

REJECTION (PART 1)

AN INTERCESSOR'S GUIDE TO MATURITY AND TRANSFORMATION

Often we will suffer rejection and not know why as it could have come to us while we were in the womb. Babies know what is going on even before they are born as John leapt in Elizabeth's womb when Mary arrived.

Luke 1:41 “And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.”

MOSES, AS AN EXAMPLE OF REJECTION AND HOW IT CAN AFFECT OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY:

When Moses was born, his mother had to hide him to save his life. He was too young to know why he was hidden in the basket. He felt rejected and cried.

Exodus 2:3-6 “(6) When she had opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept.”

He then experienced even further rejection when he had to leave his family and go to Pharaoh's house.

Exodus 2:10 “The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water.””

THE RESULTS OF REJECTION:

ANGER AND MURDER:

Exodus 2:11-12 “(12) So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.”

FEAR OF MAN:

Exodus 2:13-15 “So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!””

FEAR OF GOD:

Exodus 3:4-6 “And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.”

DOUBT, UNBELIEF, INSECURITY AND A FALSE HUMILITY:

Exodus 3:7-11 “(11) But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?””

Exodus 3:12 “He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.””

Exodus 3:13 “Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"”

Exodus 3:14-22 “God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (15) Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'”

INSECURITY:

Exodus 4:1 “Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.'”

Exodus 4:2-9 “(8) "Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. (9) "And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. And the water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land.”

RESISTANCE TO GOD’S CALL:

Exodus 4:10 “Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”

Exodus 4:11-12 “So the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? (12) Now therefore, go.”

Exodus 4:13 “But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.””

Exodus 4:14-23 “So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well.”

FEAR OF MAN:

Exodus 4:24-26 “And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the Lord met him and sought to kill him.”

BEING CODEPENDANT:

Exodus 4:27-31 “And the Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.””

ANGER:

Numbers 20:1-12 “ (10) And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" (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.””

DIFFERENT TYPES OF REJECTION

MAN BEING REJECTED BY GOD:

1 Samuel 15:23 “Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.””

1 Samuel 15:26 “For you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.””

1 Samuel 16:1 “How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?”

Jeremiah 7:29 “For the Lord has rejected and forsaken the generation of His wrath.”

MAN REJECTING GOD:

1 Samuel 8:7 “For they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.””

1 Samuel 10:19 “But you have today rejected your God.”

1 Samuel 15:23 “Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.””

1 Samuel 15:26 “I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.””

MAN REJECTING MAN:

Psalms 118:22 “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.”

Matthew 21:42 “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.”

Isaiah 53:3 “He is despised and rejected by men”

Mark 8:31 “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.”

1 Peter 2:4 “Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men.”

Acts 7:35 “This Moses whom they rejected.”

APPLICATIONS FOR LESSON TWENTYSIX

1. When can rejection begin?
2. In the life of Moses, how did rejection cause anger?
3. In the life of Moses, how did rejection cause fear of man?
4. In the life of Moses, how did rejection cause fear of God?
5. In the life of Moses, how did rejection cause doubt, unbelief, insecurity and a false humility?

6. In the life of Moses, how did rejection cause a resistance to God's call on his life?

7. In the life of Moses, how did rejection cause a codependency?

8. In the life of Moses, how did rejection cause him to disobey God?

9. Explain the three different types of rejection and how they can affect our lives.

REJECTION (PART 2)

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BREAKING FREE FROM REJECTION

Leah experienced rejection by Jacob, so the Lord gave her four sons to help her break free from this rejection:

Genesis 29:31 "When the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren."

SIGHT:

Genesis 29:32 "Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said: **The Lord has surely looked on my affliction.** Now therefore, my husband will love me."

God sees all that we go through. He knows how we feel and how much we desire to perform to get approval. Ask God to open your eyes to see as He sees.

HEARING:

Genesis 29:33 "And said, "Because the Lord has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon."

This is a major problem that can be caused by iniquity.

Isaiah 59:1-2 "(2) But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."

There are two other woman in the Word who felt rejected, yet God gave them sons as a sign that they were heard by Him.

Hagar:

Genesis 16:11 "You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has heard your affliction."

Hannah:

1 Samuel 1:20 "And called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the Lord.""

It takes faith to trust that God hears us when circumstances seem to show otherwise. We need revelation that He hears us. Ask God to help you know that He hears you and to help you hear Him.

COMPANIONSHIP:

Genesis 29:34 “She conceived again and bore a son, and said, **now this time my husband will become attached to me**, because I have borne him three sons. Therefore his name was called **Levi.**”

God wants to be our friend and companion, joined to us in a covenant relationship. We need to have a mutual desire.

1 Peter 2:9-10 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.”

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.**”

PRAISE:

Genesis 29:35 “And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “**Now I will praise the Lord.**” Therefore she called his name **Judah.** Then she stopped bearing.”

After seeing and knowing that He saw all, after hearing and learning to hear, being joined to Him and Him to her, Leah could offer up the sacrifice of praise.

When she began to praise the Lord and to look to Him for strength, she won victory over rejection and she also won the heart of Isaac. Later she was buried with Isaac in the tomb Abraham had purchased.

