

# It Begins on the Inside

## LESSON 1 – OUTLINE

- I. If you can't—or should I say won't—change on the inside, then you aren't going to change on the outside.
  - A. Many people say, “But I do desire to change. I've done everything I know, yet it seems like things are just continually the same.”
  - B. As you think in your heart, so are you (Prov. 23:7).
  - C. This is a law of God.
  - D. Romans 8:6 confirms this truth, revealing that...

**...to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**
  - E. When you are spiritually minded, all you get is life and peace.
  - F. When you aren't, you get death.
  - G. You might be saying “No, that's not true,” but it is.
- II. If I came to your house to see what you planted in your garden, I wouldn't have to be with you when you sowed the seeds.
  - A. Whatever is growing there is what you've planted or what you've allowed to be planted.
  - B. Just as this is true in the natural realm, it's true in the spiritual realm.
  - C. Whatever is growing in the garden of your life is what you've planted or allowed to be planted in your heart.
- III. Many people want grace and peace to be multiplied to them.
  - A. They desire peace in their lives, but they're praying for it.

**Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.**

**2 Peter 1:2**

- B. This scripture reveals that peace comes through the knowledge of God.

**According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.**

**2 Peter 1:3**

- C. This scripture says that all things that pertain to life and godliness come through the knowledge of God.
- D. This includes healing, prosperity, deliverance, joy, peace, success in business, good relationships, and anything else that is of God.
- E. The dominant experience of your life is the way you think on the inside.
- F. Instead of looking for a change to take place externally in everybody and everything else around you, the first thing you need to do is recognize that change begins on the inside of you.
- G. It's according to the knowledge of God you have.
- IV. You can turn any circumstance around in your life by getting God's perspective and starting to think His thoughts.
- A. Some people call this by different names, but I believe this is what the Bible calls *faith*.
- B. When someone wrongs you, instead of just reacting in the natural, physical realm—based on your emotions—faith considers, *What does God's Word say?*
- C. Because of God's knowledge that you have through His Word, you recognize that the devil can speak through people and use them to come against you (Eph. 6:12).
- D. You realize that it's not really that person who is angry at you and resisting God inside you.
- E. Because of this, you just constantly respond differently than other people do.
- F. You love that person instead of getting into strife, and it produces different results.
- G. All of this begins with you thinking differently.

- V. One of the things that must happen in order to effect change in your life is you have to get to a place where you are sick and tired of being sick and tired.
  - A. You have to really reach a place where you say, “I’m going to do whatever it takes to see external changes in my life. I’m going to start changing the way I think. I’m going to start taking some risks.”
  - B. Unless you’re willing to do these things, you’ll never see external change.
- VI. If you want different results, then you’re going to have to do something different.
  - A. To keep doing the same thing over and over again, and praying for different results, is insane.
  - B. True change begins on the inside.
  - C. If you want change on the outside, it begins on the inside.

# **It Begins on the Inside**

## **LESSON 1 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. Read Proverbs 23:7. What's more important, what a person says or what they think in their heart?
2. According to Romans 8:6, what is death?
3. What is life and peace?
4. Read 2 Peter 1:2-3. Peter wants God's grace and peace to be \_\_\_\_\_ unto you.
  - A. Divided
  - B. Added
  - C. Multiplied
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
5. What has God called you to?
6. Read Ephesians 6:12. If your conflict is not with flesh and blood, what is it with?
  - A. Circumstances
  - B. Stinkin' thinkin'
  - C. Government
  - D. Principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places
  - E. Traditions of man
7. Read 2 Kings 6:24—7:20. Who did the king of Israel blame for Samaria's troubles?
8. What did the lepers sound like to the Syrians?
9. How did the Syrians flee their camp?
10. Everything Elisha prophesied came to pass according to what?

# **It Begins on the Inside**

## **LESSON 1 – SCRIPTURES**

### **PROVERBS 23:7**

**For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.**

### **ROMANS 8:6**

**For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

### **2 PETER 1:2-3**

**Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, [3] According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.**

### **EPHESIANS 6:12**

**For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**

### **2 KINGS 6:24—7:20**

**And it came to pass after this, that Benhadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria. [25] And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver. [26] And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king. [27] And he said, If the LORD do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barnfloor, or out of the winepress? [28] And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son to morrow. [29] So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son. [30] And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he rent his clothes; and he passed by upon the wall, and the people looked, and, behold, he had sackcloth within upon his flesh. [31] Then he said, God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day. [32] But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from before him: but ere the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head? look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door: is not the sound of his master's feet behind him? [33] And**

while he yet talked with them, behold, the messenger came down unto him: and he said, Behold, this evil is of the LORD; what should I wait for the LORD any longer? [1] Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria. [2] Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. [3] And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? [4] If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. [5] And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there. [6] For the LORD had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us. [7] Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life. [8] And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid it. [9] Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household. [10] So they came and called unto the porter of the city: and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Syrians, and, behold, there was no man there, neither voice of man, but horses tied, and asses tied, and the tents as they were. [11] And he called the porters; and they told it to the king's house within. [12] And the king arose in the night, and said unto his servants, I will now shew you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we be hungry; therefore are they gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city. [13] And one of his servants answered and said, Let some take, I pray thee, five of the horses that remain, which are left in the city, (behold, they are as all the multitude of Israel that are left in it: behold, I say, they are even as all the multitude of the Israelites that are consumed:) and let us send and see. [14] They took therefore two chariot horses; and the king sent after the host of the Syrians, saying, Go and see. [15] And they went after them unto Jordan: and, lo, all the way was full of garments and vessels, which the Syrians had cast away in their haste. And the messengers returned, and told the king. [16] And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel,

**and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD. [17] And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him. [18] And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be to morrow about this time in the gate of Samaria: [19] And that lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. [20] And so it fell out unto him: for the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died.**

# Meditate the Word

## LESSON 2 – OUTLINE

- I. As I took God’s Word and meditated in it day and night, it began to change me.
  - A. God is no respecter of persons (Rom. 2:11).
  - B. If you put His Word first place in your life and meditate in it on a consistent basis, it will change you.

**This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

### Joshua 1:8

- C. This verse reveals that the way you get prosperity and good success in every area of your life is to take the Word of God and meditate in it to the degree that it saturates what you think about, what you talk about, and how you act.
  - D. When God’s Word literally begins to control your life, you will prosper and have good success physically, emotionally, relationally, financially—in every area.
  - E. This is exactly what my life is based upon.
- II. Most people don’t believe they can literally meditate in the Word of God day and night.
  - A. They think that this is a totally impractical demand.
  - B. But meditation is simply focusing your attention on something to the point that it never leaves your consciousness.
  - C. You can take a passage of Scripture, read it, and then meditate on it the rest of the day and night.
  - D. You can be thinking on the Word of God and considering *How does this apply to me?* while you’re going about your daily activities.
- III. Recently I was studying King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20.
  - A. He had been faithful to the Lord and serving Him, yet three nations came out against him.



- B. Some people read Bible stories like they didn't really happen, or they think they happened so long ago to somebody else, somewhere else that they just don't connect with the stories.
  - C. Don't just read the information; begin to think about it.
  - D. I was thinking about what a huge step of faith this was for Jehoshaphat and how God rewarded him.
  - E. It turned out great!
  - F. For days after I read that, I just meditated on those scriptures, thinking about how those truths applied to my life and some of the problems that faced me, problems that appeared like they could be the end of Andrew Wommack Ministries.
  - G. I started thinking that in the same way God did this for Jehoshaphat, He can do it for me.
  - H. This situation that looks like it could destroy me could very well turn out to be one of the best things that ever happens to me.
- IV. As you meditate in the Word, faith rises in you.
- A. Many people miss this because they read the Word, but don't meditate in it.
  - B. So, everyone may not be able to spend large quantities of time in the Word, but *everyone* can meditate in it day and night.

# **Meditate the Word**

## **LESSON 2 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. Read Romans 2:11. What does this verse mean?
  - A. Some people are God's favorites
  - B. God thinks people are not to be respected
  - C. God can't tell the difference between His people and those who are not His people
  - D. God shows favoritism to no one
  - E. God doesn't care about anyone
  
2. Read Joshua 1:1-8. Was God concerned that He could no longer work through Moses?
  
3. How would God be with Joshua?
  
4. What was the only thing God wanted Joshua to be?
  
5. What did He want Joshua to do?
  
6. Read 2 Chronicles 20:20-21. What was the first thing Jehoshaphat told the people to do?
  
7. What did Jehoshaphat do before he appointed singers?
  - A. He consulted with the people
  - B. He proclaimed a feast
  - C. He took up an offering
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
  
8. What did the people praise God for?

# **Meditate the Word**

## **LESSON 2 – SCRIPTURES**

### **ROMANS 2:11**

**For there is no respect of persons with God.**

### **JOSHUA 1:1-8**

**Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, [2] Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. [3] Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. [4] From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. [5] There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. [6] Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. [7] Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. [8] This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

### **2 CHRONICLES 20:20-21**

**And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. [21] And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.**

# God Speaking

## LESSON 3 – OUTLINE

- I. Our biggest problem is our inability to hear God's voice.
  - A. The way we know what God is saying is by His Word.
  - B. If we would get into the Word of God and meditate in it, the Lord would speak to us.
  - C. He would give us wisdom and direction.
  - D. God speaks to me this way.
  - E. This is what makes my life tick.
- II. Sometimes I get criticized by people, who say, "You love the Word of God more than you love God."
  - A. I don't separate the two!
  - B. Jesus is the Word made flesh who dwelt among us (John 1:14).
  - C. When I refer to the Word, I'm not talking about just a physical book.
  - D. When I read the Word, it's not me reading a book about God; this is the Lord writing to me!
  - E. Even some of the things that were said thousands of years ago to other people, He speaks to me today.
- III. Some folks say, "Well, I want God to speak to me outside of His Word."
  - A. That's why they don't meditate in the Word of God day and night, which is the reason they're not prospering and succeeding more than they are.
  - B. They don't read it expecting God to speak to them.
  - C. When I open up the Word of God, I literally view it as God talking to me—and He does.

- IV. There's a difference between this Book and any other book.
- A. That's why I choose not to read very much else.
  - B. My desire is for the Word.
  - C. Everything I need is right there in the Word of God.
  - D. Most people advocate reading a book a week, a book a month, or something like that.
  - E. I'm not saying that's wrong or of the devil.
  - F. I've written books. In fact, you're reading one right now.
  - G. However, it wouldn't bother me one bit if you bypassed all of my books and just meditated in the Word of God day and night.
- V. Take God's Word.
- A. Meditate in it day and night.
  - B. Get to where the Word of God is more real to you than a person sitting next to you.
  - C. If you would do that, you would prosper more accidentally than you ever have on purpose.
- VI. Whenever I emphasize how important and powerful God's Word is, people always say to me, "I've studied the Bible. I've read the Word. In fact, I've read the Bible all the way through, and it hasn't done this for me."
- A. You must do what Proverbs 4:20 says, which is to attend to God's words and incline your ear.
  - B. The phrase "**incline thine ear**" is speaking of focus and commitment.
  - C. You must listen to God's Word with your heart, not just your head.
  - D. Place a high priority and value on the Word of God.
  - E. Then you'll start getting the results I'm describing.

