

# **50 Days to** **Spiritual** **Fruitfulness**

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## **Day 1**

### **Becoming Spiritually Fruitful**

Jesus told His disciples that they could prove they were His disciples.

[Jhn 15:8 NASB] - "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

We were created to be fruitful. Adam and Eve were commanded to be fruitful. At least one reason for the resurrection of Jesus was so we could bear fruit for God.

[Rom 7:4 NASB] - Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

Many Christians struggle with the guilt of never bearing fruit. Many never move onto fruitful labor for the Lord. If your heart desires to bear fruit for God then you must do your part in that process.

Bearing fruit comes from being spiritually mature, spiritually disciplined and ready to sacrifice for the sake of others. You will not find fruitfulness in a frivolous or haphazard lifestyle. If we prepare ourselves for good works the fruit will follow. It is God that gives us fruitfulness.

[Col 1:9-10 NASB] - For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

To start this journey you must be diligent. Continue to practice the inward disciplines that you learned in 50 Days to Spiritual Freedom. You will be challenged to action now. As you become prepared and equipped for fruit you will see God bring it to you.

This journey is about preparing and doing. Bearing fruit is a privilege that God bestows on us as faithful servants. That is why bearing fruit proves we are Jesus' disciples. If we take seriously our role as His disciple, fruitfulness will be the result.

Take some time to ask God to guide you on this journey.

## **Day 2**

### **What is fruitfulness?**

The Bible speaks of spiritual fruit in two ways. One is fruit of the Spirit that affects us inwardly. These things are outlined in Galatians 5:22. These are the result of spiritual formation in our lives. As we grow and mature in Christ our hearts and minds start to reflect the nature and character of God.

The other fruit is new disciples. This is what Jesus most often referred to with the term. If we are spiritually disciplined, seeking God's healing of our pain and accepting the removal of our guilt, we will see spiritual fruit begin to appear in our lives. I call these the first fruits.

If you wish to see the other kind of fruit, the kind Jesus spoke of often, then it will require a little more work on your part. Jesus said "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few". Becoming fruitful is deciding to become a laborer in the fields of God's vineyard. Jesus is looking for laborers.

Read John 15:1-8. Jesus is outlining the way to be fruitful. Are you abiding in God? Are you ready to be pruned? Are you ready to set captives free, preach the Gospel, heal the sick, cast out demons? It is time to count the cost of being a disciple of Jesus.

Write down the things that might be required of you that make you uncomfortable. Ask God to help you in these areas as you dedicate your self to becoming a laborer.

### **Day 3**

#### **Entering a prepared work**

Becoming fruitful may sound like a very difficult thing. Becoming fruitful is God's design for us. It is joining Him in what He is doing. Bearing fruit is where we will find God's wonderful plan for our life. Bearing fruit builds our relationship with God. Bearing fruit is also a prepared work.

What I mean by that is simple. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God prepared good works for us before He made the world. If we join with God and obey Him, He will lead us into those works. Those works are bearing fruit for God.

You don't have to worry about missing them or messing them up. You just have to get your own selfishness and sinful desires out of the way and God will lead you right to them. You see, you are all that is in the way of your fruitfulness. A disciplined and surrendered servant will bear fruit.

[2Ti 2:21 NASB] - Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

Write down how you feel about knowing your fruitfulness is a prepared work.

Pray and ask God what is in the way of you finding your Ephesians 2:10 works.

## **Day 4**

### **God has called you to His purpose**

Fruitfulness is our birthright. It is part of our inheritance. As children of God we have been called to His purposes.

[Eph 1:11 NASB] - also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

Not only have we been called to God's purposes but He works on our behalf to see we succeed in those purposes.

[Rom 8:28 NASB] 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

We can also rest in the fact that God did not call us to His purposes because of anything we have done. It is God's grace that will see us to our Ephesians 2:10 works.

[2Ti 1:9 NASB] 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Knowing that God is responsible for our works should let us rest in the finished work of Christ, When we learn to rest in obedience, we will find fruitfulness.

Write down how it feels to be chosen by God to participate in His purposes. Does anything this world has to offer compare with that?

## **Day 5**

### **Make time to be fruitful**

We must take time to be fruitful. We use all 24 hours of every day. If we are going to be fruitful we must set aside time for doing our part. Being fruitful involves teaching, loving, caring, helping, serving and many other things. All of this takes time.

We should view fruitfulness as God's work and as a privilege that God bestows on us. When we take this view we will see that it is important enough for us to dedicate our time to it.

This is where we start taking action. You should already be taking time for the five inward spiritual disciplines. Now set aside a time each week dedicated to making a disciple. We will work on how to do that in the coming days. First, you must make time to do it. Bearing fruit must become an important part of your schedule.

When will you schedule time for bearing fruit? How much time will you set aside? During this time you should plan on praying for a new disciple. Your focus will be on bearing fruit even if you don't see it yet. Spend time asking God what is in the way of your fruitfulness and deal with what He reveals.

A little later you will also use this time to prepare lessons and learn how to make a disciple. If you are being disciplined by someone, they can help with all of this. Be diligent and watch what happens.

## **Day 6**

### **Be intentional about fruitfulness**

[Heb 4:12 NASB] - For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

God knows our intentions. The Word of God helps us to know our true intentions.

Is your heart inclined towards God? Do you seek to obey Him and please Him? Are you thankful for His love and grace? Do you take the privilege of bearing fruit seriously?

If you are a disciple of Jesus you should be intentional about it. Jesus paid a high price for you. It is not too much to ask that we take seriously the thing He called us to do – Bear Fruit!

Intentionality takes planning and dedication. It requires discipline and work.

[Pro 13:4 NASB] 4 The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, But the soul of the diligent is made fat.

[2Pe 3:13-14 NASB] - But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

Ask God to show you any way you have disobeyed Him.  
How can you change that and what steps will you take?  
Make a plan.



## **Day 7**

### **Make a plan**

Are you ready? Let's make a plan. Here is what you need in your plan.

1. Regularly practicing the 5 inward disciplines.
2. Time set aside to bear fruit.
3. Prayer partners.
4. A body of believers to gather with – the church.
5. A basic idea of how to make disciples.
6. What Gospel you are preaching
7. Your own testimony
8. The 5 outward disciplines.

This is your guide to fruitfulness. Take a few minutes to see how ready you are to be fruitful. How many are you equipped to do?

Making a plan means getting equipped. Remember you can't make fruit happen. You can only prepare yourself and submit to God. Bearing fruit is more about your plan to prepare than your ability to perform.

Many people just jump out there and start doing something. They never stop to think what will be required in order to lead someone to spiritual maturity. A plan is the place where our desire meets our intentionality. Do not fall into the trap of serving unprepared.

Write down your plan. This way you can modify it as God trains you to be fruitful. Having a written record of these changes will be very valuable as your ministry grows.

Make a basic plan outline today.

## **Day 8**

### **Get ready to make disciples**

Are you ready? By now you should be practicing the 5 inward spiritual disciplines. Add a request for a new disciple to your prayer list. Do you have prayer partners or a prayer team? Get one. Now assemble your prayer requests for your team. Keep them informed of your progress, challenges and victories.

This is a spiritual work. There is no physical formula to making disciples. Be productive in the time you have set aside for disciple making. Get your plan out and fine tune each component. Preparation is important but so is action. If you are going to make disciples you will need to be around other people. Where will you go to meet them? Add this to your prayer list.

Many people find it difficult to talk to strangers. Don't worry about this. Focus on the Spirit and God will open opportunity. See how Paul requested prayer in Ephesians 6.

[Eph 6:19 NASB] 19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

Is it possible that even Paul needed help getting the confidence to preach? Are you disciplined, prepared, intentional and available for God to use you.

[Mat 28:19-20 NASB] - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Find a place to meet people and start going there during your set aside time.

Ask the person discipling you to come along. Pray for God to open a door for you to preach the Gospel.

## **Day 9**

### **Know your Gospel**

The Gospel that is commonly preached in America is one of a personal savior. The goal of the Gospel is not your personal salvation. That is a step towards the goal. The goal of the Gospel is to build the church. A peculiar people living together in love is the Gospel Jesus preached.

1 John 3:8 says Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil - He did this through the Gospel or Good news of the Kingdom which, when you enter and abide in it, will accomplish His purpose for coming.

Make sure you are preaching the Gospel that Jesus delivered. Examine it in the Bible. Your Gospel must match Jesus' Gospel and the way you live must match the Gospel you preach. This is the only way to preach with authority and credibility.

Write out your Gospel. Be ready to answer questions about it. Be gentle and respectful. You can't force it on anyone or argue them into the Kingdom. You are waiting for Spirit led encounters where God has opened the opportunity. Be ready to use your testimony to back up the Gospel message.

## Day 10

### Prepare your testimony

**The Personal Testimony:** The most powerful evangelistic tool you have is your own testimony (Revelation 12:11). Every believer should know how to share their testimony in any situation (1 Peter 3:15). Here are some tips to help you prepare your testimony to share with others:

- You should have two versions of your testimony – a brief one that you can quickly communicate in 3 to 5 minutes, and a longer one that you can communicate verbally (speaking) or in writing in no more than 15 minutes.
- Begin with prayer asking God to give you wisdom and to lead you as you write out your testimony. Ask the Lord to give you grace with those who will hear your testimony. Ask Him to give you discernment as to when and how to share it. Ask Him to prepare those you share it with, so they may be open to receive it.
- Be careful to keep to the point and not to include facts or stories that are not relevant to sharing the gospel.
- Try to write your testimony in the same manner you would speak it to others. Keep it very simple.
- Do not include too many verses of Scripture as many people do not have a good Bible background and could become confused. When you do use a Bible verse do not include the reference (i.e., John 3:16); either paraphrase or quote the verse.
- Do not criticize or make negative comments about other churches, religions, or individuals.
- Do not use “Christian-ese” – using Christian terms or language (such as *witnessing*, *regeneration*, *repentance*, *saved*, *conviction*, *sin*, *sanctification*, etc.) Use terms that a non-Christian can understand.
- Do not exaggerate. Be truthful about your past and present.
- Every good testimony has three parts: (1) your life before

Christ, (2) how you came to receive Christ as your Savior, and (3) your life after you received Christ. Give each their proper time and emphasis.

