

Spiritual Awakening

**THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF THE FATHER
HE COMES TO AWAKEN OUR SPIRIT**

BY DOLORES DOTSON

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF THE FATHER

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**SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:
THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF THE FATHER**

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INTRODUCTION

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

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Welcome. This study marks the beginning of our journey into Spiritual Awakening: The Unconditional Love of the Father. The purpose of this teaching is to prepare us to possess the land (the hearts of God's people) for His Kingdom. To be effective in this hostile takeover, it requires us to know and be assured in who God is and who we are in Him. You see, the enemy already knows. He knows once we come into the knowledge of who God is and who we are in Him, we will be a major threat to his domain. The problem is we do not know, and therefore, aren't fully operating in the power of this truth. So why is God so adamant about awakening us spiritually to know who He is and who we are in Him? Because without this knowledge and understanding anchored in our hearts, we are liable to cease fighting the good fight and retreat, never taking full possession of the land God has promised as our inheritance. Once we are awakened from our spiritual slumber, we must put on our armor and fall into battle formation with our weapons of warfare in tow. Then, as a unified army confident in who God is and who we are in Him, nothing will stop us from moving forward into battle victoriously and claiming all that belongs to God.

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.”

Colossians 1:9-12 NKJV

LESSON 1

POSSESSING THE LAND

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SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

In our conquests to possess the land (people's hearts) for God's Kingdom, we will be strategically positioned and used in unusual ways. Such ways may be unconventional and contrary to the way we think, but frankly, the manner in which God executes His plan is always at His discretion, not ours. After all, He is the General and we are the soldiers in His army. Our top priority is to follow God's instructions wholeheartedly, regardless of what He asks us to do.


*"For as the heavens are
higher than the earth, so
are my ways higher than
yours, and My thoughts
than your thoughts."
Isaiah 55:9*



Being obedient to the word of God is the key. Any compromise or act of disobedience puts us at great risk for defeat because it opens the door to our greatest foe, Satan.

Many people are oblivious to the fact that there are three enemies; they are only aware of one enemy, Satan. But I am here to expose the other two enemies so you may be enlightened. The three enemies are found in 1 John 2:16: "For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh (flesh), and the lust of the eyes (world), and the pride of life (devil)—is not of the Father, but is of the world." In 1 Peter 5:8, we are warned to "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." Undoubtedly, the devil is crafty in his dealings, and he will walk

through every open door and use every evil tactic to destroy the land (people's hearts) that God desires to possess.

One area the enemy has under constant surveillance is our understanding or lack thereof. He ruthlessly seeks any opportunity to bring doubt, confusion, even fear, and once he gains that ground, he interjects his thoughts into our minds to accomplish his works and his deeds. Before long, we become so entangled by his lies that we find ourselves fighting against those on our team we were intended to war alongside as well as those we have been sent to rescue. While we are in battle formation, we must be careful to guard our hearts against such schemes of the enemy as judging others, gossiping, or speaking negatively. We must stand united and fight together. We must remember who the real enemy is! Remember, one of our most vulnerable times for the enemy to gain access is when we do not clearly understand the direction in which God is leading us and we allow doubt and confusion to influence our obedience. If we recognize this is happening to us or has happened in the past, we must be spiritually awakened and all the more willing to offer a sacrifice of obedience.

The Apostle Paul understood the importance of our sacrifice of obedience before the Lord.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly

than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." (Romans 12:1-3)



"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

Did you catch that? Paul says that we are to present our bodies "a living


WORD DEFINITION

POSSESS

1. To have as belonging to one; have as property; own: to possess a house and a car.
2. To have as a faculty, quality, or the like: to possess courage.
3. (Of a spirit, especially an evil one) to occupy, dominate, or control (a person) from within: He thought he was possessed by devils.
4. (Of a feeling, idea, etc.) to dominate or actuate in the manner of such a spirit: He was possessed by envy.



sacrifice." How are we to present our bodies as a living sacrifice?



The word sacrifice—*zabach*—

means to slay—to give a costly gift. The word *zabach* also comes from the word altar which means a place of sacrifice or slaughter. In essence, what Paul is saying is this: In order to be living sacrifices, we must bring our lives—our flesh, our desires, our passions—everything that is contrary to God’s Word, and sacrifice or slaughter those things at the altar.

The living Word is the standard by which we are to measure every aspect of our lives—our thoughts, our words and our actions. When the Word is living in us, it requires us to

participate with the Holy Spirit as He helps bring us through trials. Often the Holy Spirit shines His light on the darkness of our trials, and we, in turn, discover our own heart issues that need to be dealt with. The light used by the Spirit of God is the Word; it pierces our heart and reveals the motivation therein that seeks to satisfy self. As we respond through repentance, we present ourselves as living

sacrifices, having put to death the very nature that hinders us from coming into the place of possession.

We must be willing to die to self!

Our way (self) and God's way of doing things are often diametrically opposed. For which one of us would have chosen the forty-year path in the wilderness knowing there was a shorter route to get to the Promised Land? But the journey was designed by God for the Israelites to know Him intimately and to depend on Him totally. However, they did not know or understand the intricacies and depth of God's heart for them, so they did not believe Him or His promises. Rather than fulfill His desires for their lives, they sought to fulfill their own selfish desires.

In today's time, we might attribute their actions to the idiom, "look before you leap." Perhaps when dealing with the world's system of doing business, looking before you leap is practical wisdom. However, when it comes to God's affairs, even if we don't see the big picture, we have to trust that He does. Such an act of faith requires us to be confident in God, the General, and trust that every battle plan initiated by Him positions us to successfully possess the land. Without seeing, we simply must be willing to leap!

LET'S GO TO THE WORD:

READ JOSHUA CHAPTER 2

I asked God a question after reading the following passage of Scripture: "Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, 'Go, view the land, especially Jericho.' So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there." (Joshua 2:1)

"Lord, why did you let the two spies go into a sinner's house, one who had the reputation of being a known harlot?" The answer was simple. God will do as He wills to do. You see, God's army consists of varied individuals from diverse backgrounds who He purposed to be a part of His divine plan. Rahab was such a person. When the spies Joshua sent to look over the land entered Jericho, they were sheltered by Rahab, and she revealed to them the great fear upon those dwelling in Jericho: "I know that the LORD has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed." (Joshua 2:9-10)

The first thing I want to awaken you to from this passage is the Amorites. Today, the Amorites represent highlanders (those high mountains or high places) such as publicity, prominence, boasting of yourself, feeling less than because you compare yourself to them. One of the most notable Amorites of all is pride. Yet, not many people realize pride is influencing their lives. Pride has many faces. Did you know when we do not see our worth, we are walking in pride? While less obvious, it is still pride because like pride, a "woe is me" attitude still elevates self. Even in our lowliest stage, "self" becomes the center of attention. The only way to conquer the spirit of pride is by crucifying our flesh daily.



"For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."
Romans 8:13



How did Rahab know the Lord had given the land to the children of Israel?

- Everyone had **fear** (distressing emotion, anxiety)

- Everyone was **fainthearted** (lacking courage, cowardice)
- No one had **courage** (facing difficulty without fear)
- Everyone saw how great and mighty our God is - **HE IS GOD.**

The second point I want to make from this passage is this: When God's presence is in our midst and people see how awesome He is (as Rahab saw), they will testify of His greatness to others. Without God abiding in us, there is no hope of possessing the land. For apart from Him, we can do nothing.

Did you notice everything she described to the spies in verses 9-11 was the opposite of what Joshua was instructed by God to be and do? Let's take a closer look.

- The enemy had **fear** - we must have **faith.**
- The enemy was **fainthearted** - we must be **courageous.**
- The enemy **had no courage** - we must be **strong in difficult times.**

The Lord is speaking to us to walk in faith, to be of good courage, and to be strengthened in the difficult times ahead as we proceed to possess the land the Lord has promised us. The enemy knows how great God is, shouldn't we? As we draw near to the land of possession, let's rejoice in who God is because He will win the battles over the enemy in our lives.