**My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they [God's words] are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.**

**Proverbs 4:20-22, brackets mine**

- F. No matter how grave the situation you're in, God's Word is life and health to all your flesh!

# **God Speaking**

## **LESSON 3 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. Read Proverbs 1:2-4. You are to \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom and instruction.
2. You are to \_\_\_\_\_ the words of understanding.
3. You are to \_\_\_\_\_ the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity.
4. Read Proverbs 18:16. What makes room for a person and brings them before great people?
5. According to Proverbs 22:10, casting out the scorner will cause what to go out as well?
  - A. The scorner's brother
  - B. Contention
  - C. The lights
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
6. What shall cease?
7. Read John 1:14. The only begotten of the Father was full of what two things?
8. According to Jeremiah 1:5, when was Jeremiah's ordination as a prophet?
9. Read Jeremiah 5:14. Why was God going to make Jeremiah's words fire and the people wood?
10. Read Joshua 1:8. Whose responsibility is it to make your way prosperous and have good success?
11. According to Hebrews 4:12, what can divide soul and spirit?
12. The Word of God is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
  - A. Condemner
  - B. Follower
  - C. Endorser
  - D. Finisher
  - E. Discerner
13. Read Proverbs 4:20-22. Who is instructed to incline their ear?
14. Where are you to keep God's sayings?
15. Why?

# **God Speaking**

## **LESSON 3 – SCRIPTURES**

### **PROVERBS 1:2-4**

To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; [3]  
To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; [4] To  
give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

### **PROVERBS 18:16**

A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

### **PROVERBS 22:10**

Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach  
shall cease.

### **JOHN 1:14**

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory,  
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

### **JEREMIAH 1:5**

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out  
of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

### **JEREMIAH 5:14**

Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word,  
behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it  
shall devour them.

### **JOSHUA 1:8**

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate  
therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is  
written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou  
shalt have good success.

### **HEBREWS 4:12**

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged  
sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints  
and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.



**PROVERBS 4:20-22**

**My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. [21] Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. [22] For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.**

# **Transformed**

## **LESSON 4 – OUTLINE**

- I. Literally thousands of people have come to me with sickness in their bodies and asked, “Would you pray for me?”
  - A. But what do I do, after I’ve prayed for everybody else, when I get sick?
  - B. Do I run to somebody every time an illness is fighting against me?
  - C. No, I go to the Word of God.
  - D. If I have a pain, I take a Gos-pill (Gospel).
  - E. I’ll stand against symptoms, rebuke them, and speak my faith.
  - F. Normally, that will take care of everything.
- II. I don’t believe in being sick.
  - A. But I’ve had the symptoms of sickness hit me.
  - B. I take the Word of God and meditate on it.
  - C. I eat these words because they’re life and health to my flesh.
  - D. I could even quote them, but I’ll still go back and study them.

**Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

**Romans 10:17**

- E. As I start meditating on them, health flows through me.
- F. I’ve only gone for a maximum of a few hours over the past forty years with any symptom of sickness in my body.
- G. I actually have a doctor’s report saying I had an incurable disease.
- H. Yet within hours of that doctor’s visit, I was totally healed.

III. God used the first two verses of Romans 12 to totally transform my life:

**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

- A. I looked up the word “**prove**,” and it means to make manifest to the physical senses.
- B. I wanted the result promised at the end of verse 2 where I would make manifest to my physical senses the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.
- C. So, I went back to verse 1 and to the beginning of verse 2 to see what I had to do to get there.
- D. After meditating on it for three and a half months, I had an experience where God poured out His love in my life.
- E. As important as that experience was, I would have lost the benefit of just an encounter with God if I had not continued to grow in the knowledge of His Word.

IV. What really changed my life was Romans 12:2.

- A. The Greek word translated “**conformed**” here literally means to pour into the mold.
- B. By the time you live twenty, forty, sixty, or however many years, the pressures of this life are going to melt you.
- C. However, the good news is that you get to choose what mold you fit into.
- D. You get to pick whether you’ll be like the other people who become negative, bitter, and unforgiving.
- E. You can choose whether you’ll murmur and complain or if you’ll let these things drive you to the Lord and make you stronger and more stable in your commitment to God.
- F. The Greek word rendered “**transformed**” here is the word we derive our English word *metamorphosis* from.
- G. Do you want to change from being weak, inferior, and bound by all kinds of problems into someone who releases and experiences the abundant life of God from within?
- H. The Word of God reveals that the way to do this is by the renewing of your mind.

- V. You can't just turn your mind off and think of nothing.
  - A. All you can do is choose what you think on—the things of the Lord or the things of the world.
  - B. The things of the world don't have to be bad. But just be occupied with them, and you'll never experience this transformation.
  - C. If you desire to be poured into God's mold, you do it through the Word of God.
  - D. There is no other system He has in place.
  - E. Some folks say, "To me, that seems restrictive." To me, it's awesome.
  
- VI. If you'll keep your mind stayed on the Lord by meditating in His Word, then without effort—automatically—your life will begin to change.
  - A. Don't knock it until you've tried it.
  - B. There's nothing that challenges and inspires me more than being in the Word of God and hearing Him speak to me.
  - C. All of a sudden, I connect with God's heart.
  - D. I know what He is saying to me through the Scriptures.
  - E. I can truthfully say that's the greatest thing that's ever happened in my life.
  - F. I've seen several people raised from the dead, including my own son. I've seen great miracles and healings manifest.
  - G. But it's the Word of God and my relationship with Him through His Word that have caused all those things to happen.
  - H. Renewing my mind to God's Word is what has turned my life around.
  - I. If you want to be transformed like this, the way you do it is to take God's Word and meditate in it day and night.
  - J. Now, that's exciting!

# Transformed

## LESSON 4 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Romans 8:6. Does carnal-mindedness tend toward death? Does spiritual-mindedness tend toward life and peace?
2. According to John 6:63, what does the flesh profit?
3. What are Jesus' words?
  - A. Easy and light
  - B. Fire and brimstone
  - C. Spirit and life
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
4. Read Isaiah 26:3. What is needed to be kept in perfect peace?
5. According to Proverbs 4:20-22, what are God's words?
6. Read 1 Peter 2:24. We are \_\_\_\_\_ to sins and should \_\_\_\_\_ unto righteousness.
7. Read Psalm 107:20. To heal us and deliver us from our destructions, what did God do with His word?
8. Read Romans 10:17. Faith comes before or after hearing the Word of God?
9. Read Romans 12:1-3. What is holy and acceptable to God?
10. If you're conformed to this world, what won't you be?
11. How are you not to think?
12. According to Joshua 1:8, the book of the Law (Word of God) is not to depart from your \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Therefore, other than the mind, what does meditation include?
  - A. Speaking what the Law (Word of God) says
  - B. A certain posture
  - C. Soft music
  - D. Having a sinless day
  - E. Fasting

# **Transformed**

## **LESSON 4 – SCRIPTURES**

### **ROMANS 8:6**

**For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

### **JOHN 6:63**

**It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

### **ISAIAH 26:3**

**Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.**

### **PROVERBS 4:20-22**

**My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. [21] Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. [22] For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.**

### **1 PETER 2:24**

**Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**

### **PSALM 107:20**

**He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.**

### **ROMANS 10:17**

**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

### **ROMANS 12:1-3**

**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. [3] For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

**JOSHUA 1:8**

**This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

# Converting the Soul

## LESSON 5 – OUTLINE

- I. I vividly remember what was going on in my life when the Lord showed me the importance of His Word.
  - A. And here I am, over forty years later, fulfilling His will for my life.
  - B. It's the revelation of God's Word that has transformed my life and ministry, and the same will work for you.
  - C. All 176 verses of Psalm 119—the longest chapter in the Bible—are about the importance of God's Word.
- II. Psalm 19 also affirms the importance of God's Word and how it will change your life.
  - A. In verse 7, the Hebrew word rendered “**converting**” means “to turn back” (Strong's Concordance).
  - B. Through His Word, He wants to convert your soul—restore you to an original condition.
  - C. If you were damaged by something or someone, you don't have to bear that for five, ten, twenty, or thirty years.
  - D. You can get over it.
  - E. This is a promise that God's Word is perfect.
- III. God's Word makes wise those who are stupid—people who don't think properly and who make mistakes (Ps. 19:7).
  - A. I've heard all kinds of stories from people who made stupid decisions and suffered from them.
  - B. You may be thinking, *I've done some of those things. I just don't seem to be able to help it.*
  - C. The Word of God will quicken your thinking and give you understanding.
- IV. So many people are depressed and defeated.
  - A. They can't seem to find any reason to rejoice.



- B. Do you know what it all comes down to?
  - C. You don't know the truth of God's Word (Ps. 19:8).
  - D. If you're discouraged, take the Word of God.
  - E. Start speaking the promises of God to yourself.
  - F. You can get happy in a hurry!
- V. Is it worth it to be able to see clearly instead of having a negative perception that always makes every cup look half empty?
- A. What a benefit it is to be able to see the positive side and to see a way through everything.
  - B. That's what the Word of God does (Ps. 19:8).
- VI. How would you treat God's Word if you truly desired it more than money—even large amounts of it—and more than your favorite food (Ps. 19:9-10)?
- A. You'd be able to say along with Job...

**I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my  
necessary food.**

**Job 23:12**

- B. If you were to seek God through His Word like that, your life would be transformed.
- VII. How much would it be worth to you if you could see problems before they happened so you could take evasive action?
- A. That's exactly what the Word of God will do (Ps. 19:11).
  - B. And in keeping God's Word, there is great reward!

# Converting the Soul

## LESSON 5 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Psalm 119:9. A young person should take heed to God's Word in order to do what?
2. Read Psalm 119:11. What do you have to hide in your heart so you don't sin against God?
3. According to Psalm 119:165, if you want great peace and nothing to offend you, what do have to love?
  - A. My pastor's sermons
  - B. God's Word
  - C. My denomination's statement of faith
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
4. Read Psalm 19:7-11. Since the Word of God is perfect, that means there are no \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Points of discussion
  - B. Adequate ministers
  - C. Questions
  - D. False interpretations
  - E. Flaws
5. What is the fear of the Lord?
6. By the judgments of the Lord, His servants are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Warmed
  - B. Judged
  - C. Warned
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
7. According 1 Peter 1:8, you don't need to see God in order to what?
8. Read Isaiah 61:3. When you're called the tree of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, what will that result in?
9. Read Job 23:12. Job said he had not gone back from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's lips.
10. What did he say he did with the words of God's mouth?