Assignment: Write your testimony by answering these questions:

1. *Your life before Christ:*

- What needs, problems, or situations did you have in your life?
- What one or two things gave you the most trouble, security, or happiness?
- Did anything control your feelings or behavior?
- Did you sense that anything was missing from your life?
- Did you have any knowledge of God? Religion? Spiritual things?

2. *How you received Christ:*

- What circumstances led you to hear about Christ?
- How did you hear about Christ? Through whom? In what manner?
- What did you hear about Christ? Did you hear that He loved you, or was Lord, or ...
- Was there anything specific in the gospel message that spoke to you most or that convinced you most?
- What changed in your thinking or feeling when you heard that?
- How did you make a decision for Christ?

3. *Your life after receiving Christ:*

- What changed in your life after you received Christ? Personally? In your relationships?
- How have those changes affected your attitude or thinking?
- How is your behavior or life different with Christ, focusing on your relationship with

Him?

Arrange the answers to the above questions into one paragraph for each question so that you have a three paragraph testimony. In your first paragraph, you should include an attention-getting incident from your life or some thought that will provoke interest on the part of those listening. The second paragraph should include enough of the gospel that a person will know the facts associated with it. The third paragraph should close with an opportunity for the person listening to make a decision for Christ. When you are through writing, practice telling it to other Christians first and ask them to suggest any changes.

As you review your testimony, and ask others to review it, consider the following questions:

- Can I read this out loud in 3-5 minutes?
- Did I get their attention?
- Is the gospel in it clear?
- Is it balanced between the three areas?
- Does the closing include an opportunity for the listener to make a decision?

## Day 11 Praying your way to fruitfulness

### Preparing for fruitfulness

1. Prayer - the first step in beginning a fruitful life is preparation. Preparation always begins with prayer. There are two aspects of prayer you should develop:
  - Personal prayer – build up your own prayer life. Make sure you are having quality quiet times with the Lord. Learn to meditate in and pray the Scriptures. Read books and devotionals on prayer. Find a “prayer warrior” and spend much time with him, learning from him. Put prayer into practice.
  - Intercessory prayer – recruit intercessors to pray for you every day. The more intercessors you have the more you will be covered by their prayers of faith. As you enlist them, ask them to also consider fasting for you at least one day each week. Communicate with them the information they will need to effectively pray for you and your disciples.

Some things we should always be praying -

1. Ask for wisdom
2. Forgive those who have wronged or offended you. You teach what you know but you reproduce what you are. Bitter people are not spiritually fruitful people.

[Heb 12:15 NASB] 15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

3. Ask God what is in the way of your fruitfulness.
4. Pray for new disciples.
5. Pray for your disciples.



## **Day 12**

### **The outward disciplines**

The inward disciplines work together to help us lay a foundation for spiritual growth. Bible Study prepares us for meditation and prayer helps us in journaling. Fasting helps us to establish these as patterns in our lives as the flesh is weakened and the spirit grows in strength.

The outward spiritual disciplines are how our faith becomes active. These disciplines take what the inward disciplines have started and lead us to grow to maturity. See what the book of Hebrews has to say about moving on to maturity.

[Heb 5:11-14 NASB] - Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

It is when we put our faith into action that we can mature as a believer. The outward disciplines help guide us to action. They are designed to accompany the inward disciplines on your journey to godliness.

There are 5 basic outward disciplines.

1. Living by Faith – walking in the Spirit.

2. Evangelism - sharing your faith with another person or group.
3. Stewardship - surrendering your possessions to the Lord.
4. Giving - intentionally giving tithes and offerings.
5. Serving - having a ministry.

## **Day 13**

### **Walking in the Spirit**

Just as with the inward disciplines, there is a key discipline that will help you establish the others in your life. Living by faith or walking in the Spirit is the key to establishing the outward disciplines in your life. A quick look at the spiritual disciplines will show us how they work together to help us know and serve God.

The outward disciplines make our faith active. By walking in the Spirit we can see what God is doing and follow Him in it. Giving is the key to stewardship. Without putting money in its proper place we can never handle the more important spiritual things correctly. Serving aids us in evangelism. As we go into the world to serve it we will have opportunity to share the Gospel and make disciples.

#### **Some Guidelines for Walking in the Spirit**

Be *born again* (John 3:3).

Be *filled with the Holy Spirit* (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16).

Be *spiritually mature* (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

Be *spiritually minded* (Romans 8:5-8).

Have *no condemnation* (Romans 8:1).

Walk in *freedom from fear* (Romans 8:15).

*Pray* in the Spirit (Romans 8:26).

Develop and operate in your *spiritual gifts* (1 Corinthians 12:1).

Do not be *entangled in the world* (2 Timothy 2:14).

Master *spiritual disciplines* (1 Timothy 4:7).

Learn the spiritual discipline of *waiting* (Romans 8:25).  
Store up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19).  
Serve one master (Matthew 6:24).  
Live one day at a time (Matthew 6:25-27, 34).  
Be kingdom minded (Matthew 6:33-34).  
Learn contentment (Philippians 4:11-13).  
Fill your life with God's Word (John 8:32).  
Trust God for every need (Matthew 6:28-32).  
Resist the devil (James 4:7).  
Do not grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30).  
Master your fleshly desires (Galatians 5:16-17).  
Develop discernment (Philippians 1:9).

### **Following the promptings of the Holy Spirit**

Promptings are inward urgings to do God's will.  
They are understood by our spirit as we are filled by the Holy Spirit.  
They are usually opposite to our basic desires and inclinations.  
They are always in harmony with the total message of the Scriptures.  
They almost always involve less control on our part.  
They always require faith.  
Failure to obey them can grieve the Holy Spirit.

Take a few minutes and write down some examples of how God has spoken to you and the different ways He has done it.

## Day 14 Giving

### **Giving**

#### **God wants you to be financially free!**

1. Choose to serve God rather than money (Matthew 6:24)
2. Trust God totally for every need (Deuteronomy 8:18)
3. Obey Biblical teachings concerning money (John 14:21-23)
4. Stay out of debt (Romans 13:8)
5. Work diligently (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
6. Establish God's priorities in your life (Haggai 1:9)
7. Choose a good name rather than riches (Proverbs 22:1)
8. Learn contentment (Philippians 4:11-12)
9. Pay your bills (Romans 13:7)

#### **God's four purposes for money**

1. To provide basic needs
2. To confirm direction
3. To enable you to give to others
4. To illustrate His power in your life

What is a *tithe*? A tithe is 10% of your total increase.

This question is often asked: "Isn't the tithe a part of the Old Testament law and therefore not required of New Testament believers?"

The tithe is older than the law. Abraham paid tithes

to Melchizedek hundreds of years before the law was given to Moses (Hebrews 7:6). He did this out of his free will. It was not a command of God. Clearly, The Law, established the tithe as a command of God.

What was the purpose of tithing?

- To support God's Temple System (Malachi 3:8)
- To learn to fear the Lord (Deuteronomy 14:22-23)
- What is an "offering"? An offering is anything given over and above the tithe.

So what about now? Is the tithe still required by God? No. Here is why.

Jesus fulfilled the Law. No other requirement of the Law is still binding upon us under Christ. There is no New Testament "Temple System" established for our tithe to support. Jesus' teaching on money raises the bar much higher than a tithe and directs our giving to people not an organized religious system.

### **What does Jesus teach about giving?**

Matt 6:2 – give to the poor quietly and not to be seen by men

Luke 11:40-42 – Giving starts with giving ourselves first.

Luke 12:32-34 – Jesus tells us to sell everything and give to the poor because we have been gladly given the kingdom. Our heart will be where our treasure is.

Matthew 6:19-24 – We should not lay up treasure on earth. Our money should be used to build the kingdom. How we use it determines whom we serve. We can only serve one master – God or money.

Matthew 6:25-34 – Cure anxiety by being content with what you have and focus on God’s Kingdom.

Matthew 25:14-30 – Parable of the talents

Luke 16:1-13 – The parable of the unrighteous steward

Luke 18:21-24 – Sell all that you own

Luke 19:11-27 – The parable of the minas

Jesus overturned the tables in the temple because it corrupted what the temple was supposed to be used for – prayer.

Proper teaching on money is to teach people how to give up money to pursue the kingdom. We must learn to be faithful with little things (money) so we will be entrusted with greater spiritual things.

We have enough to build the kingdom if we do not consume it on ourselves. If we all use our time and talent to produce resource for the kingdom we will eventually take control of Satan’s kingdom on earth.

What are some ways you have wasted your money? Make a practical plan to use less money on yourself and more of it on building the kingdom and helping others.

## Day 15 Stewardship

Understanding stewardship is to understand ministry. First let's look at what the word used for steward in the Bible actually means.

the manager of household or of household affairs

1. esp. a steward, manager, superintendent (whether free-born or as was usually the case, a freed-man or a slave) to whom the head of the house or proprietor has intrusted the management of his affairs, the care of receipts and expenditures, and the duty of dealing out the proper portion to every servant and even to the children not yet of age

Rule #1 – Biblical stewards are entrusted with the masters stuff.

Stewardship for God is a privilege not a right. When we prove to be faithful stewards we are given more to steward.

Rule #2 – You can't steward your own stuff.

By definition a steward rules over the affairs of another. The only way to be a steward is to give up your own stuff whether that is your money, time, talents, efforts, etc...

