where do you think the misconception of the devil and his demons tormenting people in hell came from?

NOTES

MODULE 05

UNIT 2

Defining Spiritual Warfare

Unit 2: Defining Spiritual Warfare

Description: *Spiritual warfare is far more comprehensive than many understand. What types of dark spiritual beings are there and how do we defeat them? What realms of spiritual warfare are allowed and which ones are not? What does spiritual warfare accomplish in our lives, our communities and churches, our nation, and our world?*

Part 1: Clash of Kingdoms

Understand of the kingdom of God

We are in the already and the not-yet

We are living in the current age and operating in the age to come

Jesus' work ushered in the age of the kingdom but the enemy's kingdom still exists

Jesus' return will end the enemy's kingdom

He will remove all evil and cast the devil and all his followers into the lake of fire

> *Fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and 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.*—Revelation 20:9b–10

Jesus told us to expand His kingdom

In the temptation the devil said he had authority over all the nations and Jesus didn't argue

> *And the devil took him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to Him, "To You I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If You, then, will worship me, it will all be Yours."*—Luke 4:5–7

After the resurrection Jesus said He had all authority

> *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…"*—Matthew 28:18–19a

Jesus' work on the Cross bound the strong man and now we can plunder his possessions (people)

> *But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.* Luke 11:20–22

> Every time we defeat the enemy by resisting temptation, casting out demons, healing the sick, forgiving sins, getting people saved, or healing land we expand the kingdom of God and shrink the dominion of darkness

The enemy has been defeated, we are enforcing that victory

> *He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.*—Colossians 2:15

> *What is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*—Ephesians 1:19–23

Part 2: The Role of Authority in Spiritual Warfare

Everything in the kingdom operates by authority

When we come into the kingdom we are given authority

We increase our authority by being faithful with what we have been given

> *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.*—Luke 16:10

The first realm of authority we are given is self-control

The first battle we have to fight is over ourselves

Will we submit to the kingdom?

Only those who are under authority have authority

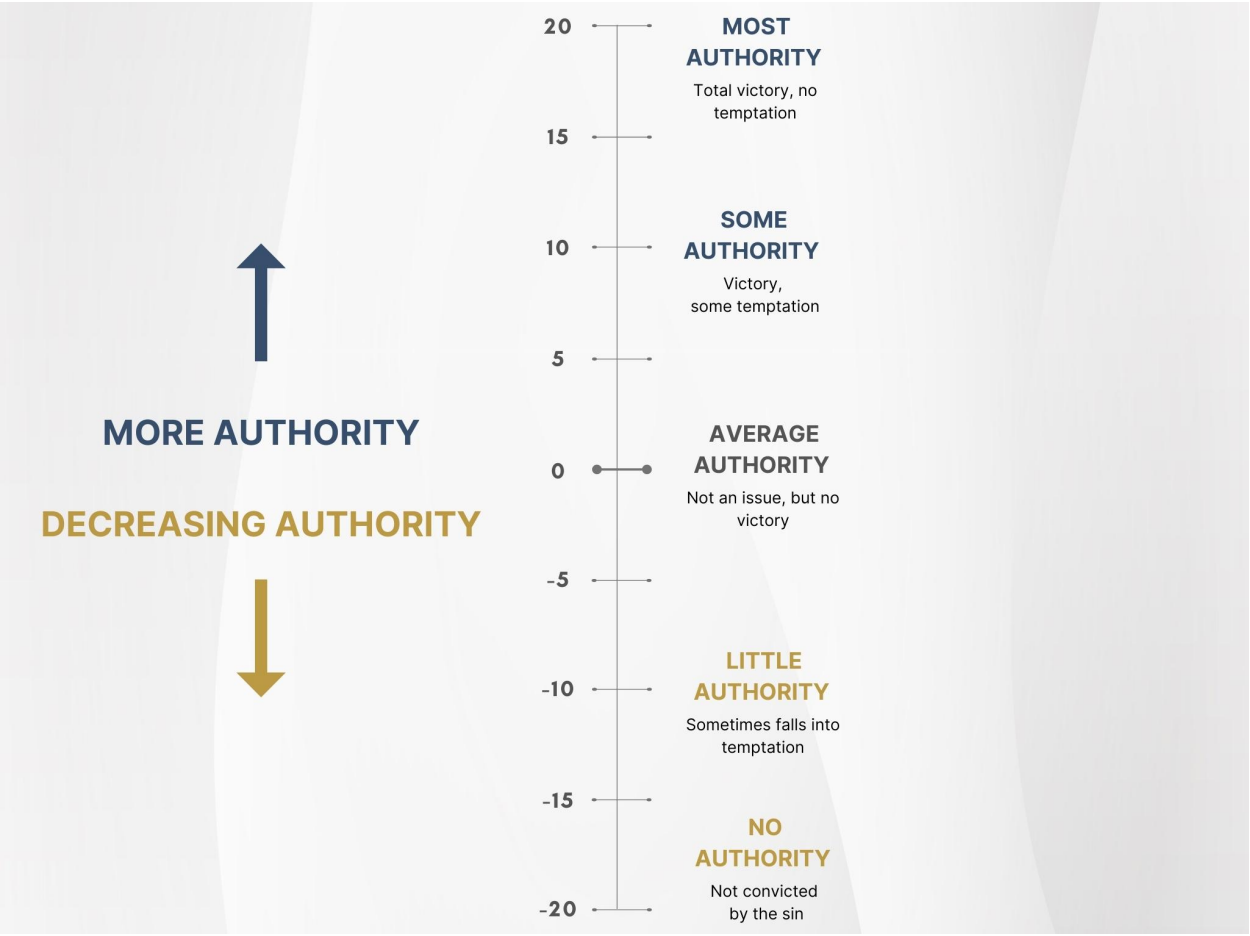
> *But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who followed Him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith."*—Matthew 8:8–10

The battle over our own life includes these areas

Fight temptation

> *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

> *But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*—1 Timothy 6:11–12



Victory over sin patterns increases our authority in that area

If we have victory over addiction, we will have greater authority helping others be free of addiction

We will have greater authority over spirits of addiction

Fight personal attacks

> *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*—James 4:7–8

Fight for our prayer life

> *And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And He said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*—Matthew 26:40–41

As we grow in authority, we take on battles in other arenas

Cast out demons

> *And He appointed twelve (whom He also named apostles) so that they might be with Him and He might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.*—Mark 3:14–15

Deal with demonic attack on larger scale

Attacks against churches, businesses, or other groups of people

In the next unit we will discuss how to fight at this level

Our commission is to proclaim the kingdom, heal the sick, and cast out demons

> *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. "And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons."*—Matthew 10:1, 7–8a

As the church does this in a region it displaces spiritual powers

> *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."*—Luke 10:17–20

Part 3: Types of Demonic Powers

We need to understand our authority

Our authority is based upon location more than rank of spiritual being

> *The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth He has given to the children of man.*—Psalm 115:16

When Jesus was explaining our authority over demonic powers He used the metaphor of serpents and scorpions

> *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."*—Luke 10:18–19

Serpents and scorpions are on the earth—usually on the ground

We are told we will tread on them, where we walk

This connects with Paul's comment about how we "walk", meaning how we live

> *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.*—Romans 16:19–20

We truly have authority over any demonic power we will encounter as we are being obedient to God

Needless Casualties of War by John Paul Jackson

We need to ask ourselves:

What is our assignment?

Authority is directly related to responsibility

We will always have the authority needed to fulfill our assignments

Are we acting in pride?

We need to be careful not to think too highly of ourselves

Pride causes people to overreach, go beyond their assignment

Are we deceiving ourselves?

Do we think we have authority that we have not been given?

Do we think of ourselves as having a higher rank in the kingdom than we actually have?

What not to do

Don't address a spirit that is not where we are

When someone talks to a principality, or to satan, you have to ask the question, "Are they there to hear?"

They are not omnipresent

Only God is everywhere

They are only in one place at a time

Satan had to move around on the earth according to Job 1 & 2

Why would they be listening to us?

They have bigger issues to deal with!

Don't act like the enemy to cast out the enemy

What spirit are we acting out of?

The Holy Spirit will carry the virtues of Christ and always operate in His character

Look at how Jesus cast out demons

He just told them to go, be silent, leave

Mocking the enemy or belittling him is not Christlike

> *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 8–10

These evil powers are our enemy, but we respect the authority and rank God gave them in the beginning

> *The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you.*—2 Peter 2:9–13

The word for blasphemous is related to reviling, being insulting, or slanderous

When Peter says, “despise authority”, the word for authority he uses is the same as Paul used to talk about high level spiritual powers (Colossians 1:16; Ephesians 1:21)

The right way to remove principalities

Like Michael did, there is no problem with us asking God to deal with regional spirits

“Father, there is a principality over our city, would you remove it? Show us your strategy.”

Get people saved, healed, and delivered

Principalities, powers, and rulers have authority because people gave it to them

To the extent people agree with the enemy, he has authority over them

When they get saved they stop agreeing with him

The enemy loses authority and regional spirits shift

Remove the agreement from the land through repentance

Sin committed on the land defiles the land

> *If in the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess someone is found slain, lying in the open country, and it is not known who killed him, then your elders and your judges shall come out, and they shall measure the distance to the surrounding cities. And the elders of the city that is nearest to the slain man shall take a heifer that has never been worked and that has not pulled in a yoke. And the elders of that city shall bring the heifer down to a valley with running water, which is neither plowed nor sown, and shall break the heifer's neck there in the valley. Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come forward, for the Lord your God has chosen them to minister to Him and to bless in the name of the Lord, and by their word every dispute and every assault shall be settled. And all the elders of that city nearest to the slain man shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley, and they shall testify, "Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it shed. Accept atonement, O Lord, for your people Israel, whom you have redeemed, and do not set the guilt of innocent blood in the midst of your people Israel, so that their blood guilt be atoned for." So you shall purge the guilt of innocent blood from your midst, when you do what is right in the sight of the Lord.*—Deuteronomy 21:1–9

As we discover what defiled the land and gave the enemy the right to be there, we repent and God heals the land

> *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

Healing the Land seminar

Identificational repentance

We identify with a group or individual and repent on their behalf

Most commonly accepted when dealing with generational sin

Can also remove curses, judgements, and spiritual assignments from people groups and lands

This is how Daniel prayed for Israel to be set free from exile

> *Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking Him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from Your commandments and rules. We have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land."*—Daniel 9:3–6

When Daniel prayed to God, God sent a high ranking angel

Daniel had no idea until the angel told him

> *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, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision."*—Daniel 9:20–23

When we pray according to God's will there is activity in the spiritual realm

> *Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."*—Daniel 10:12–14

We don't often realize it

Our job is to obey and pray to God

God's job is to release angelic assignments

We don't pray to the angels, we pray to God

We don't tell them what to do, they will ignore us

But as we declare what God has said, they move to accomplish His will

> *Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of His word! Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!*—Psalm 103:20–21

Ranks of spiritual beings

Anytime someone shares what rank different types of spiritual beings have, there is some conjecture

There is no place in Scripture where it says clearly what the ranks are

Historically, the church has had various ways to rank them

Pseudo—Dionysius from the 5th or 6th century separated three groups of three types

This is the most widely held view, but it leaves many questions

Others see each in order instead of three rankings

Since some types of spiritual beings are only mentioned in the Old Testament and other types mentioned in the New, it may be that some of the distinctions are actually just different words for the same thing

