



‘Bradley’s entire life is a testimony to the power of prayer and God’s supernatural hand at work in his life’

Dr. Bradley Stuart

Dr Bradley Stuart is Yada’s founding director. His entire life is a testimony of the power of prayer and an intimate journey with the Lord which led him to this 8 part series ‘Destiny An Intimate Journey.’

“This work contains Dr. Bradley Stuart’s unique testimony of God’s work in his life, the reality of abiding presence of the Lord, and some deep lessons learned along the way.”

Michael Fenton-Jones

President, Int’l Christian Chamber of Commerce (1996-2002)

“This series will help every believer live in more intimate and effective union with Christ.”

Gary P. Bergel

President, Intercessors For America



destiny

An Intimate Journey



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course 1 – beginning the journey

Dr. Bradley Stuart

Lesson 1	p3-6
Introduction To Yada International and how it can impact your life	
Lesson 2	p7-12
Bradley Stuart's life testimony a supernatural birth for a supernatural life	
Lesson 3	p13-20
The importance of vision	
Lesson 4	p21-26
Learning to hear from God (part 1)	
Lesson 5	p27-34
Learning to hear from God (part 2)	
Lesson 6	p35-40
A call to intimacy	
Lesson 7	p41-48
Call to intimacy	
Lesson 8	p49-54
Working with what you have received Seeing life come from your intimacy	
Lesson 9	p55-62
God's process of redemption A love story	

These workbooks are available free of charge and may be freely used however if you are blessed by them and would like send a love gift you may do so to the address on the back cover.

Yada International has audio tapes, CD's or DVD's that can be purchased at different places around the world for a full catalogue of the 72 lessons available please contact us and we can get that information to you.

I trust that you will be blessed as you work through this material and that it will help you to discover your destiny through an intimate journey with the Lord.

Dr. Bradley Stuart
Founding Director

WHAT DOES YADA MEAN?

YADA is a Hebrew word that is used 873 times in the Old Testament that describes KNOWING:

God intimately

"Adam knew (Yada) Eve and she conceived."

(Genesis 4:1)

God and His Word by divine revelation

"For Samuel did not yet know (Yada) the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him."

(1Samuel 3:7)

God in a way that will lead us to victory

"Those that know (Yada) their God will be strong and do great exploits."

(Daniel 11:32b)

YADA desires to equip all to develop a life-style of intimacy so that they can:

Be led into an intimate relationship with the Lord and birth His divine purposes.

Know the Lord and obey His Word.

Know the Lord, receive His strategies for warfare and become victorious.

WHAT IS THE VISION OF YADA INTERNATIONAL?

Yada desires to see believers come to a place of wholeness and freedom (spiritually and emotionally) according to Isaiah 61:1-3 so that they can enter into an intimate relationship with their Heavenly Father that in turn will transform all their other relationships.

The Mission of Yada International is to:

- 1) See Yada International centers established throughout the earth to help believers come to the wholeness (defined in the vision) that is needed in their lives.
- 2) Help believers get to know God so intimately that they can birth and bring forth His plans and purposes.
- 3) Help believers get to know God by personal revelation through His living Word.
- 4) Help believers get to know God in a way that leads them to personal victory through their knowledge of God.

BEGINNING THE JOURNEY

Course 1 - Overview

Yada's vision, goals, aims and objectives are given. We show the life of the founder and his call to start Yada. It's vital for us to receive vision to give us hope for the future. Having a clear vision gives us a desire to want to hear more clearly so that the vision can become a reality. In order for us to move ahead from there we need to constantly draw near to the Lord in covenant intimacy and to be obedient. God has orderly plans established from Genesis to Joshua.

ORDER AND MATURITY

Course 2 - Overview

To fully enter our destiny we need to be in order and under proper covering. A father's desires to see his children to come to a place of maturity being equipped to enter their destiny unhindered. God prepares us to enter into a session [intercession]. We see the vitality of moving into maturity to produce more than we consume. Our Heavenly Father has made full provision for our total freedom from our hurts, wounds as well as the battles within our souls so we can enter into our destinies unhindered and restored. We need to embrace repentance, turn to the finished work of the cross and become changed.

ROAD BLOCKS TO BE EXPECTED

Course 3 - Overview

To enter into our God given destinies we need to get healed up and look at some of the reasons we don't mature. We need to see things that allow iniquities to enter our lives. An in-depth introduction to iniquities and studying a few that can block or stop us from entering into maturity is done. There is a look at the process of beginning to get freedom from iniquity and being transformed as we do this.

DISCERNMENT IN A TIME OF CRISES

Course 4 - Overview

We move from the hindrances to a further time of preparation seeing what to expect and discern and inquire about as we move into warfare against iniquities. From there we experiencing a deeper level of shaking, crises of belief, major Godly interventions and disruptions revealing the need for proper levels of personal preparation as we face more emotional battles and face further iniquities.

FUNCTIONING AS A COVENANT FAMILY

Course 5 - Overview

For us to enter our destiny it's vital that we recognize the Kingdom of God is a family army. This requires corporeity with every soldier being willing to die for the others [true covenant]. We can't function solo, but need others to work together in unity. This is essential to move into birthing God's Kingdom purposes. We need to be functioning correctly in specific roles as we enter the warfare and recognize our battle against performance and resting in the Lord.

DESTINY – A FATHER'S JOURNEY

Course 6 - Overview

For us to fully enter our destiny we need to be able to learn from others examples, so we will trace the prayer journey of Abraham seeing how he was led in prayer and intercession. Fatherhood is vital and we will show how important it is for us to work together as families. Look as some of the pitfalls and snares that can immobilize or remove us from the battle.

WEAPONS AND WARFARE

Course 7 - Overview

To fully enter our destiny we need to see our responsibility and call to enter into warfare studying its dynamics and strategies and the power of the blood of Christ. We will look at the strategic attack against family life being aware of how we can give the enemy a legal foothold to stop our families from functioning in Godly order. Words can affect our lives and the lives of others. The spread of iniquities can affect our children as we shall see looking at Abraham and David.

REDEEMING YOUR CITY AND THE NATION

Course 8 - Overview

Now let's lift our focus from individual and family warfare to citywide warfare because the ultimate goal of the Kingdom of God is a city 'New Jerusalem that comes down from heaven'. Cities are kingdom models. Family iniquity can affect our cities and nations calling for us to stand in the gap for specific areas of defilement in order to see our cities redeemed.

WHERE WILL THE YADA SCHOOL BE OFFERED?

"And He dug and trenched the ground and gathered out the stones from it, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine press in it."

(Isaiah 5:1-2)

Yada will be presented to individuals or study groups:

This will aim at trying to restore the tower (those who enter into a session with God) within the Body.

We will reflect on the meaning and objectives of Yada where you may ask the questions where you are personally or as a congregation in:

Your intimacy with the Lord?

Your personal knowledge of Him and His Word?

Your knowing Him in battle?

- a) What do you desire to gain from this school?
- b) How committed are you complete this school?

The Yada courses are recommended for as many as possible to do together to help them understand intercession and to break any sense of elitism. The lessons are relevant to all in the Body of Christ.

HOW WILL THE YADA SCHOOL BE OFFERED?

Yada courses will be offered in a media series. A set of media materials and workbook will be made available to use in the following way. Total time for each session ranges from 60 minutes:

Start the lesson with a word of prayer. It would be good to get different students to pray after the initial session. 1 minute.

Watch the teaching. 40-45 minutes.