Genesis 49:30-31 “(31) “There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.”

FURTHER KEYS TO FREEDOM

SELF ACCEPTANCE:

Psalms 139:14-16 “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. (15) **My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.**”

Matthew 19:19 “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

RECEIVING GOD’S ACCEPTANCE:

Ephesians 1:2-6 “By which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.”

PRAYING FOR REVELATION ABOUT YOUR CALLING:

Ephesians 1:15-23 (18) “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

6. What does Matthew 19:19 mean to you in light of this teaching?

7. What does Ephesians 1:2-6 mean to you in light of this teaching?

8. How can praying help you to discover your calling and overcome rejection?

9. How can rejection hinder you from interceding, effectively?

FEAR

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We saw how fear came upon Moses and worked together with the rejection. Many people battle with this iniquity. It was the fear of man that allowed Abraham to open the door to deceit and lies within his family, lies which continued for four generations.

Genesis 12:11-13 “It came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance. (12) "Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live.”

FEAR CAN BE A POWERFUL INFLUENCE IN OUR LIVES TO:

TRY TO STOP US FROM FULFILLING OUR DESTINY:

This is one of the reasons that God takes almost a whole chapter to tell Joshua not to be afraid.

Joshua 1:1-9 “ (6) **Be strong and of good courage**, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. (7) **Only be strong and very courageous**. (9) Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed**, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

This was one of the things which caused Jeremiah to resist God’s call on his life.

Jeremiah 1:4-8 “ (6) **Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth."** (8) **Do not be afraid of their faces**, for I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord.”

This was a hindrance to Ezekiel in His call:

Ezekiel 2:3-8 “(6) And you, son of man, **do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house.**”

Paul also recognized this attack on Timothy:

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear.”

DESTROY OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH FATHER GOD:

Romans 8:15 “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear.”

HINDER US FROM FUNCTIONING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD:

Isaiah 11:2 “The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”

CAUSE CALAMITY TO COME UPON US:

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

FEAR CAN CAUSE US TO:

FEAR MAN MORE THAN GOD:

Luke 12:1-12 “ (4) And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. (5) But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! (7) But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

BECOME ANXIOUS:

Luke 12:22-34 “Then He said to His disciples, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on.”

LOOK AT THE STORM AND CIRCUMSTANCES:

Mark 4:35-41 “(40) But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” (41) And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!””

Matthew 14:22-32 “ (27) But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” (28) And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” (29) So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. (30) But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” (31) And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” (32) And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.”

HOW TO OVERCOME FEAR:

THROUGH PRAYER:

Paul gave the answer to anxiety.

Philippians 4:6-8 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (7) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

THROUGH THE ANOINTING:

Isaiah 11:1-5 “(2)The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”

THROUGH FAITH:

Zechariah 4:6 “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts. (7) 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!”

Matthew 21:21 “So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.”

THROUGH MEDITATING ON THE WORD:

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.”

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

THROUGH GOD’S RHEMA WORD:

Joshua 1:6-7 “Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. (7) Only be strong and very courageous.”

Jeremiah 1:7-8 “(8) Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord.”

Ezekiel 2:6 “And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house.”

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

THROUGH THE LOVE OF GOD:

1 John 4:18 “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

6. How can fear open a door for calamity to come upon us?

7. How can fear of man affect your commitment to serve God?

8. How can fear rob you of peace? Give two examples.

9. Give five ways we can break free from fear.

10. How has fear robbed you in different ways?

REBELLION AND STUBBORNNESS

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Rebellion and stubbornness work together:

1 Samuel 15:23 “For rebellion is as a sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”

Rebellion is a major source of attack in relationships, particularly in the home unit.

Malachi 4:5-6 “(6) And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

When we studied Anti-Christ in lesson six of the preparatory training course, we saw that there are different kinds of rebellion.

ISRAEL DEMONSTRATED THIS WHEN THEY DESIRED TO HAVE A KING LIKE THE NATIONS:

1 Samuel 8:4-22 “Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” (7) And the Lord said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. (9) “Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them.” (19) Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, “No, but we will have a king over us, (20) that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.””

ISRAEL ACTED IN REBELLION BY NOT WALKING IN GOD'S WAYS:

Jeremiah 6:16 “Thus says the Lord: “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”

ISRAEL ACTED IN REBELLION WHEN THEY HAD BECOME BEWITCHED BY JEZEBEL:

1 Kings 18:21 “But the people answered him not a word.”

THIS INIQUITY BECAME SO STRONG THAT IT AFFECTED THEIR NATION:

Ezekiel 2:1-8 “(3) And He said to me: “Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. (4) For they are impudent and stubborn children. (5) “As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse -- for they are a rebellious house -- yet they will know that a prophet has been among them. though they are a rebellious house. (7) for they are rebellious. (8) But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.””

We saw from **1 Samuel 15:23** that stubbornness works together with rebellion and that it leads to idolatry.

STUBBORNNESS CAN TAKE HOLD OF OUR HEARTS:

Jeremiah 23:29 “**Is not My word like a fire?**” says the Lord, **“and like a hammer that breaks the rock [of most stubborn resistance] in pieces?”** (Amplified)

We see how stubborn Balaam was, even when God showed him that He did not want him to go, he still went. If it had not been for God’s grace, Balaam would have killed himself because he was so driven by this iniquity.