JOURNAL YOUR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING THOUGHTS HERE:

LESSON 2

RENEWING THE MIND

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SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

Let us return to the Scripture in Romans 12 except now our focus will be on verse 2. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." As I stated in Lesson One, we must present our bodies, these temples, as a living sacrifice—alive to the love of God and dead to the things of this world. We have a responsibility to carry the presence of God in these temples, our bodies, and in order to do that, we must regard God as holy and ourselves as His, our lives lived out in His holiness. In doing so, we are acceptable and pleasing to God.

The opening to Paul's question in 1 Corinthians 6:19, "Do you not know," reads as if the church in Corinth lacked the knowledge of something that was crucially important. In that passage of Scripture Paul is asking, "...do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?" I believe that same question needs to be asked today. If we lack the knowledge that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in us, we will live our lives for ourselves rather than for God.

There must be in us an awareness that the Holy Spirit lives in us. The indwelling presence of God's Spirit in us sets us apart from the world and makes us different from the world. In order to maintain this distinction that God has set in motion, we must do our part. For us that means, "do not be conformed


WORD DEFINITION

RENEW
To **renovate**, restore -
change (renovate)
thoughts.



(modeled, patterned, copied) to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Renewing our minds demands far more than simply changing the way we think. To change our thoughts involves a change in our hearts, and neither change can occur without the redemptive power of God sanctifying (to separate; set apart) us.

LET'S GO TO THE WORD:

Earlier this year, we studied the book, *Praying the Names of God* by Ann Spangler. As a church we learned about Yahweh Shalom, "The Lord is Peace." We find reference to Yahweh Shalom in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, where Paul writes: "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (emphasis added). Did you know your spirit consists of three areas: your mind, will, and emotions? When we look at the entire areas where the God of Peace desires to sanctify completely, we can see He wants our whole being to be sanctified. Thus, we must yield our will to God's will and allow Yahweh Shalom the necessary access in our lives to sanctify us thoroughly.

In 1 John 2:15, we read “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.” Why are we given such a strong warning? The world is what forms and keeps our Amorites with us; we must die and overcome the world. To understand what I just said, we have to go back to the beginning—back to the Garden of Eden. Since the fall of man, our thoughts have been molded and patterned by this world instead of by God. Now that the world has seduced us to desire what it has to offer and to depend on it for our survival, we have become accustomed to the counterfeit of what God longs to give us. For example, the world offers us its idea of peace, but in reality, the world’s peace is nothing more than a temporary fix that produces more chaos and confusion.


“And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”
 1 John 2:17


We must be spiritually awakened to the truth that the world cannot give us what He—Yahweh Shalom, the God of Peace—has for us. His peace manifested in us results in spiritual growth because we come to the place where our minds are renovated. The God of Peace is restoring, making new, repairing and


WORD DEFINITION

RENOVATE
 To restore to good condition; make new or as if new again; to repair.



reviving our mind, producing fruit in our lives because we have yielded our minds to be completely changed by Jesus, the Word of Life. Now do you understand why in our fallen condition, it takes the Word of God to change the way we think? And the good news is that we can change!

“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the

world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them.” (1 John 4:4-5) We, however, have the Spirit of Truth leading us and the love of God driving us to be complete in Him.

Jesus knew that we not only needed Him to redeem us, but that we also needed the Helper to renovate our minds with Truth. The Helper is the Holy Spirit- comforter- *Parakletos*- beside. He is One called to come beside us as an intercessor, comforter, helper, advocate, and counselor. The Holy Spirit cancels the lies told us by the devil and gives us, as children of God, a greater understanding of Truth. He, the Holy Spirit, comes to give us *guidance and strength to endure the hostility of the world system*. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:26-27)


"To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."
Luke 1:79

Since the word peace may be interchanged with the word rest, verse 27 may also be read as follows: "Rest I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the



world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let it be afraid."


WORD DEFINITION

PEACE
EIRENE - A STATE OF REST
- quietness, and calmness; an absence of strife.


Why are we exhorted to “let not our hearts be troubled, neither let it be afraid”? According to 2 Timothy 1:7, “God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”—or safe thinking. The word *sound mind* denotes good judgment, disciplined thought patterns, and the ability to understand and make

right (Spirit led) decisions—self control and self discipline. As we serve Christ with the right mind and in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, our service will be acceptable to God and approved by men. (Romans 14:18)



“for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things *is* acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”
Romans 14:17-19



LESSON 3

THE ENEMY, THE WORLD

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SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

We return to our foundational Scripture Romans 12:1-2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, (be conformed to the Word) but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and


WORD DEFINITION

CONFORM

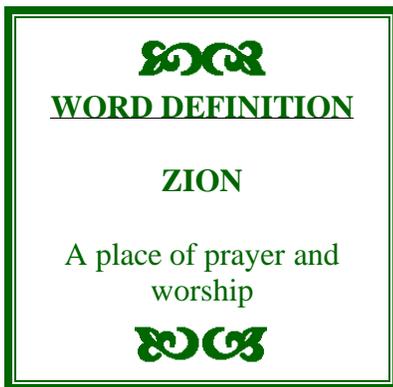
To pattern, copy, model, or fashion oneself with the world system.



perfect will of God." Many of us do not know the difference between the world and religion because we have not been taught. The influence of the world has crept inside churches and we have been at ease with its presence so we now believe worldly mixture in the church must be acceptable and pleasing to God.

How does the influence of the world get inside the church? For the answer to that question, let's turn to 1 John 5:19: "We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one." The whole world represents the minds of those people who are in the world system and are under the influence of the three enemies: the flesh, the world, and the devil. If the influence of the world is in our churches and/or our homes, we are affected by this influence as well.

Our God is the Lord who battles and stands for us when our enemies come against us. He is Yahweh Tsebaoth, the Lord of Hosts (*Praying the Names of God*, Spangler). In Zechariah 2:6-7 God warns us: "Up, up! Flee from the land of the north,' says the LORD; 'for I have spread you abroad like the four winds of heaven,' says the LORD. 'Up, Zion! Escape, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon.'" He tells us to flee from the land of the north; the north is the habitat of the enemies. If we refuse to



leave the territory of the enemy, then we put ourselves in the position of the victim not victor.

Further in Zechariah 2 verse 8, the Word says, "For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.'" The LORD of Hosts, the Lord that comes with the spiritual army has been sent with all

His glory to the nations which come against us; for he who touches you, touches the apple of God's eye!

Unfortunately, even after hearing of God's great love for His people and His willingness to save them, many will still choose the lovers of their flesh and the things of this world system over God. Will you? Will you choose another lover over God and depart from the spiritual covering of the One who has made a Covenant to love and take care of you? The influence of our three enemies must be dealt with in our lives, our homes, and our churches. When we take a stand against our enemies, God will bring Himself and all the armies of heaven to stand for us when we are in covenant with the Lord Jesus.

LET'S GO TO THE WORD:

To gain a better understanding why we change lovers, we are going to depend on the book of Hosea where we clearly see this change occur in the life of Gomer, Hosea's unfaithful wife. Even though she had a husband, Gomer felt the need to return to the world (her lovers), who in her mind was her provider. In Hosea Chapter 2 verse 5, Gomer said: "I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink." Prior to her marriage to Hosea, she had been accustomed to depending on the world to provide her physical, emotional, and social needs. Like Gomer, we also have lovers from the world that we are used to depending on rather than God. We cling to co-dependent relationships, our jobs, homes, cars, hobbies, gifts and talents just to meet our needs or fill the spatial void. This way of life was taught to us by the world.

In the beginning, the world was the only way we knew; it taught us how we were to think, act, even how we were to look. After separating from the world and coming into faith, the world still had a hold on us. Then the world worked harder still to influence us, distorting the truth of our God and the gospel in hopes we would affectionately return to her (the world). God, on the other hand, says, "Not so. The world hates you enough to bring you back, but I love you enough to bring you out!" Thus, He is fighting for us to come out of the world and longing for us to draw nearer to Him.

When we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, God brought us into a new covenant—a marriage relationship with Him. For many, this marriage relationship is more distant than intimate because of their lack of knowing and understanding about the love


*"And it shall be, in that day,"
Says the LORD, "That you will
call Me 'My Husband,' And no
longer call Me 'My Master,'..."*
Hosea 2:16



of God. To them, God is seen as a "Master" and they are His slaves. However, God never intended for any of us to have that kind of a relationship with Him; He wants a love relationship with us whereby He is our Husband.