At the end of the teaching, briefly go the application questions and see if any are not to clear on what has been asked? These questions are for homework and will be discussed during the following week's session. 5-15 minutes.

Ask if there are any questions from the previous weeks homework. Ask if anything came up throughout the past week from the teachings that they feel that they want prayer about.

Open up a time of prayer for anyone that wants prayer. 30 minutes.

Allow those that have time constraints to leave, but then open up for an extended time of personal ministry. However, encourage them to make time to stay at least 6 times during the school so that they can receive impartation and practical experience.

Remind the students about how important it is that they read over their lessons, do their homework, and be prepared for the next week.

A SUPERNATURAL BIRTH FOR A SUPERNATURAL LIFE

Bradley's entire life is a testimony to the power of prayer and God's supernatural hand at work in his life. God's hand has been upon Bradley from the very beginning. He was born prematurely and was a breach baby nearly dying in the birth process. Soon after birth he contracted jaundice and then double pneumonia. His liver began to hemorrhage and the doctors gave him two hours to live. Bradley's parents and grandparents began to earnestly pray and ask the Lord to spare his life to be used in God's service. Nursing staff later reported to the family that at the exact time they had been praying, Bradley's health had taken a dramatic turn for the better and he lived.

At the age of four he was still unable to walk because of a muscular coordination problem. He was later taken to a cerebral palsy school, where initially he wasn't able to hold a pen or pencil. After six years, the school reported that he had made remarkable progress and there was nothing more they could do for him so he began attending a "normal" school. This remarkable progress has continued to this day where he sees his co-ordination slowly being healed. As he wrestled with the subject of healing the Lord showed him that a miracle happens instantaneously, but a healing can be a recovery process. This is seen in Mark 16:18 where it says 'you will lay hands on the sick and they will recover' and in 1 Corinthians 12:9-10 where it talks of gifts of healing and gifts of miracles.

After leaving the school for the cerebral palsy handicapped and starting at a "normal school" the other children teased him and called him various names like "spaz" and other derogatory names, kicked the sandwiches out of his hands, tripped him and mocked him for his slow speech and movement. This caused him a lot of hurt and bitterness so although he made a commitment to Jesus Christ at the age of 13 his Christian life was stagnate until 1982 when God spoke to him and said that he wanted a total commitment from him. Bradley then re-committed his life to the Lord and was filled with the Holy Spirit, which revolutionized his devotional times. The Lord miraculously lengthened one leg that was shorter than the other. The Lord told Bradley that He was calling him to full-time service.

He resisted the call very strongly as he was afraid of being rejected, but God showed him from the outset that He was not looking for his ability, but my availability," says Bradley. While at a youth camp he said, "Here I am, send me. I don't have much ability but I give you my availability." After

completing high school, Bradley worked with youth and served in his local church and began a two-year theological diploma.

He tried hard to get into mission work, but the harder he tried the more the doors were closed to him. "The Lord told me that my desire to get into mission work had to die so I gave it over to him completely." Shortly after this he began working with a missionary who taught on the missionary responsibility, revival and prayer. The Lord said that he was never to make his needs known to anyone." He worked for five months in this position, and the Lord miraculously supplied all his needs. Bradley completed his theological diploma and many people said that he should go to a local church and become a pastor, but he realized very clearly that he was not called to be a pastor.

In 1986, he went on a mission in Lebowa, South Africa for a week and came home nine months later. "When we arrived in Lebowa to preach the Word of God, we were attacked by 16,000 rebellious youths. We went into the tent to pray, and we sought the Lord for about 45 minutes. When the leader of the group was pulled into the angry mob God told him to raise his hands. As he did this, the mob fled in terror. The group then went back to Pretoria, a town in South Africa, to fast and pray for three weeks, and it was decided that 20 of them should go back to Lebowa. When they returned, some young people came and said, 'Where is your angel?' When they asked what angel they were talking about, and they told us that when the leader had raised his hands in front of that 16,000 strong mob, a huge angel had rebuked them in their own language!" Bradley then moved on further north to Venda Land where he continued to minister and contracted typhoid fever, which the Lord miraculously healed in four days.

When he returned home, a pastor asked him to come help start a missionary training school. Bradley then entered a 21 day fast and asked God to give him a clear indication of His calling on his life, and to give him the anointing for that calling. He then helped establish the missionary training school for six months before traveling to America. Bradley arrived in the United States with \$379, and stayed for three months while living completely by faith. During this time he was ordained inter-denominationally and internationally as a minister of the gospel. On his return to South Africa, the Lord prepared Bradley further for full-time ministry as he worked on a Christian holiday farm for six months serving tables as further preparation for the Lord's work.

In 1988 while in prayer one day, the Lord revealed to Bradley that the church today is just as it was in the time of Hannah. When Eli saw Hannah he thought she was drunk, but she was actually in travail before the Lord (1 Samuel 1) and that he needed to teach the church on travail. The Lord then began to reveal much to him about travail before Him in prayer, which is often misunderstood. He was then approached to present a series on intercessory prayer, and the Lord opened up a comprehensive seven-part Bible study course to him." He subsequently wrote a book entitled, "A Call to Intercession" that covered the following topics: Introducing Intercession, Travail, Warfare, Fasting, Group Intercession, and The Intercessor's Character. This book has been expanded and all of this anointed information is covered fully in the Yada courses.

Bradley continued to faithfully teach on intercession throughout South Africa and became committed to a local church in Port Elizabeth that serves as his spiritual covering and home base. God began to open up doors for him to minister throughout South Africa and the nations to him where he could practically apply what he had learned in his prayer closet. When the Lord tells him to go somewhere he goes, without questioning why and without being concerned where the finances are going to come from. He has seen God provide in many different ways for the big and small amounts.

In 1990, God linked him up with Angus Buchan of Shalom Ministries, and he became involved with their citywide campaigns in various parts of South Africa. He would go into the area ahead of the mission to teach and prepare the local intercessors to pray for the campaign. The Lord then challenged him to start a school of intercession to disciple Christians in the art of intercession.

He originally thought it would be established at the Buchan's Shalom Farm outside Greytown in South Africa but the Lord had another plan. Much to his surprise, God then led Bradley to teach his first school in Santa Rosa, California USA over a four-month period in 1994 and it was attended by 25 full-time and over 20 part-time students.

This extensive curriculum is now being revised for use via video presentation in churches throughout the nations. The Yada School courses are offered through a media series that is released to church leadership or any under proper leadership and authority. The school which began as a school of intercession is now much more than an intercessory training school as it has expanded over the

years and is now a training tool to equip believers to come to a place of wholeness in the Lord so that they can get to know Him better and so He can get to know them better. The school began in 1994 as a school of intercession, but in 2001 he changed the name to Yada International as he felt very strongly that it is a school that will help intercessors greatly, but it is designed to bless the whole Body of Christ. His vision, which the Lord gave him in 1994, is to see Yada Schools established in at least twelve different nations.

The Lord has taken Bradley on numerous international trips to teach about intercession and to apply his specialized knowledge in 37 nations so far. On each occasion the Lord has supernaturally provided the money needed for his travel and ministry. Sometimes the money has come in at the last minute, but it's always come. On the practical side of intercession, in addition to the citywide campaigns, he continues to network with various prayer ministries throughout the world. A number of businessmen's groups have used him to teach on the importance of prayer and intercession as a foundation for Godly business practices.

