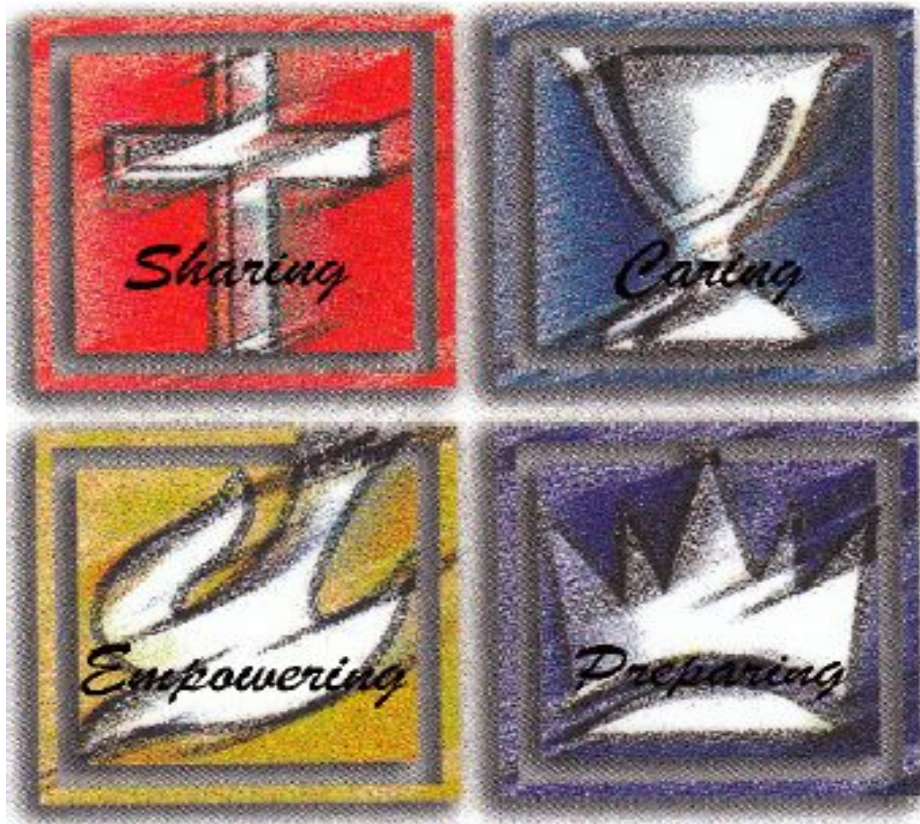


FOURSQUARE **MINISTRY TRAINING**



MODULE TEN

LIVING IN CHRIST

"Getting on with Building the Kingdom of

God"

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MODULE TEN:

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

UNIT ONE: THE ETERNAL GROOM AND BRIDE

"WHEN WE UNDERSTAND OUR COVENANT RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, WE KNOW OUR SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY"

JESUS IS OUR SPIRITUAL BRIDEGROOM AND WE ARE HIS SPIRITUAL BRIDE; AND TOGETHER WE MAKE DISCIPLES.

Principle: "Over half of our population are unable to have natural children; however, good news, even more importantly all of us Believers are designed by God to become spiritual mothers and fathers; and have spiritual children born-again into Eternity".. *"Go and make disciples.." (Matthew 28:20)*

Main Scripture: John 15:9-17 (Our Covenant Love with Jesus)

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² **My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.** ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ **You are my friends if you do what I command.** ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ **You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit**—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

Revelations 22:17. "the Spirit and the Bride say "Come!" Let anyone who hears this say "Come". Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires to drink freely from the water of life".

Preparing the Bride for Eternity

We who are 'The Bride' of Jesus our Bridegroom are doing three things:

1. Intentionally preparing ourselves as individual members of His Bride to be a holy and blameless Bride, without wrinkle, spot or blemish.. ready for when Father call us "Home" to Glory to the New Jerusalem, the assembled Bride.. prepared for "The Marriage Supper of the Lamb".. and then to come back and reign over this Earth with King Jesus from Jerusalem for 1000 years.
2. Deliberately preparing our brothers and sisters in our Church Family for

Eternity in any, and every way we can.

3. Working with the Spirit of the Lord to continually seek out those locally, who are not the Bride, so as to exhort, compel, gather and nurture them to become The Bride. We are the "mothering" side to spiritually reproduce new 'lambs', and nurture and disciple them to work with the Spirit of the Bridegroom to repeat what we do.

Introduction: to the spiritual joining of Jesus (*our Bridegroom*) with us (*Jesus' Bride*), which is more powerful and Eternal, than it's earthly "shadow" which is the covenant of marriage for any husband and wife. "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin".. Jesus dies to make us "innocent" again!

Jesus The Bridegroom's Blood Covenant with us His Bride:

As with an earthly marriage, it is bound by a blood covenant. Much fuss was made about proving this. For example: at Royal Weddings.. the Royal Doctor would inspect the marital bed-linen after the wedding night, and confirm that this couple were indeed joined by a "once-in-a lifetime" true blood covenant.

*Considering today's promiscuous, post "love-revolution" society, where marital blood covenants are a rare commodity indeed, it is a glorious thing that God in His mercy, can take any one of our lives.. wash away our shame with the Blood of His Son, and restore our spiritual innocence (which flows right through our mind and body) and make both us and Him to be One, His own **righteous** Bride!*

¹³ **Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.**

Before we even knew He was going to seek us out to be His Bride, He died for our shame, spots and blemishes of sin; on The Cross, to give us a 100% new beginning! This is not the Bride proving her innocence because she has none; but the sinless Bridegroom giving all His life-blood and dying for her sin, to make her righteous, and sinless.

So, before we came to Him, the slightly unnerving, pestering "discomfort" in our heart about our old sinful life; was in fact Jesus' The Bridegroom coming, knocking on our hearts.. ready to wash us clean, and take us for His own.. (Rev.3:20); and we answered, dressed in filthy rags, and He said He had come to ask our hand in Eternal Marriage.. IT'S JESUS!! We bowed before Him; wept at His feet, and asked Him to do what seemed impossible.. to make us acceptable for such a Glorious honour.. and He told us.."I have already taken your sins, and destroyed them in my own body on The Cross of Calvary.. come Beloved.. and exchange your filthy rags, for you are now to be clothed with my garment of Righteousness, and become as One with Me.. for I truly cleanse you, I truly restore your innocence. Father AND I remember your past and your sin no more .. come you new and Holy one, and receive My own Spirit.. that together we may

be One for Eternity." We cry out.. " I receive You Lord Jesus. Come and live in me now". Miraculously.. **"I am a new creation, I am a brand new person..old things have passed away, behold all things are become new"**. So, go on and live as a wise Virgin! (see 2 Corinthians 11:2; Matthew 25:1-13)

So, now that we are joined with our Bridegroom...

1. What do we do together?
2. What do we do each day as His Bride for Him?
3. What does he do for us?

There are "spiritual" parallels to all the natural things a normal husband and wife would do in a healthy marriage *(please do not be condemned if you don't have a healthy earthly marriage, many do not, because, more importantly, you can have a healthy Eternal marriage in place today.. (and that will help the Earthly one!)...*

1. What we do together.. **Two families become One: God's Family of Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit are JOINED as ONE to you!**

He marries into us, and we marry into His. He puts His Spirit in us; both to be Eternally joined; and to have "spiritual children".

A Natural Marriage

Our Spiritual Marriage

<u>1. CHOICES:</u> Groom calls to several and chooses one	Jesus calls us all to be His Bride, but He can only choose those who say "Yes, Lord!"
<u>2. COVENANT COMMITMENT:</u> They publicly make a Covenant for life at a Wedding Service	They make a Covenant for Eternity
<u>3. VIRGINITY/PURITY:</u> She wears white symbolising purity	She is washed pure from sin by Him; and He clothes me in His righteous robes.
<u>4. CONDITIONS:</u> Promises are made, which if broken can destroy the marriage. The marriage is cursed by unfaithfulness and dies.. with implications to the 3 rd AND 4 th Generation.	Blessings for keeping the Covenant are explained. Curses for breaking it are clear. It can only be broken by the Bride dying spiritually, and backsliding, and then dislocating from Him.
<u>5. OUTWARD SYMBOLS</u> They exchange rings to show they are married to each other.	She gets baptised , declaring to Heaven and Earth her past life is finished with other gods, and she has chosen Jesus alone.
<u>6. CELEBRATION FEAST</u> A Wedding Breakfast celebrates the union	There is rejoicing in Heaven at every "born-again" Bride's union with Jesus.. but we all await the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb" in Heaven .. <i>soon!! Ready?</i>

<u>7. SHARE ONE "HOME"</u> They move into one House together	They both move into The House of the Lord together..and stay there without exception (Ps.23)
<u>8. JOINT-NAME</u> She takes his name; and they now are now known as Mr & Mrs	He now gives her His Name..Jesus. She becomes "Christ" ('ian). All His authority is now hers.. for she now uses, and travels under His Name and Power.
<u>9. JOINT OWNERSHIP</u> What is his becomes hers; and what is hers becomes his, and now they jointly share everything.	The Kingdom of God.. is now hers. Jesus shares <u>everything</u> He shown us on Earth He possesses! We inherit it all..it's <u>His Will!</u>
<u>10. INDIVIDUAL ROLES</u> They define both their separate roles, and their joint roles and faithfully fulfil them	We change to be more and more like Him.. and prepare everyone we can to be The Bride! <i>"if you love Me, you will keep My commandments". "Go and make disciples!!"</i>

<u>11. KEEP IN LOVE</u> continually Say.."I love you"	Say "I love you".. Live in LOVE. Expose everyone we relate to, everywhere, every day to it!
<u>12. MAKE PLANS TOGETHER</u> Talk about anything..	Talk about everything..no matter where you are, He's there.. with you and in you! .."behold I will never leave you, nor forsake you"
<u>13. DO EACH OTHER GOOD</u> See what good can be done for the other.. Bless, don't curse.	See what good can be done for each other.. speak out Blessings.
<u>14. REPRODUCE</u> Come together as One physically, but be joined as 'soul-mates' too. Be in agreement. Choose unity.	Be one in Spirit with Him all the day long.. Be of One MIND..Ask Him what he thinks about this and that. Live as ONE. Put Him first. Tear down thoughts that don't come from Him, and disagree with Him.
<u>15. ENCOURAGE</u> Praise & encourage each other.. with sincere compliments	Praise & encourage each other. He praises us too!
<u>16. HONOURABLE</u> Honour them to others	Always Praise and speak well of Him to others. Jesus is good, all the time!
<u>17. FAITH IN EACH OTHER</u> Believe the best about each other; readily forgive; major on the majors. Be Faithful, honest & totally	God is good.. all the time; His mercy is everlasting; Move onwards & Upwards! Be Faithful, Truthful, scrupulously honest, and 'transparent'. Don't go

Trustworthy to each other(nothing hidden)	back to old worldly idols, who disobey Him.
<u>18. MINISTER BY PRAYER</u> Pray for each other	Pray for each other.. He's praying for us continually.
<u>19. SPIRIT OF GOD LED</u> Come together and Multiply..	Let Him always work with you...Multiply, and build His Family.. prepare it for Eternity.. <i>"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me because He has Anointed me to.." (Luke 4)</i>
<u>20. SHOW CARE</u> Care for each other	Care about each other.. <i>"Cast all your cares on Me, because I care got you!"</i> Do you realise that Jesus was never anxious! Let it become strange for you also!
<u>21. UNSELFISH</u> Consider the others needs first	Consider the others needs first
<u>22. PROVIDE MONEY</u> Earn money to meet all needs, with the work He gives you.	Provide money for Him as He provides for you.. He resources His Kingdom through you, so tithe and make offerings in Church each week.. <i>"Give a little, have a little..give much, have much!"</i>
<u>23. IN SUBMISSION</u> Obey the boundaries; joyfully and lovingly carry out responsibilities and roles	Joyfully and lovingly obey the agreed covenant Word-inspired boundaries found by reading the New Testament; act on them; and do your "works" as Holy Spirit prompts you each day.. fulfil these pre-planned works; and destinies.
<u>24. RESTING IN FAITH</u> Faith for an uncertain future	Rejoice in Faith for a certain future & a living hope!
<u>25. LETHAL DEFENSE</u> Let sin, or evil, or satan have nothing on you. Shun evil. Resist temptation.	Let sin, or evil or satan have nothing on you. Resist satan, trample on him, he will flee!
<u>26. PEACEMAKERS</u> Be quick to be sorry for mistakes; ask forgiveness, to forgive; and to forget, go on. Overlook a multitude of sins.	Repentant Bride, forgiven by Bridegroom and washed with His Blood. We continue to have new starts.
<u>27. LOVINGLY KIND</u> Show loving-kindness	Live in loving-kindness
<u>28. DIVINE ORDER</u> Submit to each other; and wife submit yourself to your husband	Submit in all thing to Jesus our Bridegroom for ever.

James 1:22..“Be a doer of The Word, and not just a hearer.”