Numbers 22:1-34 “(12) **And God said to Balaam, “You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.”** (20) **And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, “If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you -- that you shall do.”** (32) **And the Angel of the Lord said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me.”**

Stubbornness causes you to be unteachable. Stubborn people often are the ones whom God will be able to use because they are the ones who He knows will be bold and persistent in spite of circumstances. However, there is such a fine line between persistence and stubbornness that we need Holy Spirit discernment.

THE EFFECT OF STUBBORNNESS ON OUR PRAYERS

1 Samuel 8:4-14 **Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”** (7) **And the LORD said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.”**

2 Kings 20:1-5 “**Thus says the Lord: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.’”** (2) **Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, saying, (3) “Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight.”** **And Hezekiah wept bitterly.”**

“Stubbornness often results from our insecurity in a new situation, and the consequence is a failure to trust God and to obey Him. Stubbornness may also result from habit patterns developed over a period of time, especially habit patterns directed toward authority figures who have misused or abused their position.”

[Quoted from Dr Bruce Thompson, ‘Wall Of My Heart’, p. 100]

APPLICATIONS FOR LESSON TWENTYNINE

1. What can work together with rebellion?
2. How does a rebel differ from someone who's stubborn?
3. Give one example of how Israel rebelled against God.
4. What was a contributing factor in Israel's rebellion against God in 1 Kings 18?
5. Give an example of how stubbornness and rebellion can affect a nation.

6. Give an example of how stubbornness can affect our heart.

7. What is a sure sign of stubbornness?

8. How should we allow God to use a stubborn tendency in our life?

9. How can stubbornness affect our prayer life?

10. How can stubbornness enter our lives?

11. How can our habit patterns affect stubbornness?

BITTERNESS AND UNFORGIVENESS (PART 1)

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Bitterness and forgiveness were two of the first things God deals with in the lives of His people in the wilderness. Some research shows that if the Israelites had drunk that bitter water, it would have been one of the most purifying things for their bodies ever. God knew that anger, bitterness, grumbling and murmuring could actually stop the fullness of what the Lord wanted for them.

Exodus 15:20-27 “(23) Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. (24) And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" (25) So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. And there He tested them.”

BITTERNESS ENSLAVES MANY CHRISTIANS:

Hebrews 12: 14 – 15 “Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will ever see the Lord. Exercise foresight and be on the watch to look after one another to see that no one falls back from and fails to secure God's grace, His unmerited favor and spiritual blessing. In order that no root of resentment, rancor, bitterness or hatred shoots forth and causes trouble and bitter torment and the many become contaminated and defiled by it.” (Amplified)

Again, here is a group working together: resentment, rancor, bitterness and hatred, causing bitter torment and contamination and defilement. God knows the power of bitterness and He knows how powerfully bitterness can affect our lives.

As Moses was directed to put the tree into the water for healing, so too we can get healing from looking to Jesus who chose not to be bitter.

Luke 23:34 “Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.””

BITTERNESS CAN DEVELOP: AS A RESULT OF UNRESOLVED CONFLICT:

As seen in the story of Esau and Jacob:

Genesis 27:30-37 “I have blessed him -- and indeed he shall be blessed.” (34) When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me -- me also, O my father!””

AS A RESULT OF BEING ABUSED OR MISUSED:

Exodus 1:14 “And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage.”

DUE TO BITTERNESS OF SOUL:

Job 3:20 “Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter of soul.”

6. What are other ways in everyday life situations in which bitterness can come forth?

7. Is forgiving and forgetting the solution to bitterness?

8. Is it really possible to forget?

9. Explain how past feelings of anger due to bitterness can be redeemed.

10. Why is bitterness iniquity?

BITTERNESS AND UNFORGIVENESS (PART 2)

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BITTERNESS CAN LEAD TO:

MURMURING AND COMPLAINING:

Job 23:2 “Even today my complaint is bitter; My hand is listless because of my groaning.”

DESTRUCTIVE WORDS:

Psalm 64:3 “And bend their bows to shoot their arrows -- bitter words.”

LACK OF DISCERNMENT:

Isaiah 5:20 “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

DEFILEMENT OF A NATION:

Habakkuk 1:6 “For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, a bitter and hasty nation.”

DISTORTED WISDOM:

Bitterness can be a major factor in leading us to other problems if it is not dealt with and it can hinder us from having the true discernment which we need:

James 3:14-17 “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. (15) This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. (16) For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF DEALING WITH UNFORGIVENESS WHEN WE PRAY:

Of all the things that Jesus highlighted in His teaching of the Lord's prayer:

Matthew 6:10-14 “(12) And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (14) For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

He showed that this was vital for effective prayer:

Matthew 5:23-26 “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, (24) “leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Many times when we are bound by the iniquity of unforgiveness, we can forgive others, but we find it very hard to forgive ourselves.

EXAMPLES OF FORGIVENESS:

JESUS AND STEPHEN:

Jesus and Stephen could have chosen to hold the people's sins against them, but they did not.

Luke 23:34 "Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.""