In 1998 Bradley had been visiting a church near Washington DC and had ministered to several. The pastor's wife was led to do something unique and out of the ordinary after she asked if she could pray for him. She got a bowl of water out and began to wash his feet welcoming him into their home, family and church.

Her husband rather surprised at what was happening as she had not done this before said 'I know you have a pastor who you are submitted to and a father that you love, but I would like to offer myself as a father and pastor to you when you are in the USA.' He then welcomed Bradley in and washed his feet as his wife had. His eldest son who was there and an elder then did the same thing. Bradley knew it was a most significant and special night, but was not sure of its full meaning until four nights later when he heard that his natural father had been murdered in South Africa for his cell phone and car. It was one of the hardest flights for his getting back to South Africa, but he testifies that when he got home the Lord Himself carried him until the day of the funeral when He allowed the natural grief to flow. The testimony that he has from this event and his life is its not so important what we go through, but what is our relationship like with the one who can carry us through.

notes

LIFE APPLICATIONS

Do you consider this testimony to be a supernatural account of God's glory?

What would you say the purpose of a supernatural birth could be?

What impacted you most as you heard Bradley Stuart's testimony?

Could you differentiate the difference between a healing and a miracle giving 2 scriptures?

What would you say God requires from each one that God calls to serve Him?

List some personal reflections with regards to going through hardships in your life or the life of someone you know.

Can you identify the clearest way that Bradley Stuart said he hears from God?

From this testimony would you say God works over a period of time or instantly in our lives? Why would you say that?

As you have listened to Bradley Stuart's testimony comment on the relevance, if any, or the importance of ones personal testimony.

Write out your own personal testimony and give God the glory for what He has done for you.

notes

HOW DO WE RECEIVE A VISION?

There are various ways we can receive a vision from God

Proverbs 29:18

*Where there is no vision, the people perish. (KJV)
The people cast off restraint. (NKJ)*

Seek Him**Jeremiah 29:13**

You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart.

Wait and listen to what He has to give us**Habakkuk 2:1-3**

I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected. (2) Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets."

Present ourselves totally to Him**Romans 12:1-2**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Through dreams**Genesis 37:5-7**

Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. (6) So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed."

Through a heavenly vision**Isaiah 6:1-8**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. (8) Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

Through a direct word from God**Jeremiah 1:4-10**

Then the word of the Lord came to me saying: (5) "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

When we have fulfilled our personal responsibility, God will use others to confirm it to us. This will also stimulate us to seek Him for confirmation of what He has told us through

someone else. This does not take place quickly, but requires time and patience.

Hebrews 6:12

But imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE VISION

In talking about our response or how we administer a vision from the Lord, we see that vision often has to go through various stages. The process through which Abraham had to go illustrates this.

THE BIRTHING OF THE VISION

ABRAM - God gave the vision to Abram, personally, as God spoke to him on a number of occasions. Abram received the vision for the first time. It involves him, his children and the nations.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

The vision is confirmed and Abram is told to obey specific instructions.

Genesis 13:14-17

The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are - northward, southward, eastward, and westward; 15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. 17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

God again confirms the vision, and tells Abram to walk before Him and be blameless. He and Sarai are both encouraged and have their names changed as a further confirmation.

Genesis 17:1-6

As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. (5) No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham."

The vision is confirmed and a specific time for its fulfillment is given.

Genesis 18:14

"Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

THE DEATH OF THE VISION

This occurs for two reasons:
Mixture and personal character development.

Abram has some doubt, as nothing seems to be happening so he questions God about it.

Genesis 15:2-3

"But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

God confirms to him that His plan has not changed and that he will have a son.

Genesis 15:4

"And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."

Abraham acts hastily to try make it come to pass and births Ishmael.

Genesis 16:1-4

"Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai."

THE RESURRECTION OF THE VISION AND ITS FAR-REACHING RESULTS

At God's appointed time, He works the miracle and the vision is fulfilled.

Genesis 21:1-2

And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

As a result of this vision and covenant, God hears the cry of Israel.

Exodus 2:23-24

"Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. (24) So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob."

As a result of this vision and the call of Abraham's descendents, He answers Moses' prayer and spares Israel.

Exodus 32:7-14

"(13) Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" (14) So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people."

THE PROCESS OF WORKING THROUGH A VISION CAN BE SEEN AS:**REVELATION**

When God gives it to you as Joseph was given the dreams.

REVERSE

When you lose control of it as Joseph did, who was then sold into Egypt, had an experience with Potipher's wife, landed in prison and was let down by the butler for a number of years.

RELEASE

When God supernaturally brings the vision to pass, as when Joseph went from being a prisoner to second in charge in Egypt in one day. Joseph could not take credit for that, except that he had remained faithful to the personal vision that he had received, and it affected his family and ultimately the nation of Israel. It also affected the nations who saw what God did for them.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VISION

We see that many of the bible characters received calling through visions and dreams, which gave them hope for their own lives and affected their nations and other nations. We are created with a destiny and purpose that God has for our lives, even before we are born.

Psalms 139:14-16

"Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them."

Isaiah 43:1-3

"But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine."

Jeremiah 1:4-10

"(5) 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.'"

Ephesians 2:10

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."

VISION FOR YOUR OWN LIFE**Jeremiah 29:11-13**

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Ephesians 1:17-19 & 2:10

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, (18) the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling."

The vision for your life is not an option. It is a necessity, as it is the very reason for our being. We need to know that we have been created for a purpose or life will become meaningless to us. Paul was so touched by the vision he had received from God for his life that nothing else mattered to him. One of the greatest motivations in Jesus' life was His destiny.

Luke 2:49

"And He said to them, 'Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?'"

VISION FOR YOUR FAMILY

God called Abraham, but his calling included God using his family.

Genesis 12:1-3

"(3) I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

One of the main reasons that God worked so well with Abraham and Abraham with Him was because of the vision that they had for the future generations.

Genesis 18:17-18

"And the LORD said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, (18) since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?'"

Joshua and Caleb had such a powerful vision for their inheritance that they were willing to wait 40 years to receive it.

Numbers 14:24

"But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it."

VISION FOR YOUR CITY**Jeremiah 29:7**

"And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace."

Isaiah 62:6-7

"I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, (7) and give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

God gives us the responsibility to be praying for the peace of our cities.

God has such a vision for the city that He takes a whole chapter to describe its shortcomings and seek for a man to stand in the gap for the land.

Ezekiel 22:1-31

"(2) 'Now, son of man, will you judge, will you judge the bloody city? Yes, show her all her abominations! (30) So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. (31) Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,' says the Lord God."

VISION FOR YOUR NATION

God calls on His people to have a vision to pray, seek His face, turn from their wicked ways and see Him heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Daniel had such a vision for his nation, Israel. It led him to confess their sin and to fast and pray for their release from captivity.

Daniel 9:1-19

“O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us. (19) O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

VISION FOR THE NATIONS

The vision of God for Abraham and his family was for them to have a personal vision, as well as a vision for the nations.

Genesis 12:1-3

3 “(3) I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

He desired for Israel to have a vision to reach the nations.

Deuteronomy 9:5

“It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land”

Jesus’ commission was for His disciples to receive power to have a vision for their city, the surrounding cities and then for the nations.

Acts 1:8

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

LIFE APPLICATIONS

Why is it important for you to have a vision?

How can we receive a vision from the Lord?

Since achieving a vision takes time, how do you keep it alive?

What is the connection between hope and the vision?