In verse 8 of Hosea Chapter 2, we read where God says of Gomer: "For she did not know that I gave her



WORD DEFINITION

BAAL

Lord or master;
possessor, owner,
obtainer and husband.



grain, new wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold—which they prepared for Baal” (the influence of the world). The Israelites were, at times, contaminated with the worship of the false deity of the Canaanites, named Baal. Baal was also the regular word for husband or master, and was used throughout the Old Testament to indicate a human husband or property-owning men. Since the terms used for the Canaanite deity

implied ownership rather than relationship, God dissociated Himself from any use of the term Baal, asking rather to be called “Ishi” or "My Husband”. Hence the reason He saw our relationship with Him as Covenant, and infidelity to any other provider (master) as adulterous.

God wants us to know Him and see Him as "Husband", not master; but He is not going to force us, or master us, into this love relationship. "'And it shall be, in that day,' says the LORD, 'That you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer call Me ‘My Master,’ for I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, and they shall be remembered by their name no more. In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, with the birds of the air, and with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, to make them lie down safely.'"

Let's read verses 16 and 17 again: "...that you will no longer call Me my Master, for I will take from



**SEVEN PLAGUES/EPIDEMICS
WITH HIGH SPIRITUAL DEATH
RATES**

1. Sexual immorality.
2. Addictions (alcohol, drugs, food, people, sex, etc.)
3. Materialism (worldly possessions, riches, and the oppression/neglect of those living in poverty, as in kings enriched at the expense of the poor.)
4. Approval of men (the seductive power of desire to be loved which controls the weak mind and heart, as with Jezebel and Ahab.)
5. Ambition (the drive for ownership, power, and position, as with Absalom, the son of David.)
6. Physical beauty of the body (vanity, change, and modifications.)
7. Murder, jealousy, envy, deceit, covetousness, and all evil desire.



her mouth the names of the Baals, and they shall be remembered by their name no more." God wants to transform our heart and renew our minds so that we will neither remember the name Baal, which is in our midst, nor remember our relationship with Baal. Now we see why our loving God is so determined to deal with our separation from the world and the world's system. We not only depend on her, we make covenant with her—committing spiritual adultery, but God is going to bring judgment to her (the world's system). In fact, the prophecy of the fall of the Babylonian woman (the world's system) is mentioned in Revelation 18 verses 1-5: "After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the

kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.' And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.'"

Throughout God's Word, warnings are written about the influences and the evils of the world; and we are challenged to spiritually awaken our new man.

Colossians 3:5: "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry." These things are the things of the earth and they are an abomination before God. When our minds are renewed, we are no longer moved by these things because we have put them to death with our old nature.

Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." The world is a god-less system ruled by Satan. If being conformed means to be fashioned after or to carry the outward appearance of, then we are conformed to the world if we pattern our ways after the ways of the world.

Jeremiah 6:13: "Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely." Scripture says everyone is given to covetousness (idolatry), but we do not have to stay that way. Since God detests it, let's put covetousness to death!

Jeremiah 5:31: "The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their *own* power; And My people love to *have it so*. But what will you do in the end?" Even the leaders, and the spiritual leaders in particular, have lost their way. The call to return to our Husband must be answered by everyone, from the least to the greatest.

Isaiah 56:11-12: "Yes, they are greedy dogs which never have enough. And they are shepherds who cannot understand; they all look to their own way, every one for his own gain, from his own

territory. 'Come,' one says, 'I will bring wine, and we will fill ourselves with intoxicating drink; tomorrow will be as today, and much more abundant.'

Exodus 20:3-6: "You shall have no other gods before Me, You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them, For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments." You shall have no other gods, and God will visit the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations. These gods will always have you wanting more; the flesh is never satisfied.

Proverb 27:20: "Hell and Destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied." The eyes of man are never satisfied!

Proverb 30:16: "The grave, the barren womb, the earth that is not satisfied with water— And the fire never says, 'Enough!'"

Habakkuk 2:5: "Indeed, because he transgresses by wine, He is a proud man, and he does not stay at home. Because he enlarges his desire as hell, and he is like death, and cannot be satisfied, he gathers to himself all nations and heaps up for himself all peoples."

In both this Scripture in Habakkuk and the one to follow in Isaiah, we are told that hell enlarges itself and opens its mouth beyond measure.

Isaiah 5:11-14: “Woe to those who rise early in the morning, *That* they may follow intoxicating drink; Who continue until night, *till* wine inflames them! The harp and the strings, The tambourine and flute, And wine are in their feasts; But they do not regard the work of the LORD, Nor consider the operation of His hands. Therefore my people have gone into captivity, Because *they have* no knowledge; Their honorable men *are* famished, And their multitude dried up with thirst. Therefore Sheol has enlarged itself And opened its mouth beyond measure; Their glory and their multitude and their pomp, And he who is jubilant, shall descend into it.”

Fighting against our three enemies is a war that God does not take lightly. God ransoms us from the power of the grave and is the grave's destruction. Let us arise from our slumber and take refuge in God's Word: “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction! Pity is hidden from My eyes.”

(Hosea 13:14)

LESSON 4

FACING THE FEARS

tiys

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

Have you ever thought about how fear affects you? How it brings unrest to your peace? Many of the battles that wage within us are rooted in fear; it is this fear that robs our soul (mind, will, and emotions) of peace. Certain we would face fears throughout various times in our lives, Jesus left us with His peace so we would not be afraid or troubled. His peace would not only loosen the grips of fear but also render it powerless.


*Peace I leave with you,
My peace I give to you;
not as the world gives
do I give to you. Let not
your heart be troubled,
neither let it be
afraid.”
John 14:27*


While His peace comes to give us rest, fear comes to do the exact opposite;; fear comes to torment. Fear is so deeply embedded in the earth that our actions, plans, dreams, even our careers are often determined by the presence of fear. Remember Adam’s answer to God in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve sinned and God asked Adam where he was? Adam replied, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” Up until the point of their sins, Adam and Eve had nothing to fear; there was no torment, only peace between man and God. Fear was not present because all they knew was the perfect love of their heavenly Father. So what were they afraid of? Now that they had tasted the world, their spirits were opened to all the emotions the world had to offer: worry, stress, guilt, and shame.

Fear not only drives these emotions, but also possesses a persuasive voice that torments us in our minds, causing us to believe the worst possible outcome for our situations.

When we are moved emotionally by fear, we should not make any decisions because we are incapable of making sound judgments when our soul lacks peace. Yet, when we do, the outcome of our decisions result in our walk with God being hindered or completely off His path and onto the unpaved road of destruction.


“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”
1 John 4:18


Each day someone in the world faces at least one fear within a 24 hour time span. There are all kinds of fears that plague us: fear in our finances, marriages, children, and our futures. We even have fears concerning the loss of a loved one or of losing something that we value dearly. Some people fear being alone, while others fear growing old. Fear has no age; it is not prejudiced in any way; it goes after anyone and everyone who will open its doors to let fear in. Our most powerful weapon against fear is the Word of God. Until the Word of God is established in our hearts so it changes our way of thinking, we will continue to struggle with fears. Are you ready to have victory over fear? Then awaken spiritually and face your fears.

LET’S GO TO THE WORD:

When the Word of God is sown in our hearts and minds, we are given wisdom from God that anchors us. "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and

lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." (James 3:13-18)

Although the world has its version of wisdom to offer, we need to understand it is tainted because it not only involves man's perspective and beliefs, but James says it is "earthly, sensual, and demonic". God's wisdom, on the other hand, comes from above and is produced out of the heart and mind of Christ; it is "first, pure, then, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits without partiality, and without hypocrisy." To possess Godly wisdom, we must remain and learn to rest in Him. *Yahweh Shalom* wants to renew our minds so we can receive wisdom from above that gives us PEACE that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7).