- The only time cherubim are mentioned in the New Testament is when the writer of Hebrews is describing the ark of the covenant
- The word archangel is only used in the New Testament
- Michael is called a chief prince (which is the meaning of principality) in Daniel but called an archangel in Jude

The descriptions of some are different

- Seraphim are said to have six wings (Isaiah 6:1–6)
  - The word seraph means fiery ones
  - The only other time they are mentioned is in Numbers 21:6–9
  - Seraph serpents were most likely fallen seraphim

Cherubim have a couple different descriptions

Ezekiel saw them as beings of fire with four faces—lion, bull, eagle, man (Ezekiel 1 & 10)

He describes them as being covered with eyes

John saw four creatures each with one face (Revelation 4:6–8)

Some other sources (Book of Enoch and Jewish tradition) say that Michael and Gabriel were cherubim

Other cherubim in tradition are Raphael and Ariel

Lucifer was a cherub

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.—Ezekiel 28:14

Abbadon (also called Apollyon) was traditionally thought to be a cherub that fell

Angels are described in various ways

They can look like people (e.g. Genesis 19:1)

They can be full of light (e.g. Revelation 18:1)

The word angel means messenger and can be used of the Lord (Exodus 3:2–4), spiritual beings (Genesis 19:1), archangels (Gabriel Luke 1:19), and people (Genesis 32:24–30)

Watchers

Only mentioned once in Scripture in Daniel 4

The Book of Enoch talks about them a lot

Scripture does not tell us enough to know if they are a separate type of being or another name for various beings in a particular role

Part 4: Council of the Gods

The idea of a council of gods has a lot of traction in myths and false religions from the ancient world. Roman and Greek mythology hold to this idea but so did Canaanite and Ugaritic myths. The Bible also discusses it (as we will soon see). One important theological note: The Bible is our source for understanding and theology. When other ancient sources complement Biblical themes it does not mean that the Biblical writers got their understanding from those sources, even if the sources pre-date Scripture. 2 Timothy 3:16 clearly states, "All Scripture is breathed out by God." God is the source for the concepts taught in Scripture!

Michael Helser made the concept of a council of gods, or council of God, more popular in the last 10 years with his scholarly research revealed in his book The Unseen Realm. *Carlton Kenney wrote a short book,* Standing in the Council of God *in 2002 and John Sandford taught about the council in his book* Healing the Nations *released in 2000. Influences from each of these will be throughout this section along with much more study that I have done and concepts discovered through conversation.*

What is the council of God (of gods)?

God created spiritual beings and gave them wisdom

He invites them into conversation about some decisions He is going to make to get their input

Genesis may refer to this council

> *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

> Some see a reference to the Trinity in this verse while others believe God is talking to His council

Some members of this council are fallen

> Satan was able to enter into the council as the sons of God were gathered

> *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

> He still had that ability after the exile

> *Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your*

iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the Lord was standing by.

And the angel of the Lord solemnly assured Joshua, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here.—Zechariah 3:1–7

Joshua, the high priest, was promised an invitation to God's council

The council was a common understanding in Jewish thought

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 82:1–8

How many are in the council? Some say 70 or 72

Each nation has a representative in the council

> *When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when He divided mankind, He fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.*—Deuteronomy 32:8

When God "divided mankind" refers to the tower of Babel

In Genesis 10 there are 70 nations mentioned

Right after they are listed God put the story of Babel

And the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.—Genesis 11:6–9

Jewish tradition tells us there is a 72 character name of God that is so holy only the High Priest could speak it in the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement

The name comes from Exodus 14:19–21—each verse has 72 Hebrew characters

Care must be used here as some have made this into Jewish magic (Zohar)

Some believe each name reveals something about God's nature and each people group was given one of those aspects of God when the nations were dispersed

The language they were given represents that aspect

The culture and art, including music, represents that aspect

A member of the council was given responsibility to steward that aspect of God in the people they were assigned to

Each of the bloodlines have a specific purpose that reveals God

When the sounds and languages come together in the redeemed communication of that aspect of God, the fullness of worship God planned will be revealed

This is why Revelation is adamant about every ethnic group giving their worship

> *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!"*—Revelation 7:9–10

This is also why the gift of tongues is so contested

With the outpouring of His Spirit God brought languages back into unity so that a house could be built that "reached into the heavens"

Interesting points about 70 or 72 in redemptive history

I believe Abraham became the other two, Ishmael and Isaac

When Jacob went down to Egypt he took 70 with him and had two born in Egypt (Joseph's sons) making 72 (Genesis 46:27)

When Jesus sent out the disciples he sent out 72 (Luke 10:17)

This was also the passage where Jesus saw satan fall like lightning

This is the purpose of missions and also explains spiritual warfare over regions

As we preach the Gospel, cast out demons, and heal the sick, God is laying claim to that person and the people they represent

This is "plundering the strong man's house"

A key aspect of spiritual warfare is discerning what God's intention over a region or people is and bringing them into the realization of that intent

Another priority is having each ethnic group worship with their own sound and their own language

This gives expression to that aspect of God in the earth realm

People are sometimes invited to be part of God's council

In Zechariah 3 we see Joshua the High Priest being invited to this council

Jeremiah connected standing in God's council with the prophetic office

> *For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and to hear His word, or who has paid attention to His word and listened? Behold, the storm of the Lord! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the Lord will not turn back until He has executed and accomplished the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. "I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in My council, then they would have proclaimed My words to My people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds."*—Jeremiah 23:18–22

Elijah most likely was invited into the council

> He says multiple times, "before Whom I stand" (1 Kings 17:1; 18:15)
>
> > Perhaps this is where he was assigned the drought and rainstorm?

Isaiah's vision of the Lord in the temple seems to be a council session

> *And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."*—Isaiah 6:8 (notice the plural pronoun)

One only comes to the council by invitation

NOTES

MORE NOTES

MORE NOTES

HOMEWORK



HOMEWORK

Unit 2: Defining Spiritual Warfare

Group Discussion

1. How is healing the sick and preaching the gospel spiritual warfare?
2. Have you ever cast out a demon? What was that like?
3. What level of authority over the enemy's kingdom do you have in your own life? What do you need to do or change to increase it?

Read *The Life of Antony* by Athanasius

NOTES

MODULE 05

UNIT 3

Spiritual Armor

Unit 3: Spiritual Armor

Description: *What protection do we have in the spiritual arena? Is there a specific way we need to "put on the full armor of God"? What does that actually look like? What is the greatest protection from spiritual attack? Come and learn!*

Part 1: Warfare in Spiritual Community

> *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. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel.*—Ephesians 6:10–19

The context of this passage is Paul exhorting the Ephesian believers to walk in love

Ephesians 4:17–32 is all about relationships in the church community

Ephesians 5:1–21 encourages holiness, connection to the Spirit and how that fosters connection with each other

Ephesians 5:22–33 is about marriage relationships

Ephesians 6:1–4 is about parent/children relationships

Ephesians 6:5–9 is about work relationships

When you try to live in Christian community you will face spiritual warfare

Let's look at this passage in more detail

Verse 10—*Finally, be **strong** in the Lord and in the **strength** of His **might**.* [emphasis added]

There are three words used for might or power in this verse

These are the same three words that are used in Ephesians 1:19

> *What is the immeasurable greatness of His **power** toward us who believe, according to the **working** of His great **might**.*—Ephesians 1:19 [emphasis added]

The emphasis is that it is God's power that strengthens us for the battle

It is the same power He used to raise Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:20)

Verse 11—*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*

The word "stand" is a military term for holding your ground, maintaining your position

This points back to Paul's exhortations for relationships

> *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.*—Ephesians 4:1–3

There is a battle for love and unity in the Body of Christ

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.—Ephesians 4:31–32

This is why the next verse reminds us that it is not people we are fighting

Notice it says "whole armor"—all of it is needed

Verse 12—*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.*

"Your brother is never your enemy."—John Wimber

Types of spiritual beings that Paul mentions

Rulers: literally one who is first, talking about rank

The Greek word is *arche* which is part of the word archangel

These are most likely fallen cherubim and are often called principalities

They could be part of the council of gods, but not necessarily

Authority: this is one who brings influence and exercise power

The Greek word *exousia* is connected to authority, the right to act, and dominion

This seems to be a spirit that has been given authority over a particular people, thought process, or territory

Since *arche* means first, these seem to be under, or working with, rulers

Cosmic powers: world ruler, might or power, world influence

The title *kosmokrator* (power, potentate) occurs frequently in classical and rabbinical literature. It denotes one who aspires to world control.[1]

[1] A. Skevington Wood, "Ephesians," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Ephesians through Philemon*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein, vol. 11 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981), 86.

Spirits of wickedness

This would include all other spirits that have fallen and operate in the spiritual world

Heavenly places

The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth He has given to the children of man.—Psalm 115:16

Since Paul mentions the third heaven (2 Corinthians 12:2) we know there is more than one heaven

Fallen spiritual beings inhabit "heavenly places" when they are not roaming the earth

Verse 13—*Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

Take up means to put on—there is an action required on our part

We must choose to be equipped for this battle

Evil day means when things are at their worst (see Ephesians 6:13 NEB)

No matter what, we still hold our ground

What has Christ done in us and for us?

What did Christ die for?

Peace between us and God, others, and creation

The phrase “having done all” has to do with achievements in war or in the games

Stand means to endure or withstand

We don’t back down or quit

Part 2: Spiritual Equipment

The armor of God

It is called the armor of God because it is the armor God wears

Belt of truth

The belt holds the armor together and holds the scabbard for the sword

Righteousness shall be the belt of His waist, and faithfulness the belt of His loins.—Isaiah 11:5

Jesus is truth

I am the way, and the truth, and the life.—John 14:6

Truth is integrity

Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.—Psalm 51:6

Absolute honesty with ourselves and others is protection in this battle

For us to be safe in warfare against the deceiver we must stand in truth

We can't hide, pretend, cover up, give partial truth

We must be in agreement with the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17)

Breastplate of righteousness

He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped Himself in zeal as a cloak.—Isaiah 59:17

The breastplate covers the chest—our heart

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him.—1 John 3:21–22

Righteousness is about character—how we live

It is not our own righteousness, but it is real in our actions

> *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*—Philippians 3:8–11

The Lord is our righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6)

When we know this we become it

Holiness is key to protection in warfare

> *And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*—Isaiah 35:8–10

Lack of holiness removes the hedge of protection God puts around us

Remember Balaam's strategy

If we agree with the enemy we give him authority over us

Remember Adam and Eve

Repentance is our best friend—it returns us to righteousness

What the Blood covers is gone

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

More about this in Unit 4: Weapons of Our Warfare

Shoes of the readiness of the Gospel of peace

Josephus described the Roman warrior's shoes as "shoes thickly studded with sharp nails"

Shoes give us traction so that we don't slip

They protect us so we can walk in dangerous places without getting hurt

> *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."*—Isaiah 52:7

Proclaiming the Gospel, what Jesus has done, gives us traction so we move forward

To the extent the Gospel has transformed our lives we will have authority to affect other people's lives

We have to receive the Gospel and preach it to every part of our hearts

Our minds may know, but are there parts of our heart that wonder?