What are the phases that a vision often has to pass through and how have you seen that to be true in your life?

What do we mean when we talk about birthing an Ishmael?

Give a biblical example of the time period between the birth and resurrection of the vision.

Distinguish between patience and reluctance.

Name the four areas where we should have vision and give an example of your vision in these.

Describe how a vision produces discipline.

DEVELOPING YOUR DEVOTIONAL TIME WITH THE LORD

We are going to look at some ways that we can make our devotional time a bit more exciting. It is important that we don't get into formulas or methods. The following are suggestions to help you get established. You can hear God in quiet moments when you are taking a walk, driving to work, doing dishes or housework, or while relaxing. Begin by being still, having faith to hear from Him. As Psalm 46:10 says *'Be still, and know that I am God.'*

Matthew 6:5-7

"6 'But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

PERSONALIZE THE SCRIPTURES BY USING YOUR OWN NAME AS YOU READ THEM

GOD CALLED ADAM AND MOSES BY NAME

Genesis 3: 8-9

"9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?'"

Exodus 3: 2-4

"4 So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.'"

TRY PERSONALIZING EPHESIANS 1: 17-19:

"[For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant (Bradley) a spirit of wisdom, and revelation - of insight into mysteries and secrets—in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him, (18) by having the eyes of (Bradley's) heart flooded with light, so that (Bradley) can know and understand the hope to which He has called (Bradley) and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints - His set-apart ones. (19) And [so that (Bradley) can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for (Bradley) who believes, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength."
(Amplified Version)

WRITE IT DOWN

Habakkuk 2: 1-3 2

"Then the LORD answered me and said: 'Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.'"

Isaiah 50: 4-5

"The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, he awakens My ear to hear as the learned. 5 The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away."

The Bible is a journal of divinely inspired saints' writings. The book of Acts is the early church's journal. Write down what you think you might be hearing, what you think are your own thoughts and the details about what you heard, saw or felt. For correct interpretation, ask God for confirmation.

2 Corinthians 13:1

"This will be the third time I am coming to you. 'By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.'"

EXHIBIT A

November, 1994 – Recorded by Bradley as he sat silently before the Lord:

"Today I set you free from your fear of silence. Was it not in the silence that I spoke and created all things, including man. It was in the garden that I gave man his destiny and daily communed with him about fulfilling My destiny for him."

"These are days of restoration when I AM drawing you back to live in My presence that you may fully fulfill My destiny for you and My Body for I AM coming to fetch you, My beloved, to dwell with Me. These are days to walk in My presence for I have opened up the way for this to be possible. So I call you to fulfill your prophetic destiny and no more to be robbed by the enemy."

Write a letter to God. Then try writing a letter beginning with "Dear Son/Daughter" and wait to see what comes from the Father's heart.

EXHIBIT B

The following example is taken from a book entitled, "From The Father's Heart" by Charles Slagle (pg. 120). "Shouting in the House - Habakkuk 2: 2-4"

Learning Listener,

When will you trust your own ability to hear? Why do you look for fire, thunder, and a strange voice resonating from the beyond? Why do you depend upon other listeners?

Trust Me to guide your heart. What do you think I might be saying in those moments you listen for My voice? When you seek My counsel, choose to heed the words and receive the impressions I give you. Stop attributing them to your own imagination. Why are you surprised that My thoughts "feel" like your own? They are! I gave them to you.

Dare to believe! When you ask for a good gift, even if the gift you seek is a word from Me, believe in My integrity. Write down what comes to your mind as you wait before Me. Write the vision and make it as plain as possible. I will confirm all that I have said in the hours to follow.

Why don't I speak louder, you ask. Shouting in the house is just not a habit of Mine. Please—allow Me to be Myself with you. Let Me be natural. Shouldn't the Lord of the 'supernatural' be the most natural of all?

Helpfully, Dad

HOW CAN GOD SPEAK TO YOU?**Numbers 12:6**

"Then He said, "Hear now My words: if there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream."

1 Samuel 28:6

"And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets."

Acts 2: 14-18

"But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15"For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16"But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy."

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD THROUGH A:

LOGOS WORD - the living and written word of God.

John 1:1

RHEMA WORD - the spoken word which can be a Holy Spirit inspired word from the Logos or a portion of the Logos. A scripture "quicken" as you read the Word, by God speaking directly to you, and by personal prophecy or scripture given to you by another person.

The Word is your standard for discerning all things.

John 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Hebrews 4:12

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

Matthew 24:35

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

Psalm 119:105

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Psalm 138:2

"I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your loving kindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name."

SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW HE HAS SPOKEN TO ME THROUGH HIS WORD:

Zechariah 2 was given to me as a LOGOS word in 1987, but only became a RHEMA word to me in 1989.

Three times He has used **Deuteronomy 1: 6-7** to speak to me.

Jeremiah 31: 16-18 was the clearest He has ever spoken to me from the Word.

LIFE APPLICATIONS

Do you think it is important to have a daily devotional time before the Lord and if so why do you think it is important to have this time with the Lord daily?

Can you identify from **Psalm 46:10** what might help us as we begin with our devotional times?

Ephesians 1: 17-19 is a wonderful scripture passage to personalize and pray for yourself. If you will pray it daily inserting your name in the blanks it will change your life. Please copy it and insert your name in the blanks: “[For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant _____ a spirit of wisdom, and revelation - of insight into mysteries and secrets—in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him, (18) by having the eyes of _____ heart flooded with light, so that _____ can know and understand the hope to which He has called _____ and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints - His set-apart ones. (19) And [so that _____ can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for _____ who believes, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength.”

In what way do you believe that hearing clearly from the Lord could change your life?

Why do you believe it is important to keep a journal of our quiet time with the Lord?

Take a few minutes and wait for the Lord to speak to you and then write down whatever comes to you. You may begin by writing: “Dear Son or Daughter...”

Can you identify several ways in which God may speak to you as His people?

Joshua 1:8 “This Book of the Law shall not _____ from your _____, but _____ shall _____ in it _____ and _____, that you may observe to do according to _____ that is written in it. For then you will make your way _____, and then you will have good _____ .

What have you felt God has been speaking to you in this lesson?

Can you define the ‘Logos’ word?

Can you define the ‘Rhema’ word?

How important do you believe the bible is in our discerning of what God is saying to us?

VISIONS

There are different types of visions.

These can be pictures in thought **John 1:48**.

Or open vision seen in daylight.

Isaiah 6:1

Acts 10: 9-20

They sometimes are clear and other times not.

How we interpret them is vital.

DREAMS

God “speaks” to us through dreams at night.

Some examples are:

Joseph At Night To Show Him His Plan

Genesis 37: 1-10

The Butler and Baker’s Dreams Were Interpreted By Joseph -
Genesis 40: 1-23

Dreams Can Be To Warn Or Instruct Like when Joseph Instructed Pharaoh

Genesis 41:14-57

“Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh. 15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have dreamed a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to interpret it.” 16 So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.” 17 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph: “Behold, in my dream I stood on the bank of the river. 18” Suddenly seven cows came up out of the river, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow. 19 “Then behold, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such ugliness as I have never seen in all the land of Egypt. 20 “And the gaunt and ugly cows ate up the first seven, the fat cows. 21 “When they had eaten them up, no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were just as ugly as at the beginning. So I awoke. 22 “Also I saw in my dream, and suddenly seven heads came up on one stalk, full and good. 23 “Then behold, seven heads, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them. 24 “And the thin heads devoured the seven good heads. So I told this to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me.” 25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do.”