"Come to Me, all you 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



LESSON 5

THE BREATH OF LIFE

tiys

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

God wants to breathe life into us in this hour. He sees our spiritual condition and knows we are spiritually dead or spiritually asleep. In either case, God wants us to be awakened; the Giver of Life wants life in us! In the same way the breath of God drew close in the intimate moment life was given to Adam, the Father longs to come close to breathe life in us as well.


*"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being."
Genesis 2:7*



During the great flood, God allowed everything living to die because of sin. In Genesis 7 verse 22, we read, "all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died." We

have the spirit of life because God came close and breathed into our nostrils. We have the spirit of life, not the spirit of death because the Lord Jesus breathed life into our spirit.

Jesus told Nicodemus, "most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). What was Jesus referring to when he said, "unless one is born again"?

For Nicodemus, he had to come to the place where He was born


WORD DEFINITION

BREATHE
to take air, oxygen, into the lungs and expel it; inhale and exhale; respire. **Breath** - power to live or grow.



spiritually through the gift of salvation. For us who are already born again, God, through Jesus Christ, wants to take our dead spiritual state and bring it to life. When God breathes on us in this intimate way, our spirit is **born again by His Spirit.**


*"That which is born
of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is
born of the Spirit is
spirit."
John 3:6*


LET'S GO TO THE WORD:

Many people say they are saved but they do not walk in the newness of the Spirit of God. In other words, their testimony lacks the evidence to bear witness to a born again spirit breathing on the inside. God wants to awaken us and give us a new birth so we can walk by the Spirit. Without New Birth, life and relationship with God does not exist. However, with New Birth, God's Word becomes clear to us, the Holy Spirit works in us, and His wonders are believed and experienced. With New Birth, we enter into a different realm whereby we can take hold of the following: "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints" (Ephesians 1:18). We can only be awakened by the Breath of God that gives us life; this is why God is speaking to the Body of Christ about the Spiritual Awakening.

Do you want to be awakened spiritually? Then pull away from the cares of this world and spend some intimate time alone in the presence of God. When we draw close to God in those intimate moments, His love draws near to us and lovingly opens our spirits to Him alone. In that alone time with God, He reveals the deep secrets of your heart. When He reveals the selfishness or the sinfulness in our hearts, we should respond through repentance. When we do, a new way of life is opened to us and we are privy

to experience the fullness of Jesus Christ. Do you see the benefit of having a covenant relationship with God? No one else on earth and nothing in the earth can give us this kind of love and life that our Lord so freely gives. As we respond to His love, He moves us into the hope of His calling for our lives.

Now, it's important that we don't miss "whose" calling we are being moved into. Read the last sentence in the previous paragraph again. Did you see it? He moves us into the hope of *His calling*. Even though we may be uncertain about what we are called to, God is clear about His calling for us to gather and join His great army to fulfill the prophecy of God in the second coming of Jesus Christ. God is raising up an army, and with this army, He is coming to take back what the enemy has stolen from His people.

Let's go to Ezekiel 37 to learn about God's calling as it pertained to Ezekiel. In verse 1 we read: "The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones." God's calling was for Ezekiel to prophesy to the dead bones in the valley. When God releases the prophetic voice in the earth, that voice comes to speak life and God Himself will breathe life to that which is spiritually dead.

"Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. And He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' So I answered, 'O Lord GOD, You know' "(Ezekiel 37:2-3).

God wanted to see if Ezekiel believed that those bones could live. I would imagine that the chances of life coming back into a heap of bones might have looked dim to most people, especially doctors; but only God knows the actual beginning and ending of every man's days on earth. Still, God wanted to

know what Ezekiel's faith had to say. Now Ezekiel was uncertain as to whether or not those bones could live. However, he possessed a certainty in one thing and he answered God thusly: "O Lord God, You know." Even in the case when the answer seemed obvious, Ezekiel was unwilling to speak against the unfathomable power of God to do the impossible. He chose to believe by faith that whatever God was showing him or was about to do, God knew better than anyone else that with Him present, anything was possible. Likewise, we must be men and women of faith, willing to prophesy life to the dry bones that are all around us.

God wants us to hear His voice and carry His presence in the earth so that the Spirit of the Lord will speak life to those who are spiritually dead. That is why, in this hour, He is raising prophets to speak life into the army He is raising up. When the voice of God is spoken by the Spirit of God, life is brought into our being and our spirit comes alive. That rattling sound described in Ezekiel was the Spirit of God moving and bringing life to those dry bones. As God is assembling His great army, we, the body of Christ, are hearing that same sound today from heaven.

God is telling us to prophesy so he can open the graves of the dry bones that lay spiritually dead prematurely in a stupor. In this hour, God is bringing resurrection power to the Church to raise the dead, to raise the dry bones. Those who are dead, He is bringing back to life. Those in the graves are the very people who are called to be in the army. We cannot afford to look at them and determine they are too far gone for the breath of God to restore life inside of them. No, we must be certain as Ezekiel was certain that God knows without a doubt those dry bones can live!

Let us examine ourselves and see where we are spiritually should His calling appeal to us today. Are we praying? Are we carrying the presence of God so people can hear Him as we speak His Word in their hearts? Are we alert and sober? Are we discerning the time of this Great Awakening?

The rest of that passage of Scripture I want to highlight reads as follows: "I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it,' says the LORD" (Ezekiel 37:14). When we see God revive, restore, return, and redeem His people, we will know and proclaim that God is God and He alone can breathe life into that which was dead. We are not just speaking it, but we know it to be true. Each believer in Jesus Christ should be able to say, "I know because He is now living in my heart; now I am breathing life and I am alive in Him."

Can't you see that God just wants to be glorified? One encounter with God and man's eternal destination can be changed forever. And God is glorified! A lifetime of intimacy with God and the river of His love never ceases to flow in us and from us. And God is glorified! An honored covenant relationship with God and our faith grows in leaps and bounds. And God is glorified!

Since I am a part of that great army and I want to see the dry bones live, I am praying this simple prayer: "Lord, You are raising up this generation to hear your voice, to have a prophetic voice, and to move in the direction of bringing New Birth by the power of the Holy Spirit to a lost generation. I pray for such a move of God. Please God, move in our hearts as we pray 24/7 until You are a Praise in the earth. Amen."

LESSON 6

THE NEW MAN

tiys

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

Not until we have a true understanding of our new birth experience and who God is in our lives will we embrace the Scriptures. In every season of our lives, God has us on a journey. Even if the season is a season of rest, there is still a journey in that season. So often, we not only don't know where we're going, but we fail to recognize what season we are in. The absence of our awareness during the times and seasons can not only be frustrating but also spiritually damaging.

As we read the opening of the epistle in 1 Thessalonians 5, we readily grasp Paul's concern for the saints to discern "the times and the seasons" because of the day of the Lord's return. How much more as we draw closer to the end of the age should we also discern the times and the seasons? God is speaking to us now. We must realize our Lord is coming back, and we, who are of the light are to be alert and sober. He tells us in verse 6, not to sleep, as others do, but to watch (be vigilant) and to be sober. We must be spiritually awakened to have understanding of what the Lord is doing in this hour.

We must discern the times that God is allowing us to go through as individuals and as the body of Christ. Why is that important? We are speaking life to the next Generation, dry bones that need the breath of God, but we must position ourselves to hear from God. He is calling us to live a life of total

separation from the world. Our obedience to this call and our willingness to discern the times preserve the next Generation and prepare them for their seasons.

In Scripture, we are urged to set our minds on the things above where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God and not on things of this earth (Colossians 3:1-2). During our church's time of fasting and praying, God spoke these three words: Devotion, Discipline and Determination. He was showing us the key to experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. The epitome of one who lived such a life was Daniel, and his lifestyle is the example we should pattern for our lives. As the discerning voice to the now present prophetic generation, we must instill this "Three-D" trio (devotion, discipline, and determination) in them so they, too, can experience the power of the Holy Spirit that brings new birth to their spirit.



*"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."
Colossians 3:1-3*



All of this is possible if we dare to believe the Word of God concerning us (our new birth) and put Colossians 3:3-11 into action: "For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge

according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all."