This is where inner healing comes in, it fights the battle for our minds and hearts but also prepares us to fight outside battles as well

Shield of faith

Roman shield was large and they could hide their whole bodies behind it

Locked together with other shields to create an impenetrable wall

One soldier described having 220 arrows in his shield after a battle

Arrows would often be dipped in tar then lit on fire

The shield puts the fire out so it doesn't spread

Our shield is faith—confidence, trust, assurance

This includes general faith and the gift of faith

The word of truth and sense of victory

The Greek for evil one means wicked, evil, pain, affliction, and is related to sickness and disease

Sometimes the warfare is connected to physical illness

Helmet of salvation

The helmet covers the head which is the mind—our thinking

He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped Himself in zeal as a cloak.—Isaiah 59:17

To take means to receive or accept

Salvation is everything Jesus paid for on the cross

Peace with God

Right standing

Freedom from the effects of the fall

We are saved, are being saved, and will be saved

Confidence in His work and assurance of our salvation protects our minds

Remembering we have been reconciled to God breaks shame and doubt

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.—Jude 24–25

Sword of the Spirit

The sword of the Spirit is divine utterance or speech

This is both revelatory speech and Scripture

Jesus quoted Scripture to fight the devil

> *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

Timothy was told to use prophecies to fight with

> *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, holding faith and a good conscience.*—1 Timothy 1:18–19a

> Holding faith, believe what God has said over you

> A good conscience, walk rightly and repent when we mess up

God's word searches us and separates out what is our soul and what is our spirit—then we use it to fight the enemy

> *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.*—Revelation 12:11

> What is the word of our testimony?

> > The verbal evidence of a witness by which something is affirmed to be true

What has God done in your life?

Speak it out loud, tell yourself and others, speak it into the spiritual realm

Part 3: Prayer as Armor

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel.—Ephesians 6:18–19

Praying at all times in the Spirit

This is Spirit-inspired prayer

> *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.*—Romans 8:26

> As we trust the Spirit inside of us to pray, we will pray the right things for the right battle

Sometimes that prayer will be with words

Prophetic prayer

Sometimes that prayer will be in other languages

Speaking in tongues

Speaking in tongues is important in spiritual warfare

We pray things we don't know how to pray and wouldn't think of

We pray in accordance with the Spirit

As we bring our tongues into unity with the Spirit it releases unity in our spirit

Alignment with God is inherently spiritual warfare

We are causing our mind to submit to the Spirit

This can help us take thoughts captive (2 Corinthians 10:5)

It strengthens our spirit and builds up our faith

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself.—1 Corinthians 14:4a

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.—Jude 20–21

All prayer

Every type of prayer

The golden altar in the tabernacle and temple had special incense that was offered on it

> *And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.*—Revelation 8:3–5

The incense represents prayers

It had five elements correlating with five types of prayer

Salt representing adoration

Frankincense representing intercession

Stacte representing contemplation

Galbanum representing supplication

Onycha representing devotional prayer

All prayer is warfare even when we are not talking about the battle

Prayer is essential

We can't win, but He has already won

Our reliance is not on ourselves but on Him

Supplication is added so we don't forget we are begging, asking

Oxford Dictionary defines supplication as "the action of asking or begging for something earnestly or humbly"

This is prayer to God—not the enemy

Remember—draw near to God, resist the enemy

Perseverance

We don't stop praying until we see the victory

To continue to do something with great effort despite difficulty or delay

> *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

> *And He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.*—Luke 18:1

Wisdom points regarding spiritual armor and warfare from Ephesians 6

Putting on our spiritual armor is not a spell we speak daily but a reality we live in

We daily remind ourselves of the truth of what God has done and promised

Remembering that He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of 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.*—2 Corinthians 5:21

Ready at every moment to declare the good news of peace that was proclaimed to our hearts and to all that are near

Trusting that God is good and He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear, but will always provide a way out

> *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*—1 Corinthians 10:13

Knowing that no angel or power can separate us from the love of God

> *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*
>
> *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 8:31–39

Believing that He that is within us is greater than he that is in the world

> *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

Receiving the fullness of what Jesus bought on the Cross knowing that we are saved and not allowing our minds to sway from that place

> *But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.*—2 Timothy 1:13

Trusting that He will keep us in perfect peace whose minds are stayed on Him because we trust in Him

> *You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.*—Isaiah 26:3

Declaring the Word of God over our circumstances, situations, emotional state, mental processes, desires of our hearts, and any evil power that tries to resist God's plan for our lives

Staying in the place of praying at all times

> *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*—1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Praying in the Spirit to build up our faith

> *But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.*—Jude 20

Worshiping in our pain and doubt

> *And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.*—Job 1:21–22

Asking God to help us and give us victory

> *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*—1 Corinthians 15:57

NOTES

MORE NOTES

MORE NOTES

HOMEWORK



HOMEWORK

Unit 3: Spiritual Armor

<Group Prayer> Gather in groups of 3 or 4 at most! This can be done online if necessary.

If God would break through and change one thing in your life right now, what would that one thing be? Say it in one sentence: I would be healed of… I would no longer doubt God's love for me… I would never get stuck in depression again, anxiety again. One sentence.

Stand in center, the rest put hands on them and declare that thing over them. Take authority over any spiritual resistance. Command the issue to bow to the Lordship of Jesus. Declare the victory of the blood to make them worthy of God's blessing in this way and the power of the Cross to change any behavior they have that would agree with it. Declare it done.

After prayer, if God has spoken that something needs to be repented of or changed to see this happen do it. If God did not show something specific but you feel you don't deserve it that is shame, ignore that. Of course you don't deserve it, that is why Jesus died!

NOTES

MODULE 05

UNIT 4

Weapons of Our Warfare

Unit 4: Weapons of Our Warfare

Description: *When we understand what our weapons in spiritual warfare are (and aren't) we become much more effective in defeating the enemy. The weapons of our warfare are not what we expect. Come explore a variety of things that God has given us that will defeat the influence the prince of the power of the air wields to conform the world to his image, how to use them, and how God's plan for us to be victorious in this life comes together.*

Part 1: Spiritual Weapons

If our warfare is spiritual then our weapons need to be as well

> *For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.*—2 Corinthians 10:4

Picture taking a physical sword and trying to destroy a demon with it

There is no body for it to touch

We would tire of all the physical activity and not accomplish anything

To war against spiritual powers we must use spiritual weapons

When thinking about weapons, think about who God is

Walking in the nature of God aligns us with heaven and protects us from hell

This is about who God is in us—not who we are in God

The indwelling Spirit working the nature of Christ into all parts of us

Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world

Not greater are we…

If we avoid the trap of dualism we will see how related the physical and the spiritual are

That will allow us to recognize how much of our lives are affecting the spiritual realm one way or the other

Every word, action, etc. has the potential to push back darkness or expand it

If we separate the physical from the spiritual, then they are two different things

Then our weapons for spiritual warfare would only be spiritual things like prayer

The weapon we use depends on the realm of attack

Mind

Atmosphere

Regional

Some weapons work in multiple spheres

Part 2: Kinds of Weapons

Repentance

This is not just a weapon, it is essential for life

The enemy has authority over us to the extent we have agreement with him

None of us are completely holy in our thoughts, words, and deeds

Repentance makes us clean

> *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 1:9–10

We want to live a lifestyle of repentance

Identificational repentance (more in Healing the Land)

The enemy has rights wherever sin is

Remove the sin

Release forgiveness

Forgive others, nations, leaders, etc.

Ask God to forgive them

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

Worship

Worship can be warfare

Not only when it is asking God to defeat the devil

> *And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise Him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the Lord, for His steadfast love endures forever." And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed.*—2 Chronicles 20:21–23

Worship brings heaven down

> *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.*—Acts 16:25–26

Paul and Silas were not worshipping to break the chains, but their hearts were truly thankful

God responded to their praise and released His kingdom into their situation

> *Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.*—Psalm 22:3

Submission

When we submit to God it foils the enemy's plans

> *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*—James 4:7

Submit to God—not to religious requirements

> *If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—"Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch?"*—Colossians 2:20

A lack of submission puts one into the enemies' territory

> *For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.*—1 Samuel 15:23a

This was the power of the Cross

Jesus submitted to injustice out of obedience to the Father

Death had no right to touch Him because no sin was in Him, so when it did the power of death was broken

This is the power of the martyrs

Submission and sacrifice are connected

Sacrifice

There is great spiritual power in sacrifice

Must be Spirit led and not out of manipulation (us trying to force God's hand)

This was the principle Elijah used when asking for water on Mt. Carmel

This only works when coming out of true humility (knowing our value)

Something is not a gift when you throw it away

It is only a sacrifice when you value it

God loves a cheerful giver

This could be silence in the face of accusation

This could be sacrificing your pride by dancing in public because God said it would open something up for you or others

The enemy knows this power as well

> *When the king of Moab saw that the battle was going against him, he took with him 700 swordsmen to break through, opposite the king of Edom, but they could not.* **27** *Then he took his oldest son who was to reign in his place and offered him for a burnt offering on the wall. And there came great wrath against Israel. And they withdrew from him and returned to their own land.*—2 Kings 3:26–27

Elisha had prophesied total victory

Is the enemy more submitted to their god than we are to our God?

Service

There is great power in service that is done as worship

Serving others releases authority to help them

> *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."*—Mark 10:42–45

Walking in truth has the potential to break the power of deception over others

The world says you need to overpower others to get ahead

The kingdom says service gives you true authority over them

This is effective in relational conflict as well

Words

There is power in declaring God's words

When God's words are given expression on earth there is agreement between heaven and earth

We can learn to put authority on words

Recognize when you are speaking into the spiritual realm

Angels that are near respond to God's words

Fallen angels that hear tremble

When we have the authority, they will obey

We have already talked about Scripture and prophecy as weapons

Memorize Scripture—especially related to the battles you face

Speak them out loud

God had already thought of creation but it didn't happen until He spoke it

Prophetic words

On the lake when the storm threatened the disciples, why did Jesus rebuke them for their little faith?

He had already said, “Let us go over to the other side”

Learn more about the power of words and declarations for breakthrough in the Crafting Prophetic Declarations course

Anointed preaching to break strongholds

The context of 2 Corinthians 10:1–6 is Paul telling the Corinthians what he and his team will do when they come

They will destroy arguments and take thoughts captive

They will punish disobedience

Some preaching is breaking resistance in regions

Part 3: Increasing Effectiveness

How can we grow in effectiveness in using the weapons we have been given?

The fruit of the Spirit

The fruit of the Spirit is the result of walking with the Spirit

> *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*—Romans 14:17

Walking in the opposite spirit

Whatever the enemy is trying to do or causing—do the opposite

If fear, then love

> *There is no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear.*—1 John 4:18a

If strife, then peace

> *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

If control, then submission

> When we submit to God it breaks the control the enemy tries to put on us
>
> *We must obey God rather than man.*—Acts 5:29b

If poverty, then generosity

> *At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor. He shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because the Lord's release has been proclaimed. Of a foreigner you may exact it, but whatever of yours is with your brother your hand shall release. But there will be no poor among you; for the Lord will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess.*—Deuteronomy 15:1–4

If immorality, then purity

If confusion, then clarity

Especially when communication is being attacked with confusion

If anger, then kindness

A gentle answer turns away wrath.—Proverbs 15:1a NASB

If bitterness, then forgiveness

If curses, then blessing

But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.—Luke 6:27–28

This is effective when fighting witchcraft

Good always overcomes evil

> *Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*—Romans 12:17–21

We do this out of our faith in God that His ways are higher and that our life is a prayer

Cultivating an Effective Prayer Life MP3

What makes the weapons work?

Obedience and conviction

Obedience—is it what God is doing?

