

LESSON 1:
***Effectual Fervent Prayer Part 1 -
Jubilee Prayer***

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

“And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting” (Matthew 17:20-21).

- The Hebrew word for fasting means “to cover the mouth”
- The Greek word for fasting means “to abstain”

Daniel Fast:

- A partial fast
- Water and juices to drink, fruits and vegetables to eat
- Pulse = “something sown” (things from seed)

“Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink” (Daniel 1:12).

“In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision. In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled” (Daniel 10:1-3).

“Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before

thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia” (Daniel 10:12-13).

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)” (2 Corinthians 10:3-4).

“Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family” (Leviticus 25:9-10).

We have a special reason to begin this year with prayer and fasting!

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God. Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours” (Isaiah 58:1-3).

“Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye

break every yoke?” (Isaiah 58:5-6).

“And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in” (Isaiah 58:12).

“Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:” (Joel 2:12-15).

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:” (Joel 2:28).

We Gentiles are in the church in the first place because of fasting!

“And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me? And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God” (Acts 10:28-31).

LESSON 2:

Effectual Fervent Prayer Part 2 - Occupying Prayer

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

“He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come” (Luke 19:12-13).

Nearly thirteen years have passed on the calendar since President George W. Bush made his historic speech from the imposing flight deck of the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln on May 1, 2003, declaring “an end to major combat operations in Iraq.” But as he stated that day, the coalition forces engaged in “securing and reconstructing that country” still have “dangerous work to complete.” His words echoed with almost prophetic authority: “The war on terror is not over, yet it is not endless. We do not know the day of final victory, but we have seen the turning of the tide.”

Regardless of one’s political stripe, there is near-universal consensus on this fact: Military victory over a hostile and entrenched foe is but the first phase of warfare. Unwavering determination and untiring effort are required to preserve a precarious peace and defend a fledgling freedom against those whose ideology prefers dictatorship to democracy, and who will stop at nothing in their attempts to sabotage the process and reverse the progress. Victory may be declared, but occupying forces must see to it that victory is enforced.

Jesus’ parable in Luke 19 teaches us that the servants of God must also “occupy” hostile territory until He returns. The word does not mean just to bide one’s time (that’s what the slothful servant did); rather, it means “to busy

oneself with trade.” Simply put, we are to do more than just “fill a place” in God’s Kingdom – we are to consistently carry out “spiritual business” for the King. And just what is our primary business?

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men” (1 Timothy 2:1).

Paul agrees with Puritan preacher John Bunyan who once said, “We can do more than pray after we have prayed, but we can not do more than pray until we have prayed.”

One of the powerful prayer words in the New Testament is “supplication,” but we strip it of much of its authority when we define it only according to the English dictionary. There the sense is basically confined to “begging.”

However, the scriptural root words also carry the sense of “binding.” Yes, supplication involves making our requests known to God, but it extends the concept further. To supplicate is to ask with passion, persistence and focus. Supplication is the prayer of occupation – “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done!” Apostolic believers are equipped to do more than entreat; we are equipped to enforce.

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

Jesus’ promise that “the gates of hell shall not prevail” against the church is irrevocably connected to the actions of the church in the next verse:

“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19).

Ancient custom was that the gates of a city functioned as the place of public discourse and

official decree. Jesus is teaching that the church has been empowered by His victory on the cross to pray in ways that stop the strategies of hell dead in their tracks.

Supplication moves into the confusion caused by the fall of man – broken hearts, broken homes, broken health, broken relationships – and begins to bind up broken things, bringing them back to God’s original design. It is the business of believers to intervene in any situations that are not what Heaven intends them to be and see them through in passionate, persistent, focused prayer until they once again agree with God’s Word. Our binding and loosing accomplishes on earth what has already been willed in Heaven; we don’t make things happen, but our supplication does release them to happen. It is God’s power and timing coupled with our participation and tenacity.

This “binding” is not limited to our concept of something being tied up; it could be even more accurately understood by our concept of a “binding contract.” In the construction of our home in Saint John several years ago, I remember more than one occasion when I had to hold the contractor and his crew to the terms of our original agreement. This was possible because the terms and conditions of that written agreement were binding. However, it didn’t happen just because the document was stored in a filing cabinet somewhere; it happened because I insisted that the clauses of our contract be honored. My persistence ensured that contested or neglected features of the project were finished as they ought to be, according to the will of the owner.