Are you ready to take action? Then let's look at the Scripture again, focusing our attention on verse 5. Here we are urged to "put to death your members which are on the earth." When we have a new spirit dwelling in us, we must put the old person to death by his deeds. We cannot do things as we used to do things, everything in us must change and die with our past. This means:

- Putting to death the acts of one's character.
- Putting to death the accomplishments of one's past.



WORD DEFINITION

DEEDS

Something that is done, performed, or accomplished; an act; an exploit or achievement; one's character, or the like: Her deeds speak for themselves.



- Putting to death the achievements of one's gifts or own talents.

Next, let's look at verse 10 concerning our letting go of the old man and embracing the new man: "and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him." "Renewed in knowledge" is pertinent to our renewing the mind. Not only do we have a new spirit, breathed in us by the Holy Spirit, but we also have activated in us, new knowledge to help us in

our new way of thinking.

Do you remember our definition of renew from Chapter 2? Renew for the believer's heart is to renovate, restore, transform, and undergo change of heart; it is a profound change of one's moral and spiritual vision because of the work of the Holy Spirit in our heart toward God.



WORD DEFINITION

TRANSFORM

To change in form, appearance, or structure; metamorphose; to change in condition, nature, or character; convert; to change the form or formulas of the thought or being.



Now, this new knowledge is given to us so we can live according to the image of God and not the image of the world. We can no longer pattern ourselves after the world, but we are to be transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2). Thus we must do all things in a godly manner, requiring a change of our thoughts, specifically those thoughts that lead to habits, addictions, set ways, and stubbornness. All thoughts that dictate our actions (our will) and how we do things must now be guided

by this new knowledge and our renewed minds. No longer can we excuse the behavior of our old man by declaring, "That is just the way I am." We must allow the new man to deposit in us the mind of Christ!


"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus"
Philippians 2:5


Putting on the new man leads to godly character and supernaturally enables us to set acceptable, determined habits. By nature of the new man's origin, we can expect godly character to shape us instead of the world, and we can be assured our character, thoughts, and actions will be carved in the image of Christ. That's news worth shouting about! Prior to the new man's existence in us, we were unproductive and unfruitful; however, those days of barrenness are far behind us! Today we can bear good fruit and set the course for our lives and the future of our families.

LESSON 7

QUENCHING & DESPISING

tiys

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

God has been speaking to us through Romans Chapter 12, Colossians Chapter 3, and 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5. In each of these books, we have been given instructions and an awareness we simply cannot ignore. Now let's pull all the pieces together so we can make the next connection on this journey to our spiritual awakening.

Thus far, among other things, we have studied about renewing our minds where our key passage came from Romans 12. Then we turned our attention to Colossians 3 where we were introduced to the new man with a strong warning to bury the old man that used to be at work in us. Now as we continue to explore the Word of God further in 1 Thessalonians, we are entreated not to “quench the Spirit” (v19) and “not to despise prophecies” (v20). Perhaps you're wondering what renewing the mind and burying the old man have to do with the fire of the Holy Spirit and prophecies. Let me put it to you this way. Our failure to renew our minds and failure to walk in the new man are both sure-fire ways of quenching the Spirit of the Living God and disregarding God's Word.

If we allow the Holy Spirit to deal with our hearts, souls, and spirits as part of the preparation for Jesus' return, we will not quench His fire. God knows that all of our issues, emotions, and sins will hinder us

from responding to the Holy Spirit. However, completely giving ourselves to God allows us to move effectively by the Spirit in all things. That's why He emphasizes to us not to quench the Spirit. We need Him; He's our helper. How can we expect the Holy Spirit to move in us to reach others for the Kingdom of God if we remain stuck in our mindset and way of doing things? Regardless of what we think or believe, what we do or don't do affects others. Our refusal to get "self" out of God's way so that a more excellent spirit can lead, will keep us on a different path than the one God has chosen for us.

LET'S GO TO THE WORD:

Have you ever thought about the reason so many relationships don't work out? Might I suggest that relationships break apart because an identity crisis happens in at least one person and quitting seems to be the only solution for peace. I'm not referring to male and female relationships (even though this can apply), but more so relationships where one person in the relationship functions in a leadership capacity. Think about it for a moment; it happens in boss and employee relationships; pastor and congregant relationships; even in relationships between the Christian and God. Somewhere along the way, the need arises in the individual for the leader to acknowledge who he or she is and what he or she brings to the table. Whether the person feels he or she has been taken advantage of or has grown tired of playing second fiddle to someone else, his or her emotions are heightened and he or she begins to reason with self whether to remain and abide or to flee.

Let's go to 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 12 and see how God instructs us concerning leaders: "And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and

admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves."

God has a position for each of us in His army, and for some, that position is one of a leader. Suppose you don't particularly care for the leader or the pastor God has placed over you. Can you arbitrarily choose which of their God-given instructions you want to follow? Would you reason God might allow you to get away with treason (disloyalty) without facing


"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."
James 1:14-15



consequences? Suppose you are the leader but you tend to regard those who are under your authority as insignificant. How formidable will your team be if the weakest link is in the headship? Do you think you and God share the same opinion about those who labor with you?

Why do you suppose we are urged to recognize those who labor among us and those who are over us in the Lord? Because we cannot afford to forget what roles each of us play in this army or more importantly, who is the General of this great army. Do you not know God considers you a part of the mighty men and women of valor? But we have to know how to relate with our leaders according to the Word. That's why understanding authority and its purpose in our lives are both invaluable weapons, especially at wartime.

Remember what we were talking about in the beginning of this lesson? How we are not to quench the Holy Spirit nor despise prophecies? Obeying these commands is impossible in our old nature, but our new man and new way of thinking knows that prayer, revival, and honoring prophecies are essential to keeping the Holy fire ablaze. As for prayer, it is the key to understanding our calling and possessing the

discernment necessary to proceed. This is why we pray for revival. We need the fire of God to fall on us and revive us so we can follow God wholeheartedly.

In my Bible's Kingdom Dynamics, it is written that genuine revival can be cut short and the fire of the Holy Spirit quenched through unrealized compromise. When we are not truly transformed in our thinking, we continue to reason with the mind, manner, and mechanics of our old man (nature). Gradually, we will find ourselves having compromised a little here and there until the sin in us brings


WORD DEFINITION

DESPISE OR CONTEMPT

1. To regard with contempt, distaste, disgust, or disdain; scorn; loathe;
2. The feeling with which a person regards anything considered mean, vile, or worthless; disdain; scorn;
3. The state of being despised; dishonor; disgrace;
4. Law (a) willful disobedience to, or open disrespect for, the rules or orders of a court (contempt of court) or legislative body; (b) an act showing such disrespect.



forth death. The subtlety of sin and the ease of compromise that entangles far too many believers warrant ceaseless prayer and genuine revival.

The last area I want to address is prophecies. Though many people know God has demonstrated biblically that He communicates with his people through prophecies, most still do not understand the purpose and use of the prophetic Word. When God is speaking to us and giving us instructions and directions, we must not despise these prophecies—not only what we hear today, but what we read and see in the Word of God. When we despise God's words as spoken through prophecies, we dishonor, disrespect, and disgrace the Word of God, not merely the words of the man or woman giving the prophetic Word. The consequences of dishonoring the

Word of God have been recorded in the Bible since the beginning. If we do not renew our minds, we

will dishonor Him based on our own thinking, the way we have been taught according to the doctrines of our past, from our hurts and wounds of the past, or just out of rebellion. If we do not renew our minds, we will repeat the same mistakes as those who have gone before us in error.

Two examples of man's failure to honor prophecy can be found in Isaiah 30, verse 8 through 11. Here we read about God's response to the sin of Israel in despising His prophecies. Another example of "despising prophecies" is written about in I Samuel, Chapter 15, where Saul refuses to heed God's voice. In each of these examples, we also learn of the consequences they faced as a direct result of them abhorring the prophetic Word.

LESSON 8

SPIRITUAL MATURITY

tiys

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

In this season, God is not only bringing a spiritual awakening, but He is also challenging us to grow up and move, with full awareness, into the place He has called us. In other words, we need to come to spiritual maturity where the Word of God is working through us and in our hearts. This working of the Word produces fruit in us in various levels, but if we are unskilled because of where we are in knowing (*da'ath*) God, then our growth in understanding the Word of God will be stunted.