If He tells us to do one thing and we try to do another, it will most likely not be effective

Conviction—do we really believe it?

"According to your faith so be it unto you."

Part 4: Common Battles

There are categories of demonic attacks that seem to be common in churches or ministries that are growing in spiritual authority. Here are a couple of them and basic strategies to defeat them.

Jezebel

A spiritual entity that tries to control leaders

Not always in females but often uses sexuality to gain control

> *But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.*—Revelation 2:20

Often presents themselves as prophetic and connect with prophetic or intercessory leaders

Sometimes they will present “revelation” that casts innuendo about people that are in their way as they seek more influence

Often talks about their spiritual knowledge that they will share with others who look up to them

Often plays the victim when confronted

They often flatter the leader while telling others the leader's faults, presenting themselves as the "one who really knows"

Keys to overcoming them

Don't be impressed by people that talk about their great gifting

Promote maturity (fruit of the Spirit) not gifting

When you are told about their lies or accusations, write down exactly what was said and when

Realize that when they are confronted they like to turn it around and accuse others of the very thing they are doing

Strong leadership that confronts in love has built in resistance to its control

Jezebel's husband, Ahab, was a weak leader that was controlled by her

Be wary of people that flatter you—they may be trying to use you

What is the fruit of victory over Jezebel?

Greater authority (Revelation 2:26–27)

A greater revelation of Jesus as the morning star (Revelation 2:28; 22:16)

Absalom

Usually starts out good but the enemy uses an offense at the leadership to foster rebellion

The ultimate goal is to split the church, business, or group

They will develop favor with people but not with the leadership

> *Then Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice." And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.*—2 Samuel 15:4–6

"I want to help you if only I was given more authority"

"The leader doesn't want what is best for you (or us)"

Rebellion and lawlessness

Keys to overcoming

Confront rebellion and reveal what it is

Sometimes when they see the rebellion they will genuinely be surprised and repent

Talk about actions, not intent, they think their intent is good

Good communication with the people by the leaders

If it gets too far, bring what is hidden into the light, tell everyone

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.—Romans 16:17–18

What is the fruit of victory over Absalom?

Increased favor with people

Establishment of the position that was threatened

Leviathan

A name commonly given to a spirit or attack that twists communication and tries to strangle the spiritual life and love in a community

Brings confusion so that what is done or said is received, or heard, differently than intended

Breeds on offense and tries to divide

> *In that day the Lord with His hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and He will slay the dragon that is in the sea.*—Isaiah 27:1

This attack causes situations that are hard to put your finger on (fleeing serpent)

> "I am not sure what just happened but something wasn't right"

> Almost always points the finger at someone else as the source of "not right"

Confuses outside communication

> Typos that change intent

> Issues with communication mediums not working

> Printers, e-mails, texts, websites, etc.

Keys to overcoming

Good communication is spiritual warfare

Emotionally Healthy Relationships by Pete Scazzero

Stop mind-reading

Clarify expectations

Incarnational listening

"This is what I heard, is that what you meant?"

Slow down and don't assume anything

Don't believe anyone's perceptions until you know both sides of the story

Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.—1 Timothy 5:19

The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.—Proverbs 18:17

Covenant to walk in love

> *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*—Ephesians 4:32–5:2

Cover all communications in prayer

What is the fruit of victory over Leviathan?

Increased influence from the message

The voice was attacked, the voice increases

Greater unity of spirit

Greater clarity of call and future plans

Jealousy

When someone is used of God, the enemy likes to stir up jealousy against them

If people agree with that jealousy it can cause them to curse them

> *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

It may not be spells, but negative or judgmental words spoken

This can sap strength, release discouragement, cause physical illness

It can close doors of opportunity that should have been open

Contracts not going through, invitations not coming, favor with people lessening

Keys to overcoming

Shield of honor

Colleagues and/or leaders of the person come together and speak out loud what they recognize as God's calling and God's favor over that person

What are their spiritual gifts?

What value do they bring to the kingdom?

What characteristics of the nature of God have they seen in them?

This is a form of acting in the opposite spirit

What is the fruit of victory over jealousy?

Wisdom from above (James 3:17)

A harvest of righteousness (James 3:18)

Favor and influence with people

The greatest benefit from overcoming spiritual warfare is the increase of intimacy with the Lord that is required to keep going

The enemy attacks us and that sends us running to Jesus

We draw near to God, God draws near to us, and the enemy runs

We are left closer to Jesus than before!

NOTES

MORE NOTES

HOMEWORK

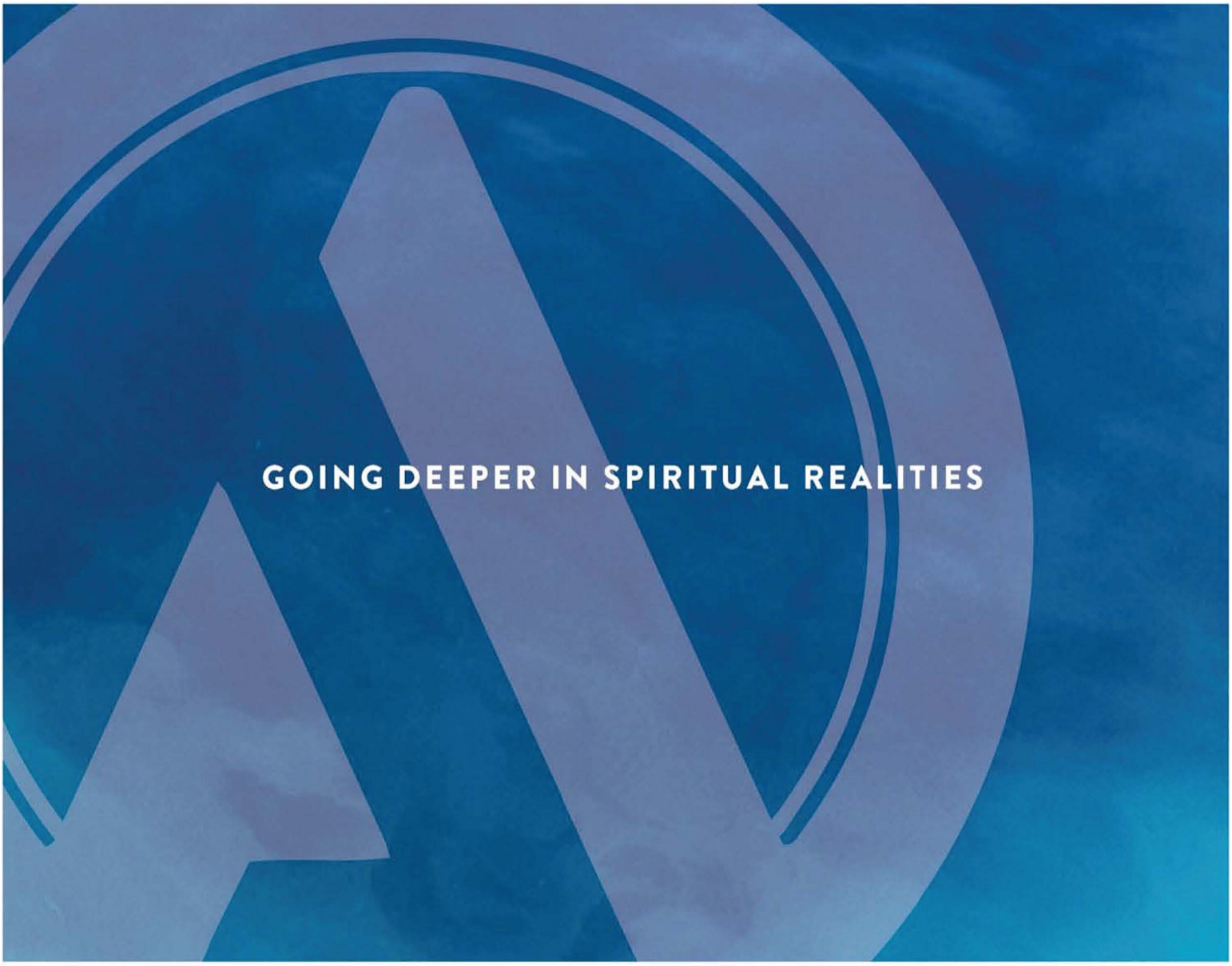
Unit 4: Weapons of Warfare

Spend at least 10 minutes every day for 30 days worshipping God. During this time do not allow your mind to wander—keep it fixed on Him for the whole time. If you do wander, start the 10 minutes over again. If playing a recorded worship song helps as you do this that is great. If you just want to sing yourself that is okay. Singing out loud is important.

After you complete 30 days in a row start the next part.

Spend a minimum of 15 minutes speaking in tongues out loud for 30 days. Hold your mind on God the whole time. If your mind wanders, start again. If you need to start at 5 minutes for the first 3 days, then increase to 10 minutes for the next 5 days that may help. Do this in complete silence except your own prayer language. It may help to focus your mind on inviting God's presence as you speak in tongues.

NOTES



MODULE 06

Spiritual Wisdom

ACADEMY DIPLOMA

Streams Academy—Going Deeper in Spiritual Realities
Module 6: Spiritual Wisdom

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MODULE 05
Spiritual Warfare

Description: Come discover nuggets of spiritual wisdom. In this module you will explore leadership dynamics, how to be a leader and how to recognize safe leaders. You will learn essential spiritual laws and principles and discover the power of creativity to transform culture and spiritual atmospheres. You will also be taught more effective ways to heal the sick and learn how to overcome common hindrances to physical healing.

Unit 1: Leadership

Unit 2: Transition

Unit 3: Spiritual Creativity

Unit 4: Healing and Faith

MODULE 06

UNIT 1

Leadership

Module 6: Spiritual Wisdom

Description: *Come discover nuggets of spiritual wisdom. In this module you will explore leadership dynamics, how to be a leader and how to recognize safe leaders. You will learn essential spiritual laws and principles and discover the power of creativity to transform culture and spiritual atmospheres. You will also be taught more effective ways to heal the sick and learn how to overcome common hindrances to physical healing.*

Unit 1: Leadership

Part 1: Effective Impartation & Commissioning

Description: *Impartation is an important concept in ministry. The term is used in various setting, usually in charismatic circles. What is it, how do we do it, how do we receive it, and what is the purpose of it?*

What is impartation?

> Impartation transfers spiritual reality from one person to another, often through laying hands on that person

> > This principle was first seen when Jacob blessed Joseph

> > > *And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn). And he blessed Joseph.*—Genesis 48:14–15a

The same principle was seen in the sacrificial system

People would lay hands on their sacrifice, confess their sins, then it would be killed

They transferred their guilt to the animal that would die

In the New Testament they would lay hands on people to release the presence of the Spirit that was on them to others

> *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

Spiritual gifts were imparted by laying hands on people

> *For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*—2 Timothy 1:6

Authority can also be imparted

When Moses needed help, God took some of the Spirit that He had put on Moses and imparted it to others so they would have the spiritual authority to help him

> *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.*—Numbers 11:16–17

When the apostles needed help, they laid hands on deacons to give them spiritual authority and power

> *Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.*—Acts 6:3, 6

When someone was being sent out on a new ministry endeavor new authority was imparted to them for their mission

> *While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*—Acts 13:2–3

When we pray for someone and they are healed it can be impartation

> *Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.*—Acts 3:6–7

Notice the phrase, "what I do have I give to you"

Peter had the kingdom in which is perfect health

He imparted the power of that kingdom to the man

What causes an impartation to "stick"?