In this world, Satan always attempts to construct things that are totally out of line with God’s blueprint, situations that contradict God’s Word and contravene God’s plan for His people. He has a blatant disregard and a callous contempt for the Bible, the contract that governs the life of every saint. But God has appointed us to be the on-site observers of His work on earth, and we are to occupy

until the owner returns. That's why we pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

Jesus, what You paid for at the cross isn't being done in this situation – so let Your power flow through my prayer to accomplish Your purpose. As a member of the occupying army assigned to enforce Your will, I block the adversary's advance. According to the terms of Calvary's contract, I bind the enemy from success in this situation. I loose on earth what You have already loosed in Heaven!

A powerful weapon like supplication is not intended to be wasted on petty, self-centered, temporal concerns. Paul elaborates on this, giving us a divine directive to pray for issues that are grander and broader than our own immediate points of personal preoccupation.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

We have been equipped to pray for critical, Kingdom-minded, eternal issues. We are promised influence that can affect the climate of our culture and thus create an atmosphere where people can more readily "come unto the knowledge of the truth." It would be the ultimate act of selfishness to squander such supernatural armaments on inconsequential skirmishes, when the war for eternal souls is being waged all around us.

Another scriptural term defining this kind of prayer is "intercession," which in both the ancient Greek and Hebrew languages carries the same basic meaning – "to come between by chance." This peculiar expression is used of Jacob in Genesis 29:11, when he "lighted" upon a certain place, and tarried there all

night. Only after he had awakened from his glorious dream did he realize that an apparently random place of stopping had become the cornerstone of His entire life – "surely the Lord is in this place!"

This is the very essence of intercession: circumstances and impressions that seem random, catching our attention when we least expect them, are not accidental but providential.

If we can just perceive that our day-to-day circumstances are ordained by the Holy Spirit, we will learn to respond to them with authoritative praying, confident that God desires us to "stand in the gap" (Ezekiel 22:30) at that very moment. Not every believer has the calling of an intercessor, but every believer is called to intercede when God prompts. Think about it – you may be the only representative of Heaven that God has on the scene to enforce His will!

Intercession occurs when believers realize that God has ordained "boundaries of blessing" around His people and that unless someone prays Satan will always try to violate the boundary line. You were not saved merely to be a helpless bystander in this conflict; you have been anointed and appointed to monitor the situation on Heaven's behalf, and then step in to occupy the territory every time the devil crosses the line.

Apostolic Christianity is not a spectator sport – it is a fight to the finish! First of all, we need prayer warriors with sufficient spiritual sensitivity to understand that God has put them "on location" to travail in prayer for a world that otherwise would experience only sin's consequences without hope of Divine intervention. We are – quite literally – the occupying forces for a Kingdom not of this earth.

Some two thousand years have passed on the calendar since our Lord Jesus Christ made his historic declaration from a nondescript mountain near Jerusalem, declaring an end to

major combat operations with Hell. But as he stated that day, the prayer warriors engaged in saving and reconciling fallen humanity still have dangerous work to complete. His words echoed with prophetic authority:

“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:18-20).

The Day of Pentecost happened because of supplication ...

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren” (Acts 1:14).

I stand here as heaven’s ambassador and I say, “God’s kingdom come here, and God’s will be done now!”

Speak Heaven’s covenant – pray the Word of God! The Bible is God’s binding contract over your life – hold the devil to its terms!

LESSON 3:

Effectual Fervent Prayer Part 3 - Disciplined Prayer

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

“Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat

offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly.” (Joel 2:12-15).

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.” (Joel 2:28).

Part 1 – Jubilee Prayer (a corporate call to prayer and fasting)

Part 2 – Occupying Prayer (fervent - “passionate” - prayer)

Part 3 – Disciplined Prayer (effectual - “effective” - prayer)

“Disciplined” & “Prayer” don’t often go together – but they should!

Prayer shouldn’t be random! It is not an accident that followers of Jesus are called disciples, which comes from the same root word as discipline. Prayer is certainly “a training regimen that has cumulative benefits over time” – prayer is discipline!

Today we will look at the Bible’s most familiar passage about prayer:

“And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him.” (Matthew 5:1 - KJV).

“When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions” (Matthew 5:1 - MSG).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is teaching His disciples, not preaching to sinners. In fact, The Message introduces this passage to show us that Jesus always expects more from His disciples than He does from the crowd. As He “climbs higher” with His disciples, instead of Jesus telling us what He wants to do for us (salvation), He now tells us what He wants us to do for Him (discipleship). The Sermon on the Mount is all about becoming a “climbing

companion” of Jesus!

“Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 6:1 - KJV).

“Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don't make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won't be applauding” (Matthew 6:1 - MSG).

The Message is very accurate in paraphrasing this verse, because Jesus uses the Greek word “theaomai” which is the original root of our English word “theater.” Jesus is identifying the most common temptation in the area of spiritual disciplines ... the temptation to craft a public image that is vastly different than our private reality.

Why are spiritual disciplines important? Because they help us conquer our old nature and let our new nature gain the supremacy in our three basic areas of spiritual struggle:

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (1 John 2:16 - KJV).

Matthew 6:1 introduces 3 areas of spiritual discipline (“when ye give, pray, fast” - v. 2, 5, 16) where we are tempted to “talk” more than we “walk.” But when we playact in spiritual matters, we become hypocrites (literally, “actors wearing masks” - v. 2, 5, 16) who already have their reward (literally, “wages for work done” - v. 2, 5, 16).

Jesus is not saying that you always have to do your giving, praying and fasting in secret. He is simply teaching that giving, praying or fasting that is only motivated by a desire to impress others will not be rewarded by God. Because you have chosen to receive the “public” reward, you have eliminated the better “private” reward.

When You Give

“When you do something for someone else, don't call attention to yourself. You've seen them in action, I'm sure — 'playactors' I call them — treating prayer meeting and street corner alike as a stage, acting compassionate as long as someone is watching, playing to the crowds. They get applause, true, but that's all they get. When you help someone out, don't think about how it looks. Just do it — quietly and unobtrusively. That is the way your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out” (Matthew 6:3-4 - MSG).

Giving is an important discipline because it helps us conquer the lust of the eyes. (The lust of the eyes says “I want”)

When You Fast

“When you practice some appetite-denying discipline to better concentrate on God, don't make a production out of it. It might turn you into a small-time celebrity but it won't make you a saint. If you 'go into training' inwardly, act normal outwardly. Shampoo and comb your hair, brush your teeth, wash your face. God doesn't require attention-getting devices. He won't overlook what you are doing; he'll reward you well” (Matthew 6:16-18 - MSG).

Fasting is an important discipline because it helps us conquer the lust of the flesh. (The lust of the flesh says “I need”)

Fasting is negative for the flesh but positive for the spirit. It intensifies your prayer life like nothing else can.

“And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting” (Mark 9:29 - KJV).

Your fast is between you and God, not to impress anyone else with how spiritual you are. You are not denying your flesh at all when your flesh gets public credit for all the denial it is enduring! This is why corporate fasting is good – everyone is doing the same thing.

When You Pray

“And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All

these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat? Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace. The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:" (Matthew 6:5-9a - MSG).

Prayer is an important discipline because it helps us conquer the pride of life. (The pride of life says "I'm in charge")

Notice two things about Jesus' instructions:

- We are taught how not to pray before we are taught how to pray! (we need to have the right attitude in prayer, and then we also need to have the right approach in prayer)
- Jesus is not condemning repeated requests (He told us to "ask, seek and knock" in Matthew 7:8, and He made the same request – "let this cup pass from me" – several times in Matthew 27)

When the KJV refers to "vain repetitions" the Greek wording means "to speak without thinking" (modern equivalent: "a broken record"). The Lord's Prayer (really the "Disciple's Prayer") is not given to be repeated, but to help us avoid meaningless repetition!

This is a prayer outline – six topics to bathe in prayer daily. And as we make this discipline a routine part of our day, what we are really doing is cleaning out our heart, which is the conduit for communication from God (much like regular exercise keeps your physical heart healthy).

"After this manner therefore pray ye:

Six Ways To Get A Grip On Prayer

Praise: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name" (Matthew 6:9-13 - KJV).

Purpose: Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Provision: Give us this day our daily bread.

Pardon: And forgive us our debts,

People: As we forgive our debtors.

Protection: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

Praise: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.



Illustrations:

Praise – hand raised in worship

Purpose – thumbs up (God's approval)

Provision – point (to things I want)

Pardon – longest finger (went too far)

People – ring finger (relationships)

Protection – bend finger back (pain)

After He concludes His "prayer outline" Jesus adds one more critical reminder that this "disciplined prayer" is really about our hearts being a clean conduit for God to do what only He can do in us ...