Dreams can be good or evil depending on the source.

John 1:48

“Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

Isaiah 6:1

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.”

Acts 10: 9-20

“The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. 10 Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance 11 and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. 13 And a voice came to him, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” 14 But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” 15 And a voice spoke to him again the second time, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.” 16 This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.”

Genesis 37: 1-10

“5 Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. 6 So he said to them, “Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: 7 There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.” 8 And his brothers said to him, “Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. 9 Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, “Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.”

Genesis 40: 1-23

“5 Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man’s dream in one night and each man’s dream with its own interpretation. 6 And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad. 7 So he asked Pharaoh’s officers who were with him in the custody of his lord’s house, saying, “Why do you look so sad today?” 8 And they said to him, “We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it.” And Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please.”

HOLY SPIRIT WITNESS

This type of “hearing” is called “spirit witness or inner witness.” You just “know” He has spoken and wait for the confirmation. You may “feel” a physical sensation such as chills or warmth. You can spiritually discern good and evil. The Lord has given us His built in benediction that helps us know what He is saying. Often as we grow older in the Lord He does not speak louder, but softly.

THE STILL SMALL VOICE**1 Kings 19: 9-13**

“After the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.”

YOU CAN DEVELOP YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS**1 Corinthians 12:8**

“For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit.”

Word of Wisdom – Supernaturally given information of future plans and purposes.

2 Chronicles 1:10-12

“Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?” 11 And God said to Solomon: “Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life -- but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king -- 12 “wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like.”

Word of Knowledge - Supernaturally given knowledge about past or current situations.

1 Kings 3:26-27

Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, “O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!” But the other said, “Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him.” 27 So the king answered and said, “Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother.”

Acts 5:3

“But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? “

Discernment - Correctly given by the Spirit about principalities and powers that need to be discerned and uprooted. E.g. East London

Proverbs 11:11

“By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.”

and Madagascar Job 41

“Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, or snare his tongue with a line which you lower? 2 Can you put a reed through his nose, or pierce his jaw with a hook? 3 Will he make many supplications to you? Will he speak softly to you? 4 Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him as a servant forever? 5 Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you leash him for your maidens? 6 Will your companions make a banquet of him? Will they apportion him among the merchants? 7 Can you fill his skin with harpoons, or his head with fishing spears? 8 Lay your hand on him; remember the battle—never do it again!

Prophetic Insight - We “spiritually see” what God is saying as we pray in the Spirit

Ephesians 6:18

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

Receive prophetic revelation

1 Samuel 7

“3 Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, “If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.”

Acts 4: 24-31

“So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 25 “who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? 26 The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.”

WHAT CAN HELP US HEAR MORE CLEARLY?

Fasting and prayer

Isaiah 58: 6-11

"Their webs will not become garments, nor will they cover themselves with their works; their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands."

In 1987 while fasting I was given

Exodus 33: 9-23

Being still before Him

Psalms 46:10

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Isaiah 30:15

"For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength." But you would not."

Waiting

Isaiah 40:31

"But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Resting and not striving

Mark 6:31

And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."

WHAT HINDERS US FROM HEARING?

Sin

Genesis 3:8-14

"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

Iniquity

Psalms 66:18

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear."

Busy-ness and needs

Exodus 18:13-24

"And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. 14 So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?" 17 So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good. 18 "Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself."

Disobedience and familiarity

Abraham - Genesis 16:16- 17:1

"Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram." 17:1 "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless."

Moses - Numbers 20: 7-12

"Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 8 "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals." 9 So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him. 10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. 12 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

LIFE APPLICATIONS:

Describe what you understand to be the small still voice according to [1 Kings 19:9](#)

How do you see the following Spiritual Gifts operating in intercession?

Word of Wisdom

Word of Knowledge

Discernment

Give an example of a word of knowledge from [Acts 5:3](#)

What is prophetic insight?
Give an example from [Acts 4:24-31](#)

What can help us hear from God more clearly?

What hinders us from hearing from God?

a)

b)

c)

THE STEPS IN BUILDING INTIMACY

As in marriage, so it is with us the Church (the Bride) and Jesus, our Bridegroom. When God first stirs up your love for Him, you don't fully know Him or how to enjoy Him. This spiritual union becomes real, permanent and lasting by growing in your relationship with Him. Circumstances don't harm this type of relationship.

Intimacy could be defined as 'In to me see.' There can be no true intimacy apart from covenant and covenant cannot be experienced without true commitment. However, getting to the place where you are able to be willing to give the commitment that covenant requires takes time. It is a process that takes time and begins with you moving from being a curious inquirer to becoming part of the crowd, to becoming a casual acquaintance, which then leads you into the process of courtship leading into covenant and then finally intimacy.

Friends do things together and brothers work together as a family. Jesus worked differently with different ones and had levels of intimacy with His followers and disciples. At time He worked with - the multitude – the 120 – with the 70 – with the 12 and then with His 3 closest friends. Our level of relational commitment will often affect our level of authority.

HOW WE DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS?

Christianity is a relationship, not a religious experience. We grow in our relationship with Him, as we do in our natural relationships, as shown through the following relationship examples:

CURIOUS INQUIRER

We begin many of our relationships through being curious to find out more about different people and to begin to get to know them. The church is also often filled with these kinds of people who just come in being curious to find out what the church and the people are all about.

CASUAL ACQUAINTANCE

At this level of relationship you desire to move in a level deeper, yet there is still a limited knowledge of the person. At this stage you don't spend much personal time with the person therefore you do not know about this person or church in an intimate way.

Many have this type of relationship with God and at this level they still need to grow deeper in their relationship. They are still just curious inquirers that have become part of the crowd.

FRIENDSHIP

At this level you are beginning to move from being a curious inquirer and part of the crowd, to desiring commitment and getting to know the people or church more intimately. You do this by starting to spend quality time walking and talking together and developing a deeper relationship with the people or church. Your desire is to get to know each other more and a level of two-way communication begins. This is well illustrated in Song of Solomon 1:4.

Song of Solomon 1:4

"Draw me away! THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM we will run after you. THE SHULAMITE the king has brought me into his chambers. THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM we will be glad and rejoice in you. We will remember your love more than wine. THE SHULAMITE rightly do they love you."

In human relationships and friendships there are varying degrees of depth and intimacy. Read the following scriptures and see the commitment it took to be called, "God's Friend"

Genesis 3:8

"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden."

Genesis 5:21-24

"Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. 23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. 24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him."

Genesis 6:9

"This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God."

2 Chronicles 20:7

"Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?"

James 2:23

"And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God."

Exodus 33:11

"So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend."

John 15:15

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

There is much warfare [little foxes] that desires to come against us getting into deep covenant and they can often begin with a bit of a selfish motive until they mature.

Song of Solomon 2:15-16

“Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes. THE SHULAMITE 16 My beloved is mine, and I am his.”

What point has the lover come to in **Song of Solomon 2:15-16**?

What stops the lover from going on further?

COURTSHIP / COMMITMENT

From friendship we are led into courtship, a time consuming commitment where it is a deep desire and delight for you to move forward into covenant.

Psalms 37: 4-5

“Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.”

You are willing to pay a deeper price and make yourself vulnerable and you learn to become one in your delights and desires.

What change do you see at this point between the lover and the beloved in **Song of Solomon 6:2-3**?

Song of Solomon 6:2-3

“My beloved has gone to his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed his flock in the gardens, and to gather lilies. 3 I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.”