Some people have received impartation and then not walked in it

How do we access what has been released through impartation?

The principle of honor

What you honor in another person you have more access to

Part of that is recognition

> *Whoever receives you receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.*—Matthew 10:40–42

Honor gives someone weight—they have the ability to influence you

It also means to esteem, or respect, someone

Samuel, Elijah, and Elisha were called "father" by others

It was a sign of respect

Honor can be shown by generosity

One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food. And she said to her husband, "Behold now, I know that this is a holy man of God who is continually passing our way. Let us make a small room on the roof with walls and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there."—2 Kings 4:8–10

Because she honored Elisha, he used his spiritual authority to bless her—the prophet's reward

And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'See, you have taken all this trouble for us; what is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?' " She answered, "I dwell among my own people." And he said, "What then is to be done for her?" Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old." He said, "Call her." And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway. And he said, "At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son."—2 Kings 4:13–16a

When you dishonor you can lose the impartation

Spiritual meaning of honoring your parents

> *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "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."*—Ephesians 6:1–3

The church or ministry you came to the Lord through or were first discipled

The leader of that church or ministry

I watched people dishonor John Paul Jackson

They walked in great revelation and power when with him

When they left they lost it

Make sure you leave well

Get the blessing

Ask the leadership to lay hands on you and release a blessing over you when you leave

Don't just disappear

The principle of service

What you serve you can receive

Because Elisha served Elijah he received Elijah's mantle

And Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no prophet of the Lord here, through whom we may inquire of the Lord?" Then one of the king of Israel's servants answered, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah." And Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the Lord is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.—2 Kings 3:11–12

Because Elisha was known for serving Elijah, Jehoshaphat knew he could be trusted to hear from God

The sons of the prophets were interns

Types of service

Employee

Volunteer

Partner

Intercessor

God looks at the heart

If you are the one being served, don't demand it and don't take advantage of it

The principle of faithfulness

When something is imparted, there is a reason—be faithful to the reason

If it is a spiritual gift—use it

If it is authority—use it for the right reason

Imparted authority is always to be used for the reason it was imparted

Often, that is to help the person accomplish their mission

Ordination is similar but different

Imparted authority is to accomplish the first person's mission

Ordination is giving authority and power to accomplish the ordained person's mission

The ultimate purpose will always be to expand God's kingdom

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."—Matthew 28:18–20

Part 2: Testing and Promotion

What tests does God give us to see if we are ready for promotion?

Principle—faithfulness

> *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.*—Luke 16:10

This is a key to progressing from gift to ministry and from ministry to office

Principle—brokenness

> *"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death." Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know Me."*— Luke 22:31–34

All self-reliance must be broken

Principle—service

> *And Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no prophet of the Lord here, through whom we may inquire of the Lord?" Then one of the king of Israel's servants answered, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah." And Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the Lord is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.*—2 Kings 3:11–12

Only those under authority receive authority

Principle—ambition

When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed." So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. May the Lord judge between me and you, may the Lord avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! May the Lord therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."—1 Samuel 24:1–15

We must not take authority before it is given

Principle—prestige before man

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on.—1 Kings 2:1–6

Are we looking for recognition by man or something only God can give?

Part 3: Charismatic Witchcraft

It is possible to use spiritual gifts for self-seeking reasons and even override the will of other people. This is what is often called "charismatic witchcraft".

When the soul energizes gifts from God we are on the path toward charismatic witchcraft

Definition of witchcraft or magic: using any means other than obedience to God to cause supernatural activity

In Phase 1 Module 2: New Creation Realities, we discussed how the soul can affect revelatory gifts

The same process can happen with power gifts

This is why we have spent so much time discussing authority and the kingdom of God

God gives us power to expand His kingdom

This is stewardship

When God gives power, He actually gives it

We can use the gifts He has given us for other purposes

> *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*—Romans 11:29

This understanding should cause us to be careful but not afraid of using our gifts

We are supposed to find good things to do and use what God has given us to accomplish them

> *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.*—2 Thessalonians 1:11–12

We resolve to do good

We believe it is the right thing

God adds power and we both get glory

We need to ask, “Is it selfish, or is it truly motivated by love for God or others?”

When we work through our strongholds we will more easily recognize which is true

It takes a lot of work to get deceived enough to operate in spiritual gifts with demonic power

God will call us back and give us many opportunities to see the truth

> *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*—1 Corinthians 10:13

The most common open door that leads to charismatic witchcraft is fear

Fear that causes us to take control

This is connected to not recognizing God’s goodness

Not trusting that He will do the right thing

Trying to avoid pain for us or for others

"It can't be okay for them to be sick, die, be addicted, etc."

The only answer is absolute surrender to the will of God

Not surrender to the enemy, or bad circumstances

Trust that God will do the right thing even if we don't understand it

> *That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised. That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."*—Romans 4:16–22

Some common manifestations of charismatic witchcraft

Manipulative intercession

Praying our will over God's will

Normally not aware that is what we are doing

"Not my will but Yours be done" is our constant prayer

Vision for a person's life, a church or ministry, a business

Trying to override someone else's will through prayer

Knowing they want one thing and praying they get what we want or think is best

Instead, ask God to release revelation to them and us

Stay humble and realize we may see it wrong

If they have authority, God will speak to them and they are accountable to God for their response

Authority over self, resources, responsibilities

This is what James said was the fruit of demonic wisdom

> *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*—James 4:1–3

If this path is followed after God has revealed to someone His will, it opens one up to demonic powers

The path to the "dark arts" starts with the enemy offering someone a way to get what they want

Soulish or manipulative revelations

When what we think, feel, or want is not subject to our spirit surrendered to God's Spirit, we can receive false revelations

> *Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord."*—Jeremiah 23:16

It didn't make sense that the temple God had built would be destroyed or that the people He had chosen would be exiled

When soulish revelation is shared with the intent of others seeing things our way it can be divination—a form of charismatic witchcraft

> *And the Lord said to me: "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds."*—Jeremiah 14:14

All of our gifts, our thoughts, our desires, and our feelings must be submitted to the Lord

> *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*—Galatians 2:20

This is the lesson Peter had to learn

> *And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord! This shall never happen to You." 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." Then Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*—Matthew 16:22–25

NOTES

MORE NOTES

HOMEWORK

HOMEWORK

Unit 1: Leadership

In a posture of prayer, asking God for insight, think back over the last couple years of your life and discern what test, or tests, you have faced from Part 2. Journal your thoughts and the answers to the following questions.

How did you do with the test?

Did you pass or fail? Slightly or significantly? Meaning did you just barely pass or fail or did you do extremely well or badly? Why?

What does that tell you about yourself? What strengths do you have to build on? What weaknesses do you have to pursue healing of?

What steps can you take now to celebrate your victory or change a pattern in your life?

Ask God to show you what promotion the test was for unless you already know.

Spend time thanking Him or repenting as appropriate.

NOTES

MODULE 06

UNIT 2

Transition

Unit 2: Transition

If you have been around charismatic Christianity for any period of time, you have heard someone discuss transition. It is not unique to believers, there are many leadership trainings that discuss transition. Things change. If something is alive it is in a constant state of change, change is the proof of life. Change requires transition. As we mature and begin to disciple others we need to know how to transition well and we need to help others recognize God's invitations in transition.

Part 1: Welcome to the Beautiful Now

Today is not yesterday, now is not then. The door is not in front of you, you are already in. Time keeps moving, step into the now. Lay down your past troubles, confusion, and pain. It's time to believe, the season has changed, what's coming is here and the day has begun.

The struggles of freedom, cocoon holding back, strength being discovered, the shell it has cracked. Stretch out your wings and feel the sweet wind. He is already blowing, a gentle sweet breeze, to practice your flying and discover your ease. Surrender is the answer, the question forgot, move forward still looking, yesterday is not.

Now is the time, the day of amen, promises cascading, rushing right in. Fulfillment is waiting no more delayed, we are in the land that was promised, the giants are slain. Walls are all falling, victory proclaim. Awake from your slumber, no time to sleep, the Father is calling, deep unto deep.

Open your eyes, do you see what is here? The Son He is shining, the Spirit draws near. Shake off your slumber, no time to sleep. Stir up your spirit, invitation so sweet, the times they are a changing, no, change is complete.

Lift your vision higher, see what He sees. Don't worry about tomorrow, yesterday is gone, today is the future, He's already won. Seek first His kingdom, righteousness and peace, "Rest!" The Spirit is calling, all striving must cease. Wake up to reality, invisible but true, the spiritual is tangible for me and for you.

Sharpen knives for the slaughter, lead in the sacred cow. What was is the enemy of the beautiful now. "How we did it" the target for heaven's onslaught, agree with the Spirits militant thought. Battle dead tradition, no more walking dead. Father is stirring calling for the spirit of dread. Fear of the Lord, sobriety of heart, knowing our God, doing our part.

Let go of what was, it will only slow you down, look to what is, tomorrow is now. The Father is calling, His heart is pounding, the Bride is arising in beauty astounding. Explosions of color, kaleidoscope of sound, freedom of movement, no longer bound. Creativity is endless, no borders no end, limitless potential if we break this trend. Of colorless worship, predictable experience, apathy encouraged, keep up the appearance, denying the power of heaven breaking in.

Mundane Sunday, I did it again. Fulfilled expectation, aligned with the crowd. Boring myself and not living out loud. Is God really worth it, heaven sounds good, but I'm trapped in this prison of fear and doubt.

The chain has been broken, prison doors swung wide, come out of the darkness into His great light. Don't slumber any longer, awake from your sleep, shake off the dust and start moving your feet. Onward and upward, forever the cry, there's more of His Spirit, there's more to this life.

Wake up to the beautiful now. It's not coming it's here. Wake up to the promise, it's jubilee year. The longing and waiting, the dark of the day, is only a memory the King's here—make way. Align with the Spirit, make an exchange, tears and deep mourning for joyful exclaim. It's here it's not coming, it's time to proclaim, the Gospel is Jesus and Jesus is Now!

It's time to wake up to the beautiful now!

The Three Stages of Transition

Letting go of the past

People tend to resist change until the pain of staying the same becomes greater than the perceived pain of change

How can we come out of the self-deception that allows us to be complacent?

Keeping our eyes on God and His purposes draws us forward

> *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.*—Philippians 3:12–16

We can honor and hold onto what we have that is from God while still seeking more

> *It is good that you grasp one thing and also not let go of the other; for the one who fears God comes forth with both of them.*—Ecclesiastes 7:18 NASB

We don't know how to grieve

Transition usually means something is lost

Situations

Jobs

Relationships

Expectations

Find the essentials and hold onto them

What is truly essential? God

What has God said versus what we heard

How God is versus how we experienced Him

E.g. the God who speaks versus the God who gives me dreams

God's nature in us versus our personality traits or preferences

Purge what is not essential

Thoughts

Taking our thoughts captive is essential in transition

Actions

Habits and disciplines that work in one season don't necessarily work in the next

People

We shouldn't change all our relationships when seasons change, but some relationships may not be helpful in the new season

Not only people that are bad

Practices

New seasons mean new ways of doing things and new priorities

This purging is also called pruning

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.—John 15:1–2

Branches that bear fruit get pruned

Confusing in-between

Sometimes the hardest part is figuring out “who am I” in this new season

We have to change to fully enter the new season

We are constantly growing and maturing

God often gave people new names for new seasons

Abraham

> *No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.*—Genesis 15:5–6

Ishmael had just been born three years before

God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision and prophesied Isaac

Israel

> *Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."*—Genesis 32:26b–28

He had just returned to the land of promise

He was finally ready to step into his inheritance

A new name symbolizes a new identity—a new way of seeing yourself and being seen by others

Who does God say you are in this new season?