[Luk 12:42 NASB] 42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?"

God is looking for trustworthy stewards. 1Corinthians 4:2

What are some things that God will allow us to steward?

1. The church – Titus 1



2. The mysteries of God - 1Corinthians 4:1
3. Grace Ephesians - 3:3
4. Spiritual gifts – 1 Peter 4:10

The steward cannot choose what he is put in charge of stewarding. 1 Corinthians 9:17.

When we follow Jesus in discipline and sacrifice we will find that He gives us stewardship over His kingdom. This includes the money and possessions He has given us but also and more importantly, it includes spiritual things as well.

Read Luke 16:10-13 – Have you considered that this applies to you? How does this change the way you look at your possessions, spiritual gifts and the grace that has been given to you?

## Day 16 Serving

If we wish to be like Jesus we must adopt the lifestyle of a servant. Jesus lived to serve others.

[Mat 20:28 NASB] - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

The first priority is checking our motivation for serving. It must not be out of a motivation of duty or personal gain. If we serve in that way we it is equal to serving under the Law. We have been freed from the obligations of the Law so that we can serve in the newness of the Spirit.

[Rom 7:6 NASB] - But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

The motivation for our serving must be from love. As our love for God and people increases so must our desire to serve,

[Jhn 15:13 NASB] - "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

The Christian life is a life of sacrifice and service, When we put aside our old life and seek the life that Jesus came to give us, we find the life of service to God. Though we serve people here on earth we must do it on behalf of God. Serving and walking in the Spirit require us to hear the voice of God. Spiritual service can only be to God. Matthew 4:10

A lifestyle of serving and walking in the Spirit to serve God opens opportunity for evangelism.

Read Ephesians 4:17-24 – Have you set aside your old self and put on the likeness of God.

## **Day 17**

### **Evangelism**

Paul told Timothy to do the work of an evangelist.

[2Ti 4:5 NASB] - But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

An evangelist is a person who brings the Good News of Jesus to others. There are those who have been given a spiritual gift of evangelism (Eph. 4:11) Evangelism is one of the gifts that are given to equip the saints for the works of service.

Some believe and teach that it is these specially gifted people that God designed to preach the Gospel and lead others to salvation. If this were true then what work is this gift doing as it equips others?

There is no question that some are given a special super-natural ability to evangelize. There is also no doubt that all Christians are told to be ready to share the Good News of Jesus with others (1 Peter 3:15)

Are you prepared to share the Gospel? Here are some tips for new evangelists

- Start with prayer
- Be natural and relaxed
- If possible, have a silent prayer partner
- Be sensitive to any questions that are asked
- Close well
- Re-state the basics of the Gospel

#### **Five Main Points of the Gospel:**

- a. He is a sinner (Romans 3:23).
- b. He is lost without Christ and needs to be saved (Romans 6:23).

- c. Christ died for his sins (Romans 5:8).
- d. He must receive Christ by faith (John 1:12).
- e. He must trust Christ alone for his salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).

It is your responsibility to be prepared to share the Gospel. Take some time to prepare yourself today.

## Day 18 Setting Captives Free

[Isa 61:1 NASB] - The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the  
afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To  
proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners;

When we serve God we are committing to do more than make converts. We are proclaiming freedom. The passage above was claimed by Jesus as being fulfilled in Him. See Luke 4. Jesus came to set captives free. He died so they could be free. He rose from the dead to prove He had the power to free them. If this is what Jesus came to do then we should join Him in that work.

Preaching the Gospel Isaiah 61 style -  
to the afflicted, broke hearted. captive and prisoners.

Afflicted - Poor and Oppressed

Broken Hearted - Desperate or broken

Captives - Those led astray or taken captive by vain philosophies or false religion. See Col. 2:8

Prisoners – As of Sin See Romans 7:23

We - present the Good News, Bind Up and Proclaim freedom  
These things are the Gospel, Healing and a “Call Out” to freedom.

When someone responds to our preaching, our responsibility does not end. We must walk with them to maturity.

- For the afflicted, we meet their needs and stand with them in their afflictions.
- For the brokenhearted, we must care for and help heal their pain and desperation.
- For the captive, we teach God's design for the church and

life.

- For the prisoner, we deliver them from demonic attack and teach them to overcome sin through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All of these require discipleship as our response to their decision to follow Christ.

God has given us the tools to set captives free. Prepare yourself for this work.

## Day 19 What is a disciple

[Mat 28:18-20 NASB] - And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "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 the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

We have been commanded to make disciples. We cannot make something if we don't know what it is. So what does the word mean? The word most often used is *mathētēs* and our modern definition is a learner, pupil, disciple

Easton's dictionary - A disciple of Christ is one who (1) believes his doctrine, (2) rests on his sacrifice, (3) imbibes his spirit, and (4) imitates his example

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia - In the widest sense it refers to those who accept the teachings of anyone, not only in belief but in life.

Before we can make disciples there are a couple of things we must know. First - am I a Disciple? Without a clear definition of what a disciple is, we will never know how to make one or if we have been obedient to Christ by becoming one. What is the best place to go to define what Jesus wants us to be making?

Why don't we look to Jesus? He has defined what a disciple is. If we embrace what He defines as a disciple, and we live according to His instruction, then we will have a life example to show those who we are trying to "make disciples".

[Luk 14:26 NASB] "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and



sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

[Luk 14:27 NASB] "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

[Mat 16:24 NASB] Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

[Luk 14:33 NASB] "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

[Jhn 13:35 NASB] "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 8:31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine;

[Mat 10:24 NASB] "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.

[Mat 10:25 NASB] "It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household!

[Mat 10:1 NASB] Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

John 15:8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

My summary definition of a Disciple is one who embraces the Gospel that Jesus preached and dedicates all that they have to live

a life dedicated to living by God's design.

Are you a disciple? Remember this rule – You teach what you know but you reproduce what you are.

## Day 20 The Great Commission

The Great Commission that was given by Jesus is recorded in Matthew 28:18-20. It has been regarded throughout history as the main directive for every Christian. God wants us to make disciples. More than that, He wants us to teach them to make disciples too.

The Great Commission has been historically and universally accepted as the most comprehensive statement in the Scriptures concerning the mission of the Christ follower.

**The question is, “Do you agree that it is?”**

Do you agree that the Great Commission *is* the mission of the Christ follower?

Do you believe it is as relevant today as it was in the days in which He spoke it to the eleven?

If we really believe the Great Commission is the mission given to the Christ follower by our Lord and Savior, and if we believe it was not an option but a command, then we must commit ourselves to know it, understand it, own it, preach it, live it, and above all *do* it. Anything less dishonors it and the One who gave it.

If you are intentionally fulfilling the Great Commission by multiplying disciples who multiply disciples, you are doing what God is doing.

If you are not intentionally fulfilling the Great Commission by multiplying disciples who multiply disciples, you are doing something *other* than the work God is doing right now.

Every Christian should have a plan to make disciples. Do you have yours?

[www.sunministries.org](http://www.sunministries.org)

terry@sunministries.org

## **Day 21**

### **Making Disciples**

As Jesus began His public ministry of preaching, He began to call disciples (Matthew 4:17-22). These verses show us a clear distinction between Jesus' preaching ministry (verse 17) and His making of disciples (verses 18-22). Jesus had a closer, more personal relationship with His disciples than He did with the multitudes that gathered to hear Him preach. The multitudes came to hear Him preach; the disciples walked with Him.

**Matthew 4:23 and 9:35-37 show us that Jesus did three things in His public ministry:**

1. He taught in the synagogues.
2. He preached the "Gospel of the Kingdom."
3. He healed every sickness and disease.

**As He ministered, Jesus saw three things about the multitudes:**

1. He saw that they were weary (no passion or strength).
2. He saw that they were scattered (directionless).
3. He saw that they were like sheep with no shepherd (leaderless).

Jesus felt a compassion for the people that motivated (compelled) Him to action. To reach them, He reproduced Himself by making and sending disciples (Matthew 9:36-10:1).

**Jesus had a special relationship with His disciples.**

The Bible shows us several differences in the relationship Jesus had with His disciples and the one He had with the multitudes:

1. He called and chose the disciples personally (Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 6:13; John 1:42-43).
2. He taught them on a deeper level (Matthew 13:11).
3. He gave them power (authority) for ministry (Matthew 10:1).
4. He sent them out for specific ministry (Matthew 10:5).

5. He gave them special instructions for that ministry (Matthew 10:5-42).
6. He gave them authority to baptize (John 4:1-2).
7. He called them to a deeper level of commitment (Matthew 16:24-27; John 6:60-69).
8. He gave them the keys to the kingdom (Matthew 16:19).
9. He showed them His glory (Matthew 17:1-9).
10. He baptized them with His Holy Spirit (Acts 2).

Review your disciple making plan and see if you are making disciples like Jesus did.

## **Day 22**

### **The 4 soils**

The parable of the Sower is found in 3 of the Gospels. In Mark 4 Jesus asks the disciples how they will understand the other parables if they don't understand this one. It is quite obvious that Jesus is saying that this parable is a foundational teaching.

This parable describes the people of the world and how they relate to the word of God. Some have tried to explain this as the 4 ways we each can interact with God's word at different points in our life. I do not see anyplace in any rendering that suggests anything other than 4 types of people reacting differently to the Gospel. To see it any other way is out of context and avoids the hard truth of this foundational teaching.

The characters of the parable.

The Sower – the one who preaches the Gospel

The Seed – the Word of God

The Birds – Satan snatching away the Word

The 4 soils – the hearts of men

The truth of the parable is that there are 4 kinds of people in the world as determined by how they react to the Word of God.

Read the parable in Mark 4 and determine which soil you are now and which one you desire to be. What must be done to change your soil?