# **Converting the Soul**

## **LESSON 5 – SCRIPTURES**

### **PSALM 119:9**

**BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.**

### **PSALM 119:11**

**Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.**

### **PSALM 119:165**

**Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.**

### **PSALM 19:7-11**

**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. [8] The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. [9] The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. [10] More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. [11] Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.**

### **1 PETER 1:8**

**Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.**

### **ISAIAH 61:3**

**To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.**

### **JOB 23:12**

**Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.**

# Subject to Doubt

## LESSON 6 – OUTLINE

- I. The reason most people have the problems they do is because they aren't controlling their thinking.
  - A. Unless you do something specifically to keep your mind on the Lord, it will naturally go somewhere else.
  - B. When you study and meditate in God's Word, it changes the way you think.
  - C. As your thinking changes, so does your life.
  - D. That's why you must get to where you're dominated by the Word of God.
- II. I know by dealing firsthand with hundreds of people on a regular basis that many folks are struggling.
  - A. They want me to wave my hand over them to take away their fears.
  - B. If you would just take God's Word and use it yourself, you wouldn't have to follow people around from meeting to meeting begging them to pray for you.
  - C. When you're sowing the seed (Word of God) and waiting for it to increase and grow to the point that it will bring liberty in your life, don't be so stubborn or proud that you won't go to others for help and ask them to pray for you.
  - D. But don't be like those people who refuse to take personal responsibility.
  - E. They try to substitute someone like me or a church pastor for themselves seeking the Lord.
  - F. That's just not going to work.
  - G. If you aren't going to take the Word firsthand, then you aren't going to mature.
- III. The Lord dealt with John the Baptist's doubt by referring him back to the Word of God.

**Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?**

**Matthew 11:2-3**

- A. At one time, John was absolutely certain Jesus was the Messiah.
  - B. But John wasn't so sure after being in prison for an unspecified amount of time.
  - C. He had even been given a sign from God regarding Jesus being the Messiah.
  - D. Some people think, *If I was one of Jesus' twelve disciples, I wouldn't struggle with doubt. If I could see a vision, if I had a tangible tingling in my hands, if I could hear an audible voice from God—then I would believe.*
  - E. John had every one of those things (John 1:33 and Matt. 3:16-17), yet he doubted.
- IV. It doesn't matter who you are or how strong in faith you've been, everyone is capable of doubt.
- A. Negative circumstances tend to just beat faith out of you and cause doubt to come.

**Hope deferred maketh the heart sick.**

**Proverbs 13:12**

- B. If you're in negative circumstances, your hope has been deferred and you aren't seeing things come to pass the way you thought you should, you could also fall into this same trap.
  - C. John the Baptist was the greatest man who had ever lived on the face of the earth up until this time.
  - D. Yet he was subject to doubt.
- V. In your Christian life, you must continue to seek the Lord.
- A. Are you someone who only seeks God every once in a while?
  - B. Do you just seek Him when your back is against the wall so you can receive deliverance and then go back to your carnal ways?
  - C. You need to be on guard and be watchful.
  - D. You need to recognize that unbelief is like gravity—it's always pulling.
  - E. You can rise above it by applying the power of God in your life, but you can't just turn your faith engine off and coast.

- F. You may float and go farther than someone else, but the moment you switch off that power of faith, you're headed down.
- G. You need to maintain your focus on the Lord and resist—actively fight against—doubt (James 4:7).

# Subject to Doubt

## LESSON 6 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Proverbs 23:7. Even though this person eats and drinks with you, where is his heart?
2. Read Psalm 19:8. What do the statutes of the Lord do?
3. What does the commandment of the Lord do?
4. Read Matthew 11:2-3. John sent two of his disciples to Jesus after he heard what?
5. According to Luke 1:15, in whose sight would John be great?
  - A. His peers'
  - B. His boss's
  - C. His parents'
  - D. The Lord's
  - E. The Pharisees'
6. Read John 3:30. **“He must increase, but I \_\_\_\_\_ decrease.”**
7. Read Matthew 3:16-17. How did the Spirit of God descend?
8. **“This is my \_\_\_\_\_ Son, in whom I am \_\_\_\_\_ pleased.”**
  - A. “Favorite,” “always”
  - B. “Last,” “also”
  - C. “Beloved,” “well”
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
9. Read Luke 3:22. Who descended in bodily shape?
10. Read John 1:33. The Spirit who descended and remained on Jesus is whom Jesus would do what with?
11. According to Matthew 14:3-4, why was John put in prison?
12. Read Proverbs 13:12. What happens when what is desired comes?
13. Read Revelation 22:20. Jesus said he *might* come quickly?
14. According to Isaiah 61:1-2, what is the Spirit of the Lord about?

15. Read Luke 4:18-19. Whose ministry is this describing?
16. Read Luke 4:21. When was this scripture fulfilled?
17. According to Acts 1:6, the disciples were asking if Jesus was about to do what with the kingdom?
18. Read Matthew 11:11. Who is greater than John the Baptist?
19. Read Luke 7:28. John the Baptist was a prophet, but he was \_\_\_\_\_ than a prophet.
20. Read James 4:7. Does this scripture indicate that God will make you submit to Him and resist the devil?



# **Subject to Doubt**

## **LESSON 6 – SCRIPTURES**

### **PROVERBS 23:7**

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

### **PSALM 19:8**

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

### **MATTHEW 11:2-3**

Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, [3] And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

### **LUKE 1:15**

For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

### **JOHN 3:30**

He must increase, but I must decrease.

### **MATTHEW 3:16-17**

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: [17] And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

### **LUKE 3:22**

And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

### **JOHN 1:33**

And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

### **MATTHEW 14:3-4**

For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. [4] For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.

**PROVERBS 13:12**

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

**REVELATION 22:20**

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

**ISAIAH 61:1-2**

The Spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; [2] To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.

**LUKE 4:18-19**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, [19] To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

**LUKE 4:21**

And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

**ACTS 1:6**

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

**MATTHEW 11:11**

Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**LUKE 7:28**

For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

**James 4:7**

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

# A Crisis Situation

## LESSON 7 – OUTLINE

- I. As John the Baptist wrestled with doubt, he sent two of his disciples to Jesus to ask if He really was the Christ.
  - A. Matthew’s account of this instance simply recorded John’s disciples asking their question and Jesus answering them (Matt. 11:2-6).
  - B. However, here in Luke’s account, we see that before Jesus answered John the Baptist’s disciples (Luke 7:20-23), He performed many miracles.

**In that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues,  
and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.**

**Luke 7:21**

- C. **“In that same hour”** implies that for nearly an hour, Jesus didn’t answer John the Baptist’s disciples, but He performed all of these healings and miracles.
  - D. Then He told these disciples to go back and tell John the Baptist what they had just seen and heard.
  - E. I’ve seen multiple miracles within a short period of time, but the Lord crammed raising people from the dead, blind eyes opening, deaf ears hearing, and the lame walking, all into one hour.
  - F. Imagine the impact this would have had on you!
- II. If Jesus wasn’t the Christ, then John the Baptist had squandered the anointing that was on his life, which nobody else in the history of the world had ever had.
  - A. He could have been an instrument of the devil instead of the instrument of God that he was separated to be.
  - B. This wasn’t just a flippant doubt that John the Baptist had; this was a crisis situation unlike any other in his life.
  - C. How did Jesus respond? “Go tell him what you’ve seen and heard.”

- III. Then, after John's disciples had departed, Jesus said that John the Baptist was greater than any Old Testament figure, including Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.
- A. Those were some pretty powerful words to be spoken by a man who was the most popular figure in the nation at that time.
  - B. There John the Baptist was—rotting in prison, feeling lonely, and wondering, *What about me? I had a six-month ministry, and since then, I've been rotting in prison for years. Does anybody remember me? Does anyone even care?*
  - C. When I saw this crisis situation that John the Baptist was in and how the Lord treated his disciples—ignoring them for an hour, healing these other people, and then sending them back with that message—I thought, *God, that just doesn't seem to meet the need. Then, after John's disciples had gone, You began to give all of these compliments. Why didn't You say that while his disciples were still there? Wouldn't that have blessed John more?*

# **A Crisis Situation**

## **LESSON 7 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. Read Matthew 11:2-7. What did John's disciples see and hear?
2. Who did Jesus say was blessed?
3. Read Luke 7:20-28. What did the people go out to the wilderness to see?
4. Who prepared Jesus' way?
5. According to Luke 1:80, John the Baptist waxed (grew) strong in what?
  - A. Spirit
  - B. Battle
  - C. Odor
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
6. How long was he in the deserts?
7. Read John 1:29. The Lamb of God takes away whose sins?
  - A. The twelve disciples'
  - B. Those who plead the blood of Jesus
  - C. Only those in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria
  - D. The world's
  - E. Those who deserve it
8. Read John 3:30. Who must increase?
9. According to Malachi 3:1, God's messenger prepares the way before Him with his what?
10. In whom would the people delight?

# **A Crisis Situation**

## **LESSON 7 – SCRIPTURES**

### **MATTHEW 11:2-7**

Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, [3] And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? [4] Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: [5] The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. [6] And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. [7] And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

### **LUKE 7:20-28**

When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? [21] And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. [22] Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. [23] And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. [24] And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind? [25] But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts. [26] But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet. [27] This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. [28] For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

### **LUKE 1:80**

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

**JOHN 1:29**

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

**JOHN 3:30**

He must increase, but I must decrease.

**MALACHI 3:1**

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

# “Don’t Quit!”

## LESSON 8 – OUTLINE

I. One day I was reading through Scripture in Isaiah:

**Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.**

**Isaiah 35:3-6**

- A. All of a sudden, the Holy Spirit reminded me of what Jesus had said to John’s disciples and how He’d spent an hour doing these miracles.
- B. In one hour’s time, Jesus did everything that was prophesied concerning the miracles He would do.
- C. Plus, He added raising someone from the dead.
- D. Then Jesus told John’s disciples to go back to him and tell him He had done all of these things and that he’ll be blessed if he would just believe.

II. John the Baptist knew the Scriptures.

- A. He had quoted from a number of passages all around this part of Isaiah (Is. 40:3).
- B. When John’s disciples delivered Jesus’ message to him, I believe the Holy Spirit connected what Isaiah had prophesied about the Messiah and what Jesus had just done.
- C. The light came on as John realized, *How could I doubt that this was the Messiah? He has performed everything the Word of God prophesied He would do. No other man has opened up blind eyes, unstopped deaf ears, enabled the lame to walk, and caused dumb tongues to sing—especially not in one hour’s time. He even raised the dead.*
- D. I believe the Holy Spirit came in like a flood and washed away all of John the Baptist’s doubts.