Prayer: Dear Father God, I am now Eternally united to you through the Spirit of Jesus your Son.. He is in charge of my life now.. so it's not my thoughts, but His Word I want to govern my days with; not my actions, but His revealed ways to help me walk in His Power, on His prepared paths and works. I am preparing my life to be without wrinkle, spot or blemish; I am preparing the rest of the Bride in our Church Family to be the same; and like a Bride in a motherly way..I am seeking out those, who are like I once was; to hear the Good News; and be joined to us with Christ's glorious, Spirit of loving-kindness. I will tell them what happened to me.. about Your loving-mercies, Your Graciousness; my sorrow at sin; and the miracle of Your forgiveness.. of how Jesus died to cleanse me white like snow and give me His Righteous clothing to wear forever as His Gift; and how Jesus own Spirit, at my earnest request, came through my clothing, skin and bone, and joined with my spirit, so we are now One. With the wisdom you give me, I shall be like a father in the faith to them, and teach them of your ways. O Lord my Lord, how excellent is Your Name in all the Earth. Forever my heart and soul will praise You.. and my soul will rise up early in the morning that I might seek you; and praise You; and tell You of my Love for You a hundred times more. In Jesus' Name, Amen"

UNIT TWO

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

Believers must know and operate in their God-given authority before they can enjoy true Kingdom Living. Often misunderstood, the knowledge of the authority of the believer is the key for victorious living. Upon discovering all that Christ achieved for his church, believers can take their stand against any spiritual force that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. Believers become more than a conqueror in the spiritual arena. With the full understanding of their authority in Christ, believers are able to thwart any attempt of the devil and can maintain victory in their family life, health, finances, and ministry.

1. In the Beginning

In the very beginning Adam and Eve enjoyed perfect harmony with God. God had created man and woman to enjoy absolute dominion and authority over all things on the earth. This authority was given to mankind directly from God Himself. Adam and Eve walked with God, talked with God, and enjoyed perfect fellowship with their creator.

Genesis 1:26-31 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground-- everything that has the breath of life in it-- I give every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning-- the sixth day.

2. Man Was Given Dominion

Adam and Eve were given absolute rule and dominion over all the earth, including the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, livestock, and every living thing. Man was given authority to select and name all the living creatures that roamed the earth. The animals, birds, and all living creatures were under the direct authority of man. God had authority over the whole universe. But, at the creation of the earth, God gave man authority and dominion over all the earth.

Genesis 2:19-20 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air, and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

3. Man Was Given Free Choice

The Lord had given man all authority and dominion over all the earth. God gave man absolute dominion over the trees and plants in the garden of Eden. However, God also gave man a free will, giving man a choice. When God placed man in the garden of Eden, He told them they could choose to eat from any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God still gives man free choice. *Adam and Eve were given a free will to obey the Lord in everything and live forever or to choose to disobey and lose their position of authority and die.*

Genesis 2:15-17 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die. "

4. Satan's Plan of Deception

Satan had fallen from Heaven because he exalted himself to be like the most high God. Satan was aware that God had created man to walk in total harmony with God and to rule the earth. God had made man to look like Him, talk like Him, and walk like Him. This was humiliating to Satan. Satan devised a plan to deceive man and steal man's authority and dominion on the earth.

Genesis 3:1-5 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?' " The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

5. Man Believed the Lies of Satan

Satan disguised himself as a serpent and entered the garden like all the other creatures. His ultimate mission was to kill, steal, and destroy what God had promised to mankind. Satan wanted to overrule man's dominion and gain the same authority for himself. So, he devised a plan of deception. He lied to them and they accepted the lie. This was the downfall of man.

Genesis 3:4-7 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. " When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they

realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

6. Mankind Was Stripped of Their Authority

Accepting Satan's lie, Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God's command and ate the forbidden fruit. This is called the "fall of man" when sin entered the world. God's authoritative nature left them. Suddenly their divine nature and perfect dominion were gone! They realized they were naked and were afraid of God and hid themselves.

Genesis 3:8-13 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" "The man said, "The woman you put here with me- she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate. "

7. Curses Came upon Mankind; and as well Satan took authority over mankind!

After man sinned God placed curses on Satan, men, women, and the earth. Because of one man's disobedience, the curse of sin was loosed upon the earth. Satan would eventually have his head crushed, men would toil the ground for food, women would face pain in childbirth, and the earth would turn hostile, bearing thorns and thistles.

Genesis 3:14-24 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take

also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever. " So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

8. God 's Plan of Redemption

The first Adam caused sin to spread to all men. But God sent Jesus Christ, the second Adam, His own son to redeem all men from their sins. Jesus redeems us from the curse of the law. Jesus came to abolish the curse of sin and death upon mankind and restore those who believe into their rightful authority and dominion.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned-

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Galatians 3:13-14 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree. "

9. Jesus Came as A Man

God's plan was to introduce His sinless son by a supernatural usurping of the sin-nature introduced by Adam and Eve (the Adamic nature). Jesus had to be born of a virgin to break the sin-infected blood line of mankind. Even though Jesus was God in the flesh, He emptied himself and became a man. Jesus, the last Adam, was all God and all man, still a mystery to many theologians.

1 Corinthians 15:45 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

Philippians 2:5-9 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

10. Jesus Did Everything as a Man

There are no recorded miracles in the first thirty years of Jesus' life. He began ministry after being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Jesus had to do everything as a man, filled with the Holy Spirit. He ministered on this earth as God had created the first Adam to do. Only by being human could He become our Savior. He had to defeat Satan as a man obeying the Father in heaven relying upon the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was the first perfect man since Adam. Thus, He was gaining back the authority that Satan had stolen from the first Adam.

11. As the Son of Man

Jesus operated as the Son of man, not as the Son of God. It was the human Jesus Christ that relied on the Holy Spirit upon Him to cause the many miracles.

He was executing His Father's plan to win back man's authority and dominion from Satan. He was the first fruit of a better covenant designed for all who believe.

Important? - Yes! If Jesus operated as a man on this earth relying upon the power of the Holy Spirit, what does this mean for us? Jesus made a powerful promise to all who believe

John 14:12-14 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

12. Jesus Is Our Example

a. When we are tempted - focus on Jesus.

Hebrews 2:18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4:14-15 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin.

b. When we need authority to help others - focus on Jesus.

Luke 4:32, 36 They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority. All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!"

Matthew 21 :19-21 Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked. Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done."

Mark 4:41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

John 11:43-44 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

13. Jesus Shows Us What to Do

Jesus' mission was to show His followers what to do before He went to heaven . He gave us a new commandment to love one another. Then He showed us how to demonstrate this love by helping others find God through acts of healing, compassion, and kindness.

a. Jesus gave us authority to heal the sick.

Matthew 10:1, 7, 8 He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. As you go, preach this message: The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

b. Jesus gave us authority over all evil spirits.

Luke 10:19-21 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."

c. Jesus gave us authority to preach and expect miracles to follow us.

Mark 16:15-20 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

14. Jesus Sealed Our Authority with His Blood

Satan thought if he could kill Jesus, he could put a stop to Jesus' plan of restoring man's authority. Satan deceived the religious leaders to demand Jesus' death. Satan's plan worked. Jesus was crucified. All the evil powers, rulers of darkness, and wicked spirits were mocking and laughing with glee. But God's eternal plan was being fulfilled. Satan was the one who was deceived!

John 19:28-30 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Matthew 27:51-54 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

15. Jesus our Bridegroom Delegates His Authority to the Believer, His Bride

When Jesus died and was resurrected to eternal life and was exalted into heaven, the plan of redemption was complete. He said, "It is finished . . . I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades!" His last words before the ascension were, "Go! I am with you always, wherever you go. You can now go do what I did. Because all authority has been given to me and I am in you. Just use my Name and do what I did. I will be with you until the end of the age. So, go!"

Revelation 1:17-18 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Matthew 28: 18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

16. Jesus Won the Keys of Authority from Satan and He Gave Them to Us

Jesus had taken the keys back from Satan, but He did not keep them. He gave them back to mankind. The authority on this earth has been absolutely and legally captured from Satan and returned to all who believe in Jesus Christ. Jesus is now Lord. He sits at the right hand of the Father. He sat down. That means all His work is done.

Hebrews 10:12-14 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

17. Jesus Is Now Waiting for Us

Jesus is waiting for His enemies to be made His footstool. Who is supposed to do that? Jesus sat down. He took back His rights as the Son of God. His work on earth is done. He is waiting for the redeemed of the Lord to discover their restored position and to begin exercising their authority to put Satan in his place. Jesus has done everything the Father wanted Him to do. Now it is up to His body, the church, to put His enemies under His footstool. God placed Jesus as head over everything in the universe. Why? He did it for you and me, His body, the church! We are already delivered from Satan's power!

Ephesians 1:19-23 That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Colossians 1:13-14 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.



Give a personal illustration of when you discovered the full authority you had in Christ and how it has manifested through your ministry.

Example:

18. Now It Is up to Us

Don't ask Jesus to do your work. He said, "You go work the works, in my name!" As God, He now exercises dominion on earth through His church. He gave dominion back to His Body, to all believers in Him. Jesus gave us many keys to victorious kingdom living. He wants us to use them with full assurance that He will back us up in whatever we do in His Name. To do this we need to pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayers, intercessions, and supplication to discover the mind of God and do what He is telling us. The key is obedience. Once you know what God wants done, do it!

John 2:5 His (Jesus) mother said to the servants, Do whatever he tells you. "

19. The Name of Jesus

The forces that oppose the gospel are not always obvious. They sometimes can only be discerned by the Holy Spirit's assistance. This takes experience and sensitivity in the realm of the spirit. But, once discerned, we begin exercising our authority. All of our authority is invested in the Name of Jesus. Our authority should be announced to the principalities and powers that have people bound.



We begin our prayer ministry in the Name of Jesus. We also conclude our prayer ministry in the Name of Jesus.

LESSON THREE

KEYS TO KINGDOM LIVING

The Kingdom of God is a wonderful place to be. Every believer is entitled to be there and enjoy the secrets of the Kingdom. Jesus preached about it. The apostle Paul taught on it. Two-thirds of the New Testament books make mention of the Kingdom of God. Only there can the believer enjoy the abundant life. The keys for entrance are a mystery to the outsider.

This lesson explores what the Kingdom of God is, where it is located, and the importance of obtaining the many keys that unlock its mysteries. **“It is the Glory of God to conceal, but it is the privilege of a King to search out a matter”** Proverbs 25:2

1. Let's start with important Definitions:

The Kingdom of God:

The Kingdom of God is the dynamic reign or kingly rule of God and the sphere in which the rule is experienced. ¹ The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven are the same. Both are used interchangeably in scripture.

The Church:

The church is not the Kingdom. The church is the community of the Kingdom, but never the Kingdom itself.² The church is the custodian of the Kingdom of God.³

Keys:

Keys to the Kingdom of God are spiritual insights revealed in Jesus Christ on which a believer acts and thereby gains entrance and enjoyment in the Kingdom. The keys are found in the Bible. They are forever settled in heaven and do not change. They are spiritual precepts and principles set in motion by God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

2. His House Has Many Rooms

The Kingdom of God can be illustrated with a story from scripture. Jesus promised His followers a "place" in the heavenly realm of eternity. He called eternity his Father's house which had many rooms. As we read this passage of scripture we also find that the only way into the Father's heavenly house is through Jesus Christ. Jesus clearly announced that He held the key to the Father's house. There was no other way we could get in.

Acknowledgements

George E. Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament*, Eerdmans Publishing, Grand Rapids Michigan, 1974, Page 111

² *Ibid* .

³ *Ibid*. p. 116.

John 14:1-7 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

3. The Master Holds the Master Key

Our story continues. God can be viewed as the locksmith of the Kingdom of Heaven. He designed all the locks that open the many rooms, both on earth and in heaven. He made Jesus the master of the universe and gave Him all authority to rule. Jesus now holds the master key into the Kingdom of God. He said, "No one comes to the Father except through me." You must know the Master to obtain the master key to the Kingdom of God. Jesus is the only way, the truth, and the life. He holds the master key to the Kingdom and all the other keys to the many rooms in the Kingdom of God.

Note: Jesus said HE holds the keys. We must believe in Him and obey His words to obtain the keys of authority that unlock the many mysteries of the Kingdom of God. Jesus Christ is the first key that opens the way to all the other keys.

Matthew 16:19-20 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

4. The Door to the Kingdom

Jesus made it very clear that there was only one door into the Kingdom of God. That door was narrow and everyone must pass through Jesus Christ to gain entrance. He held the key that opened the narrow door into the kingdom of God, both on earth and in heaven.

Luke 13:23-24 Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to."

5. Rooms Filled with Fruit

Once in the Kingdom, a person needs other keys that unlock the many rooms within the Kingdom. Activating the right spiritual keys is rewarded by discovering certain rooms filled with fruit. The Bible describes the fruit as coming from the Holy Spirit. Obtaining a particular fruit depends on the kind of spiritual truth (key) or insight that unlocks the door. E.g. The “fruit” of Jesus Nature..