Acts 7:59-60 "Lord, do not charge them with this sin."

One of the ways that we can know if we have truly forgiven someone or not is to ask ourselves the question "How do I respond from deep within when I see them and have dealings with them?"

APPLICATION FOR LESSON THIRTYONE

1. Why do you think God led Israel to Marah first?
2. Explain how you see bitterness as something that can defile us.
3. What importance do you place on Hebrews 12:14-15?
4. Explain how you see bitterness coming as a result of unresolved conflict.

PRIDE

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Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Pride was one of the reasons that Satan fell from heaven:

Ezekiel 28:17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty."

Satan not only had the iniquity of mammon, but also pride. Iniquities will gather together a whole group of things like mammon, greed, bitterness and similar kinds of things.

1 John 2:16-17 "For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, **and the pride of life** -- is not of the Father but is of the world."

Pride attacks various areas of our lives as Christians.

THERE ARE THREE AREAS WHICH WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND:

PERFECTIONISM

Perfectionism has no standard except your own by which it can be judged. Therefore people are continually not doing the job well enough. It is often used in job situations or with parents and children. This hinders you from being able to delegate as you should.

Moses was so pleased that he was judging the people that he did not see what it was doing to him.

Exodus 18:12-26 " (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?" (15) And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. (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. (19) "Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. (20) "And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. (21) "Moreover you shall **select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers** of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. (22) "And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you."

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship has a standard by which it can be measured. It also has set objectives to be achieved. This is godly and correct.

Luke 16:1-12 “He also said to His disciples: **"There was a certain rich man who had a steward,** and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. (2) **"So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.'** (8) **"So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly.** For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light. (11) **"Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? (12) "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? ""**

EXCELLENCE

You have a set standard which can be followed with definite results.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 “**Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might.**”

Pride is a major obstacle to submission and many are too proud to admit that they need help until it is too late.

One of the most effective ways to overcome pride is to be willing to humble ourselves and admit that we need help from God and others.

PRIDE AFFECTS OUR:

SERVICE:

A perfectionist becomes proud of their achievement more than of what God has done:

Matthew 7:21-23 ““(22) **"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' (23) "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"**

Acts 9:1-8 “**Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest (2) and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.**”

LOVE FOR THE LORD:

John 14:15 “**If you love Me, keep My commandments.**”

Pride defiles our love for the Lord.

FASTING:

Isaiah 58:1-9 ““(3) **'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?' "In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, and exploit all your laborers. (4) Indeed you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness.**”

INTERCESSION:

1 Samuel 8:6-13 “Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, (5) and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. **Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.**”

2 Kings 20:1-4 “Thus says the Lord: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.'” (2) Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, saying, (3) "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.”

James 4:1-3 “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? (2) You lust and do not have.(3) You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

WISDOM:

James 3:13-18 “ (14) But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. (15) This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. (16) For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (17) But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. (18) Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

ATTITUDES:

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

Pride leads to becoming haughty, which leads to our downfall.

APPLICATION FOR LESSON THIRTYTWO

1. What are you proud of in your life?
2. Is God proud of the same things you are?
3. Is there a difference between “being proud” and pleasing God? Explain.
4. How does pride lead to destruction and a fall?
5. Does pride always lead to destruction and a fall? Explain.

6. Where does Satan use pride against us?

7. What are areas in your home where pride causes divisions?

8. Where does pride interrupt the flow of revelation in your life?

9. What would be different about your past if you had overcome pride before it led to destruction and a fall?

10. Why does God not want pride in the life of His people?

JEALOUSY AND ENVY

AN INTERCESSOR'S GUIDE TO MATURITY AND
TRANSFORMATION

JEALOUSY IS DEFINED AS:

A desire to protect what belongs to us.

Holding onto something exclusively.

ENVY CAN BE DEFINED AS:

Desiring that which another has and that which we don't have.

Becoming resentful.

Desiring to destroy the other person to take what they have.

JEALOUSY CAN COME FROM A PURE, HEALED HEART:

GOD IS KNOWN AS A JEALOUS GOD

Exodus 20:5 "You shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God."

Deuteronomy 4:24 "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God."

Deuteronomy 5:9 "For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me."

Ezekiel 39:25 "I will be jealous for My holy name ."

Zephaniah 1:18 "But the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy."

Zephaniah 3:8 "'All the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy."

Romans 10:19 "'I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation."

Romans 11:11-14 "But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. (14) if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them."

PAUL HAD A GODLY JEALOUSY FOR THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

2 Corinthians 11:2 "For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy."

Jealousy is a very powerful root of iniquity, which we see in the life of Cain and Abel. It caused Cain to finally go and murder his brother committing bloodshed and violence driven by anger.

JEALOUSY CAN DESTROY RELATIONSHIPS ESPECIALLY MARRIAGE:

Numbers 5:30 “When the spirit of jealousy comes upon a man, and he becomes jealous of his wife.”

Proverbs 6:34 “For jealousy is a husband's fury.”

JEALOUSY CAN LEAD TO VIOLENCE:

Proverbs 27:4 “But who is able to stand before jealousy?”