COVENANT / MARRIAGE

From the beginning God’s desire for mankind was for them to be able to walk in covenant relationship. This was not to be broken as it is not based on a contract, but an eternal covenant bringing great security and blessing. Apart from covenant there can be no true intimacy.

Genesis 2:24

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Mark 10:6-9

“But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’ 7 ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 ‘and the two shall become one flesh’; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 ‘Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.’”

COVENANT / MARRIAGE

Covenant is total commitment and dedication to each other therefore you become intimately acquainted with each other. Your hearts yearn for each other and it is a joy and a delight for you to be together. You yearn for each other. You have become one and can hear the heart-felt needs of each other. There can be no true intimacy apart from covenant.

Psalms 42:1

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God.”

From **Song of Solomon 7:10-13** what do you see about self-interest, the relationship and the steps to becoming intimate and fruitful?

When does this level of intimacy take place?

When David was honoring the best men he had he mentioned 3 categories and honored the ones most that were the closest to his heart.

Song of Solomon 7:10-13

“I am my beloved’s, and his desire is toward me. 11 Come, my beloved, let us go forth to the field; let us lodge in the villages. 12 Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine has budded, whether the grape blossoms are open, and the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love. 13 The mandrakes give off a fragrance, and at our gates are pleasant fruits, all manner, new and old, which I have laid up for you, my beloved.”

1 Chronicles 11:10-19

“Now these were the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel. 11 And this is the number of the mighty men whom David had: Jashobeam the son of a Hachmonite, chief of the captains; he had lifted up his spear against three hundred, killed by him at one time. 12 After him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighty men. 13 He was with David at Pasdammim. Now there the Philistines were gathered for battle, and there was a piece of ground full of barley. And

the people fled from the Philistines. 14 But they stationed themselves in the middle of that field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory. 15 Now three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the army of the Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. 16 David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. 17 And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" 18 So the three broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless David would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD. 19 And he said, "Far be it from me, O my God, that I should do this! Shall I drink the blood of these men who have put their lives in jeopardy? For at the risk of their lives they brought it." Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men."

LIFE APPLICATIONS

What are the steps in developing a relationship with the Lord?

- A)
- B)
- C)
- D)

How do we develop a deeper relationship with the Lord?

What do you think it means according to scripture, to be called 'A friend of God?' Please list at least five things with scripture references?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

In **Song Of Solomon 2:15-17**: To what point has the lover come to?

What tries to stop the lover from going further?

What do you believe the desire of the lover is?

From the **Song Of Solomon 6:2-3** what change do you see at this point between the lover and the beloved?

From **Genesis 2:24** and **Mark 10:6-9** what are the three steps that make up the marriage covenant?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

From **Song Of Solomon 7:10-13** what do you see about self interest, the relationship and being fruitful?

Since we have heard from Him, let us ask the Lord to help us to go even deeper in our relationship with Him.

Do you think that He has shown you anything that is blocking your relationship for which you need to repent? If so, take a few minutes to do so now.

How can we learn a lesson about the power of people that are close to us?

RUTH'S GROWTH IN INTIMACY

HER HEART'S DESIRES ARE REVEALED IN A TIME OF FAMINE

Ruth 1: 1-7

"Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. 6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread. 7 Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah."

HER TOTAL DEDICATION IS SEEN

Ruth 1: 8-18

"And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 "The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. 16 But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. 17 Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me." 18 When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her."

SHE MAKES A FREE-WILL CHOICE TO MOVE ON TO THE UNKNOWN

Ruth 1:19-22

"22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest."

HER SERVANT'S HEART IS REVEALED

Ruth 2:2

"So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

HER HUMILITY AND SUBMISSION IS REVEALED

Ruth 2:7

"And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

SHE IS REWARDED WITH PROTECTION AND PROVISION

Ruth 2: 8-16

"Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. 9 "Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn." 10 So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" 12 "The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge." 13 Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants." 14 Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back. 15 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16 "Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

SHE COMES TO A PLACE OF REST AND PREPARATION

Ruth 3:1

"Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you."

SHE IS GIVEN SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO OBEY

Ruth 3: 3-4

"Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 "Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."

SHE OBEYED AND HAD TO LEARN TO BE STILL AND WAIT

Ruth 3:10-15, 18

"Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. 11 "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do

for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. 12 "Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 "Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning." 14 So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." 15 Also he said, "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city." 18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

SHE RELEASES BOAZ TO DO HIS WORK AFTER COMPLETING HERS

Ruth 4: 1-12

"Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. 3 Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. 4 "And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it."

SHE IS UNITED WITH BOAZ, CONCEIVES AND BEARS FRUIT

Ruth 4:13

"So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son."

LEARNING ABOUT DEVELOPING INTIMACY FROM THE TABERNACLE

The clear layout of the tabernacle is a shadow and a type of the heavenly tabernacle. Through this we can learn much about steps that lead us into intimacy just as we saw that covenant leads us into true intimacy.

Exodus 40:1-8

"4 "You shall bring in the table and arrange the things that are to be set in order on it; and you shall bring in the

lampstand and light its lamps. 5 "You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the Testimony, and put up the screen for the door of the tabernacle. 6 "Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. 7 "And you shall set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it."

1) Brass Altar - Altar of Prayer – This is where we decide and discipline ourselves.

2) The Laver – This is where we are washed, cleansed and examine ourselves.

John 15:3

"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The Holy Place – This is where we "Enter-Into-A-Session" with God.

3) The Showbread – This is where we receive fresh manna daily, are broken for others, and receive strength.

Matthew 6:11

"Give us this day our daily bread."

4) The Lamp Stand – This is where we are enlightened, anointed and Holy Spirit led in intercession.

Ephesians 1:17

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him"

Ephesians 6:18

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."

5) The Golden Altar - Altar of Intercession - Where we intercede and pray sacrificially

Revelation 5:8

"Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

The Holy of Holies – This is where we personally meet and commune intimately with God to be refreshed, renewed and revitalized by His presence in order to go on. He meets with us to give us His agenda.

6) Ark Of The Covenant – A place of holiness

Deuteronomy 31:26

“Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there as a witness against you.”

7) Mercy Seat – Place of rest - Now we desire to be in His presence just to be with Him; not to ask, seek or knock but to enter into His rest free from striving.

Exodus 25:22

“And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.”

Exodus 30:6

“And you shall put it before the veil that is before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you.”

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Hebrews 4:1-16

“Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.”

It is interesting to notice that God often works in patterns of seven.

There are seven levels leading into intimacy here.

There are seven levels of submission that we will study later in **Ephesians 5:17-6:9** which prepare us to put on the armor and be victorious in our battle.

Seven parts to the armor of God are mentioned in **Ephesians 6:10-18** for our protection as His beloved.

There are seven candlesticks, seven stars and seven churches mentioned in Revelations 1 to 3. It's interesting that He calls the people to deal with things so that they could get more intimate with Him.

The seven lamps and seven spirits of God mentioned in **Revelations 4:5**.

Seven seals mentioned in the Lord's hand in **Revelations 5:1**.

Seven angels and seven trumpets mentioned in **Revelations 8**.

notes

LIFE APPLICATIONS

From **Ruth 1:1-7** what causes the heart's desire to turn to God?

Name & describe the next three steps of growth in intimacy with the Lord found in **Ruth Chapter 3**.

What do we learn from **Ruth Chapter 4** in our growth of intimacy with the Lord?