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

6. We Now Have the Keys

Once you become born again, Jesus begins to reveal keys that unlock the mysteries of the Kingdom of God. We hold the many keys that unlock or "loose" people into the many rooms of blessing in the Kingdom of God. We can either "bind" or "loose" people from entering by such things as ignorance of scripture, withholding spiritual truth, or not forgiving people. We have been given the responsibility to bind or loose the things that hinder people from inheriting the Kingdom of God.

a) Knowledge.

Knowledge is the first key. The Holy Spirit reveals spiritual truth to every human being that will listen to the message of the gospel. When the gospel is preached in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, keys are being revealed to those who listen. Those that accept the master key (Jesus) and act upon His word by confessing Him as their Lord are saved and enter the Kingdom of God. Peter was the first to experience the key of revealed knowledge.

Matthew 16:16-18 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

b) Spiritual knowledge must be heard with faith.

Unless the Holy Spirit imparts faith in the hearts of men, the keys of the Kingdom are hard to understand. The unsaved cannot understand the things of the Spirit; they seem foolish to them. So we exercise our key of authority over spirits that have blinded their minds and loose their ability to hear spiritual truth. Then the message is heard with faith and the knowledge of the

keys of the Kingdom can be understood. The door is unlocked for them to receive salvation in Jesus Christ.

Luke 8:10 He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, 'though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.'"

c) Avoid the things that bind others from hearing the truth.

The keys of knowledge that open the way to the Kingdom of God must be preached with love by the Holy Spirit. This is a great responsibility. If not, erroneous interpretations of scripture and man-made rules are substituted for grace. This closes the door and binds people from entering the Kingdom. Ignorance of the keys results in ignorant preaching. We must preach the gospel in ways that clearly reveal the keys that set people free. This takes study and great discipline to know the Bible and be able to communicate it with grace and understanding. In the days of Jesus the experts of the law withheld the keys to knowledge. They bound people from entering the Kingdom.

Luke 11:52 " Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered (the kingdom), and you have hindered those who were entering. "

7. Location of the Kingdom

We cannot understand the Kingdom by worldly analysis or philosophical interpretation. Jesus said the principles were established by the Father in heaven. It takes the Holy Spirit to help us understand what the keys mean and where the Kingdom may be found. The principles need to be understood by insight and revelation from the Holy Spirit. That is why Jesus had to define the Kingdom in earthly terms such as, "it is like. . ."

Not of this world.

John 18:36 Jesus said, " My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

Key: Seek Jesus Christ for understanding the Kingdom of God.

Cannot understand it unless you are born again.

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, " I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Key: You must be born again.

8. The Kingdom Is Within You ...by Jesus' Spirit in you.

It is a mystery to the unsaved how an entire Kingdom can be within a person. That does not make sense to the natural man. But the believer understands this mystery. The location is wherever the Lord rules and reigns. It is a spiritual Kingdom initiated by the key of salvation, Jesus Christ. The Kingdom is birthed within you upon surrender to the Lordship of the Master. Wherever Jesus is, the Kingdom is sure to manifest.

..Within you.

Luke 17:20-21 Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is, or There it is because the kingdom of God is within you. '"

Key: When Jesus comes in your heart, He brings the Kingdom of God with Him.

9. Keys to the Kingdom

The Kingdom of God is like good words that mysteriously cause people to grow in the knowledge of God and ready them for Christ's return (the harvest).

Mark 4:26-29 He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain-- first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come. '"

Key: Allow the Word to produce good fruit in our lives.

It starts small, but can grow very large and become very fruitful.

Mark 4: 30-32 Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade. '"

Key: Everyone begins at the same place, but our growth in Christ can be abundant.

It is worth selling all you have to get it.

Matthew 13:44-45 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

Key: Eliminate everything that inhibits your relationship with Jesus Christ.

It invites everyone, but only those who obey the mandates will enter the Kingdom.

Matthew 13:47-48 "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away."

Key: Preach the gospel to every creature and let God draw to Him those He wants.

It involves God forgiving us and requiring us to do the same for others.

Matthew 18:32-35 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Key: Forgive everyone from the heart or the Father will not forgive you.

It will grant the wages of eternal life to all who believe, even to those who enter in at the last minute.

Matthew 20:1-4, 9-16 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' "The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."¹¹

Key: Accept Christ's offer of eternal life so we can be somewhere between the first and the last.

It invites everyone, but only those who respond will enter the Kingdom.

Luke 14:15-18, 23-24 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."¹¹ Jesus replied "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' . . . Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

Key: Accept Jesus' invitation the first time you hear Him calling you.

It requires that we be ready for Jesus' return each and every day.

Matthew 25:1-13 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 'No, they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

Key: Live your life as if Jesus were returning for you today.

It requires us to exercise our gifts and talents to increase the Kingdom. If we don't, we will be excluded from the blessings of the Kingdom.

Matthew 25:14-18 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money..."

Matthew 25: 28-30 "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless

servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Key: Use whatever gifts and talents you have to enlarge the Kingdom of God, no matter how small.

It is extremely difficult for someone who has everything to enter the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:23-25 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Key: Do not allow fame or fortune to keep you from accepting Jesus Christ as Lord.

It belongs to those that humble themselves and believe God with child-like faith.

Matthew 18:3-4 And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Key: Humble yourself before almighty God and cry out for mercy.

10. What Keeps Us from Inheriting the Kingdom of God?

Not producing lasting fruit in others on earth.

Matthew 21 :43 "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit."

Key: Produce a fruitful ministry, touching as many people as possible.

Not willing to endure hardships or persecution for being a Christian.

Acts 14:22 . . . strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,

...

Key: Be willing to go through hardships if it will advance the kingdom of God.

Refusing to believe in the visible power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

Key: Expect demonstrations of the Spirit's power.

Participating in sexual sins, adultery, homosexuality, stealing, greed, drunkenness, etc.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Key: Avoid even the appearance of any of these wicked sins.

Attempting to get to heaven by works.

1 Corinthians 15:50 I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Key: Avoid any attempt to gain a place in heaven by any religious activity.

Doing any of the following acts of the sinful nature.

Galatians 5:19-21 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Key: Avoid doing any of the acts of the sinful nature.

By focusing on things that cause you to sin.

Mark 9:47 "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell."

Key: Avoid thinking about or looking at anything that robs you from experiencing the daily presence of God.

11. The Kingdom Is:

The Kingdom of God is not a list of do's and don'ts. It is not following a strict regime of trying to please God by working hard for Him or punishing yourself for wrongs you have done. The apostle Paul sums up the Kingdom of God with three words: righteousness, peace and joy.

Romans 14:17-19 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and

drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

a) Righteousness.

The key to entering the Kingdom is righteousness. We become righteous by accepting the sacrifice for our sins through faith in Jesus Christ. He unlocks the door for us to enter the Kingdom of God. However, to enjoy the blessings of the Kingdom we must obey the Word of Christ and act out our righteousness in daily life. We respond to God's grace by obeying His commands and by doing what is right and holy. This pleases God.


Matthew 5:20 "For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven."

b) Peace.

When we remain righteous in our attitude and behavior, it produces peace with God. Condemnation and accusations of the enemy are shut out of our lives. Where there is no condemnation, peace thrives. A deep inner peace wells up from within. We experience God's presence. We can feel Him. That is true peace. This also pleases God and enhances our relationships with others.

c) Joy.

A deep inner peace opens the way for joy. Joy is fully realized and allowed to come forth when we walk in righteousness and embrace the resulting peace from God. The joy of the Lord becomes our strength and we express our thanks to Him with open praise and joyful worship. We enjoy the wonderful joy of knowing we are His and He is ours.



Are you enjoying righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit?
If not, go and do the keys mentioned in this lesson.

James 1:2

Do you know people who do have the Kingdom of God within them?
Seek them out and discuss what you have learned in this lesson.

List two people you know that do not have righteousness, peace or joy.

2. -

Go to them and share how God can change their life.

LESSON FOUR

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. Faith is a broad subject with many avenues of thought, usage, and interpretation. This lesson reveals faith as a tool necessary for effective ministry. We will discover where faith comes from and how a believer can use their faith as a defence and therefore operate in the supernatural. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Without faith it is futile to pray for someone and expect a miracle. The shield of faith is a way to describe how we approach public ministry, especially when we are dealing with spirits.

Faith..*(Greek) 'PISTIS'.. as it relates to ministry.*

A firm persuasion or conviction that the things you believe to be true are undeniable and will come to pass.

The shield of faith is:

A defensive weapon a person uses in spiritual warfare to defeat lies, accusations, and distortions that oppose the Kingdom of God.

1. How Does This Kind of Faith Come?

a) It's a gift.

First and foremost, faith is a gift from God. You cannot buy it, work for it, or boast that it came from something you did.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast.

There are two kinds of faith.. **Temporal**.. which everyone has whether a Believer or not. E.g. I believe the sun will rise tomorrow. **Saving Faith** .. that which God gives us to believe for salvation. He gives in a whole range of different ways as the process in the season of salvation is happening.

b) It comes from exposure to God 's word.

When we hear the life-giving words of the Bible spoken through Christians who preach the full message of Jesus Christ, it produces faith in our hearts to believe. The more we hear and experience, the more faith is produced in our hearts. When we experience the promises and blessings from the Kingdom of God, it expands our faith even more.

Romans 10:16-17 . . . For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

c) It increases when we act on what we believe.

When we follow the life of the disciples, we discover a fundamental truth we can apply to ourselves. They spent over three years listening to what Jesus was teaching them. They watched as He performed many miracles. They were amazed at His teaching. But they were even more amazed by how He taught them to exercise their authority. He told them to do something that must have shocked them. Jesus said:

Luke 10:3, 8-9 "Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. . . . When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'"

The results of their first attempt at ministry must have not been perfect because later, after watching Jesus do the unbelievable, they said to Him:

Luke 17:5 . . . Lord, Increase our faith!"

This is the same for all ministers. We cannot expect to have a strong shield of faith or do the works of Jesus until we have spent the necessary time to:

- Read and understand the Word of God concerning our position of authority and power through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- Believe by faith that we have this authority and power.
- Believe that this applies to us personally.
- Begin acting on this revelation by doing those things Jesus authorized us to do.
- Ignore the initial physical circumstances as you act on what you believe.

- Continue acting on what you believe until you see physical circumstances confirming what you believe



Give an example of how you increased your Shield of Faith

**Exam
ple:**

2) Why do we need the shield of faith?

The enemy does not want us to enjoy success in ministry. He always attempts to arrange physical circumstances to try and make us believe that nothing is really happening. The devil always appeals to our five physical senses. He uses the "flaming arrows" of thought that result from looking at physical circumstances. He rules on earth physically, and tries to spiritually. But he is excluded from the Kingdom of God which resides in the believer. The devil has the ability to lie, steal, and kill from those who do not know their authority in Christ. (John 10:10)

a) Flaming spiritual arrows.

The evil one does not throw physical flaming arrows. They are flaming spiritual thoughts that bombard our mind. If we accept the thoughts as truth, we are immediately defeated. This is especially true when we allow the temporary physical circumstances to overshadow what God has ultimately promised. This is one reason we don't have a lot of effective ministers.

Ephesians 6:16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you

can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

b) We don't just try - we keep doing!

Immature Christians are easily defeated. At one time they might have "tried" ministering or "tried" praying for the sick. When nothing happened (in the physical), they quit and gave the devil the victory. The devil deceived them into believing nothing was happening. The potential Christian minister believed the flaming arrow rather than what the Word of God promised. They did not have the shield of faith in place.

c) They will be healed.

The Word of God does not guarantee instant miracles. It says the prayer of faith will make the sick person well. Jesus said in Mark 16 that believers will lay hands on the sick and the sick will recover. It does not say WHEN they will get well. It only says they WILL BE healed. It requires the shield of faith to repel any thoughts to the contrary. The shield of faith is necessary to maintain agreement with heaven long enough for the healing to manifest.

James 5:15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up.

d) Practice by doing the Word.

We increase our faith by practicing what we believe - again and again and again. Those who are having good success in ministry are those who, because of practice, have trained themselves to be better as each year passes. Making mistakes and doing things the wrong way are all part of the process. If you want to learn how to minister to the sick, you start by just doing it. You may pray for ten or twenty people before you see anyone get well. The enemy does not want you to succeed. By the sheer practice of doing the Word over and over and over we will achieve success in ministry.

Recount your own experience in moving by Faith in God

e) The fight of faith is in the mind.

Anytime we detect thoughts that are contrary to the known will of God we enter spiritual warfare. They often cause us to argue within ourselves as to what to do. If the evil one can slip by our shield of faith and score with a flaming arrow of doubt and unbelief, he wins. The shield of faith is needed to repel these thoughts before they take root in the mind. Whenever we recognize a flaming arrow trying to lodge in our thought processes, reject it immediately. If the thoughts are based on physical circumstances that do not line up with what we believe, repel it. We must stand with the shield of faith between us and those thoughts. Either ignore them or cast them down immediately. The war is won or lost in the mind. The Word of God is our offensive weapon.

f) We speak against thoughts that argue with God's Word.