IT COMPETES WITH TRUE LOVE AND DEVOTION:

Song of Solomon 8:6 “For love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame.”

JEALOUSY OFTEN LEADS US TO TURN AWAY FROM TRUE DEVOTION TO GOD:

Deuteronomy 32:16-19 “They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods.”

1 Kings 14:22 “they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they committed.”

JEALOUSY SETS ITSELF UP AS A POWERFUL IDOL:

Ezekiel 8:1-5 “There was the seat of the image of jealousy which provokes to jealousy” (5) Then said he to me son of man lift up your eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted my eyes the way toward the north and behold northward at the gate of the altar this image of jealousy in the entry.”

ENVY ATTACKS OUR EMOTIONS:

TO BLIND US:

Psalms 73:1-28 “I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. (4) For there are no pangs in their death, but their strength is firm. (5) They are not in trouble as other men, nor are they plagued like other men. (17) Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end.”

TO AFFECT OUR WISDOM:

James 3:14-16 “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. (15) This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. (16) For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”

6. How do the nations prove jealousy (Romans 11:11-14)?

7. How could this be a good thing?

8. Where has the church allowed jealousy to become iniquity?

9. Is there a difference between jealousy and iniquity?

10. Why doesn't God describe Himself as envious?

LUST (PART 1)

AN INTERCESSOR'S GUIDE TO MATURITY AND
TRANSFORMATION

We see lust clearly illustrated in Judah, who had a problem with lust. (Genesis 38.) This carried on down to the tenth generation when David was born and was affected by this problem. (Psalm 51.) We will study this in detail when we look at how iniquities can affect the generations.

LUST CAN HAVE TREMENDOUS POWER OVER PEOPLE:

POTIPHAR'S WIFE:

Genesis 39:7-20 "It came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." (8) But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. (10) So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her. (11) But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, (12) that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me.""

SAMSON:

Judges 14:1-7 "Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. (2) So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife." (3) Then his father and mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well."

Judges 15:1-2 "After a while, in the time of wheat harvest, it happened that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said, "Let me go in to my wife, into her room." But her father would not permit him to go in."

Judges 16:1-21 "Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her. (4) Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. (20) And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him. (21) Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison."

LUST ATTACKS THE MIND AND AFFECTS THE HEART

Romans 1:24-25 “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, (25) who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.”

Ephesians 2:1-3 “(3) among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

LUST CAN AFFECT VARIOUS AREAS OF A PERSON’S LIFE:

Jude 1:15-19 “(16) These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. (18) how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. (19) These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.”

Titus 3:3 “Serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.”

2 Peter 2:18 “They allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness.”

HOW WE LIVE AND OUR ATTITUDES:

1 John 2:16-17 “For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. (17) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

MONEY:

1 Timothy 6:9 “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.”

PEOPLE:

Matthew 5:28 “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Romans 1:27 “Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another.”

YOUTH:

2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness.”

THINGS:

Romans 13:13 “Not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.”

1 Corinthians 10:6 “These things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.”

FOOD:

As with Eve.

Genesis 3:1-6 “(6) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

Israel in the desert.

Psalm 106:13-14 “(14) But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tested God.”

IDOLS:

Jeremiah 13:27 “I have seen your adulteries and your lustful neighings, the lewdness of your harlotry, your abominations on the hills in the fields.”

Ezekiel 23:5-20 “Oholah played the harlot even though she was Mine; and she lusted for her lovers, the neighboring Assyrians (7) Thus she committed her harlotry with them, all of them choice men of Assyria; and with all for whom she lusted, with all their idols, she defiled herself. (9) Therefore I have delivered her Into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, for whom she lusted. (11) " Now although her sister Oholibah saw this, she became more corrupt in her lust than she, and in her harlotry more corrupt than her sister's harlotry. (12) "She lusted for the neighboring Assyrians, captains and rulers, clothed most gorgeously, horsemen riding on horses, all of them desirable young men. (20) For she lusted for her paramours, whose flesh is like the flesh of donkeys, and whose issue is like the issue of horses.”

Romans 1:24-25 “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves.”

6. How has lust attacked your relationships?

7. When temptation attacks in an area of your life, what is it that breaks it?

8. What does God consider to be the result of foolish and harmful lust?

9. Can a person minister effectively with unresolved lust issues? How and why?

10. Do you think a minister will lust or he is doomed to fall if he does not allow God to deal with his lust?

LUST (PART 2)AN INTERCESSOR'S GUIDE TO MATURITY AND
TRANSFORMATION**LUST CAN DIRECTLY AFFECT:****HOW WE PRAY:**

James 4:1-3 “From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? (3) Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” (KJV)

OUR CITIES:

2 Peter 2:6-11 “Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; (9) then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, (10) and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority.”

PEOPLE IN THE LAST DAYS:

2 Timothy 3:1-7 “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: (2) For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. (6) For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts.”

2 Peter 3:1-4 “(3) knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts.”

HOW TO OVERCOME LUST:**LEARN FROM EXAMPLES:**

1 Corinthians 10:6 “Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.”

PUT IT OFF

Ephesians 4:20-23 “ (22) that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.”

