

Michael K. Lake, Th.D., D.R.E.

RESTORING MINISTRY TO ITS BIBLICAL EDGE
FOR LIFE ABUNDANT™



Next Level Living Seminar



Biblical Life College & Seminary

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You can receive 3 undergraduate semester credit hours for this seminar. Simply complete the college level work detailed in the workbook. Then mail in your workbook, book reports, essay and this form to receive college credit. All credits earned in this seminar are transferrable to a BLCS degree program of your choice.

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Next Level Living

Biblical Life Seminars

Developed by

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“Restoring Ministry to Its Biblical Edge for Life Abundant”™

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How to Receive College Credit for This Seminar

This seminar is designed to challenge, transform and empower the life of any believer - at any stage in his Christian development. Since this seminar consists of only seven 60 – 90 minute lectures, additional work will need to be completed by any student desiring to receive college credit. The work outlined below is to be completed within 90 days of the seminar and turned into the local School of Ministry officials for evaluation.

Short Essay

You are to develop a 7 to 10 page essay on “What This Seminar did In Your Life and Walk with God.” Take your time and share deeply from your heart. Your formatting should be 12pt type, double-spaced with 1” margins.

Collateral Reading & Reports

Proverbs 25:2 (NKJV)

² *It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.*

This seminar will touch on many concepts that beacon further research by any serious minister of the Gospel. You are to select four books of nominal length (at least 150 pages) to research certain concepts in more detail that either interested you or the Holy Spirit touched your heart regarding during the course of the seminar.

You will select one book per concept you wish to research. As you read through each book, you will need to take notes, extrapolating information that surrounds the concept you have selected. These notes will serve you in the development of your report for each book.

Once the resource in your selected book is completed, you are to write a report on the book that includes the following:

1. Tell us about the concept you selected to research and why.
2. Share the information you gleaned from the book that related to the concept, how it deepened the understanding of the concept and how it changed something in your understanding or living (i.e. what kind of transformation occurred in your heart and life as you studied out the concept.)

Each report should be between ten to fifteen pages in length. Your formatting should be 12pt type, double-spaced with 1" margins.

Suggestions on Books to Use

The following list is a starting point for your selection of books to use in your research. You are not limited to this list of books. You are free to use any book that fit the criteria already given. These can be books already in your library, school library or you discover through Amazon.Com or Google.

"The Silence of Adam" by Larry Crabb with Don Hudson & Al Andrews. Published by Zondervan. ISBN: 978-0310219392.

"Living Your Strengths: Discovering Your God-Given Talents and Inspire Your Community" by Albert L. Winseman, Donald O. Clifton and Curt Liesveld. Published by Gallup Press. ISBN: 1-59562-002-8.

"Now, Discover Your Strengths" by Marcus Buckingham & Donald O. Clifton. Published by Free Press. ISBN: 0-7432-0114-0.

"Prayers that Outwit the Enemy: Making God's Word Your First Line of Defense" by Chuck D. Pierce & Rebecca Wagner Sytsema. Published by Regal Books. ISBN: 0-8307-3162-8.

"God's Now Time for Your Life" by Chuck D. Pierce & Rebecca Wagner Sytsema. Published by Regal Books. ISBN: 0-8307-3834-7

"This Day We Fight!: Breaking the Bondage of a Passive Spirit" by Francis Frangipane. Published by Chosen Books. ISBN: 0-8007-9396-X.

"Authority in Prayer" Praying with Power and Purpose" by Dutch Sheets. Published by Bethany House Publishers. ISBN: 978-0764201721.

"One Thing: How to Keep Your Faith in a World of Chaos" by Chuck D. & Pamela J. Pierce. Published by Destiny Image. ISBN: 978-0768423792.

"Ordering Your Private World" by Gordon MacDonald. Published by Thomas Nelson Publishers. ISBN: 0-8407-9549-1.

"Kingdom Authority & Warfare 1" by Michael K. Lake. Published by Biblical Life College & Seminary (through CreateSpace). ISBN: 978-1440453601.

"Biblical Life Prayer Dynamics" by Michael K. Lake. Published by Biblical Life College & Seminary (through CreateSpace). ISBN: 978-1440468056.