"In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part" Matthew 6:14-15 - MSG).

This won't happen in a day, but it will happen daily!

LESSON 4:
***Effectual Fervent Prayer Part 4 -
Delivering Prayer***

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

When Daniel went on his 21-day fast, God gave him a grand vision – every word was true, but it didn’t all happen immediately!

“In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision” (Daniel 10:1).

We’ve been praying the Lord’s Prayer this week, including this powerful statement over ourselves, our families and our church – deliver us!

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen” (Matthew 6:13).

Deliverance – essentially all the Bible words for deliverance indicate “help from another that rescues from danger” – to deliver means to set free, to liberate, to release, to rescue – it’s a “Jubilee” word!

There is an important principle of deliverance you need to understand:

“Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses” (Joshua 1:3).

Tread – “**Darak**” – to string a bow, tread down, conquer, fight for!

Given – “**Natan**” – deliver to

When God Delivers You, You Still Have To Fight For It!

Although God had allowed them to enter the

Promised Land, they had not yet possessed everything that was included in that promise! The Lord wanted them to continue to fight until their enemies were totally defeated and they were totally delivered from that influence.

“Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them? And the LORD said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand. And Judah said unto Simeon his brother, Come up with me into my lot, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I likewise will go with thee into thy lot” (Judges 1:1-3).

Judah – “**Praise**” – to worship, throw a stone, shoot an arrow

Simeon – “**Hear And Obey**” – pay attention, shew forth, witness

If we want deliverance, it will take worship and obedience!

The book of Judges has actually been called “The Dark Ages of Israel” because of the nation’s constant backsliding. This is characterized by the recurring cycle of disobedience, foreign oppression, cries of distress, and deliverance by the judges. But remarkably, this age of failure in Israel was in a special way the Old Testament Age of the Spirit, when men were enabled by God’s Spirit to accomplish mighty acts!

“Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them” (Judges 2:16).

“And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were

without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it. And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD” (Judges 6:3-6).

“And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?” (Judges 6:12-14).

Just Stand Your Ground And Fight – I Will Be With You!

“Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands” (1 Samuel 17:45-47).

David Trained His Mighty Men To Stand Their Ground!

“And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighties. He was with David at Pasdammim, and there the Philistines were gathered together to battle, where was a parcel of ground full of barley; and the people fled from before the Philistines. And they set themselves in the midst of that parcel, and delivered it, and

slew the Philistines; and the LORD saved them by a great deliverance” (1 Chronicles 11:12-14).

“And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines. But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory” (2 Samuel 23:11-12).

All these men are saving the harvest God gave them! (“It may not be important to you, but this is My harvest!”)

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:10-17).

Stop Running, Turn Around And Stand Your Ground!

“I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed. I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet. For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me” (Psalm 18:37-39).

Deliverance Is Going To Come To Those Who Fight For It!

“For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14).

Stand Up And Fight – And Trust God For Victory!

LESSON 5:

Effectual Fervent Prayer Part 5 - Prevailing Prayer

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

When Daniel went on his 21-day fast, God gave him a grand vision – every word was true, but it didn't all happen immediately!

“In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision” (Daniel 10:1).

The Napoleonic Wars which stormed through Europe from 1792 to 1815 were waged in the name of megalomania. Napoleone Buonaparte was bent on establishing his very own empire. He had risen quickly through the ranks of the French army due to his natural talents for leadership and strategy. With age, his ambitions grew more lofty and by his late twenties Napoleon had forced all of France's continental opponents to submit.

Napoleon returned to France and launched a successful coup d'etat to overthrow the Republic. He then declared himself Consul for life. Then, eager to expand his burgeoning

empire, Napoleon began by selling the territory of Louisiana to the U.S. to raise funds for future military campaigns, especially campaigns against France's oldest rival, Britain.

In the early 1800's, Emperor Napoleon proclaimed himself King of Italy, defeated Prussia, acquired the Kingdom of Westphalia, and made the Russian Czar Alexander I his ally. Despite these successes, Buonaparte was still unable to defeat Britain by conventional means. In 1806, Napoleon initiated economic warfare against that "nation of shopkeepers." Britain quickly retaliated with its own trade embargoes, and before long, American vessels and other neutral trading ships were embroiled in the European war. Both Britain and France began searching and seizing U.S. ships.