WALK IN THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:16 “ Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE SANCITIFIED

1 Thessalonians 4:3-6 “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; (4) that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, (5) not in passion of lust.”

DEPART FROM IT:

2 Timothy 2:19 ““Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.””

DENY IT:

Titus 2:11-13 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously.”

BE HOLY:

1 Peter 1:13-16 “(14) as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; (15) but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.””

ABSTAIN FROM IT:

1 Peter 2:11-12 “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,”

PARTAKE OF HIS DIVINE PROMISES:

2 Peter 1:1-4 “(4) by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

DO THE WILL OF GOD:

1 John 2:17 “The world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

APPLICATIONS FOR LESSON THIRTYFIVE

1. How does lust affect prayer?
2. What effects of lust are in your city?
3. What are the lust issues in your day? Name 5.
4. How do they relate to 2 Timothy 3:1-7?
5. How does walking in the spirit defeat lust?

6. Can you name anything in your life that was directly related to lust?

7. How did this affect your life?

8. How did you defeat it (if you have)?

9. What would differ in your prayer life if there was no struggle with lust?

10. What lust issues do the youth of today have to face that you don't?

UDESTANDING WALLS

AN INTERCESSOR'S GUIDE TO MATURITY AND
TRANSFORMATION

Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

We can see from this opening scripture that whenever we erect walls that are not of the Lord, we pay a price in various ways. Every wall that is erected by self will not stand as it is built on the wrong foundation. However, we need to see that there are both good and bad walls. We have looked at are examples of bad walls, but God also used walls for a good purpose to protect His righteous city. That is why Nehemiah was raised up, to go in and build up the walls that had been broken down. The important factors are that the wall must be built on the right foundation, for the right reason (with the correct heart motive), be done under the leading of the Spirit and not in isolation.

WHY DO WE ERECT WALLS?

We usually erect walls for self-protection because of a fear of man or the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Genesis 4:17 "He built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch."

We are going to study **John 4:6-25** as we continue in this lesson.

When we build walls for self-protection, God is usually not consulted and we end up getting into bondage, rather than being protected. We have to spend much time trying to keep the walls from caving in. We are vulnerable in some area or another, as that is the reason we built in the first place.

There is always enemy opposition to our building godly walls.

HOW DO WALLS AFFECT OUR LIVES?

RACISM:

John 4:6-9 "(9) Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans."

IGNORANCE:

John 4:10-11 "(11) The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?""

TRADITION:

John 4:12-14 "'Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?""

SELFISHNESS:

John 4:15-16 "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

SIN:

John 4:17-18 "The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' (18) "for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

RELIGION AND TRADITION:

John 4:19-24 ""Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. (20) "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

PROCRASTINATION:

John 4:25 "The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ)"

OUR LABORS ARE IN VAIN:

Psalm 127:1 "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it."

WE SHUT GOD AND PEOPLE OUT:

Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

THEY BRING FEAR AND UNREST

Job 3:25-26 "For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me. (26) I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, for trouble comes."

THEY HINDER US FROM FULFILLING OUR CALLING

In Exodus 3-4 we see how Moses resists the call of God by feeling too humble to obey.

Jeremiah 1:4-8 "Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth."

THE NEED FOR DIVINE REVELATION:

WOMAN AT THE WELL

The woman at the well needed the revelation of Jesus to show her what walls she had erected, which had hindered her from fulfilling her calling.

John 4:27-29 "(28) The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, (29) "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

JOSHUA

As Joshua received the prophetic words, it showed him how the wall of fear was trying to stop him from doing what he was called to do.

Joshua 1:2-8 “(6) **Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. (7) Only be strong and very courageous,** that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you.”

As Isaiah saw the wall of his iniquity and the iniquity of his people, in light of the divine vision which he had, the wall of that iniquity could be forgiven and he was able to receive his commissioning from the Lord.

Isaiah 6:1-8 “ (5) So I said: **"Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."** (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."”

Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers that they would have revelation to see the hope of their calling.

Ephesians 1:17-19 “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, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.**”

APPLICATIONS FOR LESSON THIRTYSIX

1. What have you learned through this lesson about Revelation 3:20?
2. Describe walls that you have erected in your life.
3. How have walls helped you?
4. Describe the wall of racism, ignorance, tradition, selfishness, sin, religion and procrastination from John 4:6-25.
5. Describe four other things that can hinder us due to walls.

6. Ask the Holy Spirit for revelation of any walls that you may have erected to protect yourself.

7. How has the Holy Spirit revealed your walls to you in the past?

8. How have these walls hindered you?

9. How do you respond when you get into situations where you used to build walls?

10. Take time now to allow the Lord the right to come in and begin to tear down the walls, which have hindered you from growing in your walk with Him.

THE YOKES OF EGYPT (BEING SET FREE TO BE HIS FRIEND):

AN INTERCESSOR'S GUIDE TO MATURITY AND
TRANSFORMATION

As we have seen iniquities work together, so do powers of darkness, who often want to copy the Lord's plan. As in the case of the Trinity, they know the power of unity.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. (10) For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. (12) Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

In light of iniquities, Anti-Christ will defile us with rebellion. Jezebel will dominate, intimidate and manipulate us to try to deceive us. Death and Hell will defile us and try to destroy us by trying to wear us out. As with iniquities, the goal of each of these is to try to stop us from functioning as we should by attacking our emotions.