Anytime we detect a thought that contradicts the Word, we must demolish the argument before it takes root as a truth. When the shield of faith is placed between us and the enemy, it always repels these arguments and pretensions that set themselves up against the knowledge of God. If the thought does not harmonize with the purposes of God, it must be dealt with immediately. Our conflict becomes easier when we know the Word of God. The Holy Spirit always calls our attention to a flaming arrow that is trying to lodge itself in our thought life. But He needs a storehouse of scripture from within us to use as ammunition.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

g) Knowledge of God's Word causes the shield of faith to stand.

Whenever the spiritual forces of evil attempt to shoot a flaming arrow into our mind, we repel it with the shield of faith. Any thought that is contrary to the known will of God can be classified as a pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God. That is why we must know

what the Word of God says. Otherwise we will not know when we are being attacked in our thought life. We can only fight when we know we are being attacked. It all happens in our mind. Our battle becomes easier when we know with whom we are fighting and where they always attack.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

h) The shield of faith is a defensive weapon.

Learning to operate with the shield of faith is a process. A believer's shield of faith is only as strong as the amount of God's Word they have stored in their heart and mind. Some of the shields described in Bible times were large and were made to protect most of the body of the warrior. The shield could be picked up and carried. It could also be stood upright on the ground to repel any arrows or flaming missiles the enemy could hurl. These shields allowed the warrior to stand his ground and not be moved.

Ephesians 6:13-18 Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

i) Put out the fire of the enemy.

The shield of faith also extinguishes the flaming arrows. A strong shield of faith not only repels the thoughts of the enemy, it puts out the fire of urgency. Thoughts of the enemy often carry a sense of urgency. They attempt to make us believe we must act on them right away. The truth of God's Word always extinguishes these lies of the enemy, especially in cases when we do not see the physical results for which we are believing. It is difficult for the novice minister to keep believing when all circumstances point in the opposite direction. The fire of doubt begins to build. If it is not extinguished by the promises of God's Word, the minister eventually succumbs to circumstances and is defeated. The evil one's flaming arrow found a soft spot in the shield of faith.

j) Stand firm on what you believe.

Use the shield of faith to stand firm on what you believe. Stand until the promises of the Word come to pass. This may take hours or days. Once you have prayed and ministered to someone using the promises from God's Word, conclude your ministry with a declaration of success. Regardless of what you see in the natural, speak nothing but what God has promised. Encourage the person to do the same. Remind the person to continue to thank God for what IS happening until the agreed upon result manifests. Stand on what you believe, not on what you see.

Ephesians 6: 13-14 . . . and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then . .

Give an example of when you have stood firm.. and describe what process did God follow to bring His promise to pass?



**Exam
ple:**

k) Minister again when faith fails.

It is perfectly OK to pray again when we detect the arrows of doubt nullifying either our faith or the faith of the person needing a miracle. We must acknowledge our human tendencies and weaknesses when attempting to be like Jesus in ministry. Everyone makes mistakes as they gain experience in ministry. Very few, if any, approach 100 percent accuracy regarding answered prayer in ministry. During those times we can only humble ourselves and acknowledge our weaknesses so God can step in and finish the job. The great apostle Paul knew this.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. " Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

3) When Is the Shield of Faith Needed?

a) For personal prayer needs.

It seems harder to stand in faith for our own needs than for others. When we are desperate for an answer from God, this is the most vulnerable time for a flaming arrow from the enemy to find a resting place. This is very true when we are praying for something that does not have a direct promise from the Word to sustain it. We search an exhaustive concordance for scriptures that will support the result for which we are praying. We quote the passages from the Word to ourselves and then stand on the promises until the answer manifests.

b) For family prayer needs.

Because the needs of those closest to us are so obvious and ongoing, the shield of faith may seem hard to keep in place. This is the time when it is needed the most. The prayer of agreement employed in family prayer is a powerful prayer tool to strengthen and reinforce the shield of faith in these cases. We strive to get family members in agreement with us so the shield of faith can be kept firmly in place.

c) For healing the sick.

The hardest thing for sick people to do is hold their faith long enough for the devil to get out of the way so God can heal them. It is wonderful when we experience an instantaneous healing, but this is the exception rather than the rule. Most healing takes awhile, sometimes days or weeks. The shield of faith is the key that closes the door on the devil and brings the healing into manifestation.

d) Healing may take awhile.

The devil will often Give an example of waiting in faith until healing finally manifested. score a direct hit with those that think they should see God heal instantly every time they minister. This is especially true with some of our Pentecostal brethren. For some reason they assume that since Jesus could effect instant healing miracles, that they can automatically do the same. There are many testimonies that convey this misconception. The Word does say that when we pray for the sick, they will get well. But it doesn't say instantly. When they pray and nothing seems to happen, there is a tendency to blame everyone except themselves. They have not learned how to operate with the shield of faith. The shield of faith must be placed between the devil's flaming arrows and the healing that will eventually manifest.



Example:

e) The arrows carry a message.

The devil's arrows are tagged with many messages that try to invalidate the Word of God. The list is long. Some of his messages are:

- a. Your prayer didn't work. Look, they are still in pain. See, there is no change in their body.
- b. You will be embarrassed when nothing happens. What if nothing happens?
- c. You will look ridiculous. Let someone else do the praying. You don't have any power.
- d. Who do you think you are anyway?

The enemy personalizes your thoughts.

- e. I don't have any authority to be doing this. Who do I think I am? I should call the pastor.
- f. I'm sick and getting sicker. My prayers are not doing anything. I'll probably die from this.
- g. I'm never going to be an effective minister. I don't know the Word. This is too hard to do.
- h. I can't pray good prayers like the others. That's why nothing good ever happens.
- i. I know they won't be healed. I rarely see anything happen. I'll be so embarrassed. Forget it!
- j. Fire the Word as your arrow of response.

The list of Give an example of when the devil threw flaming arrows of doubt into your thoughts.

flaming arrows goes on and on. The only way to combat these messages of doubt and unbelief is by quoting God's Word in response. When spoken out loud, so we and others can hear the healing words from the Bible, the shield of faith immediately extinguishes the flaming arrows.



Example:

f) The shield of faith is needed for deliverance.

When we are exercising our authority against demons, evil rulers, authorities, and dark spiritual forces, the shield of faith must be in place. If not, we will be defeated. Our conflict is not with what we can see, hear, or touch. The friction we experience is from the world of spirits. Anytime we begin to set someone free, the evil forces fight to keep the person bound. We become a threat to their kingdom of killing, stealing, and lying to those within their grip. It is then we can expect a salvo of flaming arrows to inundate our thoughts.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

g) Arrows become spears.

When dealing directly with demons, the shield of faith needs to be reinforced with extra prayer, reading the Word, and fasting. This is often necessary to strengthen our shield of faith. The flaming arrows can become like heavy flaming spears, fiercely thrown in repeated assaults. During an actual deliverance session, the enemy places in motion extra strategies to topple our shield of faith. They come in many forms:

- **Physical demonstrations to cause fear in our minds to destroy our faith.**
Demonized people are at the mercy of the controlling spirits that have them bound.

When we begin to dislodge the spirits, the person may exhibit strange physical manifestations; such as crying, shrieks, going to sleep, anger, speaking lies, or a stiffening or jerking of their body.

- **Inability to think logically or hold thoughts on the ministry at hand.**

The ministers may experience a sudden disunity among the ministry team members. Or there can be unusual distractions or interruptions that attempt to take the attention off of the spirits. The minister's memory and the ability to recall important scriptures are scrambled.

- **Fear of the enemy.**

A flaming spear can manifest in a minister's mind and cause immediate fear of the demons that are manifesting in the person. Fear nullifies faith. If allowed to alight, the spear will penetrate the shield of faith and put an end to the ministry. Fear is an obvious tactic of the enemy. If he can get us to fear him, we are defeated.

Give an example of when the evil one spoke to your mind during ministry



h) Speak to the enemy.

Intense spiritual warfare is brought under control by vocally commanding the enemies to cease their activity in the name of Jesus Christ. They may try to convince us that our commands are not working. They will attempt to throw other spears of doubt against our shield until we clearly establish our authority in the situation. Experienced deliverance ministers will maintain a steady and very firm atmosphere of authority throughout the deliverance session. They will often ignore threats from the enemy to harm or even kill them. The name of Jesus Christ will crush all the arrows of the enemy.

i) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

Maintaining a strong shield of faith is only part of the battle. We need to quickly remind ourselves of the other pieces of armor that go along with the shield of faith. When used together, we cannot be defeated, no matter what the devil throws at us. Our armour is:

Belt of truth: The truth of the entire Gospel of Jesus Christ protecting the believer by surrounding the very core and spirit of his being.

Breastplate of Righteousness:

Having the righteousness of Jesus Christ covering and protecting the believer's heart from both the front and the back from any accusations of sin.

Gospel of peace: Having a firm footing to be ready to go out and announce the gospel of peace at any time.

Shield of faith: The ability to stand in place and repel all the lies and accusations of the enemy.

Helmet of salvation: The knowledge of citizenship in heaven protecting the mind_ from any threat to the contrary.

Sword of the Spirit: The spoken Word of God used as the only offensive weapon with which to fight the enemy.

Pray in the Spirit: The covert defensive strategy to break down the spiritual strongholds of the enemy.

Ephesians 6:10-18

The Armour of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.



Go Heal the Sick

Minister healing to someone using the principles of the shield of faith from this lesson.

James 1:22

Notice the results. Were they different from the way you have been ministering?

LESSON FIVE

THE EFFECTIVE FRUITFUL BELIEVER

The purpose of this lesson is to help the student minister to become an effective marketplace believer--one who is equipped to share the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ whenever there is an opportunity.

1. The Market place Defined

We all have different Give an example of where your marketplace is. "marketplaces" -- where we work, where we shop, our neighborhoods - those places we frequent outside our homes. How do you view the people you encounter in your marketplace? With indifference? With annoyance? With intimidation? Is your heart cold to the lost? Let's get a biblical perspective on this matter.



**Exam
ple:**

2. We Have Been Commission ed

Each and every believer has been given the commandment to share their faith with a lost and dying world. Perhaps you have thought this does not apply to you because you are not gifted as an evangelist. That isn't how it works. We are all to share our faith with non-believers in the way God has equipped us individually to share. We are each uniquely designed to reach certain other people. No one person, group of people, or evangelist can reach the world. It will be won when all Christians everywhere accept their personal responsibility in this matter.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a love- slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel that I may share in its blessings.

3. Each One Wins One

If every born-again believer were to grasp this truth, the world could be changed in a very short time. If every believer caught the burden of the lost and dying people we see every day in our individual marketplaces and began to earnestly seek God for opportunities to share the Gospel with them, we would begin leading people to the Savior on a regular basis. Consider if each Christian were to win one person to the Lord this year, the church would double. And then if the new believers were discipled and challenged to win one person within the year - along with the previous Christians - the church would double again the next year! This "each one wins one" concept could change our world drastically for the good of all mankind in a short time. Untold millions could be saved from hell. So why don't we do it?

4. Hindrances to Sharing Our Faith

- We believe the "professionals" should do the work of evangelism.
- We believe it is the evangelist's job to evangelize.
- We are afraid we will offend someone. We would rather let someone go to hell than risk offending them.
- We don't feel equipped to share our faith.
- We don't feel we have the time. We are pushed to the max as it is.
- We don't have a burden for the lost people in our marketplace.
- Our hearts are cold and indifferent.

5. Reconcilers - Christ's Ambassadors

As we see from the following scripture, we have been committed to the message of reconciliation. We are to help people to be reconciled to God. Let's begin to think of ourselves that way - simply people who have found our way to God and want to show others the way.

2 Give an example of how you shared the message of reconciliation with someone.
Corinthians 5:17-20 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.



Examp
le:

6. Witnesses

We who know Him are to introduce Him to others. But we feel inadequate. That's what this lesson is all about.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. ¹¹

7. Preparation

1. Prayer

Before we can become an effective marketplace believer we should pray a serious prayer to prepare ourselves for what is to come. Without prayer we will not accomplish very much.



Let's pray this prayer together:

Heavenly Father, we praise you and thank you for saving us and reconciling us to yourself. Soften our hearts toward the lost, and give us your love for them. Help

James 1:22 us to put away the many hindrances to sharing our faith with unbelievers. Infuse us with a zeal for reaching the lost.

Forgive us Father, for being members of the lukewarm Laodicean church described in Revelation. Cause the fire of your Holy Spirit to burn within us. Help us to order our priorities properly so we have time and energy to reach out to the lost. We thank you in Jesus' name.

We have just asked the Lord to:

- Soften our hearts toward the lost.
- Give us His love for the lost.
- Help us put away the many hindrances to sharing our faith with unbelievers.
- Infuse us with a zeal for reaching the lost.
- Forgive us for being lukewarm.
- Cause the fire of His Holy Spirit to burn within us.
- Help us to order our priorities properly so we have time and energy to reach out to the lost.

Let's examine these requests and learn what we might do to see these changes in our lives.