- III. You might want an emotional boost like having somebody put their arm around you and cry with you.
  - A. I'm not saying no one should show you compassion.
  - B. But instead of wanting something emotional that will make you feel good today, but then tomorrow you'll need another emotional fix, you need to take the truth of God's Word.
  - C. Whether you feel like it or not, stand up and start saying, "I am an overcomer in Christ Jesus. I don't care what I feel like, what somebody else has said, or what has happened to me. I'm going to rise again. I am a victor and not a victim."
  - D. Start taking God's Word and applying it to your situation.
  - E. You start speaking the Word, and build yourself up.
- IV. John the Baptist had taken his eyes off of the Word, off of the truths that God had instilled in his heart.
  - A. Jesus referred him back to the Word, the Word that he was well acquainted with.
  - B. Eventually, Herod beheaded him.
  - C. But there was no whimpering, crying, or renouncing his beliefs.
  - D. John the Baptist stayed strong.
  - E. Regardless of how his emotions made him feel, he got his thoughts back on the truth.
- V. That really encourages me.
  - A. If I were to go by my emotions, there are times when I feel like running away.
  - B. There are times when I feel like giving up and quitting.
  - C. But I've learned to go by the Word and not by how I feel.
  - D. This truth has changed me, and it's worked in my life for decades.
  - E. When you get that kind of attitude and the Word of God begins to dominate you, then you will overcome doubt.
  - F. You'll be walking in faith.

VI. Faith is seldom a feeling.

- A. Very seldom do you just feel this surge of boldness.
- B. At times, you will walk in a gift of faith.
- C. However, most times, when I've seen great things happen in my life, I've stepped out in faith.
- D. My emotions were wavering, but I just chose not to go by them.
- E. I knew what God's Word says and ministered it from my heart.
- F. Then I stood on what the Word of God said, sometimes with my knees shaking.
- G. But that's faith.

VII. Some people think faith is having an absence of any problems, doubts, or fears.

- A. That's not true.
- B. It's just learning how to reject those things and not let them control you as you take a stand on the Word of God.

# **“Don’t Quit!”**

## **LESSON 8 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. Read Isaiah 35:3-6. What kind of heart should hear these things?
2. What shall break out in the wilderness?
  - A. A reed
  - B. Waters
  - C. Fiery serpents
  - D. A cloud by day
  - E. A sale
3. Read Matthew 11:4-6. Who was the Gospel preached to?
4. According to John 1:23, John was **“the \_\_\_\_\_ of one crying in the wilderness.”**
5. Read Isaiah 40:3. What was to be made straight in the desert?
6. Read Romans 10:17. **“Faith cometh by hearing”** just anything?
7. According to Ephesians 6:17, take salvation for a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. **“The sword of the \_\_\_\_\_, which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.”**
9. Read 1 Corinthians 15:57. Who is the victory through?
10. Read 1 John 5:4. When you are born of God, you overcome what?
11. Read Matthew 14:28-31. When Peter cried out to the Lord to save him, when did Jesus stretch forth His hand?
12. After Peter walked on the water and began to sink, what kind of faith did Jesus say he had?
  - A. Little faith
  - B. Mustard seed faith
  - C. Great faith
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
13. According to Galatians 5:22, **“the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.”**

# **“Don’t Quit!”**

## **LESSON 8 – SCRIPTURES**

### **ISAIAH 35:3-6**

**Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. [4] Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. [5] Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. [6] Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.**

### **MATTHEW 11:4-6**

**Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: [5] The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. [6] And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.**

### **JOHN 1:23**

**He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.**

### **ISAIAH 40:3**

**The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

### **ROMANS 10:17**

**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

### **EPHESIANS 6:17**

**And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:57**

**But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **1 JOHN 5:4**

**For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

**MATTHEW 14:28-31**

And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. [29] And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. [30] But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. [31] And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

**GALATIANS 5:22**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.

# A More Sure Word

## LESSON 9 – OUTLINE

- I. When I became baptized in the Holy Spirit and began to study the Word under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, I realized that angelic visitations, the audible voice of God, and supernatural unctions from the Lord didn't pass away with the apostles.
  - A. I started asking God questions like, "How come I've never had any of these kinds of supernatural things happen to me?"
  - B. Then the Lord showed me this truth about how Jesus didn't respond to John the Baptist on an emotional level, but used God's Word to raise him up to the level of speaking the Word to him because of His respect for him.
  - C. It's because He honored him so much, not because He honored him so little, that He referred him back to the Word.
  - D. I began to see that believing the Word of God is actually the highest way to respond to the Lord.
  - E. Once I understood this, I turned the other direction and prayed, "God, I want Your best. If it honors You more for me to just take Your Word and trust Your Word than to have a vision, for You to quicken Scripture to me and have that be the way I hear from You instead of hearing an audible voice or an angelic messenger, then I'll be glad to go that way."
- II. Satan can also appear in an angelic form (2 Cor. 11:14).
  - A. You can see and hear things that could lead you astray.
  - B. But if you go through the Word of God, you'll be safe.
  - C. The Word of God is the acid test for everything supernatural.
- III. You need to realize that the Lord may not have answered your prayer in the way you've been asking, because He has something better for you—because He loves you so much, not because He loves you so little.
  - A. It may be that He's trying to bring you up to a higher level of maturity.
  - B. He wants you to get beyond just an emotional level and learn to receive from Him through His Word.

- IV. In 2 Peter 1, the Apostle Peter was saying that he realized he was close to his death and therefore felt an urgency to remind the believers of the truths he had shared with them before.
- A. Peter talked about how that he saw Jesus radiate light.
  - B. He saw the glory cloud of God overshadow Him.
  - C. He heard an audible voice out of heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son” (Matt. 17:1-9).
  - D. But then he said, “We have something better than all of this.”
  - E. What could be better than seeing the visible presence of God and hearing His audible voice?

**Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

#### **2 Peter 1:20-21**

- F. Peter said, “The most authoritative thing I could possibly share with you to validate the truth is the Word of God. The Word of God is greater than any other way to hear from God.”
  - G. Therefore, the Word of God is the strongest, most powerful way that we have to counter our fears and unbelief.
- V. The problem is, most people don't honor the written Word of God the way they would honor a prophecy or word of encouragement from a person, or some audible or visible sign.
- A. That's backward, and it's precisely the reason we have so much doubt.
  - B. The Lord will meet you where your faith is.
  - C. God has spoken to many people through different external ways.
  - D. I'm not against them.
  - E. I'm just saying that if you are more insistent, more desirous of a sign, an audible voice, a visible representation, something miraculous that will help you—that's just a temporary fix. Circumstances change.

- F. But if you would go to the Word of God, making it your absolute authority and viewing it as God speaking to you, then the Word will overcome any doubt you have.
  - G. God's Word will confirm everything you need to know.
- VI. That may not sound exciting, because you look at the Word of God as being lifeless, dead, and dry.
- A. That's because you haven't gotten sincere and serious enough to have the Holy Spirit quicken it to you.
  - B. But I tell you, God's Word is alive. It's powerful (Heb. 4:12).
  - C. A greater blessing and anointing would be released in your life if you could take the truths of God's Word by faith and say, "I believe this is God speaking to me. I've had it revealed to me by the Holy Spirit, and I don't have to have three goose bumps and two visions to confirm it. This is what God's Word says" (John 20:29).
- VII. The Word of God is a more sure word of prophecy than anything else you could ever get.
- A. If you would take God's Word, begin to meditate on it, let the Holy Spirit make direct application to your situation, and then act on it—that's the highest form of faith you can possibly have.
  - B. That's faith based entirely on God's Word alone.



# A More Sure Word

## LESSON 9 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:14. Who is transformed into an angel of light?
2. Read 2 Peter 1:12-21. Peter thought it was meet (right) to stir you up by putting you in what?
  - A. Condemnation
  - B. A new convertible
  - C. Remembrance
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
3. What had Peter not followed?
4. The prophecy came not by what?
5. Read Matthew 17:1-9. Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ before them.
6. His face shined like what?
7. What was his raiment [clothing] white as?
8. What did the voice out of the cloud say?
  - A. “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear [listen to] him”
  - B. “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear [listen to] Me”
  - C. “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear [listen to] the angels sing”
  - D. “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear [listen to] the Law of Moses”
  - E. “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear [listen to] each other”
9. What did Jesus charge Peter, James, and John?
  - A. A fee for seeing His glory.
  - B. He told them not to tell anyone the vision they saw until He had risen from the dead.
  - C. He told them to proclaim the matter freely.
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
10. According to John 11:43-44, what happened when Jesus cried with a loud voice “**Lazarus, come forth?**”
11. Read Mark 10:46-52. Did blind Bartimaeus keep silent after many charged him?
12. What did Jesus do?

13. What did Jesus ask Bartimaeus?
14. Read Acts 3:6-8. Peter said, “**Such as \_\_\_\_\_ have.**”
15. According to John 20:25, Thomas told the disciples, “**Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I \_\_\_\_\_ not believe.**”
16. According to John 20:27-29, Thomas called Jesus what?
17. Who are blessed?
18. Read Hebrews 4:12. What does the Word of God pierce and divide asunder?
19. It is a discerner of what?

# **A More Sure Word**

## **LESSON 9 – SCRIPTURES**

### **2 CORINTHIANS 11:14**

**And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.**

### **2 PETER 1:12-21**

**Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. [13] Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; [14] Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. [15] Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. [16] For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [17] For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. [18] And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. [19] We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: [20] Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. [21] For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

### **MATTHEW 17:1-9**

**And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, [2] And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. [3] And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. [4] Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. [5] While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. [6] And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. [7] And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. [8] And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. [9] And as they came down from the**

mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

#### **JOHN 11:43-44**

And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. [44] And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

#### **MARK 10:46-52**

And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. [47] And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. [48] And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. [49] And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. [50] And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. [51] And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. [52] And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

#### **ACTS 3:6-8**

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. [7] And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. [8] And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

#### **JOHN 20:25**

The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

#### **JOHN 20:27-29**

Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. [28] And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my

**God. [29] Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**

**HEBREWS 4:12**

**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

# Read with Your Heart

## LESSON 10 – OUTLINE

- I. I knew that God had awesome plans for my life and that there needed to be a tremendous amount of growth and change in me, but I just didn't know how to get started.
  - A. As I was seeking Him, the Lord specifically spoke the parables in Mark 4 to me.
  - B. They made a profound impact on me and set me on a course.
  - C. I still use them almost daily.
  - D. They've become woven into the very fabric of my life.
  