**Day 23**  
**Be Wise – avoiding fruitlessness**

Many times people spend their time doing things they think are beneficial to God. Many times this approach produces very little, if any fruitfulness. In order to take our place as 4<sup>th</sup> soil we must be wise about how we spend our time. Many people will seek to get something from you other than Jesus. The only thing of eternal value we have to offer someone is what Jesus has given us.

There are some keys to avoiding fruitlessness. First and foremost is to remember that God doesn't need anything from you. He is complete. Our relationship with Him is a privilege we didn't earn. Our partnership with Him in ministry is a stewardship. Read the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. Jesus has given you spiritual gifts. We are to use them to increase His kingdom.

How do we avoid fruitlessness? We must be intentional in preparing for the works of service. God has given us 5 gifts to help equip us. When we present the Gospel and someone accepts it, we must test their resolve. Any true response to Christ will result in action. We must observe behavior. A disciple that is consumed with the things of the world will not produce fruit.

Our job is to make disciple and teach them to make disciples. We should spend our time where that is happening.

How have you done with the “talents” Jesus gave to you? What will be His response upon His return?



## **Day 24**

### **Using Assessments**

We have developed 5 assessments to aid in making disciples. This is not a formula for disciple making. Look at these as gardening tools to help make the soil more fruitful. Each assessment is designed to give you insight and direction to make your time in discipleship more productive.

The first is a basic doctrine assessment. We can guess what our new disciple believes about God or we can ask. The answers will help you direct your teaching to where it is needed. Good doctrine is the beginning of a good foundation.

The next is a belief assessment. This one identifies false views of God's character and how He interacts with us.

We also have one to identify obstacles and set goals.

As our disciples prove faithful and are equipped we have a readiness inventory. This identifies gaps in their preparation and experiences that may slow them down or hinder fruitfulness.

The last one is an audit of Core Values. Our core values will determine where we spend our resources. If our core values don't align with God then our ministry will struggle.

You should fill out all of the assessments and learn how to use them with the person that is discipling you. They are invaluable tools for the disciple maker.

## Day 25

### Strongholds of the mind and emotions

[2Co 10:4 NLT] - We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.

Strong's G3794 - anything on which one relies

1. of the arguments and reasonings by which a disputant endeavors to fortify his opinion and defend it against his opponent

Strongholds are every thought raised up against the word of God. It is how Satan defends his position in your life. If the Word of God says to do something - the stronghold convinces you not to do it. The thoughts that rise up then rationalize your decision to keep doing what you have been doing.

Strongholds are based in our minds. They are lies. The lies can oppose any truth of God's Word. Once we accept these lies, Satan looks for ways to lock them in place. Many times he uses our emotions to do that. Abuse, neglect or trauma can reinforce the lies of the devil in our minds. To break the stronghold we must allow Jesus to heal our pain.

The Gospel is designed to forgive our sin. Remove our guilt and heal our pain. We must allow that to happen. It is our will that prevents our freedom. The Gospel guarantees our freedom and only our will, our decisions to defend lies, prevent our freedom.

We must humble ourselves and submit to God in order to break the strongholds of Satan in our lives. Jesus has already provided the way to freedom. The only thing blocking that way is our will.

Ask God to reveal Satan's strongholds in your life and write them down.

## **Day 26**

### **Renewing the mind**

Each disciple must humble themselves and submit to God. This is where healing and freedom begin. The process of discipleship is one of assisting people to freedom. We do this through the use of our spiritual gifts.

[Rom 12:2 NASB] - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

The renewing of our mind is how we prove that God is right and His will is perfect. This is a process of overcoming the lies of the devil and replacing them with the truth of God's Word.

[2Co 10:5 NASB] - We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

The quickest way to renew the mind is being in agreement with God's Word. This requires us to know God's word. When a disciple refuses to accept the truth of God's word then we can only pray for them. To continue to teach other things will simply leave them bound. Your disciples must have a willingness to believe and obey God. This is proven by how they accept and obey God's Word.

Do not hesitate to test your disciples in this area. It is a very big deal to disobey or disregard God in even very small things.

Are there any areas where you need to obey God?

## **Day 27**

### **Healing shame and guilt**

Our Gospel must be complete in order to fulfill our calling. In America we deal with sin in our Gospel. We preach the forgiveness of our sins and salvation in exchange for our belief and faith. This is a true and incomplete Gospel. There are two other aspects of the Gospel that are needed to complete it.

When we look at the original sin of Adam and Eve we see that they were not sorry for their disobedience - they were afraid due to their nakedness - shame! His actions of disobedience brought a realization of his shame for his immediate past. What were the results of this sin?

Shame and a realization of their nakedness - v. 10

Spiritual warfare between man and Satan - v. 15

Pain and envy for woman - v. 16

Toilsome labor for man to survive - v. 19

God covered their shame (nakedness) with clothes - v. 21

The path to redemption from this curse went through the Law which is also a curse - Galatians 3 - Jesus came to redeem us from the curse and this will be fulfilled in the end. What part of the curse are we redeemed from now?

When we put on Christ (Romans 13-14) we are clothed in righteousness and not the skins of animals. The Law no longer gives us the ability to look past our shame but rather our shame is removed through the Spirit.

Psalm 69 and 89 - Jesus bore our shame

Isaiah 54 - the descendants of Sarah will forget the shame of their youth and resettle the desolate cities

Isaiah 61:7 - instead of shame they will get a double portion

Ezekiel 44:13 - Outer Court ministers still bear shame and defilement and are cut off from the most holy things. They have not been cleansed of their past shame and guilt.

When we preach an incomplete Gospel we leave people feeling like the forgiveness of their sins is the desired result. It is only a partial truth. The desired result is a forgiveness of our sins, removal of the curse and removal of our shame.

If you have accepted this forgiveness and cleansing it should leave us free from guilt. Guilt prevents us from using one of our most powerful tools – our testimony. Taking on the mind of Christ allows us to view our past sin, shame and guilt as Jesus does. Jesus see us through the benefit of His sacrificial death and resurrection.

Don't let guilt and shame prevent your fruitfulness Ask God to give you the mind of Christ in this area.

Do you still have guilt or shame from your past? Ask God to remove your guilt and heal your pain. Do this every day until they are gone.

## **Day 28**

### **Tearing down personal strongholds**

After leading your disciple through the assessments we must lead them through tearing down the strongholds that are identified. This process involves dealing with roots sins and their reinforcing areas.

These sins are used to plant lies in our lives and then to reinforce them in our thinking either through us or through others. There are 6 ways these sins are used to build strongholds in our lives.

1. Doctrine – Lies about God, Man, sin, redemption and the purpose of creation.
2. God's Character – Lies about how God interacts with us and the creation.
3. The Church – Unbiblical practices
4. Pain – Lies are reinforced through painful experiences.
5. Love – Lies reinforce distorted understanding of unconditional love and build in us transactional relationships.
6. Conditioning – Unmet and over met needs are used to distort our view of self and relationships.

In order to set captives free we must take an intentional approach to how Satan has them bound. If we spend time in random studies and activities we risk leaving them bound and hardening their hearts to the idea of freedom in Christ. If they are led to believe that those activities will bring freedom then when they fail to do so they may view Christ as insufficient.

Some people are hesitant to take such a direct approach to ministry. We are all better off if we identify Satan's strongholds as quickly as possible. Then the disciple is left understanding how they are bound and how to get free. If they fail to do that, it is on

them and not Jesus.

Ask for God's wisdom to discover the strogolds in you and your disciples.



## **Day 29**

### **Multiplying Disciples**

[2Ti 2:2 NASB] - The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

The command of the Great Commission is not a command to just make disciples. It is a command to multiply disciples. Paul expresses this idea to Timothy in the verse cited above. If we follow the instructions of the Great Commission we will teach them to obey all that Jesus commanded. This includes the Great Commission itself.

We should start early in discipleship to lay the foundation of future disciple making. Every disciple should be learning as they go so they will be able to reproduce what they are going through in the life of another. If we are faithful to teach this from the beginning we will see our fruitfulness multiply with our disciple's fruitfulness.

Do you have a plan to pass on what you have learned? Review your plan and be open to modifying it as you learn.

**Day 30**  
**Working to the fourth Generation**

**Intentionally Reproduce to the 4<sup>th</sup> Generation**

What is the fourth generation?

The fourth generation is **when your disciple's disciple is making a disciple!**

You

First generation

Your Disciple

Second Generation

Your Disciple's Disciple  
Generation

Third

Your Disciple's Disciple's Disciple  
Generation

Fourth

Continue to work closely with your disciple until the 4<sup>th</sup> generation.

**What is so special about the fourth generation?**

God is always working beyond our time, our circumstances, and our place.

Genesis 18:17-19 “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord...so that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”

God chose Abraham for the express purpose of working in him through many generations. God knew Abraham would be faithful to begin that process by commanding his children and his household *after him* to keep the way of the Lord.

When you work to the fourth generation you will learn to make a disciple, teach a disciple to make a disciple, and coach your disciples through the process of reproduction. Four generations are required in order to teach and learn what we need to know and do to fulfill the Great Commission.

## **Day 31**

### **Gathering the Church**

It is important to understand that we must gather together as the church in order to fulfill God's purposes. One of God's purposes is to declare His glory. It is also one job of the church.

[Eph 3:10 NASB] 10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

God began putting all things back under His kingdom by first putting Christ over the church.

[Eph 1:22 NASB] 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

[Col 1:18 NASB] 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

We fail to fulfill our purposes if we preach the Gospel and make converts but fail to make disciples. We fail to fulfill our purposes if we make disciples but fail to multiply disciples. We fail in our purposes if we multiply disciples and fail to gather the church.

The church is the goal of the Gospel. It is the church that will be called up to heaven. It is the church that will live forever in heaven. It is the church that will be united with Christ at the marriage supper of the lamb. Without the church, God's purposes go unfulfilled.