“SOFTEN OUR HEARTS TOWARD THE LOST; GIVE US YOUR LOVE FOR THEM.”

**8. Co
mp**

assi on

In the passage below from Matthew, we see Jesus being moved with compassion. The Greek word for compassion means to "have the bowels yearn." In other words, He was moved deep within His person with a sympathetic consciousness of their distress together with a desire to alleviate it. He saw them as weary and scattered sheep without a shepherd. He turned to His disciples and spoke of the plentiful harvest but so few laborers. He then instructed them to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Matthew 9:35-38 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Feel the needs of others.

Jesus had been in all the cities and villages teaching, preaching, and healing every sickness and disease among the people. He not only felt their needs; He was moved to alleviate their suffering.

9. BE COMMISSIONED

In Matthew 10 He calls the twelve to Him and gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and disease. He commissions them to do the very works He was doing.

In Luke 10 Jesus sent out 72 messengers who were also commissioned to do the works, and they returned rejoicing.

In Matthew 28 Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

In Mark 16 Jesus told the eleven to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned and these signs will follow those who believe: In my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover."

So we Give an example of when you realized you were commissioned to do the same works as Jesus did.
see that He empowers the 12, the 72, and then ultimately all believers to do the same works He did.



Examp
le:

“GIVE US HIS LOVE FOR THE LOST.”

Jesus wept.

The following prophetic passage gives us a glimpse into the Saviour's heart. As He draws near to Jerusalem, He knows within 40 years the city will be attacked by Roman soldiers and 600,000

Jews will be killed. He weeps because the Jewish leaders have rejected their King. They did not know their day of visitation by God Himself.

Luke 19:41-44 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace-- but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.

Many people are suffering from "compassion fatigue." They are overwhelmed by the state of the world. We know that untold millions are lost and starving to death. We feel badly, but helpless; so we attempt to block out the pictures that haunt our minds. That is just our way of coping with the seemingly insurmountable problems that face our world.



But let us examine our hearts before the Lord and ask Him to give us His compassion and His love for people. We cannot do this in our human strength. We

must have the fruit of the Holy Spirit, agape love, working in our heart.

Pray

Pray every day this week for the unsaved people in your marketplace. Ask the Lord to soften your heart and give you a love for them.

James 1:22

“HELP US TO PUT AWAY THE MANY HINDRANCES TO SHARING OUR FAITH WITH UNBELIEVERS.”

Hopefully by now we are all convinced that sharing our faith with others is something we are all to do. We have given our testimony in the ministry training time in class. Now we want to apply this training and experience in our marketplace. Let's remember we don't have to preach; we just witness what God has done in our lives. As we pray for opportunities to share, the doors will begin to open. Listen carefully to what people are saying. Always be ready to meet them where they are. Ask if they would like you to pray about their problem/situation. Have ready resources to share with them (i.e., books , magazines, etc.). Remember, a non-threatening, loving gesture will almost always be received.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Give examples of hindrances that Christians face when witnessing



Example

1.

“INFUSE US WITH ZEAL FOR REACHING THE LOST.”

“FORGIVE US FOR BEING LUKEWARM.”

“CAUSE THE FIRE OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT TO BURN WITHIN US.”

In all honesty, we have to admit that the vast majority of Christian churches in the industrialized world can be described by the following scripture. We are rich and think we have need of nothing. Yet He says we are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. That is an exact description of our spiritual condition. We come to church on Sunday morning dressed nicely and from all outward appearances are lacking nothing. Yet inside, spiritually, we are wretched and miserable.

Revelation 3:14-21 To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm-- neither hot nor cold-- I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

In verses 18-19 Jesus counsels us as follows:

- Purchase gold from Him tried and refined by fire.
- Purchase from Him white garments clean and pure so we won't be naked and ashamed.
- Get eye salve from Him to heal our eyes and get back our sight.

Be clothed with holiness.

The gold we are to desire is symbolic of real spiritual treasures we receive from Him through the testing and trials of life. The white garments are symbolic of His righteousness. We are to be clothed with the clean, pure holiness of Christ.

We are blind.

The city of Laodicea took great pride in its precious eye salve that healed many eye problems. But Jesus Christ told them to get medicine from Him to heal their eyes so they could see the truth. We all were spiritually blind, but He opens our eyes so we can see the truth and be set free.

He goes on to say that those He loves He disciplines and punishes. Then He exhorts us to be enthusiastic, earnest, and burning with zeal about the things of God.

We can't be half-hearted.

We are clearly instructed that He is not pleased with half-hearted Christianity. It is so offensive that He spews the lukewarm out of His mouth! When we as Christians are not burning with a passion for the lost, we are giving a false impression to the world. If we really believe what the Bible teaches, we will be on fire with a boldness that enables us to risk stepping beyond our own comfort zone to extend a hand to the lost who are on their way to an eternal hell.

Give an example: Of when you felt lukewarm in your ministry, and what you did to change it.

Example:

“HELP US TO ORDER OUR PRIORITIES PROPERLY SO WE HAVE TIME AND ENERGY TO REACH OUT TO THE LOST.”

We all make time for those things that are important to us: eating, sleeping, working, watching favorite TV shows, going to movies, visiting with family and friends, attending church, getting our hair cut, etc. Most of these activities are good, wholesome things to do, but are our priorities correct? I don't think we can realistically put them in order by number 1, 2, 3, etc., but rather think of them as they naturally occur -- many simultaneously. Then we can begin to see where we can carve out 15 minutes here and there for prayer for the lost and then an occasional lunch or latte with some unsaved person from your marketplace. As the burden grows in our heart, the priority will begin to find its way into our lives. We will gladly forego an occasional movie or TV program to spend time with someone who is open to hearing about this wonderful good news we have to share with them.

2. Learn how to share an effective four-minute witness in addition to your longer testimony.

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

Paul is our example.

Paul's testimony before King Agrippa as recorded in Acts 26 is a good biblical example of a

persuasive and compelling witness. The specific opportunity will determine how you transition into your sharing; but then you clearly state what was going on in your life before you trusted or relied on Christ for your salvation, what happened at the time, and what has happened since. Don't use Christian lingo; make it relevant to the hearer, and make it as natural sounding as possible. **Make a plan.**

As you pray about who you should reach out to, consider the following unsaved people:

Family members Friends and acquaintances Neighbors Co-workers
People in your marketplace



Be Creative

Pray for them now.

Does a specific person come to mind right now?

James 1:22

Invite them for coffee, lunch, or have them over for a simple meal. Invite them to an outreach event. What are some of the ways you could reach out to the person you thought of?

Is it a strong conviction you are feeling about that person?

Do It

Let's pray right now about the Holy Spirit setting up a divine appointment.

Finally, we need to resolve in our hearts before the Lord to just do it! Obedience is better than sacrifice according to the Bible (1 Samuel 15:22).

S u m m a r y

- Marketplace is defined as: where we work, where we shop, our neighborhoods -- those places we frequent outside our homes. How do you view the people you encounter in your marketplace? With indifference? With annoyance? With intimidation? Is your heart cold to the lost? Let's get a biblical perspective on this matter.
- Each one wins one is a concept for reaching the world.
- Hindrances to sharing our faith were addressed.
- We are reconcilers -- Christ's Ambassadors.
- We are witnesses.

- We are to prepare... THROUGH...

1. **Prayer.**

We asked the Lord to soften our hearts. We are to have compassion for the lost.

We don't want to be as the Laodicean believers-- lukewarm.

We want to set our priorities so we have time and energy to share

2. **Learn** how to share an effective four minute witness.

3. **Do some recommended reading** regarding evangelism.

4. **Make a plan.**

**NOW IN THE LEADING AND POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GOD
UPON YOU.. GO FORTH, AND LET HIM WORK WITH YOU, AND BUILD HIS
KINGDOM.**

LESSON SIX

DOING SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Spiritual warfare cannot be avoided. It is part of a minister's normal prayer activities. The degree of involvement in spiritual warfare depends on the type of ministry in which the minister is engaged. This lesson will reveal the true meaning and scope of what a minister can expect when they encounter the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ. It can happen anywhere at any time. Since Christ has already won the war for the salvation of our souls, His enemy the devil does not want the full meaning and effect of this revealed. The devil does not want anyone to know that he is already defeated and destined for the lake of fire. He has developed a very strategic battle plan to wear down the saints and defeat the uninformed Christian. The plan involves everything from subtle insinuations to outright lies. We will discover his war plan in this lesson and how to effectively defeat the enemy at every turn.

1. Definitions

Spiritual warfare.

Spiritual warfare is the mental conflict that begins in the minds of Christians resulting from exposure to spiritual forces that oppose Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. If not detected, challenged, and defeated, the demon thought patterns can persuade Christians to make faulty assumptions which lead them away from the will of God.

Discernment of spirits.

This is a gift of the Holy Spirit enabling Christians to correctly discern the presence of spirits, either divine or satanic.

Demon spirits.

These are unseen eternal spirits that were cast out of heaven with Satan and whose mission is to kill, steal, and destroy human beings. They are confined to this earth until the end of the age. They can only gain access to the minds and bodies of humans when willful acts of disobedience against God are routinely practiced. (See Luke 10:17-20; Origin: Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19)

Holy Spirit.

He is the third person of the triune God sent to aid, comfort, teach, and enable obedient Christians to operate in their authority in Christ to put Satan and all demon forces under the feet of Christ and to defeat all the power of the enemy.

The mind controlled by the Spirit.

This mind has been renewed to think in concert with the Holy Spirit by reason of systematic exposure to God's Word. The direction and encouragement of the Holy Spirit is the primary influence of this person's thinking so they make choices that result in victory, godliness, life, and peace.

Romans 8:5-8 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

The carnal mind.

The mind of the carnal believer is primarily influenced by the principles and wisdom of the world system in which they live and not on God's Word. The natural man (not born again) knows nothing of what it means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Carnal Christians tend to base their decisions and actions on the accepted behavior and expectations of the culture, their current relationships, their peer group, and their own (fleshly) desires. The carnally minded person can be born again and may know what God's Word says, but they don't obey it, resulting in disobedient living which brings forth condemnation, guilt, and a seared conscience.

The demonized mind.

The demonized mind is primarily influenced by a presence of demon spirits that holds the person in bondage so their decisions and actions are managed by the demons. Demons are attracted by sin, willful disregard of God's will, violence, severe trauma and/or harsh violations against a person's will. The demon influence forbids the person from applying the principles of God's Word for victory in specific areas of their life. The demonized person is miserable and remains so until they are set free by submitting themselves to Christian deliverance ministry.

~~Give an example of what you experienced when you encountered a person with a demonized mind.~~

Example:

2. Detecting Spiritual Warfare



In the natural realm.

It is easy to detect the activities of demonic spirits when you can see or hear them in action. This comes in many forms. When a demonized person begins to manifest peculiar physical manifestations, it is obvious even to the causal observer. For example, a person harboring a lying spirit will engage in open gossip, slander, lying, accusations, and obvious flattery. A person with a perverse spirit is entangled with pornography, sexual perversions, twisting the Word for their own benefit, filthy thinking, and doctrinal error.

Abnormal behavior.

The person's friends and family usually know there is a problem by simply observing these manifestations. They may not be able to identify it as a spirit, but they know something is wrong. Spirits can cause people to do things over which they have little control. The observable manifestations are often progressive, becoming more obvious as time goes on, becoming more

evident as the months and years pass. Eventually the demonized person will impose their abnormal behavior on those closest to them. Spiritual warfare then becomes a necessity to cast out the spirit that is driving the person to violate the personal space of others.

They must want to be free. *(i.e. you can be desperate about them, but not for them..they need to)*

If they call for help, caring Christians should initiate spiritual warfare, first through intercession to weaken the spirits that have them bound. Then they should minister face to face with the individual. Binding and loosing are the keys to dealing with demonized people. The more willing the person is to be free, the easier it is to set them free.



Give an example of a person who was demonized but not completely

~~committed to being~~ set
free free.

**Exam
ple:**

3. Principal Spirits (Strongmen) of the Unseen Realm

Name of the Spirit: Symptoms or Fruit Born in the Natural Realm¹:

Spirit of Anti-Christ: Lawlessness, deceiver, anti-Christian, teachers of heresies, humanism, worldly speech and actions, denies the atonement and the deity of Christ.

Spirit of bondage: Compulsive sinning, servant of corruption, captivity to Satan, fear of death, addictions: drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, over-eating, etc., fears.

Spirit of Death: Confession of death and desire to die, defeated, sickly, depressed, suicide.

Spirit of divination: Desire for magic, water witching, drugs, hypnotism-enchanted, rebellion, horoscopes-Zodiacs, witch-warlock, sorcery, fortune telling, soothsaying.

Dumb and deaf spirit: Stiffens-falls down, gnashing of teeth, foaming at mouth, seizures, ear problems, mental illness, blindness, crying, unable to speak (mute).

Spirit of error: Lives by personal revelations more than Bible, looks to new age principles, contentious, unteachable, unsubmissive, believes false doctrine, does error.