- II. Jesus gave this parable about a man who went out and sowed seed (Mark 4:1-9).
  - A. The disciples asked Jesus, "Why do You speak to these people in parables?"
  - B. He said, "**This people's heart is waxed gross**" (Matt. 13:15).
  - C. This is literally speaking of a step-by-step, incremental progression.
  - D. A person's heart doesn't just instantly turn against God and become insensitive and unable to hear from Him; it's a process.
  - E. Their ears have become hard of hearing.
  - F. They have eyes but can't see.
  - G. Inside of every person, there's the potential for spiritual perception and receiving from God, but it must be developed.
  - H. Since most people spend virtually no time focused on the things of the Lord, they've become spiritually dull.
  - I. Because there's no way the Lord can speak plainly to such people, He puts spiritual truths in parables.
  
- III. Jesus went on to say that these disciples had a special anointing from God that enabled them to decipher and learn these spiritual truths (Matt. 13:16-18).
  - A. This is the second purpose of the Lord speaking in parables.

- B. Parables were like a spiritual code: To those who didn't seek God and didn't have hearts for Him, parables seemed foolish, and they rejected them. But to those who have hearts for God, the Holy Spirit has been given to specifically decode and explain these truths.
  - C. The Holy Spirit is sent to you specifically to teach you and explain things that you can't know with just your natural mind (John 14:26 and 16:13-15).
  - D. There were spiritual truths hidden behind and embedded within each parable that the Holy Spirit was intended to reveal.
- IV. Many of you may come against the Word, criticizing it, and saying, "The Bible is hard to understand."
- A. That's because you're reading it with your mind.
  - B. The Lord wrote the Word of God to your heart.
  - C. As you read the Word, you may not understand with your peanut brain something you're reading.
  - D. But you can stop and pray, "Father, I don't understand this. What does it mean?"
  - E. Then you start meditating on that scripture, opening your heart to listen to Him, and saying from your heart, "I want to know You. I want to know what Your Word has to say."
  - F. God—through His Word—will begin speaking to you.
- V. One of the greatest things in my Christian life is the ability to take the Word of God and read it with my mind.
- A. Yet, at the same time that I'm looking at the pages, I go beyond just my mind, and I let my heart listen.
  - B. God speaks to me.
  - C. His Word comes alive.
  - D. Life is literally pumped into me through the Bible.
  - E. If you haven't experienced that, you're missing one of the greatest experiences of all.

- VI. If the sower sowing the seed isn't one of your favorite passages—one that has just transformed your life—then you're missing out on one of the most important keys to the Christian life.

**Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?**

**Mark 4:13**

- A. Jesus was saying, "If you don't understand this parable, then you can't understand any of My parables. If you can't get the interpretation and application to your personal life of this parable, then you can't understand My teaching."
- B. Christ Himself declared, "This is the key. If you understand this parable, you can understand any of them."
- C. That's powerful!
- VII. So, if the scriptures of the parable of the sower sowing the seed (Matt. 13, Mark 4, and Luke 8) aren't some of the most important scriptures in your life—scriptures from which God has spoken to you—then that's one reason you don't have clear understanding of the Bible.
- A. That's one reason you don't know how the kingdom of God works, and you're dependent on going to someone else and asking them for help.
- B. It's because you have no ability on your own to understand.
- C. It's not hard to understand the things of God.
- D. The hardest thing is getting people to listen with their hearts.



# Read with Your Heart

## LESSON 10 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Mark 4:1-9. Jesus taught the people many things by what?
  - A. The seaside
  - B. Parables
  - C. The temple
  - D. A. and B.
  - E. B. and C.
2. What did the fowls of the air devour?
3. What happened to the seed sown on the stony ground?
4. What did the thorns do to the plant?
5. What happened after the seed fell on the good ground?
6. Read Matthew 13:10-13. To whom was it given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God?
7. What will happen to the person who has?
8. What will happen to the person who does not have?
9. According to Matthew 13:15-18, what are you supposed to do with your heart?
10. Who desired to see and hear the things the disciples did?
11. According to 1 John 2:20, you have an \_\_\_\_\_ from the Holy One.
12. Read John 14:26. What shall the Holy Spirit teach you?
13. What shall He bring to your remembrance?
14. According to John 16:13-15, what will the Spirit of Truth guide you into?
  - A. All circumstances
  - B. All emotion
  - C. All facts
  - D. All truth
  - E. All power
15. Whom will He glorify?
16. Read Mark 4:13. Jesus expected His disciples to \_\_\_\_\_ this parable.

# **Read with Your Heart**

## **LESSON 10 – SCRIPTURES**

### **MARK 4:1-9**

And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land. [2] And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine, [3] Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: [4] And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. [5] And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: [6] But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. [7] And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. [8] And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. [9] And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

### **MATTHEW 13:10-13**

And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? [11] He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. [12] For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. [13] Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

### **MATTHEW 13:15-18**

For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. [16] But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. [17] For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them. [18] Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

### **1 JOHN 2:20**

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

**JOHN 14:26**

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

**JOHN 16:13-15**

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. [14] He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. [15] All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

**MARK 4:13**

And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?

# The Seed

## LESSON 11 – OUTLINE

- I. Jesus interpreted the parable of the sower for His disciples.
  - A. The seed being sown is the Word of God (Mark 4:14).
  - B. So, this whole parable isn't really about how to be a farmer and get a crop; it's about how the kingdom of God works, and it works off of the Word of God.
  - C. The whole kingdom of God—the Christian life, your victory, your success as a believer—is as simple as taking the Word of God and sowing it in your heart.
  - D. If you will just cooperate with it and let the Word of God germinate, you will change effortlessly.
  
- II. If we didn't do any necessary things to grow a garden, we wouldn't be surprised when a garden doesn't grow.
  - A. Yet, in the spiritual realm, people are constantly surprised at this outcome.
  - B. They've been praying and asking God, but they haven't taken His Word and the promises therein and sown those truths in their lives.
  - C. They don't have a scripture to stand on.
  - D. They don't have a promise.
  
- III. There's benefit in knowing the addresses of promises in the Word of God.
  - A. Specifically, it helps you to be able to share these truths with other people.
  - B. You may have to refresh your memory and look something up.
  - C. But those truths—those revelations—ought to be yours.
  - D. When you have symptoms of sickness in your body and you're lying on your bed, ready to puke your guts out, it's not sufficient to cry out to God, saying, "I know that somewhere in the Bible, it says that You want to heal me."

- IV. I'm just trying to be forceful with this because so many people are missing it big time.
  - A. The average person isn't meditating in the Word of God.
  - B. They aren't spending time—both quality and quantity amounts of time—in God's Word.
  - C. The average person doesn't have a good understanding of the Word of God.
  - D. Or they might say, "My pastor said..." or "I believe the Bible says this somewhere."
  - E. The Word of God must become revelation to you.
  - F. It has to be alive in you.
  - G. You have to take the promises like a seed, plant them in your heart, and meditate on them to see the Word of God work.
  
- V. God has established spiritual laws, and He won't break them.
  - A. One reason the Lord used this parable about a man sowing seed is because the process of germination is a natural system, not a social system that can be broken or manipulated.
  - B. This parable says that in the same way there are laws that govern how a physical, natural seed has to be planted and germinate, there are laws that govern the spiritual realm.
  - C. If you desire certain kingdom fruit in your marriage, relationships, finances, health, emotions—whatever you need—take the seeds (promises in God's Word that speak about those specific things) and plant them in your life.
  - D. If you will give them the proper nourishment and take care of them the way this parable tells you to, then it's inevitable that you will reap the fruit you want.
  - E. This is so simple that you have to have somebody help you misunderstand it!
  
- VI. Most people don't follow this pattern.
  - A. They wait until they're already in a crisis situation and then pray, wanting God to pull them out by a miracle.
  - B. Pardon me for being blunt, but that's just as stupid as the farmer who waits to plant their crop a week before it's due to harvest, and then gets upset with God because "the laws didn't work."

- C. There's nothing wrong with the spiritual laws; you just have to learn what they are and cooperate with them.
- D. That's one of the truths this parable teaches.

# The Seed

## LESSON 11 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Mark 4:14-20. What happens where the Word is sown by the wayside?
2. Why are those offended who represent the stony ground?
3. What chokes the Word in those among the thorns?
4. Read Luke 8:11. The seed is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - A. Letter
  - B. Spirit
  - C. Word
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
5. According to Isaiah 53:4-5, even though Jesus bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, what did we do?
6. **“But he was wounded for \_\_\_\_\_ transgressions.”**
7. With what are we healed?
8. According to Matthew 8:16-17, Jesus cast out the spirits with what?
9. He healed \_\_\_\_\_ that were sick.
10. By this, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy from which book?
11. According to Proverbs 4:22, if you find God’s words, what are they?
12. Read Psalm 107:20. What two things did God do for you?
  - A. Blessed and cursed me
  - B. Healed and delivered me
  - C. Smote and spurned me
  - D. Afflicted and wounded me
  - E. Gave and took away from me

# **The Seed**

## **LESSON 11 – SCRIPTURES**

### **MARK 4:14-20**

The sower soweth the word. [15] And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. [16] And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; [17] And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. [18] And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, [19] And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. [20] And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

### **LUKE 8:11**

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

### **ISAIAH 53:4-5**

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. [5] But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

### **MATTHEW 8:16-17**

When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: [17] That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

### **PROVERBS 4:22**

For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

### **PSALM 107:20**

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.



# Understanding

## LESSON 12 – OUTLINE

- I. The seed produces the fruit, not the ground.
  - A. It's the Word that brings forth the results.
  - B. Now, the ground can either allow the seed to produce to its fullest potential, or it can hinder, choke, and stop the Word of God from working.
  - C. With our hearts, we can either allow the Word of God to have its complete rule, or our hearts can become hardened toward God to not give His seed a place to germinate.
  - D. All I am is dirt—a place for the seed to germinate (Gen 2:7).
  - E. The Word of God has to be planted in your heart for you to effectively change.
  - F. If you would do it that way, change is as normal and natural as when a seed is planted in the ground and grows up.
- II. In the parable of the sower, out of these four different types of ground, only one really began to produce fruit.
  - A. Although, it wasn't the seed that was the problem.
  - B. In the natural realm, it's possible to get seed, plant it, and not produce the desired results because the seed was bad.
  - C. However, in the spiritual realm, God's Word is the seed—and it's incorruptible (1 Pet. 1:23).
  - D. It's never the Word that fails to work; it's the people who fail to work it.
- III. The Lord describes the first type of soil:

**Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.**

**Matthew 13:18-19**

- A. Understanding is the doorway that allows the Word to get into your heart.