“Priesthood of the Believer: The Order of Melchizedek” by Michael K. Lake. Published by Biblical Life College & Seminary (through CreateSpace). ISBN: 978-1440462894.

“The Leader of One” by Michael K. Lake. Published by Biblical Life College & Seminary (through CreateSpace). ISBN: 978-1440473449.

“Watchman Prayer” by Dutch Sheets. Published by Regal Books. ISBN: 0-8307-2568-7.

“Courage to Conquer” by Lester Sumrall. Published by Harrison House. ISBN: 0-89274-867-2.

“If You Were God, Would You Choose You?” by Rick Renner. Published by Rick Renner Ministries. ISBN: 0-9621436-6-9.

“Hearing God” by Peter Lord. Published by Baker Book House. ISBN: 0-8010-5650-0.

“The Papa Prayer: The Prayer You Never Prayed” by Larry Crabb. Published by Integrity Publishers. ISBN: 1591454247.

“The Fear of the LORD” by John Bevere. Published by Charisma House. ISBN: 978-1591859925.

Check List for College Credit

1. Completed workbook.
2. Essay.
3. Four book reports.

All work must be handed in together to your school instructor.



Next Level Living

Session One - To Hear

I. God is Moving

With all that is going on in America and the world, this one thing that I am certain of: God is moving. God has been actively moving for the past year or so to help believers move to the next level of living. This is essential for the days ahead. Unfortunately many do not comprehend what He is doing. This will cause many to be unprepared for what lies ahead in our prophetic future.

Dilemma: One of the questions I have been asking myself are why are some transformed by what God is releasing through the Body and some are not.

- Local Examples
- Student Body
- International Community

In this first message in this series, I want to look at one of the prime reasons individuals are not being transformed.

II. The POWER to Hear

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NKJV)

⁴"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one!

Hear: Strongs # H8085 שָׁמָעַ {shaw-mah'}

Meaning: v 1) to hear, listen to, obey 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to hear (perceive by ear) 1a2) to hear of or concerning 1a3) to hear (have power to hear) 1a4) to hear with attention or interest, listen to 1a5) to understand (language) 1a6) to hear (of judicial cases) 1a7) to listen, give heed 1a7a) to consent, agree 1a7b) to grant request 1a8) to listen to, yield to 1a9) to obey, be obedient 1b) (Niphal) 1b1) to be heard (of voice or sound) 1b2) to be heard of 1b3) to be regarded, be obeyed 1c) (Piel) to cause to hear, call to hear, summon 1d) (Hiphil) 1d1) to cause to hear, tell, proclaim, utter a sound 1d2) to sound aloud (musical term) 1d3) to make proclamation, summon 1d4) to cause to be heard n m 2) sound

Origin: a primitive root; TWOT - 2412, 2412a

Usage: AV - hear 785, hearken 196, obey 81, publish 17, understand 9, obedient 8, diligently 8, shew 6, sound 3, declare 3, discern 2, noise 2, perceive 2, tell 2, reported 2, misc 33; 1159

Matthew 11:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Matthew 13:10-17 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: '*Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;* ¹⁵ *For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.*' ¹⁶ "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

There is more Word, more Rhema, and more revelation that is being released in the Body of Christ today than in any other time in history. Yet, I believe, there had not been another time in history where BELIEVERS are not hearing what God is speaking!

III. Reasons for Not Hearing

a. Sin & Worldliness

Sin and realigning yourself with the world will dull your hearing and seeing spiritually.

b. Lack of Repentance

Repentance does not just mean that you feel sorry for something you have done. It means that there has been a change in your mind – your way of thinking and doing – how you respond to situations, people, and temptation.

In the Hebrew there are two words used for “Repent” because both are part of the process.