Some people may consider the price to know God intimately is more than they are willing to pay: waking up early to spend time with God, studying the Bible in depth, a lifestyle of fasting and praying, or living a consecrated, separated life all might seem more for the radical Christian than the practical one. Our total surrender cannot be determined by what others aren't willing to do to experience the fullness of Christ. At all cost, we must continue running full speed ahead into the things of God and resist the temptation to shrink back. Can I tell you a little secret? If we know who we are in Him and who He is in us, we won't retreat regardless of the enemy's persuasion in the earth. "We know that we are of God and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" (1 John 5:19).

As leaders, we must not be like children but mature with knowledge so we may be joined together to bring growth to the Church. If we look at Ephesians 4:17-24, we discover we are called to be a part of the five-fold ministry whereby we are to “equip the saints for the work of the ministry and edify the body of Christ” (v12). The Scripture continues to admonish us in obeying this command until “we come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).


“... and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”
Ephesians 4:23-24




WORD DEFINITION

FUTILE

 Not successful, worthless,
 useless, vain.



We are not to walk as the world does; they walk in the futility of their mind because they do not have the knowledge and mind of Christ. Darkness covers their hearts and minds, and they are without understanding. Unlike believers in the faith of Jesus Christ who recognize that the death of the old man and the birth of a renewed mind must occur, those in and of this world are unlearned in spiritual things.

In Hebrews, Chapter 6 and verse 4, we are told we are “partakers of the Holy Spirit.” Let’s read that passage together: "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit..." Did you know we are partakers of the Holy Spirit and that those who have tasted the heavenly gift (spiritual solid food) are those whose senses are exercised to discern between what is good and evil?

Those who are able to eat and live out the teachings they receive on a daily basis are mature and able to discern the strategies of the enemies. Remember the three enemies that were discussed in Lesson 1: the enemy the flesh, the enemy the world, and the enemy the devil? God wants us to utterly destroy these enemies so that we are victorious in our Christian life for ourselves, this generation, and the generations to come.

LET'S GO TO THE WORD:

When we have this kind of spiritual awareness (maturity), we are able to fight these enemies with spiritual weapons and not carnal weapons that profit us nothing. One of the carnal weapons we arm ourselves with is fleshly thinking, but fleshly thinking cannot win over the enemy. To defeat the enemy, we must use spiritual weapons that oppose him in every way. Such spiritual weapons are exclusively granted the children of God for “pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish

all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled” (2 Corinthians 10:4-6). Fleshly thinking, on the other hand, is a carnal weapon that our old man is very familiar with; this weapon is manufactured in Satan’s domain and designed for use *against* the Kingdom of God. Remember what I said earlier, carnal weapons (carnal thinking) profit us (the children of God) nothing; it is, however, profitable for Satan because it provokes fleshly desires and generates division. We must close every door Satan uses to



"Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him..."

Colossians 3:9-10



"I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?"

I Corinthians 3:2-3



resuscitate our old nature and reconnect us to his domain. Therefore, I exhort you to put off the old man and his works and actions and to put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge.

We know the value of knowledge when one possesses it, but what of the one who has rejected


WORD
DEFINITION

KNOWLEDGE

da'ath - Knowing,
understanding,
intelligence, wisdom,
discernment, skill, to
know.



knowledge? What becomes of him or her? The Word of the Lord in Hosea

says "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Usually believers

stop here, only addressing this part of

the Scripture. However, should we

read further, we learn about the severe

penalty handed-down to man based on

his *lack of knowledge*. "Because you

have rejected knowledge, I also will

reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten

the law of your God, I also will forget your children." (Hosea 4:6)

Let me draw your eyes to the line which reads, "I also will reject

you from being priest for Me." I want to ask you a question. Did

you know that as a leader, you are a priest for God? One not

classified by a church's denomination but ordained by God as a minister, the Lord's personal attendant?

The entire life of a priest revolved around Yahweh's service, both through ministering in the tabernacle

and/or temple and through carrying the burden of the people of Israel. Today, the responsibilities of

priests have not changed; priests are still called to minister to the Lord and serve the body of Christ. The

roll call of priest includes the highest Significance of all priests— Jesus Christ, the High Priest.



"Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest (kohen) of God Most High."

Genesis 14:18

"The LORD has sworn and will not relent, "You are a priest (kohen) forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Jesus, the High Priest, highest and Priest of all priests."

Psalms 110:4

"For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 2:7





WORD DEFINITION

PRIEST

Priest - *kohen* - Hebrew כֹּהֵן (*kohen*), occurs 750 times in 653 verses in the Hebrew concordance of the KJV. Principal officer or chief ruler - priest-king (Melchizedek, Messiah), pagan priests, priests of Jehovah, Levitical priests, Zadokite priests, Aaronic priests, the high priest.



What would make us accept this great call to be a part of the five-fold ministry, a priest ministering to the Lord, and a mature Christian?

Simply put, love. “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

This is the first commandment” (Mark 12:30). Our love for Him drives us to want to change and to be changed in our heart, soul, and mind by

His love. If we don't have the love, we will not have a renewed mind;

without a renewed mind, we cannot please Him. When we are renewed

by the Holy Spirit, our whole mindset changes from the fearful

negativism of the carnal mind to the vibrant positive thinking of the

quickenened spiritual mind.



WORD DEFINITION

MIND

Thinking through, understanding, insight, meditation, reflection, perception, the gift of apprehension. The faculty of thought.



LESSON 9

THE ONE PERCENT

tiys

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

I have been doing a great deal of reading and researching on the mind and how the enemy works in our thinking. Let me share with you some of the scriptures and notes that are changing my way of thinking.

First, we must see that the devil mixes his lies with the truth, for he must use a truth to carry his lies. The believer must therefore discriminate and judge all things. Believers must be able to see (discern, test) what is impure and what they can accept as truth. If the enemy finds our thoughts 99% pure, he will try to insert in the 1% that is not pure, his impure, poisonous lies. If the lie goes undetected, he will expand his contamination in our thoughts until 1% becomes 25% and so on and so on.

LET'S GO TO THE WORD:

Yesterday, we studied the Scriptures about being mature to discern what is good and evil. In **Hebrews, Chapter 5 verses 12-14**, it says: "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For every one who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

When good is mixed with evil, it is hard to discern unless we have positioned ourselves to read the Word and spend time with the Holy Spirit getting to know the voice of Jesus.

Sometimes, as believers, we accept satanic counterfeits as God's will and yield to them because we have our fleshly desires intermingled with our desire to do the will of God. Our fleshly desires are mixed with deception because the enemy succeeds in planting that 1% of impure thinking in our minds. To



*"A little leaven,
leavens the whole
lump."
Galatians 5:9*



decrease that 1% chance, the devil has to corrupt the truth and win deadly influence over us. We must be equipped to handle our thinking against the three things that attempt to set themselves up between God and us: the flesh, the world, and the enemy.

Once we allow God to mature us into having the mind of Christ, we can be used fully by God rather than the enemy. God wants our body so He can dwell in us and share His heart with us. When we are not walking in the fullness of maturity (having the mind of Christ), Satan can influence our minds through



*"For Satan himself
transforms himself
into an angel of
light."
2 Corinthians 11:14*



the oppression and desires of this life and he can use our body to fulfill his agenda on the earth. With this revelation in perspective, can we afford to walk in the flesh and not grow (mature)? Absolutely not.

The enemy has a plan to lead us in a way that is contrary to God's way. Satan knows that the believer will not deliberately consent to being controlled by evil spirits, so he has to work through deception. When we are still conformed to this world and have not allowed the Word to transform us completely, we open the door for that 1% of deception to influence us and use us to lead others down the wrong path.

Why is this study so important for us today? We enter into the grace of God to carry His presence to the nations, but He cannot continue to trust us if we do not mature and come completely in line with His Word. We thank God for His mercy and grace; He is giving us a window of opportunity to move in the right direction.

The chief avenue of accessibility for deceiving spirits is our mind. We must comprehend what we have been given in Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:23. These scriptures instruct and warn us to RENEW THE MIND. We must see that God is dealing with us now to renew this mind that the enemy once controlled when we were in darkness. Now, however, we are children of light who are “always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body” (2 Corinthians 4:10).