Familiar spirit: False prophecy, passive mind/dreamer, drugs, spiritist, yoga, clairvoyant, whispering medium, necromancy.

Spirit of fear: Untrusting, doubt, fear of death, anxiety, stress, nightmares, terrors, fear of man, torment, horror, heart attacks, many fears and phobias.

Spirit of haughtiness: Pride, rebellious, self-righteous, rejection of God, self-deception, obstinate, contentious, scornful, strife, idleness, arrogant, smug.

Spirit of heaviness: Inner hurts, heaviness, suicidal thoughts, depression, despair, dejection, hopelessness, self-pity, sorrow, grief, insomnia, excessive mourning.

Spirit of infirmity: Cancers, oppressions, lingering disorders, arthritis, weakness, allergies: hay fever, asthma, etc., frail, lame, impotent, bent body and spine.

Spirit of jealousy: Cause divisions, envy, extreme competition, contention, strife,

cruelty, hatred, jealousy, revenge, spite, anger, rage, murder.

Lying spirit: False teachers, gossip, lies, slander, false prophecy, accusations, religious bondages, flattery, superstitions, strong deceptions.

Perverse spirit: Pornography, incest, chronic worrier, contentious, twisting the Word, sex perversions, foolish, doctrinal error, filthy mind, child abuse, abortion, atheist, evil actions, broken spirit.

Seducing spirits: Fascination to do evil: with objects or persons, seducers, enticers, wander from truth, deception, seared conscience, fascination with false prophets, with signs and wonders, hypocritical lies.

Spirit of whoredoms: Worldliness, excessive appetite, fornication, love of money, idolatry, chronic dissatisfaction, prostitution (soul or body), unfaithfulness, adultery.

Spirit of Division: Someone else is always to blame.

¹ Strongman's His NameWhat's His Game? Drs. Jerry and Carol Robeson, 1996, Shiloh Publishing House,

A caution. *(All demonic spirits are unclean)*

This list is not exhaustive. (see 'Pigs in the Parlour') We must be careful not to run to the above list and attempt to diagnose a principal spirit that we think is on someone. The Holy Spirit's release of the gift of discernment of spirits through us is the **only** way to be sure you have detected a spirit. Certain medical problems or chemical imbalances in the brain will produce similar symptoms in otherwise normal people. (See Klaus Koch: 'Psychiatry and the Demonic')

In the spiritual realm.

It is much more difficult to detect spiritual activity in the spiritual realm. They are the same spirits, but it takes discipline and a refined sensitivity to detect them. There are too few Christians that are sensitive enough to recognize that spiritual activity is manifesting around them. When someone does detect warring factions in the spiritual realm, they are obligated to alert the other prayer warriors so spiritual warfare can begin in earnest. It would be wonderful if all Christians were trained to discern the activities of spirits for themselves. Sadly, this is not the case. The potential for detection is there, but they have not been trained in the arena of discernment of spirits. There are some vital things all Christians need to know.

Give an example of the Gift of discerning of spirits, detecting a demonic spirit through you...



**Exam
ple:**

4. How Do We Know It's Happening?

Signals.

There are certain signals from the spiritual realm that indicate the warring factions of good and evil are engaged in covert action. Here are a few from personal experience.

a) From the enemy:

- A feeling of uneasiness. It is like you are slightly agitated for no reason.
- Unable to concentrate on tasks that need to be done.
- Nausea or feeling sick just before entering a time of important ministry.
- Confusion or the inability to decide what to do.
- Sudden fear or a cold feeling that something bad is happening.
- Bad dreams or nightmares.
- Perverse interruptions in your thought life when concentrating on prayer ministry.
- Negative thought patterns that indicate failure and defeat.

b) From the Holy Spirit:

- Your thoughts are diverted to certain people or locations spontaneously.
- A sudden discernment of the presence of a spirit.
- A sudden urge to pray and intercede for someone.
- A spontaneous euphoric feeling of joy unspeakable.
- A person's face is flashed in your mind, along with an urgent need to pray for them.
- A sudden calm and peace that passes all understanding envelopes you.
- A picture of a place or group of people suddenly emerges in your mind.
- You suddenly have an overwhelming need to praise and worship the Lord.
- Words suddenly manifest in your mind about what is about to happen.
- You begin speaking in tongues for no rational reason.
- Your prayer time spontaneously becomes authoritative, loud, and forceful.
- You become aware of hidden knowledge about a person that only they and God know.

5. How Spirits Attack

i) When we are vulnerable.

Each Christian will experience different signals from the realm of the spirit. It is important that we be alert to these signals. During prayer and ministry is when we should be the most sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Demonic spirits usually attack us when we are the most vulnerable. Times of emotional upset, stress, pain, grief, disappointment, frustration, and calamity are when we are most susceptible to a flaming arrow of the enemy. Any time our shield of faith is weak is when the enemy's arrows fly. Experienced Christians know this. It is all part of the warfare strategy, so we can expect a hit when we are down. This is the time when we are the most defenseless. Knowing this in advance reinforces our ability to bounce back quickly and regain our sensitivity. The devil is never fair.

ii) In our mind.

Spiritual warfare happens mostly in our mind. If Satan and his legion of demons can persuade us to accept a cleverly devised lie (flaming arrow), he wins round one. If we accept the little 'white lies' (little fiery darts) that are tagged to the first one, they will devise some more.

Example: What kinds of lies has satan presented to your mind to sidetrack
You from completing a ministry situation?

Eventually we are convinced of the devil's way of thinking and he wins round two. They have our lifetime to convince us. Remember, their only mission is to kill, steal, and destroy and they do it by twisting the truth just enough to get us to doubt the promises of God's Word.

Give examples of the kinds of lies the devil has used to persuade you against completing your mission.

Examples:

iii) In our body.

Occasionally we will experience discomfort, sickness, or sudden pain in our body. This is not the normal kind of illness or pain which all humans are subject to from time to time. This is unusual, sudden and without a rational or medical cause. It can most often be identified as an attack by a spirit of infirmity. It should be sent away by taking authority over of it and commanding it to depart in the name of Jesus Christ. The situation may require gathering other

believers in agreement to minister the prayer of faith to remove the uninvited spirit.

iv) The Devil's timing.

Satanic attacks against our bodies usually happen just prior to a spiritual breakthrough or blessing coming our way. Satan has recognized the coming breakthrough and wants to steal the blessing from us.

He fires his best shot, sickness or pain. If there is any opening such as unconfessed sin or unforgiveness, the flaming arrow may find its mark. If there is no opening, the infirmity cannot find a place to take root. The arrow is stopped by the shield of faith and the sickness or pain is deflected.

v) Not all sickness is demonic.

Some people blame the devil for every pain and sickness. Satan is responsible for the fall of man and the resulting spread of sin, death, and disease upon the earth. These things the human race has inherited over many millennia. But to call every pain and sickness a direct demonic attack is stretching the truth. Undisciplined lifestyles, poor diet, lack of exercise, accidents, old age, and accidental exposure to deadly viruses are not direct demonic attacks. These things we must live with and attempt to avoid when recognized. We bind the sickness or pain and command healing and health to be loosed upon your body. If it doesn't, then seek medical attention immediately. We pray first, then go to the doctor.

In circumstances.

If demon spirits are unable to attach themselves to our thought life or our bodies, they attempt to rearrange our circumstances to bring frustration and defeat. They have the ability to cause other people to become at odds with us and bring disagreement. They have the ability to produce physical circumstances that interrupt our plans in an attempt to divert us from productive ministry. They also have the ability to stir up families, friends, and neighbors and produce gossip, strife, and division. These types of circumstances are all designed to divert the believer from fruitful ministry.

NOTE: When working in pairs.. as you should.. always “agree to agree”!

6. How to Fight Back

The weapons we use are not the weapons of the world. They are weapons given to us by Jesus Christ to fight demon forces in the spiritual realm. Every Christian has these weapons in their arsenal. Every Christian has open access to the armory of God. All they need is to complete boot camp training on how to use these weapons and join the victorious army of God.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.

i)Spirits are prisoners of war.

Our mission is sure. We are to reconcile the world to Jesus Christ by placing the enemy under His feet. Satan has already been defeated. He is on a long countdown towards his ultimate fate, the eternal lake of fire. Satan and all his demons are prisoners of war. The war was won when Jesus Christ arose from the dead and sat down at the right hand of God. They have been under arrest by Jesus Christ and have been put under our authority until the end of the age.

ii)Demon spirits use the weapon of deception.

They afflict the world by keeping humans in ignorance of their existence and strike them from the unseen world. The only time they can inflict the Christian is through deception. If they can convince Christians that they are not here or not active, they win. They have been confined to the earth but are still roaming around until their time is up. Satan and all his demons are prisoners of war and believers hold the keys to their temporary jail. Jesus said we should never fear demons because they are subject to us and must obey our commands.

Luke 10:19-20 "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. "

iii) The jail door is open.

The world system has unlocked the jails. The jails of demons are in arid areas of this earth where there are no people to inflict. The spirits that we war with are escapees of these jails. Through ignorance and sinful living the people of this earth have unknowingly reopened the jail doors and let Satan and his crowd roam this earth to kill, steal, and destroy the human race.

Satan is the chief fugitive of all the escapees. Satan is unable to be in more than one place at a time. So, he sends his understudies to frequent places where humans are practicing their worst behavior. They congregate in places that practice witchcraft, lying, stealing, murder, hatred, filth, and human destruction.

iv) We hold the weapons and the keys.

The Christians have been given the duty to round up these escapees and send them back to jail. Whenever a Christian discerns a demon attempting to inhabit someone's house, we have the weapons to force them back to the dry and arid jail house. The believer also has the key to binding them so they will stay there and not return. At the end of the age Jesus Christ will remove them from their earthly jail and cast them into the eternal prison called the lake of fire.

Matthew 12:43-45 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

v) The weapons are all defensive except one.

We stand against demon spirits with five defensive pieces of spiritual armor provided by Jesus Christ. We fight with only one piece of offensive weaponry, the sword of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 6:10-17

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

vi) We use our defensive armour as follows:

- **Belt of truth:** The core of our being is protected by the knowledge of truth as revealed in Jesus Christ. Truth always repels falsehoods and the lies of the enemy. The more we know the Word of truth, the stronger our defense becomes. It is imperative that the believer saturate their mind with the Word of God so they can immediately detect half truth, error, and the lies of the enemy. If not, we can easily be deceived.
- **Breastplate of righteousness:** Both our front and back are protected from evil accusations and condemnation of the enemy when we live righteously in response to Christ making us righteous by His blood. Righteous living strengthens the breastplate. The more we resist sin, the stronger the breastplate becomes.
- **The Gospel of peace:** Our feet are readied for us to go and announce the peace of Jesus Christ to a world that is in chaos. Whenever we respond to an angry world with the Gospel of peace, it strengthens us to carry on even more. The more we announce the Gospel of peace, the more we are ready to do it again.
- **The shield of faith:** The more we act on the faith we have been given, the more the shield of faith is strengthened. The shield of faith is used to defeat the lies, accusations, and the distortions that oppose the believer and the Kingdom of God. The flaming arrows are the negative spiritual thoughts that constantly bombard the mind of the believer. The arrows are deflected by the shield of faith so they cannot be

assimilated in our mind as truth.

- Helmet of salvation: Our head and mind are protected by the strong knowledge of our salvation in Jesus Christ. Nothing can steal the heavenly promise that our name is written in the Lamb's book of life. Our citizenship is in heaven. This knowledge is worth rejoicing about.
- The sword of the Spirit is our primary weapon: The sword of the Spirit means the Spirit-permeated Word of God spoken out of our mouth. It is the written Word of God combined with the revelation and power of the Holy Spirit spoken out of our mouth. It is a spiritual, double-edged sword inflicting supernatural destruction to the advance of the enemy. The more we use the Word of God, the more damage we inflict on the enemy.

When we declare battle using the sword of the Spirit as a **vocal weapon** energized by the Holy Spirit, we are firing the most powerful weapon in the universe. We will not be defeated when we cooperate with the Holy Spirit by using His words as the sword of the Spirit to conquer our spiritual enemies. **Command!...in Jesus' Name.**

Ephesians 6:17-18 Take the. . . sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

vii) Fight along side the Holy Spirit.

Notice: it says, we do spiritual warfare by praying along with the Holy Spirit on all occasions. We fight by speaking all kinds of strong prayers and requests. This is the best kind of spiritual warfare. This includes forceful prayers of binding and loosing and commanding the spirits to obey what we say. This includes praying authoritatively in unknown languages. This includes mighty intercession for all the saints. We are to remain alert as we fight in the spiritual realm. Our mind is to be focused on what is transpiring in the realm of the supernatural. This is the pinnacle of true spiritual warfare.

viii) We demolish the strongholds of arguments and pretensions.

We use the sword of the Holy Spirit directly against demonic strongholds by destroying the lies that contradict the written Word of God. We do this vocally and with strong conviction. We address our words directly to the demon forces that have been identified. This is the heart of spiritual warfare. This is called "casting down imaginations" and challenging anything that does not line up with the written Word of God. This is done first by strong intercessory prayer on behalf of the person influenced by spirits. When the Holy Spirit says go, then go to the person and continue the ministry of spiritual warfare in their presence. They must invite us personally, not through a third party.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought

to make it obedient to Christ.