- B. The only people the devil can steal the Word from without any effort are the people who don't understand it.
  - C. You must understand the Word in order to receive it.
- IV. Are you someone who can hear somebody minister, and it sounds good to you, but thirty minutes or an hour later, you couldn't even tell someone else what the minister was talking about?
- A. One of two things happened: Either the minister isn't ministering properly, or you don't have the understanding to be able to take those truths and put them into practice in your life.
  - B. An understanding of the Word of God doesn't happen through a casual reading of the Bible or merely listening to someone's message; you have to focus on the Word.
- V. Every scripture can benefit us.
- A. We just need to slow down—maybe even stop—and think about what we're reading.
  - B. You can read the Bible, yet if it's not something you're truly interested in at the moment, you can just let it go in one ear and out the other.
  - C. Or you can declare by faith, "Every scripture is profitable for doctrine and reproof (2 Tim. 3:16). There's something for me to learn in every single verse."
  - D. You can take that scripture, open your heart, meditate on it, and let understanding come.
  - E. Once you fit the pieces together, then Satan can't steal it from you.
- VI. Understanding comes from within.
- A. It's something that comes up from your spirit.
  - B. The Spirit of God quickens it to you.
  - C. I cannot overemphasize how important understanding is.

# Understanding

## LESSON 12 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 2:7. What was breathed into the man?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:23. What were you born again of?
3. Does the Word of God only live forever?
4. Read Mark 4:15. Since the Word was sown in those by the wayside, this means it was sown \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. On accident
  - B. Without care
  - C. Without effort
  - D. For a fee
  - E. On purpose
5. According to 1 Timothy 6:12, you're supposed to **"fight the \_\_\_\_\_ fight of faith."**
6. What are you to lay hold of?
7. According to Hebrews 10:32, **"after ye were illuminated, ye \_\_\_\_\_ a great fight of afflictions."**
  - A. "Lost"
  - B. "Stopped"
  - C. "Endured"
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
8. Read Matthew 13:18-19. The Word that is heard is the Word of what?
9. Does the wicked one come before a person doesn't understand or after?
10. According to 1 Corinthians 9:22, what did Paul become that by all means, he might save some?
11. According to Proverbs 4:7, what is the principal thing?
12. What else are you to get?
13. According to Exodus 30:12, for what reason was a person to give a ransom (a payment) for their soul?
14. Read 2 Timothy 3:16. What is Scripture profitable for?

# **Understanding**

## **LESSON 12 – SCRIPTURES**

### **GENESIS 2:7**

And the **LORD God** formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

### **1 PETER 1:23**

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

### **MARK 4:15**

And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

### **1 TIMOTHY 6:12**

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

### **HEBREWS 10:32**

But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions.

### **MATTHEW 13:18-19**

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. [19] When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 9:22**

To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

### **PROVERBS 4:7**

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

**EXODUS 30:12**

**When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them.**

**2 TIMOTHY 3:16**

**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.**

# Rooted and Established

## LESSON 13 – OUTLINE

- I. When I first started in ministry, I thought the results were all dependent on me.
  - A. So, I put a tremendous amount of effort into seeking the Lord, making sure I understood the truth correctly, and making sure I was clear and anointed in saying the truth.
  - B. I taught the exact same truth in six different Bible studies, trying to keep the people growing at the same rate and on the same page spiritually.
  - C. One person would look bored to death, and the next would be getting their life changed by the revelation they were receiving.
  - D. How could all of these things be happening from the same ministry of the Word?
  - E. I began to realize that it's not just the Word I speak, but it's the condition of people's hearts.
  - F. I've realized that it's not just the way I speak—it's the way people hear.
- II. If you get to where you want to know the truth of God's Word more than you crave food, more than you desire wealth, you'll get it (Ps. 19:10).
  - A. The problem is that most only want this every once in a while.
  - B. If that's the way you are, you aren't ever going to have understanding.
  - C. God isn't the one who determines the condition of your heart—you are.
  - D. It's not time for you to pray and ask God to speak louder; it's time for you to change your heart and start focusing on the things of the Lord.
- III. In Mark 4:16-17, Jesus began to teach from the parable of the sower about the second type of person that heard the Word of God:

**And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.**

- A. This person gets excited about the Word, but doesn't have any root within.
  - B. The end result is that there is no fruit.
  - C. In the spiritual realm, many people don't like letting a truth from the Word of God take root on the inside of them and get established in their hearts.
  - D. They just want to skip all this and get right to the fruit as quickly as they can.
  - E. Therefore, they don't have very much depth of earth in their lives.
  - F. Their hearts aren't totally committed to that truth.
  - G. They may look like they're growing faster than somebody else, but in the end, they can't sustain that growth.
  - H. Their commitment shrivels up and dies at the first little hardship that comes along.
- IV. If you want to be someone who really produces fruit and sees the Word of God work, it's not going to happen overnight.
- A. You can't microwave your miracle.
  - B. There is seed, tiiiiiiiiime, and then harvest.
  - C. You have to let God's Word stay rooted on the inside of you.
  - D. You can't back off of it.
  - E. You must keep digging and looking for greater revelation.
  - F. Don't just take the surface revelation of what the Word of God says.
  - G. Go back to those scriptures and ask, "Lord, have I received everything out of this scripture that I need to know? Please show me more."
  - H. Failure to let the Word of God take root on the inside is probably the number-one reason people aren't seeing greater fruit manifest in their lives.
  - I. They just aren't giving it time.
- V. Satan would love to get you to where you don't have any depth of root in your life.
- A. Then he can come against you and just steal the Word.

- B. He wants to pull it up before it ever gets rooted.
- C. However, if you grow a good root system, you'll be able to stand despite all the troubles, trials, and hardships that come in life.



## **Rooted and Established**

### **LESSON 13 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. Read Matthew 5:6. Why are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness blessed?
2. Read Psalm 19:10. **“More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than \_\_\_\_\_ fine gold.”**
3. According to Mark 4:16-17, **“when they have heard the word, \_\_\_\_\_ receive it with gladness.”**
4. **“Afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word’s sake, \_\_\_\_\_ they are offended.”**
5. According to Mark 4:19-20, what becomes unfruitful?
  - A. The person
  - B. The ground
  - C. The Word
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
6. Once the ones on the good ground hear the Word, what do they do?
7. Read 1 Peter 2:24. Are you dead to sin, or is sin dead to you?
  - A. I am dead to sin
  - B. Sin is dead to me
  - C. Both
  - D. Neither
  - E. That’s not a fair question

# **Rooted and Established**

## **LESSON 13 – SCRIPTURES**

### **MATTHEW 5:6**

**Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.**

### **PSALM 19:10**

**More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.**

### **MARK 4:16-17**

**And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; [17] And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.**

### **MARK 4:19-20**

**And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. [20] And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.**

### **1 PETER 2:24**

**Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**

# Persecution

## LESSON 14 – OUTLINE

- I. God's Word is never the variable; it has the same potential in every single person's life.
  - A. What made the Word produce differently in the parable of the sower wasn't the seed itself, but rather the type of soil it found itself in.
  - B. This parable illustrates four different types of hearts.
  - C. It reveals that there's really only one type of response that will allow the seed of God's Word to fully produce its fruit.
  
- II. Let's continue looking at the second type of person who heard the Word (Mark 4:16-17).
  - A. The word "**offended**" here doesn't mean that they quit believing or renounced the Word.
  - B. You need to recognize that Satan doesn't have to make you totally disavow your faith in the Word.
  - C. If he can just get you to where you're cautious and afraid to speak, then you're hurt and offended, and now you aren't enthusiastic the way you used to be.
  - D. If the devil can get you into that mode, he can stop the Word of God from working in your life.
  
- III. Mark 4:17 really ministered to me when I saw that the afflictions and persecutions come for the Word's sake.
  - A. They don't come because of you or me personally; it's because of the Word.
  - B. When you start speaking the Word to people, God uses it to bring conviction to them.
  - C. It starts pressuring and motivating them to change.
  - D. They may not mentally be able to separate this and understand it, but that is really what's happening.
  - E. They may think it's you they're upset with and it's you they're criticizing, but what they're really doing is criticizing God's Word coming through you.

- IV. Whenever Jesus spoke, He caused a revival or a riot.
  - A. It's naïve and incorrect for us to think that if we just walk in love, everybody will love us.
  - B. You need to recognize that when you begin to stand on the Word without compromise, it starts to release its power.
  - C. Either people will repent and love you for it, or they'll criticize you because of it.
  - D. God's Word will divide and separate people (Matt. 10:34-36).
  
- V. If I get offended and become gun-shy about speaking the truth because of what people have to say, the Word of God will cease performing and producing in my life.
  - A. I made a decision almost forty years ago that I wasn't going to let that happen.
  - B. I've been trying to be bold and let the Word of God, rather than the opinions of man, rule and dominate me.
  - C. It's become a habit and a lifestyle for me.
  - D. I may not be doing it perfectly, but I'm moving in this direction because of my conviction from the Word of God.

# Persecution

## LESSON 14 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. According to Mark 4:13, what did Jesus expect His disciples to know (understand)?
  - A. When it was time to eat
  - B. The parable of the sower
  - C. Seed, time, and harvest
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
  
2. Read Mark 4:16-17. These people received the Word \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Reluctantly
  - B. When they felt like it
  - C. Out of fear
  - D. With gladness
  - E. As long as it lined up with their tradition
  
3. What do they do for a time?
  
4. According to Acts 17:6, Jason and certain brethren were those who what?
  
5. Read Matthew 10:16-42. Is Jesus saying these things to people who aren't His followers?
  
6. For whose sake would they be brought before governors and kings?
  
7. It is enough for the disciple to be like whom?
  
8. Who will Jesus confess before His Father in heaven?
  
9. **“He that findeth his life shall \_\_\_\_\_ it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall \_\_\_\_\_ it.”**

# **Persecution**

## **LESSON 14 – SCRIPTURES**

### **MARK 4:13**

**And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?**

### **MARK 4:16-17**

**And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; [17] And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.**

### **ACTS 17:6**

**And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.**

### **MATTHEW 10:16-42**

**Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. [17] But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; [18] And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. [19] But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. [20] For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. [21] And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. [22] And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. [23] But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. [24] The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. [25] It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? [26] Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. [27] What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. [28] And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able**

to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. [29] Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. [30] But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. [31] Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. [32] Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. [33] But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. [34] Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. [35] For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. [36] And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. [37] He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. [38] And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. [39] He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. [40] He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. [41] He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. [42] And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

# My Revelation

## LESSON 15 – OUTLINE

I. The parable of a grain of mustard seed is another parable Jesus told that day:

**The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.**

**Matthew 13:31-32**

- A. As I meditated on these scriptures, I remember thinking, *God, that's what I want life to be. I want You to live through me so big that it affects millions of people. I want to see people's lives changed.*
  - B. While envisioning this, the Lord spoke to me, saying, "But your root is so small. The very first bird to land on a branch would cause the whole tree to fall over. The first breath of air to blow against it would knock it over."
  - C. It's actually the root system that determines how big a plant or tree will be above ground.
  - D. I desired all of these great results, but I didn't want to take time to get rooted in the Word.
  - E. The Lord told me, "That's the big problem with most people."
- II. I decided right then and there that I was going to be one of those in whom the Word of God would take root.
- A. I actually quit worrying about the visible results to a large degree.
  - B. Instead, I focused on taking the Word of God and keeping it in my heart.
  - C. I knew that if I kept God's Word dwelling on the inside of me, instead of it coming in and out, it would literally begin to put down roots through every part of my being and start permeating me.
- III. Every good thing God has done in my life has come as the fruit of His Word.
- A. This includes the revelation He's shown me, the call to ministry He's given me, the people I've seen raised from the dead, the blind eyes and deaf ears I've seen opened, all kinds of other miracles, and the way God has abundantly met my needs.