Learn to gather the disciples into churches.

## **Day 32**

### **Doing church God's way**

The Bible contains detailed instructions for how to do church. It speaks of elders, deacons, leadership and operations. It gives instruction on spiritual gifts, communion, baptism, laying on of hand and prayer. There is no lack of instruction for doing church.

The Edict of Milan was granted by Emperor Constantine the Great in the West and Licinius Augustus in the East in 313 granting religious freedom throughout the Roman Empire. Prior to the Edict of Milan the Christian movement was illegal.

#### **The Apostolic Church was an *illegal* church.**

- Its style was a product of its illegal status.
- It was not accepted by the government because of the substance of its message and its life.
- The substance of the church - not the style - was a direct threat to the government's ability to control the people.
- Its style developed around the rejection by the government.
- In the 4th century the church was declared *legal* by the Roman Emperor Constantine.
- The style of the church changed to accommodate its status.
- The new style diminished the substance of its message.

#### **Effects – Immediate**

The immediate effects on the church were visible.

- An institution was formed to govern and control it
- It became legal
- It owned property

- It gained support of the government
- It hired clergy to run it
- It became centered in the society
- It relied on councils to set doctrine
- It gained a governing structure that resembled Roman politics more than the leadership outlined in Scripture

### **Long-term effects**

The long-term effects on the church were more subtle

- It became a political power that could be controlled through the leadership
- It lowered the requirement to participate in church, mixing unbelievers in the worship service
- It was used as a tool to subjugate entire cultures through forced conversions and baptisms
- It set up leadership as an office instead of allowing gifts to lead the church
- It formalized and standardized much of the worship service and function of the church

In effect the visible expression of the church changed greatly over a short time. It changed from organic movement of spirit filled people to an organization designed to control doctrine and practice. What you see most commonly today is a church formed out of the effects of the Edict of Milan not the instructions found in the Bible.

We must always seek to obey God's instructions, especially when it comes to something as sacred to Him as the church.

List the church structures and practices you have experienced or been involved with that are not in the Bible.

## **Day 33**

### **Unbelievers in the church**

#### **Believers and Unbelievers**

We have already discussed God's reason for creation and the need for disciple making. In order to fulfill God's purpose and declare His glory we must follow His plan. After the fall of man through Adam and Eve, God revealed His plan for redemption. God would make a way for His Glorious image to be restored to corrupted mankind. This plan would include the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ through which man can have the Spirit of God restored to him. As we have already studied, once this is done then man can declare God's glory by obeying God and walking in the works that God ordained for him before the foundation of the world. (Ephesians 2:10)

Until this spiritual transaction takes place between man and God, man is considered to be an enemy of God. (Romans 5:8-10) As an enemy of God we live in a state of separation from God's forgiveness and if we remain in that state we will spend eternity separated from God. This is the reality of man's condition. The unregenerate deny the very thing the church is designed to proclaim – that God is God!

Is there more to our condition and the plan for our redemption than just our own personal story? The Bible communicates clearly the idea of God's redeemed being set apart from the rest of mankind. The wording used in the Old Testament is a Holy People, a Holy Nation, Set Apart. In the New Testament it is Separate, A Royal Priesthood, Chosen. The idea of being a peculiar people set apart from other people is clearly communicated. In the 2000 years since Christ rose from the dead, this idea of being separate from the world has been diminished by the way in which the church operates.

There is one problem above all that must be fixed before God's

church is what He intended it to be. The church must close its doors to unbelievers and cleanse the assembly. Until the assembly is cleansed, the corrections to the structure of the church will only be superficial. No change in style or structure will produce a sacred assembly. The only way to have a sacred and holy assembly is to only allow those who possess the Spirit of God to partake of it.



## **Day 34**

### **Functioning as the church**

The church is designed by God to be a collection of redeemed people that are supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is only made up of those who have joined with Christ in His sacrifice and have had the Holy Spirit restored to them.

It is designed to function in the physical and spiritual realms. It is to fulfill the covenant of Adam and retake its rightful place being fruitful, multiplying, subduing, stewarding and ruling over all of God's creation.

This requires the church to operate by God's design. If it fails to do this, it will fail to be fruitful in God's eyes. The functioning of the church does not require an institution or denomination. It does not require paid staff or fancy programming and buildings. It requires the Holy Spirit.

We must throw off the corruptions of man and return to the supernatural aspects of our faith. We must rediscover a church that functions in the power of the Holy Spirit. The only place we will find that is in the Bible.

The modern methods of doing church have turned the congregation into passive participants. God designed each of us to be active through our spiritual gift during the church's worship gathering.

We must lead our disciples to discover and use their spiritual gifts. This is the only way we will rediscover the church that God designed.

Read 1 Corinthians 12. Does this describe the church you see at work today?

## **Day 35**

### **Tithe – money in the church**

What is a *tithe*? A tithe is 10% of your total increase.

This question is often asked: “Isn’t the tithe a part of the Old Testament law and therefore not required of New Testament believers?”

The tithe is older than the law. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek hundreds of years before the law was given to Moses (Hebrews 7:6). He did this out of his free will. It was not a command of God. Clearly, The Law, established the tithe as a command of God.

What was the purpose of tithing?

- To support God’s Temple System (Malachi 3:8)
- To learn to fear the Lord (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)
- What is an “offering”? An offering is anything given over and above the tithe.

So what about now? Is the tithe still required by God? No. Here is why.

Jesus fulfilled the Law. No other requirement of the Law is still binding upon us under Christ.

There is no New Testament “Temple System” established by which we would tithe to support.

Jesus' teaching on money raises the bar much higher than a tithe and directs our giving to people not an organized religious system.

What distortion does the teaching of the tithe create.

It builds a co-dependency that keeps people bound in a transactional relationship. The church seeks tithe so it can grow itself. Some people offer tithes out of duty or even guilt. Some people attend churches where the services appeal to them. When it does they offer money. When it does not then they leave. The church uses tithes to appeal to more people. They track tithe as an indicator of spiritual commitment and maturity. In many cases, only regular tithers can participate in leadership.

Is the willingness to give 10% of your wealth an indicator of spiritual maturity? Jesus asks us to surrender all to Him. Why would 10% indicate we are now understanding His Gospel and fully mature?

How we handle our money does indicate our maturity. In Mark 12:41-44 Jesus makes an example to the disciples when a poor woman offers all she has. He says this is a greater gift than the riches that come from abundance.

The proper use of giving today is to meet the needs of others in the church, support those physically that minister to you spiritually and to help the poor.

## **Day 36**

### **Pastoring the Community**

God's agenda is to bless the world and make His ways known! This is how He plans to draw people to Himself to be saved. The glory of God is the most powerful tool to reveal himself to the world. His people living sacrificially by His design is the vehicle He has chosen to reveal His Glory. This is what the church is meant to be.

The modern church focuses heavily on the preaching of the "right Gospel". They even violate the sanctity of the worship gathering in order to draw unbelievers to hear this right Gospel. The Bible puts the focus on right living, obedience and rest. The Gospel will flow naturally from a group of people dedicated to living by God's design.

If our ministry is in harmony with God's redemptive purposes, then it will embrace the same Divine focus. It will be a blessing to our community and the world and show them His ways. We will live by His design, building the church as we manifest Isaiah 61 to the world. As we discipline ourselves, sanctify ourselves and prepare ourselves to share the Gospel at any time, we will find rest and God will grow the church.

Too often, we as Christians, place our attention, time, resources, energy, dreams, gifts, and hopes on doing things the way we have been taught by the traditional church or the way we see society doing things. We have fallen into this trap. We have let others define us. We have let the physical realities of our ministry define us.

When that is so, we face the danger that our focus will be on ourselves and our work. We will see the world as something we are supposed to fix instead of living by God's design to be a vehicle to bless our communities and show them God's design

and how to follow God's ways. When we embrace God's redemptive plan and agenda to bless our communities and show them His glory and ways, our focus will be outward rather than inward.

List some ways you and your disciples can bless your community.

## **Day 37**

### **Learning to function in the spirit realm**

Christian orthodoxy accepts the reality of the invisible created realm. There is an aspect of creation, which is inaccessible to the natural abilities, and faculties of human beings. Some call it the spiritual realm.

Our objective in this lesson is to increase our awareness of the spiritual realm, the unseen yet powerful aspect of creation. We do so with the belief that the invisible realm not only affects us as human beings and Disciples of Christ, but that it affects us greatly.

#### **The Natural Realm**

1. The natural realm is the physical creation – the earth and sky (1 Corinthians 15:40-41).
2. The natural realm is ruled by natural laws such as gravity.
3. Time and space confine the natural realm and all of the natural laws related to time and space (Genesis 1:3-5).
4. Man relates to the natural realm through the five natural senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.
5. The natural realm is also known as the realm of the flesh (Romans 5:5).
6. People, animals, and plants inhabit the natural realm.

#### **The Spiritual Realm**

1. The spiritual realm is not a geographic realm (John 18:36).
2. It is outside of time and space, although it can relate to and affect events in the natural realm (2 Corinthians 12:1-4; Luke 2:8-14).
3. The spiritual realm is inhabited by non-physical beings created by God (Ephesians 6:11-12).
4. These beings have powers and positions (Daniel 10:7-14).
5. The spiritual realm is a place of great spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:11-17).

6. The warfare in the spiritual realm involves and affects events and people in the natural realm (2 Kings 6:14-17).
7. The spiritual realm is governed by spiritual laws and is inhabited by spiritual beings such as angels and demons.

### **We are Made for Both Realms**

God made man to live and function in both realms.