Repent: Strong's #H5162 נָחַם nacham {naw-kham}

Meaning: 1) to be sorry, console oneself, repent, regret, comfort, be comforted 1a) (Niphal) 1a1) to be sorry, be moved to pity, have compassion 1a2) to be sorry, rue, suffer grief, repent 1a3) to comfort oneself, be comforted 1a4) to comfort oneself, ease oneself 1b) (Piel) to comfort, console 1c) (Pual) to be comforted, be consoled 1d) (Hithpael) 1d1) to be sorry, have compassion 1d2) to rue, repent of 1d3) to comfort oneself, be comforted 1d4) to ease oneself

Origin: a primitive root; TWOT - 1344; v

Repent or Restore: Strong's #H7725 שׁוּב shuwb {shoob}

Meaning: 1) to return, turn back 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to turn back, return 1a1a) to turn back 1a1b) to return, come or go back 1a1c) to return unto, go back, come back 1a1d) of dying

1a1e) of human relations (fig) 1a1f) of spiritual relations (fig) 1a1f1) to turn back (from God), apostatise 1a1f2) to turn away (of God) 1a1f3) to turn back (to God), repent 1a1f4) turn back (from evil) 1a1g) of inanimate things 1a1h) in repetition 1b) (Polel) 1b1) to bring back 1b2) to restore, refresh, repair (fig) 1b3) to lead away (enticingly) 1b4) to show turning, apostatise 1c) (Pual) restored (participle) 1d) (Hiphil) to cause to return, bring back 1d1) to bring back, allow to return, put back, draw back, give back, restore, relinquish, give in payment 1d2) to bring back, refresh, restore 1d3) to bring back, report to, answer 1d4) to bring back, make requital, pay (as recompense) 1d5) to turn back or backward, repel, defeat, repulse, hinder, reject, refuse 1d6) to turn away (face), turn toward 1d7) to turn against 1d8) to bring back to mind 1d9) to show a turning away 1d10) to reverse, revoke 1e) (Hophal) to be returned, be restored, be brought back 1f) (Pual) brought back

Repent: Strong's # G3340 μετανοέω metanoeo {met-an-o-eh'-o}

Meaning: 1) to change one's mind, i.e. to repent 2) to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins

Matthew 4:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Revelation 2:5 (NKJV)

⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent.

With both elements of repentance, repentance is half-baked. The individual will continually go in this cycle until the last half of repentance is achieved.

c. One's Own Agenda

Both the Pharisees and Judas are examples of how one's agenda and make him deaf to what God is saying.

d. Faith & Hearing

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

If you are not hearing God clearly, what Word have you rejected? It is all wrapped up together. Refusing to obey the Word = refusing to hear God = lack of faith.

e. Chaos in Life and in the Home

James 3:13-18 (KJV)

¹³ Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish. ¹⁶ For

where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Years ago, God instructed my wife and me to keep our home as a sanctuary of His peace (shalom) and to protect it. The peace in our home allows us to recharge spiritually, mentally and physically. The manifested peace of God allows us to hear from God more clearly.

The enemy loves to create an atmosphere of chaos within the home. Instead of being a green house of God's love and peace - turmoil is the rule of the day. With the den o chaos, the parents cannot hear God and begin to make incorrect decisions that loose darkness into their home and lives.

IV. The Gift of Hearing

Deuteronomy 29:2-9 (NKJV)

² Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land-- ³ the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders. ⁴ Yet the Lord has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day. ⁵ And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet. ⁶ You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or *similar* drink, that you may know that I *am* the Lord your God. ⁷ And when you came to this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came out against us to battle, and we conquered them. ⁸ We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh. ⁹ Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.

Be quick to repent. Be quick to come in line with what God is saying. The more you CHOOSE to hear and DO, the more you will hear!

Matthew 13:12

¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

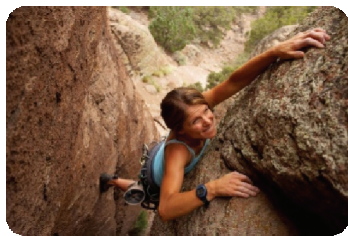
Review Questions

1. What does it mean biblically to "hear?"

2. List several reasons for not hearing God's voice clearly.

3. What two elements must be present for true biblical repentance to occur?

4. What is one way of increasing our hearing?



Next Level Living

Session Two - To Stand

Review

In our last session, we discovered the Power of Hearing God and steps that could be taken to unstop our ears and to take the scales off of our eyes. Being able to hear spiritually places us in a strategic position for next level living. Without it, we will never achieve it!