Stay faithful without knowing what is going on

Integrity and character are essential when you are under pressure

Private victories are formed here

> *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*—James 1:2–4

Don't go back to what used to comfort you

Addictions

Relationships

Escape

Don't get so busy you ignore what is happening inside you

The emotions you don't process will eventually process you

In the "confusing in-between" there is great grace to overcome strongholds

Greatest temptation to fight is to go back to the way it was (Israelites in wilderness)

This will always lead to bondage

> *Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."*—Numbers 14:1–4

Start to dream with God

Develop and write a vision for what's coming

This is a great time to review revelations you have received

Dream journals from the previous season

Prophetic words that haven't come to pass yet

Make a plan

What has He said you will do?

When has He said you would do it?

What steps do you need to take so you don't miss it?

Don't confuse preparation and obedience with making something happen

Stepping into the new

New results require new habits

What thinking will make room for new habits?

What you think on you will eventually act on

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.—Romans 8:5–7

What you act on becomes your habits

Your habits define your character

> *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

Your character determines your destiny

> *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*—Philippians 4:8–9

What step can I take now that will end up in my destiny?

Value creativity

First person to receive the Spirit was Bezalel in Exodus 31

We will discuss this more in Part 4 of this unit

Re-imagine your world with God

> If God's kingdom truly came, and His will was truly done in and through your life, what would that look like?

Creativity and the prophetic are similar

> Something that one person has experienced is put into a form for others to experience the same thing

Take a step of faith

> Spelled R I S K

> If we keep doing what we have already done we will keep getting what we have already got

Creativity requires character

> If our soul rules over our spirit what we create will be defiled

> It will look more like our current state than the Promised Land of God's kingdom

New ventures with God come with warfare

When Israel entered the Promised Land they had to defeat the enemy to occupy it

God initiates the warfare—He sends us into an area the enemy thought he possessed so that we can transform it

> *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

Taking new land pushes back the enemy—you initiate the battle

But new land comes with new provision

> *I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.*—Joshua 24:13

When you step out on the water, the boat rocks

Other's often don't like that

They are confronted with their own complacency, fear, or lack of faith

You need to decide if you are working for the praise of man or of God

How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?—John 5:44

A new experience of God allows us to have a new name for God

Hagar thought she was forgotten and rejected but God came and spoke to her

She realized God saw her and named Him Yahweh-Roeh—the God Who sees me

So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."—Genesis 16:13

Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son in obedience to God trusting in God's provision

When God stopped him, he found a ram in the bushes and recognized that God will provide what is needed to be obedient to His voice

Abraham now knew God as Yahwey-Yireh, the God Who provides

> *So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."*—Genesis 22:14

Moses held up his staff as the Israelites fought

As long as the staff was lifted they won, when his arms tired and the staff came down they began to lose

It became obvious that God was the One fighting on behalf of His people, He was the banner that they rallied to as they fought, so Moses called Him Yahweh-Nissi, the Lord is the banner

> *And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The Lord Is My Banner.*—Exodus 17:15

When we step into the new that He is guiding us to we get to know God in a new way and see new aspects of His power

God has something for those that will push through, will you be one of them?

Part 2: Breaking Free From the Fear of Man

The character in our story

The church

The glorious Bride of Christ

Filled with His Spirit

Walking in His authority

The agent of kingdom expansion in the earth

Created for intimacy with Him

> *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

Created to multiply for Him

> *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.*—Matthew 28:19

Created to bear His names—His identity and character

> *I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made.*—Isaiah 43:6–7

Every part of the church is glorious, full of splendor, and created for God by God

> The high priest's breastplate
>
> > *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
> >
> > Original stones had the names of the twelve tribes
> >
> > Jesus' stones have the names of the denominations

The problem

We, the church, are not walking in all that God has called us to

We don't know who we really are

We don't often understand our authority

Because of that we get caught up in worldly pursuits and act according to worldly patterns

Nothing is changed by judging it

To the level we are transformed into Christ we can release that transformation to others

If we get under the battle we start living to survive instead of thriving

We end up in fear or flight

This diminishes our ability to judge well or think through what is happening

The Church is being attacked in many ways but we will focus on one area

The fear of man

> *The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.*—Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man asks, “What does man think or feel about what I am about to do or say?”

Make me feel good

Preach the message that tickles my ears

Tell me I am okay where I am at

Don’t challenge or confront

You are just an angry preacher

You are a hate monger

The fear of man causes people to create a service based on what people want

Don't say that—people will not respond well

Get the preacher that will draw a crowd, the popular one

Jesus warned us about two expressions of the fear of man

The leaven of Pharisees and Herod

> *And He cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."*—Mark 8:15

In Matthew, Jesus told us that leaven represents teaching or mindsets

> *"How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.*—Matthew 16:11–12

The political spirit and the religious spirit

The leaven of the Pharisees is the religious spirit

How you look to others is essential

Make sure people think you are holy based on what you do

Certain manifestations

Buzzwords or popular theological lingo

Doing, or avoiding, certain behaviors

It is righteousness for the sake of reputation

People are watching how you worship

Listening to how you pray

Want a good testimony

This is the fear of man

The leaven of Herod is the political spirit

What do the people want?

They want this style of worship, let's give it to them

They want good children's ministry, let's give it to them

They want to know they are special, let's encourage them

The political spirit tries to use popular opinion to get their way

"Everyone wants..."

"A lot of people were sad when..."

This is the fear of man

The issue is not necessarily the activity but the reason behind it

Righteousness is good

Worship and prayer is essential

Testimonies are helpful

Children's ministry is important

But why are you doing it? What causes you to do it the way you do?

We all want to think of ourselves as good and holy people

The potential for self-deception is high!

If we don't agree with other people's expectations but secretly care what they think, we will get angry with them and demonize them and their expectations so that we are justified in judging them, ignoring them, or disagreeing with them

Our fear of rejection will cause us to reject others first, so we are in control of the outcome

This is also the fear of man

In popular culture the fear of man has redefined love

If I don't feel good about how you interact with me you are not loving

Love is defined by how you make me feel

If you make me feel good then you love me

If you make me feel uncomfortable, you don't love me

This is a presiding power in our culture

We have enshrined it

The temple it sits in is called 'politically correct'

The hero of our story is Jesus

Jesus never bowed to the fear of man

Here is your family, do what they expect

"No, this is My real family"

> *While He was still speaking to the people, behold, His mother and His brothers stood outside, asking to speak to Him. But He replied to the man who told Him, "Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?" And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."*—Matthew 12:46–50

Here is your culture, line up with its expectations

"No, my culture is the will of God, that is the rule I line up with"

> *Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"*—Matthew 15:1–3

You are the Messiah, You must be King

> "No, My idea of king and yours is different and I am going to do it according to who I am, not who you want Me to be"

> > *Perceiving then that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by Himself.*—John 6:15

The plans and desires of man crucified Him

> He took the full weight of the fear of man on Himself so you and I don't have to

> He lived in the fear of God which removed the attachment of the fear of man

The application for us

> What is the fear of man?

> What do "they" think about what I am about to do or think?

The essence of the fear of God is the same

What does He think about what I am about to do or think?

We cannot live in the fear of man and the fear of God simultaneously

How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?—John 5:44

We cannot reduce the fear of God to mere reverence

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men.—2 Corinthians 5:11a Darby

Greek word for terror in this verse is *phobos*

The Oxford dictionary translates terror as extreme fear, horror, trepidation, panic, fright, shock

God is other—He is not in our control

He does what He wants, period!

We line up with Him, He does not line up with us

The fear of man is energized by people thinking that what they want, think, or feel should be important to other people

The state of my soul should determine the state of your soul

I am right, you should line up with me

The state of our soul should be determined by the Spirit of God moving on our spirit

We can't just choose to not fear anything—we were created to fear something

We must change what we fear

What about the verse that says "perfect love casts out fear"?

Doesn't that mean that if we know God's love we won't fear Him?

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.—1 John 4:15–21

This verse says that when we walk in love (love is perfected in us) then we won't do anything that will deserve to be punished and we won't have to fear punishment

All of this happens as we recognize the love He has for us

We will fear someone

We exchange one group of people for another group of people

We fear the group of people we most identify with

We must choose to fear Him!

We must identify with Him above everyone else

> *Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*—Matthew 10:37–39

There are great benefits that come from the fear of God

> *Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.*—Exodus 14:31

> *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

> *If you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well.*—1 Samuel 12:14

Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will He instruct in the way that he should choose. His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He makes known to them His covenant.—Psalm 25:12–14

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love, that He may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.—Psalm 33:18

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no lack! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.—Psalm 34:7–10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!—Psalm 111:10

Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments! His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.—Psalm 112:1–3

You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield. The Lord has remembered us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron; He will bless those who fear the Lord, both the small and the great.—Psalm 115:11–13

His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor His pleasure in the legs of a man, but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.—Psalm 147:10–11

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.—Proverbs 1:7

Then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.—Proverbs 2:5

The fear of the Lord prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be short.—Proverbs 10:27

The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death.—Proverbs 14:27

The fear of the Lord leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.—Proverbs 19:23

The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.—Proverbs 22:4

The solution

Repent

Pray this with me:

Father, forgive me for living in the fear of man. Please show me every root it has in me and my family. I renounce the fear of man and every seeming benefit I have gotten through it. I renounce the spirit of the fear of man, the religious spirit, and the political spirit and declare today before heaven and earth that I will not partner with them in any way from this point on. Leave me now, come off of my mind, will, and emotions and go in the name of Jesus. Father, I choose You. I choose to fear You. I ask for the fear of the Lord as my portion and the spirit of the fear of the Lord to fill me. I am free from the fear of man, the manipulation of man, and the control of man because Jesus took the curse for me so that I could be free. Jesus, thank You for Your blood that sets me free. In Your name I pray. Amen!

This is my prayer for you:

Father, thank You for the freedom that You give. Thank You for the fear of the Lord that is clean and pure. I am asking that Your fire would descend on this sacrifice of repentance and You would release the fire of passion that consumes dead works and warms cold hearts in each of these. That they would be firebrands in Your hand to revive a people captured by fear. Let Your fire fall in Jesus' name!

Part 3: Waking Slumbering Spirits

The triune God made mankind three parts in His image—spirit, soul, and body

All three relate to the world around us

The body interacts with things and people, moves us around and provides stimulus

The soul grants understanding and emotional interaction with the world around us, forming our desires

The spirit interacts with other spirits, both in humans and in other spiritual beings

Our spirit is supposed to help us engage with others around us

It helps us be sensitive to their hearts

A spirit that is awake:

Experiences God's presence in worship and devotion

Connects with other people's hearts in conversation and allows deep friendship and connection

Causes our conscience to be sensitive before we sin—not just feel bad afterwards

This affects those not alive in Christ as well

We all have spirits, but how they interact with the world around us is different

What wakes a spirit?

Corporate worship—being in the presence of others whose spirits are connecting with God and with each other

Do we know how to engage our spirit in worship?

Physical touch—hugs and caring touch

A smile of genuine pleasure from someone else who is glad to see us

Mirror neurons

Specifically seeing the face

What puts spirits to sleep?