LESSON 10

OBEDIENCE: BETTER THAN SACRIFICE

tiys

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

According to Hebrews, Chapter 3 and verse 15, Israel, who saw the great hand of God, still refused to

take heed to His voice: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. For who having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?" My question is, how can that be?



WORD DEFINITION

REBEL

A person who refuses allegiance to, resists, or rises in arms against the government or ruler of his or her country; a person who resists any authority, control, or tradition.



Remember what we discussed in the previous lesson? The enemy brings lies to the 1% of our minds where they go undetected and are disguised and passed off as truth. We are no different today than the Israelites were thousands of years ago, Like them, we have heard the word of God and

still let the mixture in our hearts overshadow the voice of God. It is the reasoning in our own MIND that causes us to rebel against God, against truth.

If we rebel once we have heard the voice of God, we will pay the consequences of our decisions. When God speaks and we still rebel, we do not enter into His rest (peace) or receive the bounty of His blessings.

LET'S GO TO THE WORD:

Let's go to the Word of God and learn what the Bible has to say about rebellion against authority. Turn in your Bibles to 1 Samuel, chapter 15. We are going to read about King Saul who rebelled against God and in return, God rejected him. When you have the opportunity, please read this entire chapter. For now, we are going to zoom in on verse 22: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice."

God takes great delight in our obedience, more so over our sacrifices. All of the sacrifices we bring to

God are *our* works in the ministry. We feel like we can work for God but don't necessarily have to obey His Word. The Lord is not impressed with our works or ministry. He wants us to hear His voice and respond in complete obedience. If we are not obedient to the voice of the Lord, then our actions are considered to be rebellious, which "is as the sin of witchcraft" according to verse 23.

When we rebel, we open ourselves to the influence of witchcraft. This leaves the mind open allowing us to be put under an evil influence, like a spell. In this condition, you cannot hear from God

and now you are moving and making decisions on your own

emotions and thoughts. Remember, your thoughts are now influenced by spirits because you have closed yourself off from God. He told Saul in verse 23, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and



WORD DEFINITION

WITCHCRAFT

The art or practices of a witch; sorcery; magic; magical influence; witchery.

SORCERY

The art, practices, or spells of a person who is supposed to exercise supernatural powers through the aid of evil spirits; black magic; witchery.



stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."


WORD DEFINITION

DISTRESSING

Great pain, anxiety, or sorrow;
acute physical or mental
suffering; affliction; trouble.



Saul continued to lead Israel but under a distressing spirit because he did not take heed to the voice of God: "But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said to him, 'Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you'" (1 Samuel 16:14-15).

To be under a distressing spirit means that we are *not* being led by God's voice, but are instead, being led by our own voice with the influence of a spirit.

As a result of our rebellion and refusal to repent, we also operate under affliction and pain which God allows. Now we begin to seek the voices of others because the voice that was once guiding our lives is gone. Saul did not repent; he continued in pride. In so doing, he opened himself further to other evil spirits that tormented his mind. 1 Samuel, Chapter 28, tells us of Samuel's death and how Saul's great fear drove him to take desperate measures to hear the voice of God because of the war that was coming against him. He tried to bring Samuel back from the dead through witchcraft, which by God's command he had outlawed in the land. When we don't repent and turn back to God, basically we have chosen our own way—a way in which we find no rest for our souls— the MIND, the WILL, AND the EMOTIONS. We will begin to seek counsel from the WORLD instead of seeking counsel from those who are wise and mature in God.

Unable to endure the consequences of our poor decisions, we call upon people to fix that area in our lives that resulted from our rejecting the voice of God. But Samuel told Saul in verse 18 of Chapter 28: "Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord and not execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you this day." In other words, there is nothing man can do for us once we have rebelled against the voice of God in our lives. We must pray that our eyes will be opened to the truth so that we can see our sin of rebellion against God.

Rebelling against God is a serious act that causes our ears to be deafened to the voice of God and our minds to be blinded to the truth of God; having said that, the following selection of Scriptures should be read with the FEAR OF GOD upon us.

Isaiah 30:1-3 "Woe to the rebellious children," says the LORD, who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; Who walk to go down to Egypt, and have not asked My advice, to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore the strength of Pharaoh shall be your shame, and trust in the shadow of Egypt shall be your humiliation."

Isaiah 30:9 "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD; Who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits."

Isaiah 30:12 "Because you despise this word, and trust in oppression and perversity, and rely on them, Therefore this iniquity shall be to you Like a breach ready to fall, A bulge in a high wall, Whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant."

God begins to tell us how great will be our fall. He is not talking about children of the world, but His children—us. We must wake up and let God deal with us where we are right now. Take heed to Romans 12:2: “Do not be conformed to this world but transformed by the renewing of your MIND.” The Lord is sending His Word, His priests, and His prophets to us. Now take heed. Flee from the world and all her deceptive, persuasive voices. Meditate on Isaiah 30, verse 15, and Matthew 11, verse 28. Both of these Scriptures are like fresh rain to our dry, barren places; they speak on how we can return to God and find rest for our souls.

LESSON 11

INJECTED THOUGHTS

tiys

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

Today's lesson will be coming out of 2 Corinthians 4:1-18: "Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believed and therefore I

spoke,' we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal

weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”



WORD DEFINITION

RENOUNCE

To give up or put aside voluntarily: to renounce worldly pleasures;
to give up by formal declaration: to renounce a claim, disown.



LET'S GO TO THE WORD:

The Word tells us that a veil is over our minds, a veil that blinds us and keeps us from understanding the Word: "But their minds were blinded.

For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.” As with Israel

in the Old Testament when the law was read to them, the people had a veil over their minds. Like them, when we do not have the Spirit of God working in our heart, our minds are also veiled.

As we walk in this place, we must renounce all the hidden things in our lives as the Holy Spirit reveals them to us. We must have the manifestation of the truth in our lives. As we learned from verse 4, when we were in the world, the god of this age had us blinded until the gospel of the glory of Christ shone on our hearts. Now that light is the knowledge of His glory revealed to us. The questions at hand are: Have we died to the influences of this world? Are we walking in the light of His Word? It bears worth

repeating for the sake of our victory over the enemy. To do so, we must renew our minds by rejecting thoughts from our enemies.

Thousands of thoughts come to people without their consent for few understand how to control their minds by “bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5). When we have no rest for our soul, we operate out of our emotions and are in great danger of making quick or hasty decisions. All of our decisions have consequences, but quick and wrongly thought out decisions cause *serious* consequences in our lives. When our minds are scattered and not settled, the enemy is sets up a counterfeiting operation in our mind and we begin to think it is our own thoughts or the voice of God we hear, when it is really the enemy planting thoughts in our mind. To detect the working of evil spirits upon the mind, the believer needs to note the way in which his thoughts come to him.

When the enemy enters into the process of our thinking, the lying spirits seek to inject some thought or feeling—first into the believer's mind and then into the believer's spirit. When we start feeling like someone has done something to intentionally hurt us, it begins as a thought planted into our mind. We then become suspicious or angry; we begin to treat them differently because of what was planted in our mind. Then our mind controls our emotions, and they influence us to act in opposition to what the Word of God says, specifically to not obey the command to love our brother. We are to have the genuine heart and mind of Christ to love them, but we do not because we have seeds of lies sown into our mind and heart.

We must realize that when God tells us in Scripture that the whole world is under the sway of the enemy, worldly minds are dictated by Satan. While we were conformed to the world's way of things, we

were trained by the enemy to hear voices that were not of God. Now, our minds must be retrained so we can recognize His voice over every other voice that has influential power. We must see that the only way to cast down every thought is through our obedience to the WORD OF GOD. We deceive ourselves by thinking we have complete control over the thoughts in our own mind. This mind must have the mind of Christ, and it is only done by the discipline of the Word of God daily.

We studied this previously, and I feel the need to reintroduce this topic again. Let's return to Ephesians 4, verse 17 through 24: "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."


WORD DEFINITION

FUTILE

Not successful, worthless,
useless, vain.