- B. Once that seed has taken root, it just produces.
  - C. I don't know about you, but this still gets me excited!
- IV. A tiny little seed from God's Word can destroy any sickness, any disease, emotional issue, or financial problem if you would just take the Word of God, keep it in your heart, and let it dominate you.
- A. It's that powerful!
  - B. But you must protect it.
  - C. You need to take what I'm saying, meditate on it, and let the Lord bear witness to it in your heart.
  - D. It's not enough to know what I believe the Word of God says; it has to become personal revelation to you!
  - E. That is profound.
- V. When the Lord first spoke this to me and it became a revelation, God convicted me that I was living off of somebody else's revelation.
- A. I remember saying to myself, "That will never happen again. In the name of Jesus, it's going to be my revelation. I may have heard somebody else say it, but I'm going to go to God and meditate on that word until it germinates and releases its life in me. It's going to be what God spoke to me!"
  - B. There are thousands of things I've gleaned from the Word.
  - C. Perhaps somebody else planted the seed, but it became my revelation as it took root on the inside of me.

# My Revelation

## LESSON 15 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 13:31-32. What kind of seed is the kingdom of heaven like?
2. Whose field did the man sow in?
3. What is a mustard seed among all the others?
4. What is it when it is grown?
  - A. The smallest of shrubs
  - B. A mulberry tree
  - C. A juniper tree
  - D. The greatest among herbs
  - E. A fig tree
5. What does it become?
6. What is able to lodge in its branches?

# **My Revelation**

## **LESSON 15 – SCRIPTURES**

### **MATTHEW 13:31-32**

**Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: [32] Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.**

# **CHOKED!**

## Lesson 16 – OUTLINE

- I. Now we come to the third type of person that heard God's Word, and how that person responded to it:

**And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

**Mark 4:18-19**

- A. The third type is someone who has learned God's truths enough that they are excited about the Word and have meditated in it enough that it's beginning to take root.
- B. There's a real life and vibrancy coming out of them.
- C. The Word of God is starting to produce results in their life, but then they get occupied with the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things.
- II. Today we are being constantly bombarded, not only by news and the problems of this world, but also by all kinds of entertainment.
- A. We have an abundance of television, movies, and video games.
- B. Also, it seems that on the job, people are working harder than ever before.
- C. They are just pouring themselves into all this, and it will choke the Word of God.
- D. Busyness is not conducive to spirituality.
- E. Most are far too occupied with other things than God and His Word.
- III. If you squeeze just five or ten minutes in, trying to hear the Lord's voice and stay your mind on the things of God, but the rest of the day you are running around at a frantic pace, you aren't going to have the Word of God produce itself in your life.
- A. You have to be still and quiet yourself (Ps. 46:10).
- B. If I get really involved, busy, and going at a frantic pace, it takes a period of time for me to sit down, slow myself down, and get to where I can hear God from my heart.

- C. If I have been spending lots of time with the Lord and am very sensitive to Him, I could get occupied and busy with something for an hour but then step out of that and go right back into the spirit realm almost immediately.
  - D. Busyness with this natural world limits our perception of the spiritual world.
- IV. Even Jesus took down time (Mark 6:31).
- A. Yes, His goal was to reach people.
  - B. Yes, He desired to touch as many people's lives as He could.
  - C. Yet, after He and His disciples had been out on this missionary tour, He was telling them to come apart, rest awhile, and go over to this desert place.
- V. You need some time where you can separate yourself from all the busy activities of daily life and just spend time focused on God.
- A. Now, you don't necessarily have to have your nose buried in the Bible.
  - B. To a degree, you will because you can't meditate on scriptures that you don't know.
  - C. But if you've already been reading the Bible, you might be able to just go sit on the porch for a while and pray about what's been going on during that day.
  - D. You could meditate on the scriptures He's been giving you and ask Him to show you things.
- VI. Working your job and spending time with your family are good and right in their place, but it's not good if you cram so much into your life that you have very little or no time left for God and His Word.
- A. I wish I could somehow or another make people understand this because Satan is really using this to hinder people's personal growth.
  - B. He draws them into being so busy that they short-circuit God's provision for them to change.
  - C. They just get so preoccupied that they don't take the time to be in the Word and in fellowship with Him.
  - D. This hinders the change God wants to bring to pass.

- E. If I can become too preoccupied and busy with ministry—things that are good and that help other people—so that the Word of God is being choked and hindered in my life, what can happen in other people’s lives who are occupied with pursuing their careers and running their kids all over town all week long?
  
- VII. You may be one of these people who love God, place an importance on His Word, and want to see the fruit, but are so occupied with all kinds of “good” things that the seed of God’s Word is being choked out in your life.
  - A. If you’re not careful, these things will keep you from being productive.
  - B. They’re like weeds sprouting up all around the stalk of corn you planted.
  - C. The soil (your heart) only has so much nourishment for the seed (God’s Word).
  - D. Those weeds will suck much of the moisture and nutrients out of the soil, which will keep the seed that you want to grow from really producing and bearing fruit.
  
- VIII. Many people are cramming so much into their lives, and these things aren’t improving the quality of their lives.
  - A. That lifestyle needs to change.
  - B. Are you seeing the change in your life that you desire?
  - C. Are you bearing the fruit that you know God wants you to bear?
  - D. If not, I challenge you to start spending some quantity time just focused on the things of the Lord.
  - E. Perhaps you’ve already been spending time, and the Lord is drawing you deeper.
  - F. You just need to make a decision that you are going to start taking away all of these things that choke the Word of God in your life.

## CHOKED!

### Lesson 16 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Mark 4:18-19. The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things \_\_\_\_\_ in.
2. What do these things choke?
  - A. The Word
  - B. The one who didn't pay me what he owed
  - C. The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
3. According to Psalm 46:10, what two things are you to do?
4. **"I will be exalted among the \_\_\_\_\_, I will be exalted in the earth."**
  - A. "Pagan"
  - B. "Jew"
  - C. "Gentile"
  - D. "Heathen"
  - E. "Follower"
5. Read Mark 6:31. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to come apart into a deserted place and rest awhile?

# **CHOKED!**

## **Lesson 16 – SCRIPTURES**

### **MARK 4:18-19**

**And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, [19] And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

### **PSALM 46:10**

**Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.**

### **MARK 6:31**

**And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.**



## Less

### LESSON 17 – OUTLINE

- I. In the parable of the sower, there was only one soil that really produced the intended fruit:

**And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.**

**Mark 4:20**

- A. The Lord really encouraged me through this parable.
- B. He showed me that it was the seed—the Word—that produced the fruit. And the ground that produced the best fruit wasn't the ground that had more; it was the ground that had less—less stones, less thorns, and less weeds.
- C. This told me that in order to be fruitful, I didn't necessarily need all of these external talents that people normally emphasize; it's really just a matter of the heart.
- D. I prayed, "God, if what really makes Your Word become fruitful is being less, then I can certainly be less. I may not be able to be more, but I can definitely be less. I can get rid of these things that hinder me."
- II. You may not feel like you're the sharpest knife in the drawer.
- A. You may be acutely aware that you have all kinds of liabilities that other people don't have.
- B. Yet you can commit yourself to the Word of God and meditate in it until it takes deep root in your heart.
- C. You can refuse to allow anything else to divert your attention or sap the strength from your heart that could be going to the Lord.
- D. If you devote yourself completely to His Word, it will make you a success.
- E. It will cause fruit to come in whatever area He has called and anointed you to minister.
- III. If you stop to think about it, this whole parable has been about patience (Luke 8:15).
- A. Anyone who has ever dealt with seeds knows they have to give the seeds time to work.

- B. Time is actually an asset.
  - C. It's a benefit.
  - D. Instead of looking at time negatively, you need to see it as a friend to a seed because it allows reproduction and multiplication.
- IV. Every second you spend meditating in the Word of God and planting these seeds into your heart, you're putting in motion a process that cannot be stopped.
- A. Seeds are powerful.
  - B. If we keep the Word of God fresh and alive on the inside of us, it'll continue benefiting us twenty, thirty, fifty years from now, should the Lord tarry.
  - C. Once you get this system going and you've invested that time, you'll be changed effortlessly by the Word of God.
  - D. It'll just spring forth and grow up in your life.
  - E. You'll be transformed.
  - F. The time you take getting God's Word rooted and grounded in you isn't wasted time; you will reap its rewards for the rest of your life.

**Less**  
**LESSON 17 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. According to Mark 4:20, what kind of ground was the Word sown into?
  - A. Holy
  - B. Peat
  - C. Good
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
  
2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-28. Are all wise, mighty, or noble not called?
  
3. **“But God hath chosen the \_\_\_\_\_ things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the \_\_\_\_\_ things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.”**
  - A. “Foolish,” “weak”
  - B. “Simple,” “peaceful”
  - C. “Wise,” “strong”
  - D. “Noble,” “attractive”
  - E. “Gifted,” “qualified”
  
4. What has God done with the base, the despised, and the things that are not?
  
5. Read Luke 8:15. Those with honest and good hearts are those who do what with the Word?

## **Less**

### **LESSON 17 – SCRIPTURES**

#### **MARK 4:20**

**And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.**

#### **1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-28**

**For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: [27] But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; [28] And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are.**

#### **LUKE 8:15**

**But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.**

# The Growth Process

## LESSON 18 – OUTLINE

I. The kingdom of God is as if a man should cast seed into the ground (Mark 4:26-29).

A. This is the same principle as the parable of the sower sowing the seed.

**And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.**

**Mark 4:27**

B. In the same way that we plant a seed in the ground and don't really know what's happening, so it is with the Word.

C. Despite all of our knowledge, we have not been able to figure out why a seed does what it does.

D. However, that doesn't keep us from taking seeds and planting them in the ground.

E. We've learned enough about a seed to be able to cooperate with it.

F. We benefit from it.

G. This is a tremendous comfort to me.

II. I don't have to understand everything about how the Word works.

A. I don't have to understand why just shutting myself in with the Lord, studying His Word, and listening to Him speak to me does what it does.