1. When God created Adam, He placed him in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15).
2. Adam had fellowship with God in the garden (Genesis 3:8-9).
3. The Garden of Eden was a place where there was access between the spiritual realm and the natural realm.
4. It had both natural and spiritual animals and trees (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1).
5. God spoke directly with Adam in the garden (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:8-9). God entered the garden (Genesis 3:8) and man lived in the garden (Genesis 2:8).
6. God's original intention for man was that he live in the garden where he would have intimate fellowship with his Creator (Genesis 3:8; John 4:23).
7. In creating the man, God designed and equipped him to function in the spiritual realm as well as the natural realm (Genesis 2:15).
8. God's stated purpose in the man was that he would reflect God's invisible image and glory to the visible and invisible creation (Genesis 1:26-27).
9. Through sin man fell short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23) and was cut off from the garden (3:24). Hence, he was cut off from the one place where he had open access to the spiritual realm.
10. Through Christ God has restored man to the realm of the Spirit in such a way as to enable him to function in it (Romans 8:9).

## Day 38 Spiritual gifts

### **What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are spiritual enablements and inclinations given to Christians. What is the purpose for the gifts of the Spirit? The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to:

1. Reveal the Lord Jesus Christ to the world and to the Church.
2. Equip every Christian to do the work of the ministry.
3. Enable every Christian to know and serve God.

### **Five Reasons People Neglect the Gifts**

1. *Ignorance* – we do not know about the gifts.
2. *Fear* – we are afraid of the gifts.
3. *Pride* – we do not think we need the gifts.
4. *Wrong teaching or traditions* – we have been taught that the gifts are no longer in operation or needed, or we have intellectualized the gifts (*that is, we have reduced the gifts of the Holy Spirit to being an idea or doctrine rather than real gifts which operate*).
5. *Sin* – the presence of unconfessed sin hinders the faith we need to use our spiritual gifts.

### **How Can We Discover Our Spiritual Gifts?**

1. Make sure you are a Christian.
2. Overcome root sins: fear, pride, bitterness, greed, moral impurity.
3. Maintain a clear conscience.
4. Learn to walk in God's grace.
5. Get under godly spiritual authority.
6. Concentrate on serving others.
7. Examine your irritations (the things that easily bother you).
8. Determine what excites you and what you enjoy.
9. Ask God to show you your gifts.



10. Learn about spiritual gifts and how to use them.
11. Allow others to affirm your gifts.

**Some general truths about spiritual gifts:**

1. Every Christian has spiritual gifts.
2. 25-30 gifts are mentioned in Scripture.
3. Some are listed; some are illustrated.
4. Every Christian has a spiritual gift *mix* – 2 or 3 dominant gifts.
5. Spiritual gifts are good (1 Corinthians 12:7).
6. We should not be ignorant but understanding about our gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1).
7. We are responsible for the development and proper use of our gifts (1 Corinthians 14:32-33).

Make a list of the spiritual gifts you think you have. Find them in the Bible and cite the verses next to each.

## Day 39 Ministry Gifts

### What are the Ministry Gifts?

Ministry gifts minister to (*or serve*) the body and its members in specific ways. In a general sense, all the spiritual gifts are ministry gifts.

Often, a manifestation gift can develop into a ministry gift as a member faithfully operates in his or her gift. The church will begin to look to that member for that ministry in given situations. Because of this, it is difficult to determine with certainty the actual number of ministry gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:28 mentions some of the ministry gifts including the apostolic gift, prophetic gift, teaching gift, miracles, gifts of healings, helps, governments, and diversities of tongues. We can also see examples of four other ministry gifts: craftsmanship, intercession, hospitality, and music.

### **The Ministry Gifts**

1. The gift of *helps* enables certain disciples to come alongside those in leadership positions and free them to focus on priority items by completing tasks and providing services or things for them (Acts 6:2-4).
2. The gift of *administration* enables some disciples to help meet need by either collecting or distributing of charities (1Cor 12:5).
3. The gift of *hospitality* enables some disciples to open their homes and offer lodging, food, and fellowship to other people (Genesis 18:1-15).
4. The gift of *craftsmanship* enables some disciples to use their hands and minds artistically, creatively and skillfully to serve the church (Exodus 28:3-4; 31:1-5; 35:31-35).
5. The gift of *intercession* enables some disciples to pray for extended periods of time with great positive results (Exodus 33:12-17; Daniel 10:1-12).

6. The gift of *music* enables some disciples to praise God through various forms of music and arts (drama, dance, poetry) to enhance the worship experience of the local church (1 Chronicles 15; 1 Corinthians 14:26).

## **Day 40**

### **Manifestation Gifts**

The manifestation gifts are supernatural enablements (*an enablement is something that gives us desire and power*) given to every disciple for the purpose of ministering to the body of Christ as a whole and to individuals in particular. They are called manifestation gifts because they *manifest (or demonstrate)* the presence, power, and purity of Christ as they are exercised. These gifts are described as being the “manifestation of the Spirit.” Their operation openly manifests the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the church. They are given to every disciple to profit him (1 Corinthians 12:7). The gifts are profitable (that is, we gain spiritual things as a result of their practice in the church). The manifestation gifts equip the disciple to take an active part in the body ministry of the church.

#### **How does the Holy Spirit give the Manifestation Gifts? (1 Corinthians)**

- (12:7, 13) All who are baptized with the Holy Spirit are given gifts.
- (12:8-10) Not all members receive the same gifts.
- (12:11) The gifts are distributed by the will of the Holy Spirit.
- (12:12-30) The gifts are given for balance and unity that there might be no division in the body.
- (12:22-25) Through the distribution of the gifts God bestows more abundant honor on those members who seem to be more feeble (*or weak*).
- (12:25) The gifts are given to enable the members to care for and love one another.
- (12:31, 39) The disciple is to covet (*or zealously desire*) the best gifts. This strongly indicates that receiving the gifts involves faith and desire.

- (14:31) Every disciple may have the gift of prophecy.

### **Categories for the Manifestation Gifts**

#### A. Gifts of utterance – these say something:

11. Prophecy
12. Various kinds of tongues
13. Interpretation of tongues

#### B. Gifts of power – these do something:

1. Faith
2. Gifts of healings
3. Effecting (or working) of miracles

#### C. Gifts of revelation – these reveal something:

1. Word of wisdom
2. Word of knowledge
3. Discerning (or distinguishing) of spirits

### **Gifts of Utterance**

1. The gift of *prophecy* is a supernatural utterance in a known tongue (or language).
2. The gift of *tongues* is a supernatural utterance in an unknown tongue (or language).
3. The gift of *interpretation of tongues* is a supernatural showing forth of that which was spoken in an unknown tongue.

### **Gifts of Power**

1. The gift of *faith* is a supernatural faith for answered prayer.
2. The gift of *working of miracles* is a supernatural enablement to perform miracles. A miracle is an event or action that supersedes or contradicts known natural and physical laws.

3. The *gifts of healing* are supernatural enablements to heal sickness and disease.

### **Gifts of Revelation**

1. The gift of a *word of wisdom* is a supernatural revelation of God's purposes and will in specific situations.
2. The gift of a *word of knowledge* is a supernatural revelation of specific facts that are not known through natural human faculties.
3. The gift of *discerning of spirits* is a supernatural insight into the realm and power of spirits.

## Day 41 Leadership Gifts

*What are the leadership gifts?*

- Apostle
- Prophet
- Evangelist
- Pastor
- Teacher

The leadership gifts are ministry gifts recognized by the church as having spiritual authority through their use of the Word of God in their ministries. They are listed in Ephesians 4:11.

**Each of the five gifts serves the church in a unique way:**

- The *apostle* gift gives foundational and corrective leadership.
- The *prophet* gift calls the churches to do God's will.
- The *evangelist* gift brings new members into the churches by winning them to Christ.
- The *pastor* gift oversees the local church and cares for the individual members.
- The *teacher* gift instructs and discipulates the churches and members.

The pastor and teacher gifts are often linked.

### **The Leadership Gift Mix**

The five gifts listed in Ephesians 4 become leadership functions when mixed with the leadership gift. When the leadership gift is present, the ministry gift functions to lead the church.

### **The Distinction between an *Office* and a *Function***

1. Office – An office is an official position. The emphasis on the office is on the title and identity of the office-holder.
2. Function – A function is an operational activity –

- something that is done. The emphasis on the functioning of a gift is on what action it performs in the body.
3. The leadership gifts are functions, not offices.
  4. The significance of this distinction is how we prepare people for ministry.
  5. We should be looking to discover and develop the functioning of the pastor/shepherd gift rather than filling the office of pastor. Do our training programs develop and release the gift or do they seek to fill the office?

**Each of the five leadership gifts** leads through their ministry in the Word. They will each “see” the Word differently:

1. Apostle – foundational, corporate, kingdom pictures
2. Prophet – specific revelations of God’s will
3. Evangelist – gospel pictures and messages
4. Pastor – personal growth and care
5. Teacher – “how to” lists, concepts, and information



## Day 42 Spiritual warfare

The Spiritual battle is a battle for dominion over God's creation. The original intent of man was for him to steward and rule over God's creation - see Genesis 1:26-28. Man gave his rule to Satan when he ate of the forbidden fruit. He chose to seek his own self over obeying God.

**Biblical principle #1** - What or who you obey will rule over you.

Adam chose to obey Satan and Satan became His ruler. All of Adam's authority that had been entrusted to him under God's care was now transferred to Satan. Satan became the "God of this world" see 2 Corinthians 4:4.

All of creation came under a curse. See Genesis 3 and Isaiah 24. Adam and Eve were cursed, Satan was cursed. The ground was cursed. All of creation felt the result of the transfer of authority. Paradise was lost.