7. Speaking Against Demon Spirits

i) Personally and for others.

The principles of doing spiritual warfare are the same for our personal lives as well as for others. The only difference is the number of people. When we are being attacked personally, we should use the same strategy that applies to anyone in the same circumstance. If the warfare intensifies, we may want to call other trusted prayer warriors to join in the battle. Normally the strategy on the next few pages will eradicate the enemy from our mind and life and send them to jail.

a) Take every thought captive.

The first item to take care of is our thought life. We must compare our thoughts with how Jesus would think if He were in our immediate situation. When we do this, the Holy Spirit will immediately give us the correct thinking. This is the best way to take every thought captive. We are filtering the situation of ministry through the thinking of the Holy Spirit in us. This places us at the forefront of war where we have a clear view of the battlefield. This should always be done for ourselves personally. If for others, it should be done in their presence.

Give an example of how you manage your thought life during a season of personal spiritual warfare.



**Exam
ple:**

b) Demolish all pretensions.

Next, we demolish all the pretensions that are attempting to exalt themselves against the knowledge of God for the situation at hand. We do that by commanding the removal and demolishing of any thoughts, circumstances, motives, claims, allegations, demands, requests, or requirements that are contrary to the Word of God and what the Holy Spirit is revealing. If for ourselves, the pretensions challenge us in our own mind. If for others, the person being ministered to will often confirm to us what the Holy Spirit simultaneously reveals.



Give an illustration of what you would say against thoughts, pretensions, and arguments that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God's word.

Example:

c) Demolish all arguments.

Next, we demolish any and all arguments that are attempting to set themselves up against the knowledge of God in the situation. We do this by commanding silence to all arguments, discussions, and debate regarding the situation of ministry. The Holy Spirit will expose any of the arguments, both in our mind and in the person being ministered to. The person may openly argue with us during ministry. This will confirm what the Holy Spirit forewarned. All these arguments need to be demolished. We do this by taking authority over the argumentative words and forbid them to manifest.

d) Forbid the re-entry of spiritual entities.

Finally, we bind all the spirits from returning to the person or situation of ministry. This is done by first vocally binding the spirits and rendering them helpless and ineffective. Then we command them to depart and go into the uninhabited arid regions of the earth.

Give an example of when demon spirits attempted to convince you that they were gone when you knew otherwise.



Example:

8. Finalize by Filling the House

The person is now free. Regardless if they (or you) "feel" free, they are free of spirits. Lingering spirits may try to persuade us that nothing has happened. They appeal to our natural senses of sight, sound, and feelings. We err if we follow our five physical senses. Avoid asking, "how do you feel?" Firmly announce, "It is done! You are free! Now, thank Jesus Christ for removing the spirits that were plaguing you."

i) Confirm their salvation.

We must be sure the spiritual house within the person is full of Jesus Christ. Ask, "Will you be with Jesus Christ when you die?" If their response is anything but a firm YES, ask them to pray with you to seal their salvation by asking Jesus to forgive them of their sin and take control of their life.

Matthew 12:43-45 When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation. "

ii) Minister the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said the demons always try to come back. We need the overflowing power of the Holy Spirit to completely fill our spiritual house and equip us with the power to resist sin and repel the return of any spirits. This is accomplished by leading the person into the Holy Spirit baptism.

If this is not done, the person will likely not have the power to resist the return of evil spirits. They will then be worse than before the ministry started.

LETS PRACTICE

Learn by doing. (James 1:22)

In class:

Ask: Is anyone experiencing spiritual warfare?

Let's join with them and gain the victory together. Begin praying against the

spirits that are coming against fellow classmates. Discuss what happened.

In the marketplace:

Be aware of opportunities to minister strong spiritual warfare with anyone who is experiencing an authentic challenge from the enemy. Practicing these principles will strengthen our faith and sharpen our sensitivity to the spiritual realm.

LESSON SEVEN:

THE POWER OF THE COVENANT FAMILY

Fight for and promote God's Covenant Family."
In Unity is where the Blessing flows! Psalm 133; John 17:21.

Principle: When we come into Covenant with God through Jesus' Blood; we are ONE with Him; and ONE with each other.. there being no difference in the ONENESS. It is a Love Covenant; and has as it's bottom-line..**"what good can I do for God today; what good can I do for my Church Family brothers and sisters today; and what good can I do for my neighbour today."**

Context: The Old Testament stories are "shadows", or parables..*in the natural*.. of how life is meant to be lived today, under Christ's Covenant; in us His Church..*in the spiritual*.

Before Jesus came, God worked through the everyday life and death circumstances of ordinary Israelite male, faith-filled, soldiers of God as found in the Old Testament to fight for; and defend every square meter of the Kingdom of Israel's inhabited land, which was settled collectively by the twelve tribes. However today..since 'The Cross', and our Saviour Jesus taking salvation Global, God says, that we who are His Covenant-keeping male and female soldiers, do not fight against people, who try to damage or remove Believers both young and old from God's Family, by fighting physically with our fists, and lethal weapons; but instead we use spiritual "Faith-weapons"fighting spiritually both to regain them for God's Kingdom, and secure and disciple every single one; as well as win new lives for Christ. These lives belong to God; and are in God's Kingdom under our **care; and we must fight** because the "spirit of this world" will counter-attack to get them back into the kingdom of darkness. **What are the "faith-weapons" we have in our hands?** Let's use Biblical natural examples to explain the Old Testament natural picture; and the New Testament to show our present-day, spiritual truth.

NOTE: Both of the following natural and spiritual examples,

demonstrate the 'heart of God', WHICH IS ALWAYS ABOUT LOVE RELATIONSHIPS.. and we see this lived out by those who know His heart, and reveal it as a true spiritual lifestyle.

1. Illustration: A Natural example: A Parable: Defending God's people & kingdom.. Let's take the example of '**Eleazar**' (Hebrew..means: "God helps me")

Context: 1 Chronicles 11.... **1**Then all Israel gathered to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. **2**"In times past, even when Saul was king, you *were* the one who led out and brought in Israel; and the LORD your God said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and you shall be prince over My people Israel.'" **3**So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD through Samuel. **Jerusalem, Capital City** **4**Then David and all Israel went to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus); and the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, *were* there. **5**The inhabitants of Jebus said to David, "You shall not enter here." Nevertheless David captured the stronghold of Zion (that is, the city of David). **6**Now David had said, "Whoever strikes down a Jebusite first shall be chief and commander." Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, so he became chief. **7**Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore it was called the city of David. **8**He built the city all around, from the Millo even to the surrounding area; and Joab repaired the rest of the city. **9**David became greater and greater, for the LORD of hosts *was* with him. **David's Mighty Men** **10**Now these are the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who gave him strong support in his kingdom, together with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel. **11**These *constitute* the list of the mighty men whom David had: **Jashobeam**, the son of a Hachmonite, the chief of the thirty; he lifted up his spear, against 300 whom he killed at one time.

12After him was **Eleazar** the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who *was* one of the three mighty men. **13**He was with David at Pasdammim when they defied the Philistines who were gathered together there for battle, and there was a plot of ground full of barley; and the men of Israel from there, fled away from the Philistines. **14**They took their stand in the midst of the plot and defended it, and struck down the Philistines; until Eleazar's hand was weary, and it stuck to his sword and the LORD saved them by a great victory; and those who had run away came back to help spoil the enemy.

- His Name: Eleazar.."God helps me".. God is my Helper
- Eleazar like Israel was in Covenant with God, through Moses Covenant from Sinai; and a **mutual** covenant of "oneness" with King David to give share everything they had, including their lives.
- The Power of the Covenant meant that through obedience to Him..they

were One with God, and one with his Family (Israel). Anyone touched them, would have God to deal with..(and it is the same for Israel and the world today) and of course us through Jesus Covenant on Calvary.

- Eleazar saw God's Covenant Family was being attacked, so he did what he was covenanted to do.. answer the call, and go and help them.
- Otherwise..they were going to lose their homes, ground, living and their lives.
- At the location where the Philistines were attacking them and their food-crops..they fled.. but they were still in covenant! *(It is the age-old predicament.. if I flee and run away, I'll live to fight another day.. which I, personally have problems with, and have never embraced.. because if they'll flee now, what will stop them doing it next time for the "same" reason, leaving that which belongs to God defenceless.)*
- Eleazar was stronger in God than them, so he took up their cause.
- Their food source, and their homes had to be saved for when they came back.
- Eleazar called on The Captain of the Host (Jesus) to help him; and the angelic host of Heaven to fight in union with him..(We are part of God's Host!)
- He began to fight, and took no backward step, even when he was weary; and his hand was totally cramped onto the handle of the sword.
- The Lord through Eleazar saved **them** by a great victory!
- The weaker came back, were changed and fought on and finished the job. Eleazar was gracious, loving and merciful enough to forgive them for their running away, and embraced their support on return.

IT ONLY TAKES A HANDFUL OF TRUE BELIEVERS WHO WILL MAKE A STAND AND TRUST GOD AND FIGHT; TO IMPACT THE REST TO BE SPIRITUALLY EDUCATED AND GROW AS WELL!

2. ILLUSTRATION OF TODAYS NEW TESTAMENT REALITY:

JESUS' GLOBAL SPIRITUAL WEAPONS WE FIGHT WITH NOW!

THIS REVEALS JESUS HEART FOR THE WAY CHURCH SHOULD BE NOW.

Acts 2:41-47(KJV)

⁴¹ Then **they that gladly received his word were baptized**: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

⁴² And they **continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship**, and in **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**.

⁴³ And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

⁴⁴ And all that **believed were together**, and **had all things common**;

⁴⁵ And sold their possessions and goods, and **parted them to all men**, as every man had need.

⁴⁶ And they, **continuing daily with one accord in the temple**, and **breaking bread from house to house**, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

⁴⁷ **Praising God**, and **having favour with all the people**. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

- Identify genuine Gospel converts ..*"those who receive the Word gladly"*
- Baptize them...showing they are separated unto God, and dead to sin.
- They adopt and live the new life as a new creation without missing a beat.
- They study the Word continually and apply it, and expect Holy Spirit to always use it to guide them and give them God's freeing answers.
- They never think about missing fellowship with their Covenant 'Church' Family as a new way of living.. *"planted in the house of the Lord"*. Fellowshiping ***every day together!*** They are just one big Family who IDENTIFY themselves as ONE BODY.. ONE BRIDE.. ONE KINGDOM!
- They continually share the Covenant Meal of Communion from home to home everywhere with their covenant Family as a celebration of who they are now, and to honour their new King, Lord and Saviour Jesus.. ***and remember together; testify; and continually apply all His benefits!***
- They are devoted to praying as a lifestyle.. continually whether alone, at the Prayer Meetings, with other members, interceding as the Spirit moved.. or in the Fellowship times.
- **HOSPITABLE.. continually showing hospitality to all.. especially new Believers; and those Holy Spirit moved them to.. because Jesus is here for RELATIONSHIPS!**.. and trusts us to be the answer to His Prayers for Oneness. Principle: There is so much more that God can do for relationships when people are seated around a table sharing food with you Believer!
- They fear God, and live to obey, love and please Him.
- All this means that...Signs and wonders can be done by the Apostles..then and now.. because there is FAITH IN GOD present for God's works to be done. They are a Covenant Faith COMMUNITY.
- They constantly agree to Believe God together for God's mighty acts!
- They believe that all they 'own' belongs to God anyway, and so all they have belong to each other, and is to be shared as Holy Spirit prompts. *"The Earth is the Lord and the fullness of everything found in it"*
- They now live in Christ-purchased Covenant Blessings of health in spirit, soul, and body, and Holy Spirit Baptism and exercise spiritual Fruit & Gifts to maintain themselves in these Blessings.
- They share all their blessings with each other.. wherever needs are obvious, they met them themselves.. and pray for God to Bless them more so they can give more.. They look for needs to be met, and itches to scratched.

- They fight for and guard their UNITY.. Protecting their ONENESS!
- PTL Club.. "Praise the Lord!" Known as God-praisers!
- They rejoice in the Lord always, giving thanks and GLORY to GOD for every provision, and ability He gave them to provide.
- They celebrate the death of one of their Covenant Family as would family coming to farewell one of theirs going on the greatest journey of their life.. *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints"*
- People watching this incredible lifestyle believed that Jesus **truly** had come, and wanted to join in, because it met their deepest needs.. THE PERSONAL HEART-CRY for the True God; **belonging to a loving and gracious Family**.. for love, gracious acceptance, a purpose, Truth, a new and Living Way and an Eternal non-stop lifestyle.. and "resting in faith" in all matters.