Isolation

Avoiding real fellowship where we worship together and pray together

Having virtual relationships where there is no appropriate physical touch

Through trauma our spirits learn to retreat and not engage the world around us

A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed.—Proverbs 15:13

We now have a pandemic of sleeping spirits

When spirits sleep, people become insensitive to how others are affected by their actions

They become self-focused—not able to think about others before themselves

And because of that their conscience becomes hardened

> *They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.*—Ephesians 4:18

Their ability to recognize and understand God's ways is diminished

> *For they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.*—Mark 6:52

One's ability to hear God becomes limited

> *As it is said, "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."*—Hebrews 3:15

In a society that has many slumbering spirits there is more divorce, suicide, drug overdose, crime, riots, and unrest

We need to wake up spirits!

Ours first, then other people's

How do we wake up spirits?

Repent of vows that caused it to slumber

"I won't trust"

"People will hurt me (get me sick, emotionally)"

"I have no hope"

Ask God to awaken our spirits

Ask for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit

Speak in tongues

> *"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but 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 4:14b–21

Spend time with people whose spirits are awake

Meals, laughter, fun, as well as prayer and worship

Have physical contact

Hugs, hand on shoulder, arm around another

Learn to turn outward—to engage your spirit with the environment around you

In worship and when you're with other people, choose to extend your spirit to them

You will learn through practice

Corporate worship

Get out of your head into His presence

Push every distraction aside and focus on Him

Once we are awake ourselves we can do this for others as well

It is a form of reparenting

Giving our spirits what a newborn needs—attention, time, love, care

Be with others and be intentional about releasing your spirit to awaken them

Share smiles, acknowledge their value, be kind

This is a form of warfare!

Part 4: Spirituality and Creativity

The church should be the most creative group in the world because we are connected to the Creator

We need to start thinking differently

Value color and new ideas

Why is this not normal in the church?

Afraid of deception

Afraid of worldly influence

The answer is doing it right—not stopping completely

Think about creation

How many species, landscapes, ecologies, colors

People (irises, fingerprints, DNA, voice prints, personalities)

Think about the ways of God

How often did He repeat the way He did a miracle? Rarely

The way He interacted with people changed from person to person

We should be willing to pay a cost for beauty

For both the tabernacle and temple, people had to be asked to stop giving

Just the menorah cost over $2mil, not seen by most

Our culture tends to value function over beauty—but God does not

Stay connected to the Source

The first person filled with Spirit in the Bible was Bezalel

Remember the principle of first mention

The Lord said to Moses, "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft. And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you: the tent of meeting, and the ark of the testimony, and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furnishings of the tent, the table and its utensils, and the pure lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense, and the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin and its stand, and the finely worked garments, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, for their service as priests, and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense for the Holy Place. According to all that I have commanded you, they shall do."—Exodus 31:1–11

God had revealed something in heaven that would require creativity to reveal on earth so He filled someone with His Spirit to be able to bring heaven to earth

This is the principle behind spiritual creativity

What was Jesus before He started His ministry?

He was a bespoke carpenter

God thought it was the best use of His time on earth to make beautiful things that were functional

He spent 30 years as a carpenter and 3 as a minister

What were Adam and Eve in the Garden?

Gardeners tasked with beautifying the earth

They were commissioned to change the whole earth into the heavenly pattern they experienced in the Garden

Hear God, then do

Creativity and prophetic are similar

What only you have experienced put into a form so that others can share the experience

Art carries atmospheres

Pictures that heal

Sculptures that open encounters

Movement that speaks

What solution do you need?

Family

Health (eating testimonies & miracle testimonies)

Economy (Joseph and famine)

Business (Jacob and striped and speckled)

Architecture (Tabernacle and modern)

The key is relationship with Spirit

Reimagine your world with God

NOTES

MORE NOTES

MORE NOTES

HOMEWORK

HOMEWORK

Unit 2: Transition

If you are in transition walk through the steps for transition found in Part 1. What do you need to let go of? Grieve? Establish the essentials. Review revelations God has given you and start dreaming about your next season. Ask God to help you reimagine your world.

If you are not in transition, hold onto this homework until you are, then do it...

NOTES

MODULE 06

UNIT 3

Spiritual Creativity

Unit 3: Spiritual Creativity

Take the online course Tabernacle Symposium by Streams Creative House. The PDF manual and online access are Unit 3 of this module, including the homework.

NOTES

MODULE 06

UNIT 4

Healing and Faith

Unit 4: Healing and Faith

Part 1: Healing Model

5-Step Healing Model

This healing model was first developed by John Wimber and a number of people continue to teach it, most popularly, Randy Clark. It is not the words to pray, or even the process of praying, as much as it is key things to think about to be as effective as possible when healing the sick. It has been used by tens of thousands of people around the world with significant results.

STEP ONE: THE INTERVIEW

This is where we are finding basic information about what is going on

We want to find out what is going on

How long it has been going on

Do they know the cause?

What is going on?

Is it pain in their body?

Has it been diagnosed?

How was it diagnosed?

What does that type of sickness or disease typically do to the body?

Can they feel the sickness in their body?

Are there visible signs?

Was there something going on in your life when this started?

Bad back because of an accident

Liver problems because of alcoholism

Or sometimes it may not seem related—like cancer since a divorce

As you are talking to the recipient you are also talking to the Lord

Why do they have this sickness?

What caused it?

He may have a different answer than the person or their doctor

How will I know when they are healed?

STEP TWO: DIAGNOSTIC DECISION

Choose a prayer strategy

You are doing this simultaneously with the first step

As you are listening to them and to the Lord you are trying to figure out the most effective prayer strategy

What are the root causes? (More in Part 3: Hindrances to Healing)

Is this sickness caused by general sin (i.e. normal breakdown in the body)?

Is it caused by a specific sin?

Is there a demonic presence or attack?

As in the first step you are listening on two levels, naturally and supernaturally

This step is determining why the person has the sickness they have

STEP THREE: PRAYER SELECTION

What kind of prayer is needed?

What is God doing at this specific moment?

The secret to more effectiveness in prayer is agreeing with whatever God is doing at that moment

That is one of the reasons we always want to pray for words of knowledge

When we have a word of knowledge, we pray for that first even if the person has another request

You are listening to what the recipient is saying but you are also asking God,\ how to pray for this person

There are many different prayers you can use

Word of command. It can be a command to the individual or to the sickness. When it is to the person it is usually prompted by the gift of faith and we tell the person to respond in a certain way. Pick up your mat and walk. Go wash in the pool Siloam. Bend over. Walk without your cane. When it is to the sickness we simply tell them to be healed. Pain, go. Be healed in Jesus' name. I command cancer to leave this body right now. Arthritis, stop it.

Word of pronouncement. This is slightly different. Here you are pronouncing them healed. "Jesus Christ heals you." "See." "You are free from…" "Don't put your glasses back on; you don't need them anymore." Sometimes it will include a further response but many times you are just telling them it is done. This is often prompted by the gift of faith. You know that God just did something, and you are letting them know.

Prayer of rebuke. This is not a rebuke of the recipient but of the sickness. It can be very similar to the word of command and is often used in conjunction with it. Most of the time you will use a prayer of rebuke when you discern that a demon is behind the sickness. Sometimes you will use to make sure you are covering all your bases. Luke 4:38–39 has an interesting story. "*After He left the synagogue, He entered Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him about her. So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up immediately and began to serve them.*" The word rebuke here is the same one used when Jesus would rebuke a demon. It literally means to censor or to muzzle. Examples would be: "Stop it." "Cancer, come out of her." "Pain, I cancel your assignment and command you to stop."

Petition or request. This is when you ask God to heal. We have all been given authority and power over every sickness and disease, so it is okay to not ask God to heal. He has already shown His will and He has given us permission to heal. If we have prayed and commanded and have not seen the results we expected, it is okay to ask. Sometimes we have come upon something that is larger than the measure of faith we are walking in so we just ask God to make up for what we are lacking. "Father, please send your healing touch." "Father, please remove pain from Sam's body." "Father, please release a greater measure of Your kingdom here, in this body made of earth, as it is in heaven."

You can use all of the above in any given moment

You may be praying for someone one way but not see an immediate change

Start to pray another way

If you don't feel like you have been given clear direction from God on how to pray, cover all your bases

Does anything need taken care of for the prayer to be effective?

Sometimes in the diagnostic step we find things that are causing, or that could hinder, healing

We want to take care of these things before we begin to pray

The person may need to forgive someone

John Wimber tells the story of praying for a woman that had severe pain, if I remember correctly, it was from arthritis. As he prayed for her, he saw white cords wrapping her up. As he asked God what it was, He told him it was unforgiveness. He asked if she had anyone that had done something terrible to her and she said her sister had hurt her. He suggested that she forgive her, and she might be healed. She did not want to. They continued to pray, and nothing changed and he felt like the Lord told him that when she forgave she would be healed so he told her this but she was not willing to forgive.

He got a letter later saying that she had gone home and as the pain got worse God had confirmed what he had told her about forgiveness being key to her healing. She wrote a letter to her sister forgiving her about a week later but she did not mail it. She did not get any better, instead the pain increased. About 2–3 weeks later she took the letter and the moment that she put it in the mailbox she was completely healed!

We do not want to tell people that they cannot be healed unless they respond in a certain way if we do not have a clear word from God—meaning an audible voice or an angel just spoke to you

If it comes in another form of revelation, couch the word in grace

Ask them a question, "Is there anyone that you need to forgive?"

Don't say, "You need to forgive someone. That is why you are not healed."

Let God convict them, that is not your job

Remember what we have discussed on prophetic protocols in other modules

Unforgiveness is not the only hindrance to healing, but it is the most common

Sometimes curses can hinder healing

Sometimes inner healing is needed before physical healing happens

God can reveal all kinds of things

We need to be open and willing to deal with anything He shows us

We will discuss other hindrances to healing in more detail in Part 4 of this Unit

STEP FOUR: PRAYER MINISTRY

Praying for effect

This is where we begin to pray

It is always a good idea to start by asking the Holy Spirit to increase His presence

"Come Holy Spirit" is a great prayer!

Lay your hands on the person if it is appropriate

Be sure to ask for permission

Be sensitive to where you place your hands, especially when praying for someone of the opposite sex

If you already feel the Lord's presence to pray, then do so

Sometimes you will want to begin praying in tongues or worship the Holy Spirit until you feel His presence increase

Then pray

Keep your eyes open

You want to see what God is doing

It is best to be in front of the person unless you know that you are also the catcher—then you can stand to the side

Dial down

There is no reason to allow your emotions to control you

We want the spirit to be in control, not the soul

Speak in a normal voice, do not draw attention to yourself

At the same time be sure that you are completely open to the Spirit having you do anything

If you find yourself defaulting to being loud, being distracting, or to doing the same thing over and over, catch yourself and stop

Ask God to show you what is really Him and what is you trying to get Him to do what He did last time

We want to be open, if God has you yell—be obedient

At the same time, don't think you need to yell every time

We need to realize when something becomes our "thing"

The default posture is always our normal personality, as sanctified as it can be

If God wants to do something outside of that, we let Him

But don't try to force His hand by being weird

Look for manifestations

Manifestations are not necessary, but they can be a sign that God is doing something

He does not always put up His "God at work" sign, but when He does we want to notice

Some manifestations are:

Prolonged and/or exuberant expressions of praise

Falling over (being slain in the Spirit)

Shaking or trembling, sometimes violently

Drunkenness

Laughing or sobbing

Sudden body movements

Peace

Oil on hands or face

Fluttering eyelids

Sometimes people's eyeballs will move back and forth very quickly behind their eyelids

You may need to help people understand what is happening

If they look surprised or concerned, let them know that sometimes when God touches someone they will react to His touch

Often, they just need to know they are not weird

If someone is not manifesting, they may need to be told that there is nothing wrong with that

People can receive without any manifestations

It is possible there is something blocking them from receiving

Ask the Holy Spirit

If He has not told you don't try to figure something out to tell them

Always give them an out

"Do you think it could be because of …?"