God is not willing to let His enemies rule His creation forever. He has a plan to redeem what was lost and put man back in his rightful position. Authority must be regained and man must choose to come back under God's rule so his place and stewardship can be restored to him. The battle is set. The arena is the spirit realm. The battle is fought in the mind and victory is played out in all of creation. God is the commander of one army and Satan is the commander of the other. We must take a moment to understand that the victory has already been determined. God has declared to win this war. Satan is defeated and will suffer his loss in full at the end of the age. So what are we battling for now?

So today we see two kingdoms and work in the world. The kingdom of darkness and the Kingdom of Jesus. Both have a ruler. The ruler you obey is the one that will have authority over

you. See Romans 6:16. Now for the tricky part. We are all born into Satan's kingdom because we are all offspring of Adam. The same goes for our children. We are transferred from Satan's kingdom to the Kingdom of light, or of Jesus, when we accept by faith that Jesus is our only possible Savior and that He died for our sins and God raised Him from the dead. This is the spiritual transaction commonly referred to as salvation. What happens at the "moment of salvation"? We can see in Col. 1 that a transfer takes place. Not by our own effort or works but by God's power. Eph. 2:8+9 Our names are secured in the Book of Life. See Rev. 3:5. The Holy Spirit of God comes to once again dwell with us and in us as a deposit from God that guarantees our salvation. Eph 1:13+14.

## Day 43 Corporate spiritual warfare

### Read Isaiah 58

According to this passage there was something very wrong with the church – Israel. This is a very condemning passage. Do you see any similarities to the modern church? What should we do?

Daniel 9 - Daniel's reaction to finding something in Jeremiah's writings. When He discovered that God's people were under God's curse, he acted.

Daniel's example - So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek *Him* by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.

Look at the chapter and see how Daniel prayed. See what He prayed for and what he confessed. I think we also have seen from God's word that His people are under God's curse. Ezekiel 44 shows us that some of God's people are under the curse of the outer court. We need to act as Daniel's on behalf of God's name. We need to act as Daniel did to plead with God to forgive and to act on account of His holy name to restore the church and His people. We need to ask God to restore His cities for His name's sake.

Pray that God would forgive us individually for our sins. Pray that God would forgive us as His people for our sins. Acknowledge that His people have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from His commandments and ordinances and that His church is a reproach among the people. Acknowledge that the leaders have ignored the words of the prophets and have led the people astray. Acknowledge that His people have turned aside and have not followed His voice and a

curse has been poured out on them. This curse is described in Ezekiel 44 as the curse of Abiathar's priesthood. Ask God to take away the reproach of His people.

Daniel asked - "So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servants and to our supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary."

## Day 44

### Individual **spiritual warfare**

#### **Preparing for Spiritual Warfare**

1. Be in a right relationship with God:
2. Confess all known sins (1 John 1:8-10):
  - Use Galatians 5:19-21.
3. Seek deliverance for root sins:
  - Fear (Romans 8:15; 2 Timothy 1:7).
  - Bitterness (Ephesians 4:31; Hebrews 12:15).
  - Pride (Proverbs 16:18; Isaiah 14:12-17).
  - Lust (Matthew 5:28; Galatians 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:6).
  - Greed (1 Timothy 6:10).
4. Be under proper spiritual authority:
  - Parents (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3).
  - Employers (Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:22).
  - Governments (Matthew 22:15-22; Romans 13:1-7).
  - Spiritual authorities (Matthew 18:17-18; Ephesians 4:11).
5. Make restitution (Exodus 22:1-3; Luke 19:1-10).
6. Fast (Daniel 10:3; Matthew 4:1-2).
7. Put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20).

**Spiritual Weapons:** The Holy Spirit has given us seven spiritual weapons:

1. The sword of the Spirit (rhemas) (Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:17).
2. Prayer (Matthew 17:14-21; Ephesians 6:18).
3. Fasting (Daniel 10:3; Matthew 4:2; 17:21).
4. Jesus' name (Mark 16:17; John 14:14; Acts 4:12).
5. The blood of Jesus (Colossians 2:14-15; Revelation 12:11).
6. Agreement with others in prayer (Leviticus 26:8; Deuteronomy 32:30; Psalm 91:7; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12;

- John 18:19; Acts 1:14).
7. Praise (2 Chronicles 20:19-22; Psalm 104:33; 108:3; 135:3,21; 138:1; Acts 16:25; Philippians 4:8).

### **How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life**

1. Be committed to prayer.
2. Make quality time for prayer.
3. Set aside regular times for prayer (Psalm 55:17).
4. Pray in a quiet place (Luke 9:18).
5. Have specific prayer targets (institutions, leaders).
6. Meet regularly with others who are gifted to pray.
7. Learn to pray the Word of God.
8. Set aside *seasons* for fasting and prayer.
9. Do things that build up your faith.
10. Maintain a clear conscience.
11. Renewing our minds (Romans 12:1-2).
12. Learning God's priorities (1 John 3:21-22).

### **The Ingredients of a Powerful Prayer Life**

1. Developing faith (Hebrews 11:1, 6)
2. Investing time for prayer (Luke 1:37)
3. Bearing one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
4. Walking in the Spirit (Romans 8:14)
5. Learning the promises of God (2 Peter 1:1-5)
6. Understanding the Word of God (1 John 5:14-15)
7. Understanding the ways of God (Psalm 103:7).
8. A right relationship with your spouse (1 Peter 3:7)
9. Using the name of Jesus (John 14:13; 16:23; Ephesians 5:20)

### **Seven Steps of Prevailing Prayer (Daniel 10:1-15)**

- *Ask* – be specific (Matthew 7:7; Philippians 4:6; James 4:2).
- *Seek* – God's will (Matthew 7:7; James 4:3; 1 John 5:14).
- *Knock* – be intent on prevailing in prayer (Luke 18:1-8).
- *Take up the burden* – Daniel 10:2; Romans 8:26-27).

- **Fast** – abstain from food as you pray (Daniel 10:3; Acts 14:23).
- **Wrestle** – engage the enemy (Daniel 10:1-9; Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:12-18).
- **Warfare** – use spiritual weapons to attack (2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Ephesians 6:11-18; Revelation 12:11).

### **How to Do Spiritual Warfare Praying**

- Prepare by having a right relationship with God and putting on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20; James 4:1-10).
- Begin with worship (2 Chronicles 20:6-13).
- Identify, confess, and renounce any sins, curses, lies, or beliefs that are contrary to God's Word (Daniel 9:3-19), whether personal, generational, or corporate.
- Seek the specific will of God (Matthew 6:10; Acts 4:23-32).
- Pray for any authorities involved in the attack (Romans 13:1-3; 1 Timothy 2:1-4).
- Take authority over any spirits and their work in the name of Jesus (Matthew 10:1; 18:18).
- Pronounce God's blessing on those involved (Genesis 12:2; Numbers 6:23-27; Joshua 8:33; 2 Samuel 7:29; Psalm 29:11; Matthew 5:44).
- Follow up with training for those who need it (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:1).

What areas outlined in this lesson will need your attention? Make a list and dedicate yourself to getting prepared.

**Day 45**  
**The Peter Principle of ministry**

**Follow the 2Peter 1:4-11 Principle of Discipleship in your Ministry**

What is required to have the entrance into the eternal Kingdom supplied to us and to be fruitful and useful?

1. Diligence in our faith
2. Moral Excellence
3. Knowledge
4. Self-control
5. Perseverance
6. Godliness
7. Kindness
8. Love

**What is the P.E.T.E.R. pattern of ministry?**

Provide – Empower – Train – Encourage – Release

Provide – Feed, heal, equip, organize, unite, pray for, and protect (Diligence)

Empower – Delegate tasks to those exhibiting moral excellence (Moral Excellence)

Train – Add knowledge, preach the Gospel, teach the difference between the holy and profane, disciple for self-control. (Knowledge and self control)

Encourage – lift up, walk beside, forgive errors, equip, Help them find their Eph. 2:10 work (Perseverance)

Release – Teach to show kindness and love, let go, mentor (Kindness and love)



The Objective of Pastoring Your Community is to Release it from the Control of Satan and bless it by the manifest presence of God through His consecrated people living out His design. With this in mind what will Pastoring the Community look like or entail for us in our ministries?

1. We will be a visible representation of God to the lost.
2. We will fulfill God's design for our part of the covenant.
3. We will break down Satan's grip on our community so the people will be free to choose to know and serve God.
4. We will exercise our God given dominion and authority over evil.
5. We will restore God's glory to man through discipleship as we make disciples that make disciples.

## **Day 46**

### **Spiritual or Carnal**

#### **The Conflict Between the Flesh and the Spirit**

There is no easy middle ground in this discussion between the flesh and the Spirit. The two are incompatible: “For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another...” (Galatians 5:17).

#### **Seeing the Unseen**

The conflict begins with what we see. That is what faith is, the “assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). We “see” the spiritual realm and the things of the Spirit *by faith*. This *seeing* faith comes by hearing the voice of the Spirit through the Word of God: “So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17).

To live as children of God we must learn to live in both the natural and the spiritual realms. The spiritual realm is as much a part of creation as the natural – it is as real as the natural.

#### **Three Conclusions**

The purpose of creation is to glorify God. To glorify God is to acknowledge Him as God (Hebrews 11:6) not just with our words but our lives (Acts 9 – Paul must suffer for Jesus name). We can conclude three important things from what we have learned:

1. Both the natural and spiritual realms were created to glorify God.
2. If we live only in the natural realm, functioning apart from the things of the Spirit, we cannot fully glorify (or please) God.
3. The result of a carnal life (a life not directed by the Spirit) is not religious neutrality; it is, in fact, hostility towards God. If you are not filled with the Spirit and walking in

the Spirit, then you are not subject to God's laws, and are in fact living and working contrary to God and His ways and purposes.

In addition, Satan and his co-workers are ever working to keep us from the reality of God's grace. Behind every created thing will be the power of the Creator or an invisible demonic power.