This meant that they naturally went to ...**"Go and make disciples..teach them everything I have taught you.." (Matthew 28:20)**

Prayer: "Dear Father, I am in Covenant with You through Jesus death for me on Calvary. I now deliberately choose to fulfil Your High-Priestly Prayer for our Church Family as prayed in John 17:21. I confess before You today, and my Eternal Spiritual Family that I am absolutely in Covenant with each person in my Church Family, and we are One in Spirit and Life. I take your New Testament Church principles that we have just studied in Acts 2 this morning as Your **True** life-principles for me, and therefore I determine to keep it in all it's fullness, in Jesus' Holy Name, Amen".

LESSON EIGHT

DOING THE STUFF

Once the believer has gained the knowledge of who they are in Christ and what they can do when they are baptized in the Holy Spirit, they are ready to do the stuff. In this lesson we continue our training to become an effective Marketplace Believer. We will discover what the stuff of ministry is and the dynamics of working with God to accomplish the stuff of marketplace evangelism. Anytime we are called upon to exercise our authority in Christ, we do the stuff. Leading people to Christ, into the Holy Spirit Baptism, healing the sick, casting out demons, prophesying, and ministering to our friends and neighbors are all included in doing the stuff. This lesson will reveal the many avenues of ministry that are open to any willing marketplace believer.

1. Definitions

The stuff.

The 'stuff' means the activities a born again Christian does when they minister to people in the marketplace.

Kinds of stuff.

Reconciling people to Christ by loving them, serving them, giving to them, talking to them, praying for them, interceding for them, rescuing them, healing them, and delivering them.

The marketplace.

The marketplace is anyplace the born again believer happens to be when away from home.

Tools needed.

The Holy Spirit and His gifts.

2. Authorization to Do the Stuff

The believer must know that they are commissioned and authorized to do the stuff. Our authorization comes from Jesus Christ as the head of the church. All believers are under His Lordship. First, we are to obey His commands and what He has called us to do.

Jesus Christ commands us to:

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Luke 10:3 and Matthew 10:7-8 "Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves ... As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

2. Preparation to do the stuff.

A subordinate authorization comes from those in the local church commonly known as the "five fold" ministries of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. Each of these gifted people are commissioned by Jesus Christ to equip and prepare believers in their area of doing the stuff. The five are to work together, using their different experience and ministry gifts to equip believers to function in five different areas of ministry.

Ephesians 4: 11-13 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

3. Prepare to Do Works of Service

All believers are commissioned to do the stuff. There is so much stuff to be done we must listen to the Holy Spirit and commit to the stuff He is calling us to do. Then we should learn all we can about doing that kind of stuff. As novice ministers we should spend time learning from those who have gone before us. It may involve Bible school and seminary. Obedience is the key. Formal training is only useful if the Holy Spirit is allowed to filter what you know and combine it with His purposes.

John 14:15-17 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever-the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he

lives with you and will be in you.



James 1:22

Give an example of how you know for sure when you are walking in obedience with the Holy Spirit.

Examp
le:

Pastors are commissioned to care for and nurture the believers in the local church. If we desire to minister in our local church, our pastors will need to authorize us to do the stuff. Pastors should equip us to do the same things they are asking us to do. The more gifts and talents they exercise and demonstrate, the more we will be equipped. They do this by preaching, teaching, demonstrating, and modeling what a believer is supposed to be. Those receiving a call from Jesus Christ to be a pastor should be trained formally and then seek to be equipped by a mature pastor.

Teachers are commissioned by Jesus Christ to teach and equip believers, first within the local church and also in other areas of their calling. If we desire to minister in teaching, our pastor or a seasoned staff teacher will need to finish the equipping and authorize us to do the teaching stuff. Teachers have a divine responsibility to equip believers about all the vital issues from the Bible including the fundamentals of the faith, Bible doctrines, Bible history, character and ethical issues, balanced theology, and applicable discussions on how to do the stuff. This will normally involve higher education, especially if we want to teach in the Western world.

Evangelists are commissioned by Jesus Christ to equip believers in the area of outreach and evangelism. They are to demonstrate this first from the local church. If we desire to evangelize, we will need to work with an evangelist until they can authorize us to do the evangelism stuff. The evangelist equips believers by taking them on various outreaches, to other churches, crusades, and on mission trips. Evangelists equip and teach those called to evangelism. They work with young aspiring evangelists on how to do the evangelism stuff.

Prophets are commissioned by Jesus Christ to bring a confirming message from God that establishes what God and His word are saying to local gatherings of believers. Prophets are to train and equip young aspiring prophets to bring forth legitimate messages of knowledge, messages of wisdom, and authentic discernment of spirits. If we desire to prophesy in the local church, we need to work with our pastor and a prophet until we gain wisdom and experience. Then they will authorize us to do the prophesying stuff. Prophets are based in the local church, but often travel to other gatherings of believers at the request of pastors, apostles, and other leaders.

Apostles are commissioned by Jesus Christ to oversee local churches and ministries that they have personally established. Apostles also aid and supervise those ministries that have requested their oversight and care. They are called by God to go and help pastors, teachers, evangelists, and prophets make disciples in all nations. Apostles instruct leaders from years of experience using time-tested principles for equipping, guiding, and instructing believers. Apostles primarily equip leaders for effective evangelism, church planting, and the proper oversight of local church functions. Apostles may be based in a local church, but they do a lot of traveling as they instruct others on how to do the leadership stuff.

4. Doing the Basic Stuff

All believers should know how to duplicate in others what happened to them. This involves leading others to Christ and into the Holy Spirit baptism. Jesus said, "You must be born again." He also said, "You shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit." These two experiences are the foundation for all other ministry. We will be the most effective when we have experienced the Holy Spirit baptism.

1. Leading someone to the Lord.

Who: Anyone who is not born again. Where: Anywhere in the marketplace.

When: Whenever they are open to talk about it. Gifts needed: Encouragement.

How: Tell them Give an example of when you led someone to the Lord. your testimony in about a minute. Then ask them: "If you died right now, would you be with Jesus Christ?" If they don't know for sure, ask them: "Would you like to know for sure?" If they say yes, lead them in a simple prayer of repentance and asking Jesus Christ to become their Lord and Savior. If they say no, ask if you can continue to pray for them. Always part by giving them your phone number and an invitation to come to

church with you or discuss things about God.



**Exam
ple:**

2. Leading someone into the Holy Spirit baptism.

Who: Any born again believer.

Where: Anywhere in the marketplace. (See Lesson Seven)

When: When they are thirsty for more of God and more power in their witness. Gifts needed: Encouragement.

How: Ask the person if they want more power in their witness for Christ. If yes, explain what the Holy Spirit baptism is and what they can expect will happen when they ask Jesus to baptize them in the Holy Spirit. When they understand, pray two prayers with them. First, have them ask Jesus to baptize them in the power of the Holy Spirit. When done, ask them if God has refused them this request. (He will not refuse them.) Announce to them that they are already baptized in the Holy Spirit. Second, ask if they now want to speak in a language they have never learned. Why? Because the Holy Spirit already gave them another language when He baptized them. When they say yes, begin to pray with them to release their new language. When they release the new language, begin to praise and thank Jesus Christ for what just happened. Have them join you. Finish by praying together in your unknown prayer languages. Have them go tell someone what just happened.

Give an example of when you led a believer into the Holy Spirit baptism.



Example:

5. Doing the Supernatural Stuff

Matthew 10:7-8 "As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

1. The healing stuff.

Who: Anyone who is sick.

Where: Where the sick person is. Anywhere in the marketplace. When: When the sick person says they want to be well.

Gifts needed: Gifts of healing.



How: Ask the person if you can minister to them. If yes, ask what the diagnosis is and what part of their body needs healing. Lay hands on where the problem is (using discretion, of course). Command the sickness and pain to depart in the name of Jesus Christ. Announce to them that they are receiving their healing as you pray. Tell them to begin thanking Jesus Christ for the healing that is on its way. Say amen. Leave them with words of faith reinforcing the eventual manifestation of the healing.

Give an example of when you healed the sick.

Example:

2. Raising the dead stuff.

Who: A dead person.

Where: Where they just died.

When: Only when God tells you to.

Gifts needed: Gifts of faith, the message of knowledge, message of wisdom, gifts of healing, and the working of miracles.

How: When you know for sure that God has directed you to raise the dead, immediately obey and do exactly what He tells you. Lay hands on the dead person and command the spirit of death to depart. Command the spirit of life to return to the body. Command the resurrection life of Jesus Christ to enter their body. Command their body to be raised to life and become healed in the name of Jesus Christ. Listen carefully to the Holy Spirit for further instructions. Continue to strongly command life, health and healing to enter their body and remain. When the spirit of the person returns, have them begin thanking Jesus Christ for raising them from the dead. Stay with the person until they say it is OK for you to go. Tell their family members about

the event and lead all of them to the Lord.

3. Cleansing the lepers stuff.

Who : Anyone with incurable diseases.
When: Whenever they respond to the healing gospel and come to God in faith. Where: Wherever it happens.
Gifts needed : Gifts of discerning of spirits, the message of wisdom, and gifts of healing.
How: Listen for a message of wisdom from the Holy Spirit. Obey exactly what the Holy Spirit directs you to do. Discern the source of the spirit that caused the disease. Command the spirit to loose the person and cast it out of them. Command healing to manifest in their body. Command the sickness and pain to depart in the name of Jesus Christ. Announce to them that they are receiving their healing as you pray. Tell them to begin thanking Jesus Christ for the healing that is on its way. Say amen. Leave them with words of faith reinforcing the eventual manifestation of the healing.

Give an example of when you either raised someone from the dead or witnessed a healing of an incurable disease.



Example:

4. Casting out demons stuff.

Who: Anyone who is plagued with demonic spirits.
When: Whenever the Holy Spirit reveals the spirits and tells you to do something about it.
Where: Wherever it happens. It is best to go somewhere away from other people. Gifts needed: Gifts of discerning of spirits, the message of knowledge, and the gift of faith.
How: When God gives you a message of knowledge that spirits are causing a person to behave abnormally or destructively, ask them if you can arrange a time to minister to them. If they say yes, ask one or two other mature believers to join you and then begin ministering to the person. When the Holy Spirit tells you the chief spirit that is plaguing the person, address the spirit directly and strongly command it to come out of the person in the name of Jesus Christ. Each person ministering should exercise the

same commands. Repeat the commands only a few times. Command the demons into a dry and uninhabited place. Then begin thanking Jesus Christ for the power of His blood that is setting the person free. Do this repeatedly until there is a peace that settles over the person and there is a discernible difference in the atmosphere. The deliverance is complete when the Holy Spirit says so. Normally the person's countenance will reflect the peace and joy of Jesus Christ. Reconfirm the person's salvation by praying the prayer of repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord. Then immediately lead the person into the Holy Spirit baptism.

5. Doing the prophecy stuff.

1 Corinthians 14:3-4 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

Who: The believer.

When: When the Holy Spirit says to.

Where: Usually when we are with a gathering of other believers. Gifts needed: Prophecy and the message of wisdom.

How: When we receive spontaneous words that emerge in our minds that we know must be shared with the believers that are gathered, we should immediately prepare to share it. We know it is from the Holy Spirit when the words are not what we were thinking. The words are fresh, alive and unpremeditated. Along with the prophecy is a message of wisdom that instructs us to release these words at the first opportunity that the Holy Spirit will make available. Leadership should be made aware that we have a word that needs to be shared. When the opportunity comes, the Holy Spirit will urge us with a firm "now." Then we simply speak all the words that came to us so that everyone present can hear them. Once delivered, we rest in the fact that we were obedient and let the words penetrate those for whom it was intended. Allow the leadership to confirm the authenticity of the message and give a short critique of the content if necessary,



Give an example of when you delivered a prophecy that confirmed something or came to pass as delivered.

6. Reasons for Not Doing the Stuff

The Reason

The Solution

"I don't know how."

We do now! This lesson shows us how. All we need to do is practice. We will practice these things in class.

"I'm afraid."

The Bible says God has not given us a spirit of fear. He has given every believer faith to accomplish all that He asks. With experience comes confidence. All we need is to just keep doing it.

"I need pastor's approval."

Ask him. Tell him you are completing a ministry training course.. an MTC. Ask if you could help wherever you can. Tell him you are willing to learn, and your desire to be used in the areas of your strengths. (Your MTC instructor is available to talk with church leadership).

7. You Are Not Alone

When we realize that the Lord Jesus is working with us as we minister, it gives us confidence to pursue ministry even more. Doing the stuff can be the most exciting adventure of the Christian life. When we learn that the Holy Spirit is only hampered by our refusal to obey the commands of scripture, we throw off our doubt and unbelief and go out and do the stuff!

Mark 16:20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.



He is working with us.

The Lord will work with us and confirm His word by signs and wonders that will follow us. But, we have to start doing the stuff.

James
1:22

In class:

Let 's do role playing by doing the basic stuff:

- Leading someone to the Lord.
- Leading someone into the Holy Spirit baptism.

Once we have practiced doing the basic stuff, we are ready to do the real stuff in our marketplace.

Once we have done the real basic stuff, we are ready to go do the real supernatural stuff.

Let's not just sit and learn about the stuff. **LET'S DO THE STUFF!**

Go.. and make disciples.