Describe the development of intimacy with the Lord seen in the Tabernacle in the:

- a) Laver
- b) Brass Altar
- c) Holy Place
- d) Showbread
- e) Lampstand

- f) Golden Altar
- g) Holy Of Holies
- h) Ark Of The Covenant
- i) Mercy Seat

According to **Exodus 25:22** and **30:6** where does God meet with us to give us His agenda?

In **Hebrews 4:6** what prevents us from entering into God's rest?

According to **Hebrews 4:10** describe 'Entering into God's rest.' What has been the highlight of this lesson for you?

notes

SEEING LIFE COME FROM YOUR INTIMACY**WRITE DOWN THE WORD****Habakkuk 2:2-3**

"Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets.""

As soon as possible write out what you have received from the Lord.

WHAT HAS GOD CONFIRMED OR WHAT STILL NEEDS TO BE CONFIRMED**2 Corinthians 13:1**

"By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."

Important words should be confirmed in the mouth of two or three witnesses before or after being received.

Saul

1 Samuel 10:1-8

"6 "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. 7 "And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you."

1 Samuel 10:9-16

"So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day."

David

1 Samuel 16:1-13

"13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah."

& 1 Chronicles 11:1-3

"3 Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. Then they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel."

Barnabas and Saul

Acts 13:2-3

"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.""

Paul

Acts 21:10-13

"13 Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.""

The word is your most accurate source of confirmation.

TIMING IS VITAL**Habakkuk 2:3**

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time."

You need to guard against birthing Ishmael's.

Many words are inherited through faith and patience.

Hebrews 6:12b

"but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

Mary pondered the things God had said in her heart.

Luke 2:19

"Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Prophets see the whole picture but do not tell you of the valleys in between.

Acts 2:15-21

"16 "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord."

Most words have to die before God raises them to life

John 12:24

"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."

EXAMPLES OF THE TIMING FACTOR SEEN IN

Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3

“3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 21:1-5

“2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.”

David

1 Samuel 16:1-13

“13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.”

2 Samuel 3:1

“Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David.”

WORDS FROM THE LORD ARE SOMETIMES CONDITIONAL

2 Kings 20:1

“Thus says the LORD: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.’”

Words from the Lord are conditional to timing and faith in God's word to you.

Many words are lost through unbelief or disobedience.

Specific instructions must be followed.

Not responding to His word can hinder it from being fulfilled.

Incorrect administration or partial obedience to His word to us can become a hindrance as seen in the life of king Saul in 1 Samuel 9 and 10.

MEDITATE ON THE WORD THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED

Joshua 1:8

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Meditate on the word. Let the word become a part of you by meditating on it day and night until it becomes a part of you and you believe that it is ready to be acted upon.

Biblical meditation means to repeat again and again. A clear written word can easily be referred to and helps to guard you against confusion or unbelief.

It can be a source of strength in times when passing through the valley.

THE WORD IS TO BE DISCERNED

You discern or judge the word not the person.

1 Corinthians 14:29-32

“Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.”

The word should edify, exhort and comfort.

1 Corinthians 14:3

“But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”

It should always be done in love and testimony of Jesus.

Revelations 19:10

For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Sometimes there can be a mixture in a word.

WE CAN USE PROPHECY FOR WARFARE

Throughout the book of Joshua we see that the Lord used the prophetic word to encourage him as his leader. This caused him and Caleb to be willing to fight for their inheritance. Your words help you wage a good warfare.

1 Timothy 1:18

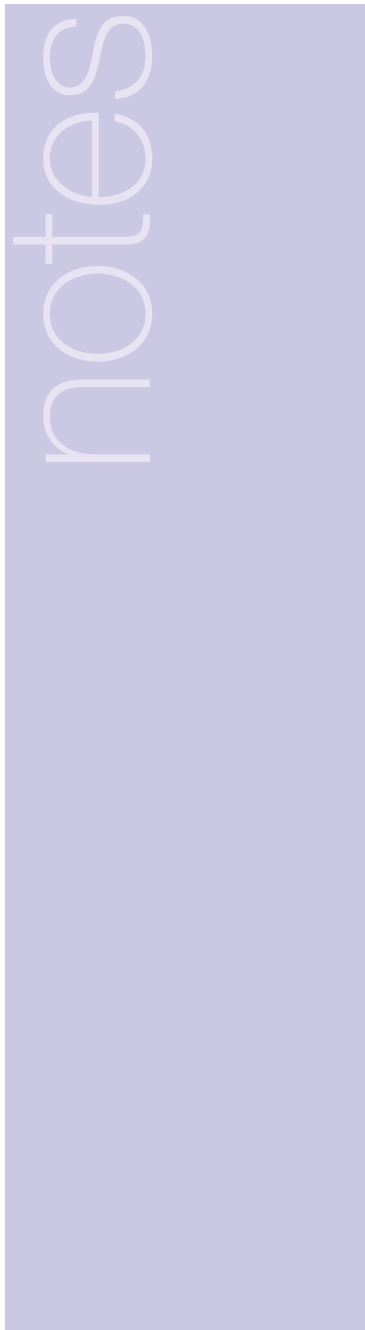
“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.”

Daniel 9:1-3

30 “I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.”

Jeremiah 25:11

Divine discernment is necessary to know when God is telling you to die or if you are to wage war over it. However if you have administered it correctly it is a blessing.



LIFE APPLICATIONS

Have you ever received a word, vision or dream from the Lord?

How did you respond to the word, vision or dream from the Lord?

What type of confirmation did you seek? Was it mainly from man or from the Word?

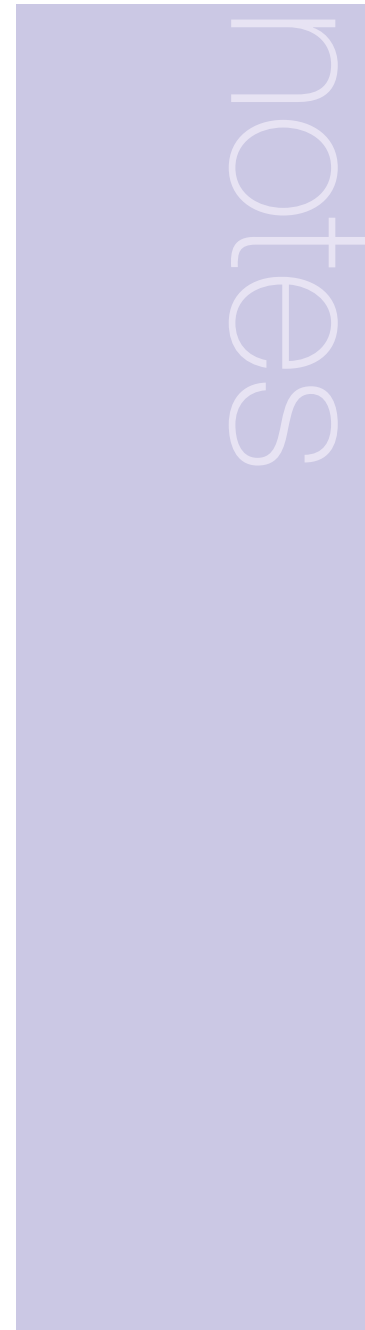
How do you feel you should handle a word, vision or dream that has not been confirmed?

How do you feel about that word, vision or dream today?

What helps you to discern a word that you have received?

What do you see as the difference between judging the person or judging the word?

How has a word, vision or dream from the Lord helped you through a hard time?