If we ignorantly or intentionally embrace demonically influenced or controlled things we run the danger of falling under their power. To determine something's nature, we must be able to see the power behind it.

### **Is it spiritual or natural? (2 Corinthians 4:18)**

- Natural things are *visible* (we can see them with our natural eyes) and *temporal* (they will not last forever).
- Spiritual things are *invisible* (they cannot be seen with our natural eyes) and *eternal* (they will last forever).

### **Five conditions to see spiritual things:**

1. Be born again (John 3:3).
2. Be filled with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-16).
3. Grow in faith by growing in the Word (Romans 10:17).
4. Be spiritually mature (1 Corinthians 3:13).
5. Develop a spiritual mind by handling spiritual things with increasing practice (Romans 8:5-8; Hebrews 5:14).

### **Transformation will not happen unless we are intentional about it.**

Every action or choice produces a consequence (the law of sowing and reaping). Spiritual growth is the consequence of the choices we make to pursue Christ.

**Following Christ is an active pursuit of the Christian *spiritual* life.** It begins with a decision and surrender to a lifestyle of obedience, spiritual growth, and sacrificial worship. It is not a casual choice made out of self-interest, but a denial of self, the

taking up of a cross, and a dying to this world. It is a life-transforming decision, which requires complete and total surrender.

## **Day 47**

### **Law and Grace**

When we minister to others we must keep in mind the power of sin is in the Law. We can use the Law to point out error but if we do not offer the solution then we have only heaped condemnation on them. Speaking truth is designed to bring people to a place of recognizing their need for Christ - the perfect Law. If you are talking to someone that proclaims Christ but walks in sin, then the Law is designed to teach them they are in sin and sin is death and slavery. If they are left there then they have no life in them and there is only one way to get free from that sin - repent.

Can you profess Christ and still be under the Law? Galatians says yes. Do you know people who profess Christ and are still under the Law? Does speaking truth - Law in any way help there condition if they are already aware of their sin? Is it helpful to use the Law to point out their sin if you are not going to point out the solution?

Would offering them grace for sin they are aware of and refuse to repent from be consistent with the character and nature of God? So what does God do with them (you) when you recognize your sin and don't repent?

What about your disciples? How do you use the Law lawfully with them? Can you simply speak or teach truth and leave it at that? Is that the Gospel or the Good News? No - it is the tutor that leads them to the Good news. If you don't have the solution then telling them the problem again and again is just cruel. Using the Law to point out error is to lead them to the solution - the Perfect Law - Jesus Christ.

If you profess Christ but don't desire to obey Him then you have to question WHAT exactly you professed.

Grace comes in where we are not able - being weak as we are - to keep the Law. How do we minister the Law correctly and steward grace? We must be careful to only declare the Law when we are ready to declare the solution. To tell someone they are in corruption but to come short of telling them how to get out is not a proper use of the Law. To give grace to a stubborn and unrepentant heart does not mean to continue fellowship with such a person. God does not do this with us. Our sinfulness can hinder our relationship with God and God is the author of grace.

Law is designed to oppose the thoughts and speculations raised up against God. This applies to all people even if they profess Christ. The solution is where grace comes in. God allows us to repent and be free from the Law. If we see the Law - Truth - and continue to walk in error - Sin - we can expect certain judgment. Romans 2

Grace comes in when they refuse to obey. Grace postpones the judgment for their disobedience. With our disciples we can minister grace when look past a behavior related issue and give them a chance to change. If we see God at work we can postpone judgment in order to give them time to repent. The proper use of grace requires walking in the Spirit so we can be in harmony with what God is doing in their lives. Proper use of the Law requires us to be walking in the Spirit so we can be in harmony with what God is doing in their lives.

The Law opposes the heart of the person - grace overlooks their condition. Law is about what they believe and think. Grace is about what they do. Many of our disciples are in very difficult situations. They have circumstances that make it very hard for them to live Godly lives. They are surrounded by evil and Satan has many strongholds in their lives. To point out all their issues at once - the application of the Law - would just condemn them. You must be wise and take Satan's grip off of them one finger at a time. Spiritually you can remove him all at once through the

power of the Spirit and through the use of your spiritual gift.  
Grace is applied as circumstance overtakes them again. Grace is not applied to direct acts of defiance. That should be responded to with Law!

## **Day 48**

### **Function or task**

#### Ephesians 4

This instruction is about life and how we are to live. Paul is instructing us on how we are to respond to our calling. If you have been called by God you are under a yoke. Paul taught Timothy about the yoke in 1Tim 6. Jesus spoke of the yoke in Matt. 11. Gal. 5 tells of a different yoke - a yoke of slavery. The yoke represents the master you choose and what directs your life. The yoke of slavery is = to the Law, the Flesh, the religious system or earthly Jerusalem.

The yoke of the Lord is = to the Spirit, Grace, the heavenly Jerusalem

If your yoke is from God then there is a work to be done. God's work! Not just a task to perform, although tasks are involved. A task is simple. A work is much bigger and more complex. In a work there is function by design and eternal purpose. In a task there is duty. Function is ongoing - task is temporary. Function is spiritual - task is physical. Our yoke involves function over task. A task puts the focus on completion and performance. Function puts the focus on being not doing. The completion of a task has to do with performance. Our function has to do with design.

In 1Cor 12 Paul speaks of this in terms of the human body. His point is that our function gives us value in the body. God's spiritual gifting makes us an indispensable part of the family of God. No other person can fill the role God has designed us to fill. A properly functioning church body will help people find there God designed function.

We have been given the privilege to join God in His work. His work is to redeem all of creation. He has chosen to do this through the church. He gives us the ability to function in the



church through the gift that He bestowed on us. He gives us tasks which are always secondary to function. Tasks are important but they will not endure for eternity. The things accomplished by task are needed but not primary. We can and will perform many tasks. We have been designed for a function. We are to be fruitful, multiply, steward and rule. If we focus only on stewarding we will see many tasks. When we look at the whole picture we can begin to see our function within God's work.

The work requires the proper function of the parts. They must do what they are designed to do. When you fail to function as designed you do not prevent the body from functioning - you make it function poorly. The same can be said if you focus on task and not function. The task is a physical thing. The function is spiritual.

My value is not determined by my task. My value is determined by God who made me and gifted me to perform a function within His kingdom and church. I have no less value when I am taking out trash and no more value when I preach. When we value task over function we are walking as the gentiles did in the futility of our minds. The life of God comes from walking in our function through the Spirit and using the spiritual gift that He has placed in us. The use of the spiritual gift is essential to both the proper function and the work. Without the gift we have nothing to offer to others but the completion of tasks.

Have you discovered your spiritual gift? Are you developing and using it?

## **Day 49**

### **Capacity and function**

Walking in the Spirit is an ever growing balance of capacity and function. Many people seek tasks in order to serve God. The key to fruitfulness is to grow your capacity to function spiritually. This requires personal consecration and spiritual disciplines.

#### **Personal Capacity**

- Consecration - hate your sin and repent of it daily
- Forgive others daily until you feel the forgiveness for them. Bitterness and anger will turn to sympathy and compassion.
- Forgive specifically and emotionally
- Explore your pain don't ignore it. Your pain is a tool Satan will use against you and Jesus will heal it if you let Him.
- Loving the world makes you an enemy of God - James 4:4
- Until you have this process working in you, do not expect to have fruitful ministry or real community. Your consecration is your responsibility. No one can keep you from it unless you let them. No one can do it for you.

#### **Personal Function**

- All ministry is rooted in the spiritual gifting that God has given us. We can engage in tasks but without using our gifts we can do nothing of eternal value.
- We have a responsibility to understand our mission and to engage in being good stewards.
- Stewardship begins with becoming a bond-servant. Have you been to the doorpost? All the stuff we just discussed is surrendered at the doorpost.
- Without consecration and spiritual gifting we cannot find our place in the body. Both of these things are our responsibility and under our control to do or use.
- Understand the process I just outlined. We will repeat it

over and over for others. It is just that hard and simple.

Many Christians feel burdened by ministry due to a failure to build their capacity. Many fill their time with tasks that have very little to do with their spiritual function.

### Corporate Function

- The body functions properly as the individual members do the things I just outlined.
- Growth is the natural result of a properly functioning body of believers.
- Take on responsibility to be fruitful, multiply, steward and rule.
- Pastoring the community flows out of our consecration, freedom and growth.
- If you are not intentional you should not expect God to bless you with fruitfulness.

### Corporate Capacity

- Our growth is limited by our capacity to handle the growth both personally and corporately.
- Evaluate your capacity right now. Can you handle more disciples?
- Each thing requires people to oversee and steward. What is your capacity right now?
- The capacity of the ministry is the cumulative capacity of the people. We are always at capacity. God only gives us what we can handle.
- Increasing our individual capacity will increase our corporate capacity. What is your part in this?

Notice the difference here. Personally we must build capacity before function. Once this is done then it is our functioning in the body that builds capacity.

Do you have personal capacity? Are you functioning spiritually in

the body to help grow its capacity? Make a plan to increase both.

## **Day 50**

### **Tools to help you along the way**

We have developed many tools to help you along your journey to fruitfulness. Most can be found for free at

[Http://www,sunministries.org](http://www.sunministries.org)

Devotionals:

- 50 Days to Spiritual Freedom
- 50 Days to Fruitfulness

Books

- Disciple Driven Church – The Coming Reformation
- Being the Church
- Disciple Makers Handbook
- The Abundant Life

Podcast – The Resistance Radio Show on I-Tunes and Stitcher

We also offer additional training opportunities. If interested please email [terry@sunministries.org](mailto:terry@sunministries.org)

If you have formed a church and are dedicated to making disciples that make disciples that live by God's design please contact us. We should build unity and cooperation among the church of God.

Make a plan and start with you. A committed, consecrated and prepared disciple will be fruitful