I. How Adam Missed Next Level Living

Genesis 3:1-8 (NKJV)

¹ 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?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 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. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. 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.

I thought that I had taught this section of scripture from about every angle possible. About the time you believe something like that, the Holy Spirit will humble you and show you something new!

The Rabbis call this section of scripture: "The Silence of Adam." Why was Adam not able to speak up and take authority in the Garden? God had already given it to him. Adam did not understand the dynamics of next level living. Let's break it down:

1. He really did not hear what God had instructed him about regarding "keeping and dressing" the garden. God told him to guard it. Because Adam did not accurately hear what God was saying, he missed his first and only opportunity to guard the garden and to move in authority.

2. Because Adam did not hear what God was talking about, **he was not able to make a stand against the serpent.** It has been said that if someone will not stand for something, he will fall for anything. Adam was unable to stand because he had not heard!

3. Only when you take a stand can you speak to the situation in authority.

Because he had not heard,
He could not take a stand.
Because he had not taken a stand,
He could not speak.

Now we know why Adam was silent!

II. Stand Therefore

Ephesians 6:10-13 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Paul was able to give these powerful words to believers in Ephesus because believers in Jesus have been given the “Gift of Hearing” by Jesus.

John 10:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Compare this to what Moses told Israel in Deut 29:

Deuteronomy 29:2-4 (NKJV)

² Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land-- ³ the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders. ⁴ **Yet the Lord has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.**

Israel was never able to achieve next level living because they could not hear. The only except to this in the history of Israel is when a King could hear God, next level living was achieved under King David – a type and shadow of Jesus. Therefore under King Jesus, we have been given the gift of hearing!

How do you know that you have the gift of hearing? Jesus called your name and you accepted Him as your Messiah. Now there is no telling how long He called before you heard. Hearing

God is a spiritual discipline that must be cultivated and developed. All believers have it, but not all believers will wrestle with the issues to clear up and developing their spiritual hearing.

[The Story of Mary]

You Have to Stand Before You Can Withstand

One of the concepts of next level living that we have not comprehended is that we have to stand for something before we can withstand an attack!

Liberals in our day have established a culture of compromise and tolerance. It tells us that we are progressive because of all the things we will tolerate. Yet those very people that demand we compromise and be tolerant are tolerant of no one that has a different view than they do! They go from warm and fuzzy to ruthless in a single breath. Because they had compromised everything to accommodate their sins, they know boundaries or ethics when attacking. They will fight dirty and without conscious!

Yet in the Kingdom, when you have heard from God and take a stand against the darkness, GOD HAS YOUR BACK. You can only move in authority when you stand. STANDING IN OBEDIENT AUTHORITY ENABLES YOU TO WITHSTAND THE ATTACKS OF LIFE. It is next level living!

- Abraham took a stand.
- Deborah took a stand with the men.
- Samuel took a stand.
- Elijah took a stand.
- David took a stand.
- Jesus took a stand.

We are grafted into this powerful root system to hear, stand, and take authority and to see victory.

Where are the places that you have not taken a stand? You will find that your CORE STRENGTHS and GIFTS also are wrapped up in the places you need to take a stand.

Review Questions

1. Why was Adam not able to speak against the serpent?

2. Have we been given the gift of hearing? If so, how?

3. What do we mean when we say “You have to stand before you can withstand”?



Next Level Living

Session Three – To Speak

Review

Over the past several weeks, we have discovered:

- Because Adam did not hear what God said, he could not take a stand.
- That we, through Messiah, have an anointing to hear.
- That God is calling us to make a stand.
- Until we stand, we cannot withstand the attacks of the enemy.

I. Called to Move in Authority

Genesis 1:27-28 (NKJV)

²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

God created man to have authority over the earth. Because man sinned, both man and his authority over the earth were lost. Now both were in the hands of Satan.