In 1812, Napoleon attacked Russia to punish it for abandoning their crucial economic alliance. This campaign ended with Napoleon's humiliating retreat from Moscow, and was the turning point in Napoleon's dream of total conquest in Europe. Napoleon abdicated in 1814 and was exiled to the Mediterranean island of Elba.

And then, after a short-lived escape and return to power in March of 1815, Britain and its allies ultimately defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo a few months later.

From an original force of 678,000 men that entered Russian Territory in June 1812, only a force between 10,000 and 30,000 crossed the Nieman river into Kovno and left Russian territory to return home to France in December 1812. In the judgment of the majority of historians, it was not the skill of the Russian Army that was responsible for their defeat; it was simply that the Russians held out until the harsh Russian winters cut off Napoleon's supply lines. His army literally starved and froze to death.

Charles Minard's famous graph – tan line showing how many marched into Russia, black

line showing how many marched home to France, and recorded along with the temperatures they faced.

The historical novel “Napoleon and Blücher” by Luise Mühlbach begins with these words ...

“It was a fine, warm day in May, 1812. The world was groaning under the yoke of Napoleon’s tyranny.”

But this was the year that Napoleon chose to lift his hand against Russia! Later in the book comes this dialogue between Napoleon’s nemesis, the Prussian General Gebhard von Blucher, and one of his direct reports, General Scharnhorst, about the outcome of the Russian invasion ...

“Has [Napoleon] again obtained a great victory?” “No, general,” said Scharnhorst, solemnly, “God has obtained a victory!”

Blucher raised his head, and laid his clay pipe slowly on the table. “What do you mean, general?” he asked. “What do you mean by saying, ‘God has obtained a victory?’”

“I mean to say that He has sent into the field troops whom even Napoleon is unable to defeat.”

“What troops do you refer to?”

“I refer to the cold, the snow, the ice, the howling storm blowing from Siberia, like the angry voice of Heaven, striking down men and beasts alike.”

“And these troops of God have defeated Napoleon?” “They have, general!”

“Blucher uttered a cry, and, jumping up from his chair, drew himself up to his full height. “The troops of God have defeated Napoleon!” he exclaimed, solemnly. “I have always believed in divine justice – slow sometimes, but sure. Tell me every thing, my friend, tell me everything,” he added, sinking back into the chair, quite overwhelmed by what he had heard.

This quote was later attributed to Czar Nicholas I of Russia ...

“Russia has two generals in whom she can confide – Generals Janvier and Fevrier.”

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isaiah 55:8-11).

His word shall accomplish the thing for which He has sent it, as surely as the earth watered by rain and snow brings forth life on earth.

Rain and snow. We get rain. We understand that rain waters, nourishes, brings forth life. But snow?

Snow. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow. Who wrote that song?! I thought snow killed everything. But the promise in the Word is that snow will bring forth, bud, and give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater.

When it’s brutally cold and there is a ton of snow on the ground, I’m not a huge fan of the weather man. But rain and snow both bring forth God’s purpose. Both seem destructive at times, but if you just wait around awhile, you’ll figure out that we can’t even exist without rain and snow.

Think about the seasons in your life when you feel cold, and numb in your heart, like there is a storm all around you. Even in that time God is still working! Just like snow preserves dormant seeds until spring, that’s what God is doing in your life even when you can’t see Him at work. If you’ll stay steady, you’ll see the seed spring forth after the winter.

“Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23:8-12).

God’s Word will not return (i.e. evaporation cycle) until it accomplishes what He sent it to do! So hold on to the word God has spoken to you – it is piling up like snow until it stops the devil dead in his tracks!

LESSON 6: *The Armor of God*

The Christian life is a battlefield, not a playground!

Paul uses military images because the first century Christians understood them; he is chained to a Roman soldier as he is writing Ephesians (6:20 – an ambassador in bonds).

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds” (2 Corinthians 10:4).

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:12).

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:3).

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7).

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against

principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:10-12).

There are no recorded cases of demon possession in the Old Testament, but you will find it is rampant in the New Testament. This is because the war that is being waged between God and the devil is a spiritual conflict for men’s souls. Israel had a physical covenant; we have a spiritual one. We enter into its spiritual blessings, but also into its spiritual battles! That warfare moved from heaven to earth at the incarnation, and we are still fighting ground warfare even today!