When Israel was growing in number and becoming a mighty force (army) with which to be contended, the enemy devised a plan to deal with them in order to stop them from this. The method he used was slavery and hard labor to cause them to be so exhausted that they could not be as effective as they should be for their Lord.

Exodus 1:8-14 "'Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; (10) "come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land." (11) Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. (12) But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. (13) So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. (14) And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage -- in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor."

The more they were afflicted, the more they grew so he tried to cut them off physically by destroying their male offspring.

Exodus 1:15:22 "Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; (16) and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." (20) Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty.(22) So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.""

Although this method did not work as well as he had planned, he did succeed in getting them to cry out because of their oppressive slavery.

Exodus 2:23 "Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage [slavery], and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage [slavery]."

When Moses and Aaron ask for the Israelite's release so that they could go and worship their God, the slavery is increased and they are hindered from going out and worshipping God.

Exodus 5:1-9 "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.'" (4) Then the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? Get back to your labor." (5) And Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are many now, and you make them rest from their labor!"

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE TACTICS THAT THE ENEMY WILL USE TO GET US TO BE IN BONDAGE TO SLAVERY?

BURDENS:

He commands us to get back to our burdens and will not allow us to rest. He increases the burdens that we are forced to carry and he will not allow us to freely worship the Lord as we desire. We then become subject to burdens of men and the enemy, rather than to the burden of the Lord.

Exodus 5:4-5 "Then the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? Get back to your labor." (5) And Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are many now, and you make them rest from their labor!"

Jesus was aware of this tactic of the enemy and deals with it.

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

NEEDS:

We are in a needy society, in constant need of help and we could very easily spend all our time ministering to one need after another or in trying to take care of these needs in our own strength, as Moses did when He killed the taskmaster.

Exodus 2:11-14 "Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. (13) And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?"

All around us, there are multitudes in need as was the case when Jesus was here:

John 5:1-3 "(3) In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water."

However, we are not called to minister to the whole multitude, but to the divine appointments set out for us by our heavenly Father.

John 5:4-9 “(5) Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. (6) When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"”

John 5:19-20 “Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.”

HASTE:

It is so easy for us to become so driven and exhausted by these burdens and needs that we simply act out of our own understanding, which we are clearly told not to do.

Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; (6) In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

Instead of waiting on the Lord and getting His strength, we try to do it quickly in our own strength, which ends in disaster and chaos.

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.”

When all of Israel did not take the time to sit before the Lord and lay down their agenda, they lost 40,000 soldiers in two days.

We read of this account in **Judges 20:19-28**

When Joshua and his men did not consult (wait on) the Lord, they made a hasty decision, from which they could have been saved.

Joshua 9:14 “Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the Lord.”

David did not wait on God for His order and a man lost his life.

1 Chronicles 15:13 “"For because you did not do it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order.””

BUSYNESS:

Jesus was a servant and we are called to have the same mind.

Philippians 2:5-7 “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, (6) who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, (7) but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”

However, the enemy, can pervert servanthood by causing us to lose balance and get sidetracked with too much service. Martha was not wrong to have served the Lord, but the Amplified Bible says: “Martha, overly occupied and too busy, was distracted with much serving.”

Luke 10:38-42 “ (40) But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell

her to help me." (41) And Jesus answered and said to her, "**Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. (42) "But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."**"

We see that, even though Samuel ministered to the Lord and served Him faithfully, he did not yet know Him in a personal way.

1 Samuel 2:11 "But the child ministered to the Lord before Eli the priest."

1 Samuel 2:18 "Samuel ministered before the Lord, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod."

1 Samuel 3:1 "The boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli."

However when the Lord appeared to Him, personally, he did not know (Yada) Him until he took time to listen. This is an important concept is for us to learn to hear and obey the Lord.

1 Samuel 3:2-15 "(7) (Now Samuel did not yet know (Yada) the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.) (9) Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.'"

The most important thing is not the service, but our relationship with the Lord and obedience to Him.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."

We can get so busy with the Work of the Lord that we lose contact with the Lord of the work.

PERFORMANCE:

Jesus showed that the most important thing was not to do works for Him, but to know Him intimately and for Him to know us, personally.

Matthew 7:21-23 ""(22) "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' (23) "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

When Jesus talks of the wise and foolish virgins, He says to the five foolish "I do not know you."

Matthew 25:1-12 ""(5) "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. (12) "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'"

The ultimate goal should not be to hear the Lord say "I am pleased with you," but it hear Him say "I know you, come and enjoy eternity with Me."

Ultimately, Jesus wants us to move from being His slaves to becoming His friends.

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."

APPLICATIONS FOR LESSON THIRTYSEVEN

1. When does this attack of yokes usually come against us?
2. How does the enemy use burdens against us?
3. How do you see burdens hindering your intercession?
4. How does the enemy try to use needs to get at our relationship with the Lord?
5. How do you overcome being driven by needs?
6. How can the enemy use haste in our lives?