Luke 19:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; ¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Notice that Jesus did not say "those that were lost." He had a broader idea of what was lost: both man and his authority.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

Power/Authority: Strongs # G1849 ἐξουσία exousia {ex-oo-see'-ah}

Meaning: 1) power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases 1a) leave or permission 2) physical and mental power 2a) the ability or strength with which one is endued, which he either possesses or exercises 3) the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege) 4) the power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed) 4a) universally 4a1) authority over mankind 4b) specifically 4b1) the power of judicial decisions 4b2) of authority to manage domestic affairs 4c) metonymically 4c1) a thing subject to authority or rule 4c1a) *jurisdiction* 4c2) one who possesses authority 4c2a) a ruler, a human magistrate 4c2b) the leading and more powerful among created beings superior to man, spiritual potentates 4d) a sign of the husband's authority over his wife 4d1) the veil with which propriety required a women to cover herself 4e) the sign of regal authority, a crown

Origin: from 1832 (in the sense of ability); TDNT - 2:562,238; n f

Usage: AV - power 69, authority 29, right 2, liberty 1, jurisdiction 1, strength 1; 103

Misc: For Synonyms see entry 5820

The work of Jesus on the Cross won back man and his authority. Now both belong to Jesus. He now sends us out with authority once again to push back the powers of darkness and to set mankind free.

II. How Is Authority Exercised

John 14:12-14 (NKJV)

¹² "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*."

This scripture rolls both of the ways in which man can move in authority in the earth.

- By Speaking
- By Doing

Our words and actions must always be one; otherwise we are duplicitous.

In this session, I want to center up on "speaking."

III. Speaking - Loosing Your Authority

Matthew 8:5-13 (NKJV)

⁵ Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶ saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." ⁷ And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸ The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in

Israel! ¹¹ And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, *so* let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

This centurion is about the only person that ever impressed Jesus. He understood authority and the power of words.

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)

²¹ Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Death: Strongs # H4194 מָוֶתְךָ maveth {maw'-veth}

Meaning: 1) death, dying, Death (personified), realm of the dead 1a) death 1b) death by violence (as a penalty) 1c) state of death, place of death

Origin: from 04191; TWOT - 1169a; n m

Usage: AV - death 128, die 22, dead 8, deadly 1, slay 1; 160

Life: Strongs # H2416 חַיִּים chay {khah'-ee}

Meaning: adj 1) living, alive 1a) green (of vegetation) 1b) flowing, fresh (of water) 1c) lively, active (of man) 1d) reviving (of the springtime) n m 2) relatives 3) life (abstract emphatic) 3a) life 3b) sustenance, maintenance n f 4) living thing, animal 4a) animal 4b) life 4c) appetite 4d) revival, renewal 5) community

Origin: from 02421; TWOT - 644a

Usage: AV - live 197, life 144, beast 76, alive 31, creature 15, running 7, living thing 6, raw 6, misc 19; 501

Nothing can be done in the earth spiritually unless words are released into it.

Amos 3:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

What is a prophet supposed to do? He proclaims aloud what God has told him. He must speak it into the earth.

Kingdom of God	Kingdom of Darkness
Moves by the Spirit	Moves by the Flesh
Causes us to speak "life" into situations	Causes us to speak "death" into situation

Psalm 34:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴ Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

Evil: Strongs # H7451 רָעַר ra` {rah}

Meaning: adj 1) bad, evil 1a) bad, disagreeable, malignant 1b) bad, unpleasant, evil (giving pain, unhappiness, misery) 1c) evil, displeasing 1d) bad (of its kind - land, water, etc) 1e) bad (of value) 1f) worse than, worst (comparison) 1g) sad, unhappy 1h) evil (hurtful) 1i) bad, unkind (vicious in disposition) 1j) bad, evil, wicked (ethically) 1j1) in general, of persons, of thoughts 1j2) deeds, actions n m 2) evil, distress, misery, injury, calamity 2a) evil, distress, adversity 2b) evil, injury, wrong 2c) evil (ethical) n f 3) evil, misery, distress, injury 3a) evil, misery, distress 3b) evil, injury, wrong 3c) evil (ethical)

The Tower

Genesis 11:1-9 (NKJV)

¹ Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. ³ Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴ And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." ⁵ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶ And the Lord said, "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. ⁷ Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸ So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

IV. The Coals of God

Isaiah 6:5-7 (NKJV)

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." ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."