Let them say no

Ask them if they know what it is that is blocking them

Sometimes God will have told them

Other times the enemy is lying to them and you can set them free

Pray for discernment

John Wimber wrote: *People who have these manifestations and continue in the power of the Holy Spirit should not expect to experience more and more bizarre forms of behavior.*

Often the more violent manifestations are power confrontations

> The kingdom of God meeting something that is in agreement with its enemy

> Not all manifestations are caused by this, but many times the more violent ones are

Manifestations should never be our goal, either for ourselves or for the people we minister to

> If we keep our focus on Jesus, manifestations will happen and they will not become a problem

We also need to realize that many of these manifestations are the same for those that are demonized

> If we have any hint of doubt, ask God and let Him tell us

Bless what God is doing!

When you sense Him begin to move, bless it

"Lord, I bless Your presence."

"Lord, more of Your touch."

"More Lord."

Again, we are not asking for more manifestations but more of God's presence doing whatever God wants to do on and in the person being prayed for

Sometimes you will not even need to pray for the sickness because God will have already taken care of it

Ask

Check your body, do you still have pain?

You may want to wait until God is done moving on them

If He is still doing something let Him

You may need to tell them to just stay where they are, that God is moving on them, and when they feel His presence lift to come and get you

If they are not healed yet, pray for the sickness

Use the prayers mentioned above

If there is any way of knowing if the sickness is gone right then (such as a lump, pain, stiffness, or a body sensation) you do not want to pray for more than 30–45 seconds unless God tells you to

Pray short prayers and ask them to check

You do not want them to check *if* any pain has left

Rather have them check to see *how much* pain is gone

If there is no pain, praise God and share the testimony

If the condition is still there, pray again

If nothing seems to be happening, go back to step 1 and start again

Interview them

Look for the root

Decide how to pray next

If there is any change, even a little, pray again the same way you prayed last time

If it works, don't change it!

There is no limit to how many times you can pray for someone

When do I stop praying?

When the person is completely healed

When you have nothing left to pray for that person

When you feel like you are done, or they feel that you are done

If you are praying and you do not sense the Lord's presence and nothing is going on, you don't have to continue

Maybe someone else has the anointing to heal them

Maybe it is a timing issue

It could be something else

STEP FIVE: POST PRAYER DIRECTION

What do they do next?

Contend for the healing

Sometimes sickness comes back and we have to stand on faith

Avoid certain behaviors

Sometimes a lifestyle change is needed

Sometimes they need to stop a sin pattern

> *Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you."*—John 5:14

If they don't know Jesus yet, introduce them

Do you have a prophecy or message from God for them?

Encouragement to thank God and worship Him

> *He fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."*—Luke 17:16–19

Part 2: Increasing Faith

There is a direct connection between healing and faith. But what does that actually mean? Let's explore the connection and discover wisdom that will allow greater effectiveness when healing the sick.

Faith is important for healing

Jesus clearly communicated this

> *When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened.*—Matthew 9:28–30a

Where there is more faith more healing can happen

> *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

Where there is less faith less healing happens

> *And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." And He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief.*—Mark 6:4–6a

So, who needs to have faith for someone to be healed?

Sometimes the person being healed has faith

> *She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If I touch even His garments, I will be made well." And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in Himself that power had gone out from Him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?" And His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing around You, and yet You say, 'Who touched Me?' " And He looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."*—Mark 5:27–34

Clearly her faith was connected to her being healed

When we are praying for someone it is good to help them have faith

Sharing testimonies, especially ones similar to the issue the person has, is a great way to give someone faith

Speaking the truth of Scripture to the person also imparts faith

Communicating Who God is (the healer, the compassionate One, the hearer of prayer, a good Father) can help the person have faith

Sometimes the people around have faith for the person to be healed

> *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.*—Luke 5:18–25

It doesn't say the person healed had faith but that his friends did

Even if the person being prayed for doesn't have faith, the faith of those around can be enough to see the miracle

Increasing the faith in the room can be helpful

This is one of the functions of the word of knowledge—it opens a door of faith

In the same way, the lack of faith in those around can hinder healing

Remember Nazareth?

This is why Jesus sent the people away before praying for Jairus' daughter

> *While He was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." And He allowed no one to follow Him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when He had entered, He said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at Him. But He put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with Him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand He said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.*—Mark 5:35–42

There are times when it is good to ask those without faith to leave

There are also times when you don't have to

What is God saying?

Other times the person praying is the one who has the faith

When Jesus healed the boy that had seizures, He was the only one with faith

> *And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to Him and, kneeling before Him, said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has seizures and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."*—Matthew 17:14–20

Mark tells us that Jesus lent some of His faith to the father

> *And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, " 'If You can'! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.*—Mark 9:21–27

Jesus also prayed when He saw the crowd coming before they got there because they didn't have faith

Faith is important, but the person being healed does not necessarily need to have it

Otherwise, no one would ever be raised from the dead

We need to increase our faith

Read and meditate on Scripture

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

Especially healing Scriptures

Testimonies increase our faith

Hearing what God has done increases our expectation for what He will do

Remind ourselves of the times we have seen Him heal through us

Rehearse stories of His power

Prayer and fasting also increases our faith

This was Jesus' solution to His disciples not having enough faith to heal the boy

> *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

Many manuscripts add *and fasting*

Perhaps it was this kind of unbelief that only came out with prayer and fasting

When you are going to be ministering, it is important to prepare with prayer

If there is a prayer time before the meeting, make it a priority

Recognize the level of faith in yourself, the person you are praying for, and those around

How can you increase the faith?

This is one of the reasons people sometimes ask everyone around to pray in tongues, intercede, or worship

Often, when people get in “audience mode” they can lack faith

True faith versus soul faith

Real faith is a gift that comes from God

It cannot be manufactured in the soul

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.—Ephesians 2:8–19

Faith is not thinking it can happen

Faith is not wanting it to happen

Faith is not feeling it will happen

The soul may move in response to faith, but the soul does not cause faith

> Movement in the soul can be the fruit of faith but not the root of faith

Because faith is a gift of God it takes the gift of discerning of spirits to know if there is really faith present

Soulish faith is the reason some people don't think faith "works"

> They thought it, wanted it, or felt it but it wasn't real faith

The activity of the soul can actually make it harder for people to have real faith

Some models try to create an atmosphere through the activity of the soul

Stirring up a crowd is not the same as imparting faith

Helping people be aware of God's presence and God's promise can foster true faith

Ask God for the gift of faith to be released

Trust God to give faith

True faith has only one object—God

Our faith is not in our faith

Our faith must be in God

And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."—Mark 11:22–25

Our faith is in God

Not our prayers

Not our faith

One key to faith is walking in forgiveness

Be careful of putting faith in a gift or a gifted person

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.—Psalm 20:7

Chariot can represent a ministry

Horses represents power or gifting

Don't put your faith in your righteousness or your repentance

Miracles don't happen because we are righteous enough

> *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"?*—Galatians 3:1–6

They happen because God living in us is releasing His kingdom through us

> *And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.*—Acts 3:12–16

Jesus is the Healer, we are just witnesses to that fact

> *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses.*—Acts 1:8a

Part 3: Hindrances to Healing

Healing seems to be a central issue in the kingdom

It is often a symptom of something else in the person's life or situation that needs the benefits of the kingdom

It is also often a door for the person who receives healing to receive more of the benefits of the kingdom

What are some of the hindrances to people receiving healing?

Unforgiveness

This is a major issue in the kingdom

Jesus said that if we do not forgive we will not be forgiven

> *For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*—Matthew 6:14–15

The parable of the unforgiving servant

> *Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the torturers, until he should pay all his debt. So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.*—Matthew 18:32–35

Need for inner healing

Our spirits, souls, and bodies are interconnected

When the spirit is sick the soul and body will be also

When the soul is sick the body will be as well

Fear

Guilt

Inner vows

Soul ties

Curses

When you recognize the presence of a curse remove any right for it to be there

Has the person agreed with the curse?

Do they accept it?

Did it come from someone in authority over them?

Break the power of the curse and apply the power of the Cross

Careless words (their own or those in authority over them) can release a curse

Witchcraft

Occult activity

Freemasonry

If they don't want to be healed they may not be

Some people develop agreements with their sickness

Sometimes they believe their sickness gives them something they want

Pity

Don't have to work

Excuse for failure

This usually ends up in a demonic attachment over time

Theological hindrance

If you don't believe God heals, you *may* have a hard time receiving from Him

Our God is in the heavens; He does all that He pleases.—Psalm 115:3

If the person believes that God gave them the sickness or that He wants them to have it they may have difficulty receiving health

This can be caused by a wrong view of God, not knowing him as a loving Father

Listen to and give away the resource Father God is Love

This could be from bad teaching

Some areas of the church see suffering as a badge of being loved by God

Often it is tied to a root of shame—deep down they believe they deserve to suffer

> *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

Sin can be a root but it is not always a root

All sickness is caused by sin being in the world, but not every specific illness is caused by a specific sin

> *"Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"*—Mark 2:9–12

The tendency when people learn that sin can be a cause for sickness (spiritual roots teaching) is to think that is always the case

> *As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."*—John 9:1–3

How we respond to situations like this lets us know which ministry we most agree with:

> Jesus ever lives to make intercession

> Satan accuses the brethren day and night

When sin is the root it is very easy to deal with—repent!

When the person repents, respond with the kingdom authority you have been given

> *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

Once they have confessed and received forgiveness, pray for healing

> *And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.*—James 5:15–16

A lack of faith

> See Part 2 of this Unit and John Paul Jackson's resource *Healings and Measures of Faith*

Demons

> The final hindrance to someone being healed (that we will discuss here) is a demonic source to the sickness

> This is much more common than most people think, but not every sickness is caused by a demon

The boy with epilepsy

> *And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly.*—Matthew 17:18 (see also Mark 9:14–27)

Peter's mother-in-law

> *And He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.*—Luke 4:39

> The Greek word translated 'rebuked' means to muzzle, to silence by force, the choke off

The woman in the synagogue

> *Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 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. When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God.*—Luke 13:10–13

When you recognize it is a spirit you don't have to call it a spirit, just command it to leave

Remember, not every sickness has a root

You don't look for a root unless there is fruit

In this context, someone not being healed immediately

Sometimes they are not healed immediately because it is a timing issue, or more prayers are needed, or there is a battle between two kingdoms going on

Contend for healing and never give up

NOTES

MORE NOTES

MORE NOTES

HOMEWORK



HOMEWORK

Unit 4: Healing and Faith

Pray for at least 5 people that need healing in the next 14 days using the Five-Step Healing Model. Find and remove hindrances and contend for complete healing. If none of the five receive complete healing, continue to find more people to pray for until you see someone completely healed.

Make this a normal part of your life, in your home, at your church or workplace, in stores and public places, and watch God move through you to advance His kingdom. For a Christian, the kingdom is our lifestyle. It informs every decision and every action!

NOTES



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