A LOVE STORY

As you would have seen with Dr. Stuart's testimony God did not heal his cerebral palsy instantly, but has done it over a period of time. Sometimes God works in a miraculous way like He did when He opened the Red Sea or when He saved Saul who became Paul. At other times He works in a systematic orderly way as when He took His people through the wilderness and into the Promised Land. The emotional wounds Dr. Stuart faced were also not healed instantly, but God healed them and is still healing them over a process of time. We see in Deuteronomy 7:22 that when God gave His people their land of inheritance He said that He would not give it to them all at once, but a little at a time so it was a process of inheriting their promised land. God never acts randomly. The same is true in our lives and in this lesson we are going to look at the restoration process of God and then study the clear process that is laid out for us in the first six books of the bible. In these we see that we are called, freed from bondages, prepared for worship, tested, taught about God's order and then sent into battle.

THE HEALING PROCESS**Luke 4:18**

"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."

THIS PASSAGE CAN BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS

Bringing the good news – leading people to Christ.

Binding up the broken hearted – healing from deep hurts and pains and ministry to the bruised. [Isaiah 53:5] We will talk much of the deep hurts and pains when we deal with iniquities. Jesus' character is such that He will not break a bruised reed, but instead desires to have compassion on the bruised.

Isaiah 42:3

"A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench."

Proclaiming liberty and freedom to captives and prisoners and those who are bruised – this is the work of jubilee.

Generally, the Body of Christ has been well trained in personal evangelism and leading people to Christ, but not in the healing that leads to personal freedom and maturity. Our heart condition can help lead us to Christ when we hear the

Good News, or it can also hinder our coming to know and love Him. It can also hinder our growth in maturity after our salvation. It is important for us to allow the Lord to work with our hearts, heal any hurts and bind them up so we are not held back from what He has for us.

We have not been affective in the area of binding up the brokenhearted because we lack knowledge and it can be time consuming and have many pitfalls. The setting free of the hurting or captives is often referred to as deliverance. It is an area that has come under great attack and opposition.

RESTORATION IS A PROCESS

God's process of restoration is so different from ours. For one thing, He is not in a hurry. He will not force us to go further than we desire to go. He works from the inside out, rather than from the outside in. As we look at what is happening on the outside we often want to do it in reverse order. We are more concerned about what people can see than what they cannot see. This often causes significant problems as we major on the minors and minor on the majors.

IN HIS RESTORATION PROCESS HE WILL BE WORKING ON THREE MAJOR AREAS

- 1) Timing. We will see and understand this more clearly as we look at seasons and the process through which He takes a vision as it is birthed, dies and then is resurrected. God took 30 years to prepare Jesus for three years of ministry.
- 2) Our free will – The choice is ours as to how much we are willing to let Him do in our lives.
- 3) He works from the inside out. Much of the work is internal and unseen for a period of time. God's ultimate goal in this process is to see us sanctified body, soul and spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless."

God desires us to gain the strength to be able to endure to the end and not fall short of our destiny.

Hebrews 3:14

"For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end."

IN GENESIS

God speaks to man about his call. God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it (to be a worshiper and a watchman). He was given dominion and authority and was told to be fruitful and multiply.

Genesis 2:15-17

"Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it."

Genesis 1:22

"And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply."

Psalms 8:4-8

"What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet."

This gives him a hope, a vision, a destiny and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

God called Abraham and his family for a specific purpose and established covenant with him.

Genesis 12:1-3

"Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

This was to carry on through the generations from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob.

Genesis 18:19

"For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

This continued to their offspring Israel and ultimately to all the nations.

Genesis 22:16-17

"17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies."

IN EXODUS

God desires to deliver us from bondages that have become a part of our lives and enslaved us. These bondages often become roots of iniquities that bind up God's people and cause His anointed ones to become broken and bruised. The outworking of the election and calling on Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is that He hears the prayers of the Israelites in bondage.

Exodus 2:23-24

"Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. 24 So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob."

He then calls and sends them a deliverer, who was Moses, seen in **Exodus 3-4**. He shows them His ability to deliver as He spares them through the 10 plagues. **Exodus 6-15** Each of the plagues represented different gods that the Egyptians worshipped and the Lord used this process to show them how He deals with idols and foreign gods, also showing His heart is to redeem.

He delivers them from Egypt and takes them through the wilderness where they see their own heart condition in various ways, beginning with their bitterness.

Exodus 15:22-27

"There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. And there He tested them."

IN LEVITICUS

God shows us how we can prepare ourselves for worship, which is varied, alive and exciting. It is also a type of man's permanent redemption through Christ's sacrifice. The Israelites are shown that worship is important and that it takes on many forms and is not just singing songs or clapping our hands. Worship is a sign of total dedication and obedience to the Lord and His will for our lives. We cannot fully worship if we have not learned to overcome and walk in victory. The first time that the word worship is expressed in the bible is in

Genesis 22:5

"And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

This concept is again illustrated in the New Testament.
Romans 12:1-2

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." [NIV]"This is your spiritual act of worship."

Even though He could deliver them from Egypt supernaturally, it took Him years to get Egypt out of them. He begins to prepare them for the stages ahead by giving directions for the construction of the tabernacle where they would be able to experience Him and worship Him.

IN NUMBERS

God shows us what is really in our hearts as we pass through the times of testing. Testing is usually for our own purpose. This is a hard stage and it requires faith to trust God in the midst of trials and tribulations and to be willing to let Him surface the things, which He knows, need to be dealt with. This is illustrated many times in the New Testament.

Romans 5:3-5

"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

James 1:2-4

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

1 Peter 4:12-14

"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you."

In Numbers, we see order brought about, allowing Israel to become an army ready for battle. This order is brought about as they go through the desert and much of what is within their hearts is revealed.

IN DEUTERONOMY

We are now still not ready to begin to take possession of the land given to us by God. Advanced preparation needs to take place together with some clear order and boundaries being laid out for us. We are given the tools to know how to be able to get ready to go in and occupy our inheritance. God repeats some of the basic things that are needed for us to move into the fullness of our destinies and we see that moving into our destinies is not a one-time event, but a process: **Deuteronomy 7:22**

"The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once."

JOSHUA

After years of preparation and refining we are finally able to be strategically directed to go into warfare to possess the land (our inheritance). This is not done all at once, but strategically, step by step, led by the Lord. God knows what is easily gained is easily lost. For each battle there was a specific strategy. This is the time of practical application.

Joshua 6:1-10

"Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. 2 And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. 3 "You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. 4 "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets."

notes

LIFE APPLICATIONS

Have you been able to identify that God does in fact operate and work through a definite process?

How does God's restoration process differ from ours?

What are the three major areas on which the Lord works through the restoration process?

Have you been able to identify how these apply to your own walk with the Lord?

In light of this teaching have you been able to identify personally with the central message, pattern and outflow of Genesis?

In light of this teaching, have you been able to identify personally with the central message, pattern and outflow of Exodus?

In light of this teaching have you been able to identify personally with the central message, pattern and outflow of Leviticus?

In light of this teaching have you been able to identify personally with the central message, pattern and outflow of Numbers?

In light of this teaching have you been able to identify personally with the central message, pattern and outflow of Deuteronomy?

In light of this teaching have you been able to identify personally with the central message, pattern and outflow of Joshua?

What have been the two most supernatural deliverances you have seen God bring you through in your walk with Him thus far?

Where would you say you are in these stages and where would you desire to be?

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