The Bible calls our enemy: Satan, meaning “Adversary,” the Devil, meaning “Accuser,” Belial, meaning “Extremely Wicked,” Lucifer, meaning “Angel of Light,” the Dragon, the Serpent, Beelzebub, the Evil One, the Tempter, the god of this world, the Prince of the power of the air, and the Ruler of this world.

Satan has many tactics that he uses on the church to try to defeat us: he accuses (Revelation 12:10), he condemns (1 Timothy 3:6), he devours (1 Peter 5:8), he imprisons (Revelation 2:10), he ensnares (2 Timothy 2:26), he takes advantage (2 Corinthians 2:11), he even tries to steal the Word away (Mark 4:15).

Satan is not eternal like God (he is a created being), so he is limited – he is not all-powerful, all-knowing, or everywhere present. So how does he accomplish so much evil simultaneously throughout the world? Through his organized kingdom of darkness: principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places.

No matter how our circumstance may look on the outside, our battle is not against human beings. We are wasting our time fighting people when we ought to be fighting the devil who seeks to control people and make them oppose the work of God. That’s why the devil

loves religious people who attend church – he uses them “on the inside” to bring wrong attitudes and actions into the Body of Christ.

The ancient advice of the king of Syria to his soldiers when they went out to fight can be applied to our spiritual battle:

“Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king” (1 Kings 22:31b).

In Paul’s day, a wrestling match was not mere entertainment; it was a fight to the finish with the loser having his eyes gouged out. Our battle with Satan is a life or death conflict with eternal consequences!

The bad news is that the devil is a formidable opponent, and you cannot defeat him by human strength or religious resolutions. But the good news is that you can defeat him – if you do it God’s way!

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” (Ephesians 6:13-18).

Did you get dressed before you came to church today?

Since we are fighting against enemies in the spirit world, we need special equipment both for defense and for offense. God has provided the “whole armor” for use, and we dare not omit any part. Satan is always looking for an unguarded area where he can get a beachhead in our lives from which to launch an attack.

Ephesians 4:27 (KJV) Neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 4:27 (TEV) Don't give the Devil a chance.

Ephesians 4:27 (GW) Don't give the devil any opportunity {to work}.

Ephesians 4:27 (NIV) Do not give the devil a foothold.

The Girdle of Truth

Satan is a liar, but the believer whose life is controlled by truth will defeat him. The girdle was a belt that held the other parts of the armor together, and it also held the sword. Unless we live the truth, we have no right (and no confidence) to use the Word of truth!

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44).

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

The loins encircled by the girdle are the central point of the physical system, and in Scripture are described as the seat of power. “To smite through the loins” is to strike a fatal blow. “To lay affliction upon the loins” is to afflict heavily.

To be truthful with God, with yourself, and with others is absolutely crucial! Once a lie gets into the life of a believer, everything begins to fall apart. For over a year, King David lied about his sin with Bathsheba, and nothing in his kingdom went right. Psalm 32 and 51 tell the terrible price he paid.

The Breastplate Of Righteousness

The breastplate was made of metal plates and covered the upper body in front and back. Satan is the accuser, but he cannot accuse the believer who is living a godly life by the power of the Spirit.

The life we live either fortifies us against

Satan's attacks or makes it easier for him to defeat us. Yes, it is God's righteousness lived through us, but we must allow it to work in our everyday lives!

"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:24).

"That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God" (Philippians 1:10-11).

The Sandals Of The Gospel

The Roman soldier's leather sandals bound around the ankle and studded with hobnails so his feet would not slip in the battle. If we are going to be secure in our relationship with God, we need to stand on the gospel.

It's not the gospel of "peace" when you hear it, or even when you understand it – it becomes the gospel of peace when you obey it!

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" (Romans 5:1).

"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven" (Colossians 1:20).

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel ... by which also ye are saved ... Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures ... he was buried ... he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

I can stand firm against the attacks of the devil because I know that I have obeyed the gospel – I am a child of God!

The Shield Of Faith

The shield was large, usually about four feet by two feet, made of wood and covered with tough leather. It protected the soldier from burning arrows. The edges of these shields were constructed so that a line of soldiers could interlock them and march into the enemy's forces like a solid wall. If your faith is weak, stand beside me! Sometimes we just have to push through the enemy ranks!

"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (1 Corinthians 2:5).

"For we walk by faith, not by sight:" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him" (Hebrews 10:38).

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:15).