B. The fact that I can't totally explain it doesn't keep me from cooperating and reaping the benefits of it.

C. You don't have to understand everything to get God's Word working in your life.

D. Just start sowing it into your heart.

E. Begin meditating on it day and night.

F. The Word of God will germinate, take root, spring forth, and grow up of itself.

- III. God's Word contains His life in it.
- A. If you would take His words, His sayings, and put them on the inside of you, then God's kind of life would start flowing through you.
  - B. You would find that healing, prosperity, joy, peace—everything Jesus provided—are contained in His Word.
  - C. It's different than reading any other book—even books about the Bible.
  - D. If you take it, the Word will give you life where there's been death.
  - E. It gives light where there was darkness.
  - F. It's that simple.
- IV. In this parable, Jesus was saying that the kingdom of God is like a man that takes a seed and puts it in the ground.
- A. He sleeps and rises night and day, so this implies time is involved.
  - B. You have to exercise patience.
  - C. That seed has to be left in the ground for a period of time.
  - D. There has to be faith.
  - E. The person who plants the seed has to believe that the seed is germinating, putting roots down, and producing.
  - F. It's the same with the Word of God.
  - G. You can't just take a promise, plant it in your heart, and expect to reap a harvest right away.
  - H. That's not abiding in the Word and letting the Word abide in you (John 15:5).
- V. You must come to a place where the Word is a part of you.
- A. It does you no good to spend ten or twenty minutes in "devotion mode," being sweet and kind and listening to God, but once it's over, you go back to being a piranha the rest of the day—as mean, angry, and vicious in your relationships and business dealings as anyone else in the world.

- B. You may have planted the Word in your devotion time, but you dug that Word up.
  - C. It's not working on the inside of you.
  - D. It's not staying in your heart, and because of that, you aren't going to see it produce.
  - E. You have to take the truths about loving people (John 13:34-35), turning the other cheek (Matt. 5:39), and thinking more highly of others than you think of yourself (Phil. 2:3) and leave that seed in your heart over time.
  - F. Then, whenever somebody rubs you the wrong way, you need to act in faith and let that Word continue to affect you.
  - G. You must abide in the Word and let the Word abide in you for it to release its power and for it to impact your life.
- VI. People who have spent virtually no time getting established in the Word of God come to me all the time.
- A. They hear me talking about how the Word works, how I've seen God set me free, seen people healed and raised from the dead, and seen other great testimonies.
  - B. They ask, "What scriptures promise that?"
  - C. I give them a seed and they plant it, but if they don't have the same results by that time the next day, then they say, "I don't believe that works. The Word doesn't work. I did exactly the same thing you did, and it didn't work for me."
  - D. They become critical because they don't understand that there's a growth process.
  - E. There was a growth process in my life, and there will be a growth process in your life.
- VII. You can get a thousand people to agree with you in prayer, but you cannot circumvent the process.
- A. Personally, I believe that by the degree of seeking you do, God might be able to speed up the process a little bit, but there's still going to be these steps, stages, and growth.
  - B. You aren't going to go from having never seen the Word of God work in your life to seeing a hundredfold return.
  - C. You can't go from 0 to 100 mph instantly.
  - D. You must realize that seed, time, and harvest is a process.

# The Growth Process

## LESSON 18 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Mark 4:26-29. What doesn't the man know?
2. **"The \_\_\_\_\_ bringeth forth fruit of herself."**
3. When the fruit comes forth, when does he put in the sickle?
  - A. When it's convenient
  - B. He doesn't need to because the fruit harvests itself
  - C. Immediately
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
4. According to Proverbs 4:20-22, are these commands to a stranger?
5. Read Hebrews 4:12. What does the Word of God pierce even to the dividing asunder?
6. Read 1 Peter 2:24. If you **"should"** live unto righteousness, who is better for it?
  - A. God
  - B. Me
  - C. My spouse
  - D. The pastor
  - E. Others
7. According to John 15:5, to bring forth much fruit, Jesus only needs to abide in you?
8. Read John 13:34-35. What is the new commandment?
9. What will all people know by this?
10. Read Matthew 5:39. If someone strikes you on one cheek, what should you do?
11. According to Philippians 2:3, you are to let \_\_\_\_\_ be done through strife or vainglory (conceit).
12. In lowliness of mind, you are to esteem \_\_\_\_\_ better than yourself.



# **The Growth Process**

## **LESSON 18 – SCRIPTURES**

### **MARK 4:26-29**

And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; [27] And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. [28] For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. [29] But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

### **PROVERBS 4:20-22**

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. [21] Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. [22] For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

### **HEBREWS 4:12**

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### **1 PETER 2:24**

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

### **JOHN 15:5**

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

### **JOHN 13:34-35**

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. [35] By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

### **MATTHEW 5:39**

But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

### **PHILIPPIANS 2:3**

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

# Life and Power

## LESSON 19 – OUTLINE

- I. On the same day that Jesus taught these ten parables of the kingdom, the Lord also told His disciples to get in a boat and go over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee:

**And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**

**Mark 4:35-41**

- A. Jesus said in verse 35, **“Let us pass over unto the other side.”**
- B. Do you realize what He was doing?
- C. He had just been talking about the power of the Word.
- D. So, He gave His disciples a seed. He gave them a word.
- E. He didn’t tell the disciples, “Let’s get into the boat, go halfway, and then drown. Let’s get in there and be overwhelmed by this storm. We’re never going to make it to the other side.”
- II. God didn’t cause this storm in Mark 4.
- A. So, for you to say “God, why did You let this happen?” is wrong.
- B. In the first place, you’re imputing iniquity and error unto the Lord, and you need to stop it.
- C. God is a good God.

- D. He's not the source of your problems.
- III. These disciples in the boat started saying, "Lord, wake up! Don't You care that we perish? Get a bucket and bail. Row. Do something to help us! You aren't pulling Your weight. If it wasn't for us, we would have already been sunk. You haven't done anything!"
- A. Sounds very similar to what people are saying to the Lord today: "Why haven't You healed me? I've prayed, I've done this, and yet You haven't done Your part. Lord, don't You care about me?"
  - B. The truth is that Jesus had done His part.
  - C. He gave the disciples that word.
  - D. Then it was up to them to take that word and release the life that's in it through believing and speaking it out.
  - E. It's the same with us today.
  - F. God gave us the seeds of His Word, which will grow the solution to our problems.
- IV. Jesus didn't get up and say, "Guys, I'm sorry. I was tired and just trying to catch a few winks. It's My fault. I got you into this. I apologize for not getting up and taking care of it."
- A. Instead, the Lord asked, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"
  - B. He was angry at their carnality and disappointed by their unbelief.
  - C. It would be unjust of Jesus to be critical of these disciples if there was nothing they could have done.
- V. If these disciples would have understood what Jesus had been teaching them all day long, they could have done something about this storm.
- A. If they would have had any understanding at all, they could have taken that Word and stood on it.
  - B. They could have taken their authority and commanded the boat to go to the other side.
  - C. They could have rebuked the wind and commanded the waves to stop.
  - D. Jesus rebuked them, saying, "Guys, you ought to be doing better than this."
  - E. Brothers and sisters, we ought to be doing better than this!

- VI. Praying “O God, please pour out Your Spirit. O God, have mercy on our country. Please don’t judge us!” is an offense against God.
- A. The Lord has already poured out His Spirit and had mercy on our country.
  - B. The only reason we don’t have red-hot revival flowing in the land is because we, as the body of Christ, aren’t doing what He told us to do.
  - C. He told us to go preach the Gospel and teach His Word (Mark 16:15 and Matt. 28:18-20).
  - D. He told us to go heal the sick.
  - E. He told us to advance His kingdom upon the earth (Luke 19:13).
  - F. Jesus gave us these words.
  - G. The problem is we don’t want to take time to plant the Word into our hearts, keep it in there, and meditate on it so it can take root, mature, and bear fruit.
  - H. That’s work!
  - I. We’re asking Him to do it, but it’s not going to work that way.
- VII. When the Lord comes back at the end times, Revelation 19:15 says a sharp, two-edged sword will come out of His mouth with which He’ll strike the nations.
- A. I don’t believe that’s describing a physical sword, but that the sword represents the Word of God (Heb. 4:12).
  - B. The Word of God will be the greatest display of power in the history of the universe, and He’s given it to you.
  - C. You have that same Word right now.
  - D. You don’t need a miracle to just fall out of the sky.
  - E. What you need to do is take the Word of God, plant that seed into your heart, and let it grow.
  - F. Then the supernatural life and miraculous power of God will come right up out of the midst of you!

G. I believe the seeds of God's Word that I've sown in you through this **Study Guide** will not be choked out but will produce up to a hundredfold.

H. Amen! So be it!

# Life and Power

## LESSON 19 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Mark 4:35-41. What arose while Jesus and the disciples were crossing the sea?
  - A. A great windstorm
  - B. A great famine
  - C. A great wave
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
2. The waves beat into the ship so that the ship was what?
3. What was Jesus sleeping on?
  - A. A wooden plank
  - B. On the breast of the disciple whom He loved
  - C. The fishing net
  - D. A full stomach
  - E. A pillow
4. What did Jesus rebuke?
5. What did He say to the sea?
6. How much faith did Jesus say the disciples had?
7. When the disciples saw what He did, what were they?
8. According to John 1:14, what did John and others behold?
9. Read Mark 16:15. You are to go into \_\_\_\_\_ the world and preach the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ creature.
10. According to Matthew 28:18-20, all power is \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus in heaven and in earth.
11. You are to teach all nations all things whatsoever who has commanded you?
12. Read Luke 19:13. How many pounds did he give each servant?
13. Read Revelation 19:15. Who is this verse talking about?
14. Read Hebrews 4:12. Does the Word of God only discern the thoughts of the heart?

# **Life and Power**

## **LESSON 19 – SCRIPTURES**

### **MARK 4:35-41**

And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. [36] And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. [37] And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. [38] And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? [39] And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. [40] And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? [41] And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

### **JOHN 1:14**

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

### **MARK 16:15**

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

### **MATTHEW 28:18-20**

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. [19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

### **LUKE 19:13**

And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

### **REVELATION 19:15**

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

**HEBREWS 4:12**

**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**