He is telling us that we are *not* like the world. The world, "the rest of the Gentiles", walks in the futility of their mind. Why are their minds like that? Because they do not have the knowledge and mind of Christ. Their minds have no understanding because of the darkness that covers their mind and heart. They have not learned Christ, but we have, and our old man must die and be renewed in

the spirit of our mind. Again, verses 23-24: "...and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." We cannot walk according to the Scripture if our mind is still under the spirit of the world.



"We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life."

1 John 5:19-20



Why did God say in John 8:31-32, "If you abide in My Word you are My disciples (one who learns, student) indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"? When we sit under the teaching of Jesus, His words penetrate our hearts, give us understanding and set us free from the bondage of the old mindset.

LESSON 12

BRINGING IN THE PRESENCE

tiys

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:

We cannot go into this next place with God without the presence of His Glory. "So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth." So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name." And he said, "Please, show me Your glory" (Exodus 33:11-18).

LORD, we need your Presence.

LET'S GO TO THE WORD:

God is calling us to understanding and to the renewing of our minds. These *seven actions* are required of us in order to have the **Presence of God in both our lives and our churches.**

1. WE MUST BE CONSECRATED/SEPARATED/DEDICATED BEFORE THE LORD.

1 Samuel, Chapter 7, teaches about The Presence of God. At this time in history, the Ark of the Covenant was not in the house of God and the children of Israel began to desire it back. In verse 3 it reads, "... all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD." Samuel understood the purpose and importance of the Ark of the Covenant being *in* the house of God. Do we understand the importance of God's Presence being in the house of God? The Presence represents His Glory!

In previous chapters of 1 Samuel, we see that sin in the House of God brought judgment and the glory of the Lord departed from Israel. Even though the enemy had taken the ark into their possession for many years, the enemy could not stand before a living and Holy God. Samuel gave instructions to Israel in what they must do to restore His presence. God is challenging us with those same instructions. Holiness and the fear of God must be brought back into the House of God (2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1).

2. WE MUST REPENT WITH A HEART FILLED WITH GODLY SORROW, NOT JUST AN EMOTIONAL MOMENT.

When we truly repent, our hearts must be moved by God with genuine sorrow. Our repentance cannot be out of obligation, using only our mouths and not our hearts. Israel *lamented* for the Presence; it had been removed for 20 years. Even David cried out in Psalm 51:1-11, asking "Don't take your Holy Spirit away from me."

3. WE MUST RETURN TO GOD.

This requires action not words. Repentance is with confession of the mouth and heart. We must now return to a place of rest, trusting in Him and believing by faith in Him alone. In your pursuit to return to God, meditate on these readings.



Isaiah 30:15 "For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: 'In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.' "

Jeremiah 17:5-10 "Thus says the LORD: 'Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not inhabited.' 'Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.' 'The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.' "

4. WE MUST PUT AWAY OUR FOREIGN GODS.

This command is big! Unfortunately, we do not see our foreign gods. When Israel took on the mixture of Baal and other gods, they were depending on them to meet a need. Remember what we read about in

Hosea 2:5? Gomer (Israel) said "I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and my water, My wool and my linen, My oil and my drink." The name Baal means master/husband. When we depend on someone or something other than Yahweh to supply our needs, we commit adultery with this newly carved foreign god.

Let's pause here for just a moment for a time of reflection. Always remember we are at constant war in our members against our three enemies: the enemy the flesh, the enemy the world, and the enemy the devil.

The enemy the FLESH

“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, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His” (Romans 8:5-9).

The enemy the flesh is at enmity with or is hostile toward God. If we are led by the flesh and not the Spirit, we are enemies with God. Therefore, we cannot please God.

The enemy the flesh comes to keep us in bondage to our own desires and to keep us from inheriting the Kingdom of God by not knowing our true identity in Jesus. He doesn't play fair. He will use whatever hurt, weakness, or failure he can to get the advantage over us. Then the enemy the flesh will come and

wrestle with our Spirit to entangle us in sin and weights. Once entangled and weighed down with confusion about who we are in Christ Jesus, the enemy the flesh gains strength in the battle. So you won't have to contend with this enemy regarding your identity, let me loosen you from the enemy's grip by telling you the truth. We are sons and daughters of the Living God.

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness" (Galatians 5:16-22).

We are called to bear fruit and to walk in the anointing of God. In Isaiah 61, verses 1 through 3, the Word says, "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

“The Spirit of the Lord...” represents the Anointing. The Anointing is the Triune God manifested. As sons and daughters of the Living God, the Anointing of God should be upon us to set the captives free. However, if I do not know who I am, I stay in bondage to my flesh, and I cannot set anyone free from what I am still bound to.

The enemy the WORLD

"Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:1-4).

The enemy the world comes to influence us with the riches of this world, to take our joy away. Through depression and worrying about the cares of this world, we are betrayed by our reliance on the world to meet our needs. We drink the Babylonians woman's wine, a substitute for the New Wine which we ought to be drinking (refer to Revelations, Chapter 17 and Chapter 18, verses 1 through 3). The Holy Spirit is the New Wine; He comes to give us joy, peace and love in Him. With Him, there is no need for a substitution of any kind.

The enemy the DEVIL

"We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him" (1 John 5:18)

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" (John 10:10).

The enemy the devil comes to take the Word of God from our hearts. The Truth, on the other hand, comes to establish truth in our hearts and bring down the lies that cause us to be blinded to the love of God.

5. WE MUST PREPARE OUR HEART

Preparation of the heart is to love God with our entire heart; this is a heart of worship and it is filled when we practice intimacy with God. "These

people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, 'Hear and understand: Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.' Then His disciples came and said to Him, 'Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?' But He answered and said, 'Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch' " (Matthew 15:8-14).



"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart"
Matthew 13:19



We have done the traditions of men and our hearts are tainted by man's worship; we desperately need God to circumcise our hearts. In order for that to happen, we'll have to give Him our whole heart. "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment" (Mark 12:30). "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it. The LORD delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day. Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer" (Deuteronomy 10:12-16).

6. WE MUST GATHER THE PEOPLE TO POSITION THEMSELVES TO FAST, PRAY, AND WATCH.

The instructions found in 1 Samuel, Chapter 7, are the same instructions we need to adhere to.

Repent, pray, and understand the intimacy and passion of God's love.

Pursue the presence of God daily with a heart of holiness—Nazarite Vow.

Position ourselves in the Word, War in Prayer, Worship.

Have Passion for the prophetic insight God has given through the quieting of our souls.

Prepare the next generation who will also lead in these areas for His kingdom.

Possess the land by traveling and going to all nations and then, raising up disciples and teaching them.

Curriculum, books, tapes, resources for His glory.

Labor in Prayer that produces Justice for the land—children, widows, women, families, poor and those whom God places on our hearts.

7. WE MUST GIVE A BURNT OFFERING AND THAT OFFERING IS OURSELVES AS LIVING SACRIFICES TO GOD.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith" (Romans 12:1-3).

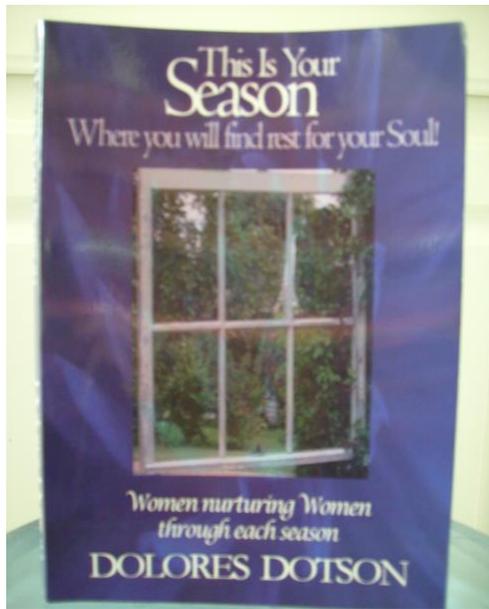
For this Spiritual Awakening to occur in our hearts, we must hear the plea that God is making for us to present our bodies a living sacrifice. No longer are animal sacrifices required or acceptable at the altar. Under the New Covenant, it requires our lives freely being offered at the altar in order to bring death to SELF.

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