The Helmet Of Salvation

The helmet was originally of skin, strengthened with bronze or other metals, and furnished with a visor to protect the face. It refers to the mind that is controlled by God's Spirit, someone who doesn't live for God just by feelings (up and down), but by their choices (consistent). We must have God's protection over our minds!

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

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

“That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 15:6).

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7).

The Sword Of The Spirit

The sword is the only offensive weapon provided in the Christian’s armor – but it is enough because it is the Word of God!

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

Paul uses *rhema* instead of *logos* here, in other words a specific portion of the Bible that the Holy Spirit leads us to use in a specific battle with Satan. The Holy Spirit quickens the passage to “come alive” in our lives in order to withstand Satan’s attack.

Praying Always!

Prayer is the energy that we take into battle. We cannot fight against the devil in our own strength. “Praying always” doesn’t mean “always saying prayers” – it means “always stay in communion with God!” (keep the receiver off the hook!) That way you’ll be ready for any surprise attack from the devil.

Don’t just focus on yourself and your needs. Prayer for others can bring victory into your life!

“And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before” (Job 42:10).

“God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up

to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we’ll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels. Be prepared. You’re up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it’s all over but the shouting you’ll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You’ll need them throughout your life. God’s Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other’s spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out” (Ephesians 6:10-18 - MSG)

Spiritual Warfare

I had a battle fierce today
Right in the place of prayer.
I went to meet and talk with God,
But I found Satan there.

He whispered, "You can't really pray;
You lost out long ago.
You might say words while on your knees,
But you can't pray, you know."

So then I pulled my helmet tight,
Way down upon my ears,
And found it helped to still his voice,
And helped allay my fears.

I checked my other armor o'er,
My feet in peace were shod.
My loins with truth still girded 'round,
My sword the Word of God.

My righteous breastplate still was on
My heart's love to protect.
My shield of faith was all intact,
His fiery darts to deflect.

My courage mounted up afresh,
I gripped anew my sword.
"Old Satan, get behind," I cried.
Oh, Glory! Praise the Lord!

Again his darts came thick and fast.
Faith quenched and put them out.
And while he raised a new attack,
I raised the victory shout.

I called on God in Jesus' name.
I pled the precious blood.
While Satan sneaked away in shame.
I met and talked with God.

LESSON 7: *Biblical Faith*

“Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you” (Matthew 9:29).

What Is Faith?

Webster's Dictionary: firm belief in something for which there is no proof; complete confidence

Unger's Bible Dictionary: “The conviction of the reality of the truths and facts that God has revealed, based solely upon the testimony of God.”

Holy Bible: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1) GREEK: “substance” = “a standing under, a support, a title deed”

How Does Faith Work?

It must be a constant attitude or lifestyle, not just a “life preserver!”

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

It must be unashamedly vocalized.

“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:8-10).

It must be accompanied by action.

“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast

faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” (James 2:17-20).

It must disregard the obstacles.

“And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform” (Romans 4:19-21).

It will not operate effectively where there is doubt present.

“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” (Mark 11:23-24).

“But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them” (Mark 6:4-5).

Degrees Of Faith

Little faith - “Why Are You Fearful?” (Battles Fear and Doubts God Constantly)

Disciples in Storm –

“And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm” (Matthew 8:26 - KJV).

Peter Walking on Water –

“And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” (Matthew 14:31 - KJV).

Sermon on the Mount –

“Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?” (Matthew 6:30 - KJV).

Faith - “Thy Faith Hath Made Thee Whole” (Needs Immediate Sign or Feeling to Confirm)

Woman With Issue of Blood –

“But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour” (Matthew 9:22).

Blind Bartimaeus –

“And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way” (Mark 10:52).

Great Faith - “Go Thy Way” (Believes “Long Distance” - Without Sign or Feeling) - only 2 times

Centurion with Sick Servant –

“When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. ... And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour” (Matthew 8:10,13).

Woman with Demon-Possessed Daughter –

“Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour” (Matthew 15:28).

LESSON 8:

Backward Faith

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” (Proverbs 18:21).

Fear is the opposite of faith; they refuse to coexist. (Faith is the forward gear, fear is the reverse gear!)

Fear: an unpleasant often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger.

Faith: firm belief in something for which there is no proof.

“And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?” (Mark 4:40).

Faith and fear eventually will express themselves in our words and actions.

“For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me” (Job 3:25).

“Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong” (Joel 3:10).

“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10).