7. How do you see yourself overcoming haste?

8. What was wrong with Martha's service?

9. How important is our attitude in serving God?

10. How does performance hinder us from a *Yada* walk with Him?

UNDERSTANDING WORDS

AN INTERCESSOR'S GUIDE TO MATURITY AND
TRANSFORMATION

In studying death and hell, we saw a primary weapon that was used was accusation.

God knows the power of words, so He has exalted His word above His name.

Psalm 138:2 “For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.”

WORDS CAN:

BRING LIFE OR DEATH.

Proverbs 15:4 “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”

Proverbs 18:21 “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

AFFECT OUR PRAYERS.

Words are so powerful that we are told to take care what we say, especially in prayer.

Ecclesiastes 5:2-3 “Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth, therefore let your words be few. (3) And a fool's voice is known by his many words.”

AFFECT OUR LIVES

Job 19:2 “How long will you torment my soul, and break me in pieces with words?”

We have often quoted or prayed the first half of Isaiah 54:17, not seeing that God is showing us a vital truth about a weapon which the enemy wants to use against us.

Isaiah 54:17 “No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the Lord.”

In the midst of his passage where James is talking about the incredible power of the tongue (**James 3:6**), we see that he shows that in the tongue, through our words, is a world of iniquity.

James 3:6 “The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature.”

One of the powerful things about words is that once they are spoken, you can apologize for having said them, but you cannot take them back. Once Isaac had blessed Jacob, he could not remove the blessing because he had been deceived.

Genesis 27:33 “Then Isaac said, **I have blessed him -- and indeed he shall be blessed.**”

HAVE ETERNAL EFFECT

The words of Jesus will not pass away.

Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

WORDS CAN BE:

EDIFYING:

Proverbs 30:5 “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.”

1 Corinthians 14:3 “He who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”

USED BY THE ENEMY

The enemy knows the power of words, so he uses them continually, as illustrated in:

The Garden of Eden, where he used God’s words to cause Eve to sin.

Genesis 3:1-7 “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"”

The same tactic was used in his temptation of Jesus.

Matthew 4:1-11 “ (6) and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" (7) Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'””

Jesus warned of the power of words and showed in one of His foundational teachings that we are not to call people names.

Matthew 5:22 “"And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.”

Peter used words to try to deter Jesus from fulfilling His destiny.

Matthew 16:21-23 “ Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" (23) But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.””

VOWS:

Vows are important to God and cannot be taken lightly.

Numbers 30:2 “If a man makes a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.”

One of the powerful ways that we can become bound is by making hasty vows which can affect our lives as well as the lives of others. Jephthah brought judgement on his daughter by making a hasty vow.

Judges 11:29-40 “(30) And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, and said, "If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands, (31) "then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering." (36) So she said to him, "My father, if you have given your word to the Lord, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, because the Lord has avenged you of your enemies, the people of Ammon.””

The Jews cursed themselves as they had Jesus crucified.

Matthew 27:25 “All the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children.”

By speaking out his fear, Job brought calamity upon himself.

Job 3:25 “For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me.”

Paul expresses the power of words in the way that he warns masters not to use threats on their workers.

Ephesians 6:9 “You, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening.”

We are told to let our yes be yes and our no be no.

James 5:12 “Above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your Yes, be Yes, and your No, No, lest you fall into judgment.”

JESUS, THE WORD OF GOD

Jesus was an expression of God's living word to us which transformed many lives.

John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

HIS WORDS HAVE AUTHORITY:

Jesus' word had such authority that Peter was willing to obey it in spite of the circumstances which he was in.

Matthew 14:28 “Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.””

Luke 5:5 “Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.””

HE WASHED AND CLEANSED HIS DISCIPLES BY HIS WORDS:

John 15:3 “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”

HE WASHED THE CHURCH BY THE WATER OF HIS WORD:

Ephesians 5:26-27 “That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.”

THE WORK OF THE WORD IN OUR LIVES

HIS WORD BRINGS HEALING:

Psalm 107:20 “He sent His word and healed them.”

Proverbs 12:25 “Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.”

HIS WORD IS OUR MOST ACCURATE GUIDE:

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”

WORDS SPOKEN IN SEASON ARE A GREAT BLESSING:

Proverbs 15:23 “And a word spoken in due season, how good it is.”

Proverbs 25:11 “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.”

THE WORD CLEANSSES US:

John 15:3 “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”

HIS WORD BRINGS LIFE AND DISCERNMENT:

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.”

WORDS CAN EDIFY, EXHORT OR COMFORT US:

1 Corinthians 14:3 “He who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”

Our self-talk can often be our own worst enemy. For many years, I had this battle because of the words that children, in particular, spoke into my life.

APPLICATIONS FOR LESSON THIRTYEIGHT

1. How important is God's word to Him?
2. Discuss Proverbs 15:4 and Proverbs 18:21.
3. How have words blessed you?
4. How have words wounded you?
5. Give two scriptural examples of why it is important to understand words when we pray?

6. How does the enemy try to use words?

7. How did the enemy try to use Peter's words?

8. Why does the bible caution you about making hasty vows?

9. Discuss Jephthah's vow in Judges 11:29-40.

10. Explain the benefits of Jesus, as the word.

11. How can words affect our lives?

12. What do you understand by self-talk?