Faith doesn’t mean pretending that obstacles do not exist, it means realizing that God is in control regardless of the obstacles!

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him” (Hebrews 10:35-38).

You can have faith for something until it occurs, or you can have fear for something until it occurs!

“And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name” (Luke 1:46-49).

“O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears” (Psalm 34:3-4).

Both Mary and David are magnifying the Lord, looking at Him through His promises in the future tense. That’s faith!

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report” (Hebrews 11:1-2).

Faith takes the “binoculars of life” and looks through the right end; fear looks through the wrong end! (everything that should be big is small, and everything that should be small is big)

Twelve Spies in Numbers 13 – fear caused them to magnify the size of their problems instead of the size of their God!

Whatever you get close to appears bigger; whatever you get distant from appears smaller!

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations” (Psalm 100:1-5).

Praise is different than thanksgiving! Thanksgiving is connected to what He has done; praise is linked to who He is!

If what you need is more than what He has done in your life, then what you say has to be more than what you’ve already seen Him do!

“Enter with the password: “Thank you!” Make yourselves at home, talking praise” (Psalm 100:4 - MES).

Move beyond the “gates” into the “courts”!

LESSON 9: *Anointed*

“And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, This shall be an holy anointing oil unto me throughout your generations. Upon man's flesh shall it not be poured, neither shall ye make any other like it, after the composition of it: it is holy, and it shall be holy unto you. Whosoever compoundeth any like it, or whosoever putteth any of it upon a stranger, shall even be cut off from his people” (Exodus 30:31-33).

The Holy Anointing Oil is symbolic throughout Scripture of Holy Ghost quickening power resting upon the person or object that is anointed, so they might function in a particular sphere of ministry.

God’s Commandments Concerning The Anointing Oil:

1. It was not to be poured upon man’s flesh. Emotion is not anointing!

“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if

any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:5-9).

2. It was not to be poured upon strangers. Real anointing comes only by regeneration!

“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:18-22).

3. It was not to be imitated by man. If there is a true anointing, there is a false anointing!

“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:23-24). (Christ = Anointed One)

4. It was to continue through all generations. We can't live on a past generation's anointing!

“And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger” (Judges 2:10-12).

Look At The New Testament:

“But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things” (1 John 2:20).

The word “unction” actually means, “ointment that is rubbed in.” New Testament anointing was much different than Old Testament anointing. In the Old Testament, the anointing was poured out; in the New Testament, the anointing was rubbed in. Your effectiveness will never be determined by what is poured out in a single moment. It will be determined by how long you linger and soak in God's glory.

The anointing is always given for a specific purpose – not just to make us feel good. There are three anointings available to us:

The Leper's Anointing (Self)

“And the rest of the oil that is in the priest's hand he shall put upon the head of him that is to be cleansed, to make an atonement for him before the LORD” (Leviticus 14:29).

The anointing was reserved only to anoint a priest or a king, except for the cleansing of a leper!

Atonement carries its own anointing! The new birth experience is an anointing that every believer possesses!

The Priest's Anointing (God)

“And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest's office” (Exodus 40:13).

The priestly anointing was the anointing of relationship, given so a man could minister to the Lord.

We must internalize our desire to serve the Lord, and not depend on external stimuli to motivate us!

The King's Anointing (Others)

“Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?” (1 Samuel 10:1).

Samuel is asking Saul, “What is your anointing

really for? What are you going to do with it?” He leaves Saul to answer the question for himself!

This anointing is for others!

Anointing, like many principles in Scripture, is a progressive experience. One good example is the life of David, who had three separate anointings:

1. David was anointed in the midst of his brethren, when only God could see his potential.

“But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

God opens the anointing to any man “after his own heart (will)” - 1 Samuel 13:14

2. David was anointed King over Judah, after years of unjust suffering as a fugitive.

“And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, That the men of Jabeshgilead were they that buried Saul” (2 Samuel 2:4).

David learned (by Saul’s persecution) what not to do before he learned what to do!

3. David was anointed King over all Israel, after years of consistently growing strong in war.

“Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker” (2 Samuel 3:1).

“So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel” (2 Samuel 5:3).

Many things in the Spirit come only through consistency, and not giving up!

The only instance in Scripture when Jesus danced was when His disciples began to use their authority to take their cities back for God!

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. In that hour Jesus rejoiced (to leap or jump for joy) in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight” (Luke 10:17-21).