When Isaiah saw the LORD, he did not cry out about his DEEDS; he cried out about his lips. The fire of God can take away the fire of Hell from our lips!

Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Review Questions

1. What two things did Jesus come to earth to restore?

2. What does authority mean biblically?

3. What two ways can a man move in authority?

4. What two forces are released by man's words?

5. What can cleanse the lips of man?



Next Level Living

Session Four: To Speak & Transform

Review

We have learned:

- We need to hear God.
- So we can make a stand.
- Heaven and Hell want us to speak: who are you speaking for?

Now we are going to learn how to let Heaven speak through us to transform!

Foundational Scripture:

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)

²¹ Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Today I am going to show you how to use your tongue to set you free of the past, empower your present ,and transform your future.

I. Speaking to Your Past

Our past represents the time we were in sin and under the Pharaoh of this world. He set up lessons for us to learn that were based on his strategic lies. Even if we are free, if we are living by the lies he trained us with, we will be forever in bondage.

Two things we must do:

1. Moses over and over again commanded Pharaoh to let God's people go. You must speak to your past and command it to let you go!
2. You must call all of the enemy's lessons learned as lies and reject them. Tell them "NO!" and speak forth what God says about you.

II. Speak to Your Present

We need to speak to our present and allow the “life of God” to flow from our lips in every situation.

- In our prayers
- In our relationships
- In our declarations

We must also learn to speak to our mountains and command them to move!

Mark 11:22-26 (NKJV)

²² So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. ²³ For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*. ²⁵ "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. ²⁶ But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

NOTE: While walking in the present, don't allow those still under the influence of Pharaoh tempt you to accept his lies of the past. Walk in forgiveness and refuse to operate like you are still in Egypt!

III. Prophecy to the Future

Begin releasing God's destiny and power into your future. Allow your words to direct your future and not the devil.

Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Testimony: Strongs # G3141 μαρτυρία marturia {mar-too-ree'-ah}

Meaning: 1) a testifying 1a) the office committed to the prophets of testifying concerning future events 2) what one testifies, testimony, i.e. before a judge

Origin: from 3144; TDNT - 4:474,564; n f

Usage: AV - witness 15, testimony 14, record 7, report 1; 37

IV. How to Maintain a Victory

Psalm 26:12 (NKJV)

¹² My foot stands in an even place; In the congregations I will bless the Lord.

A devout Jew will try to find 100 things a day to bless God for. Most believers never bless Him for anything. When we bless Him for something He has done, it helps to maintain that victory in our lives. Many believers lose their victory because they do not continually bless Him for it!

Psalm 34:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth. ² My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear *of it* and be glad.

Review Questions

1. What do we need to realize the lessons of the past were?

2. How do we free ourselves of these past lessons of the enemy?

3. What must we speak into our "present?"

4. Can we release divine destiny into our future? If so, how?

5. What is one way to maintain the victory in our lives?



Next Level Living

Session Five: To Build

Foundational Scripture:

Jeremiah 29:11 (CJB)

¹¹ For I know what plans I have in mind for you,' says Adonai, 'plans for well-being, not for bad things; so that you can have hope and a future.

I. Good News - God has a Plan for Those that are His

Even though the Southern Nation of Judah was going into Babylonian captivity for their sins against the Almighty, God already had a plan for their release and blessing. This truth is more powerful than you think.

- Almighty God has plans for you that are good. They will bring “well-being” to your life. They are also designed to give you hope AND a future.
- The mistakes that you have made in the past are not big enough to mess up God’s plans! He knew about the mistakes you would make before the foundations of the world. He made those plans knowing all the wrong decisions you would make. HE MADE THOSE PLANS AND MADE THEM AVAILABLE TO YOU ANYWAY!
- God is on our side. He is always a part of the blessing, the hope and the future of our lives. We need to start working with Him instead of against Him.

II. The Creative Power of Thoughts

Both the King James and New King James translated plans as “thoughts.” Let’s take a look at the Hebrew word used here:

Thoughts: Strongs # H4284 מַחְשָׁבָה machashabah {makh-ash-aw-baw'} or מַחְשֵׁבֶת machashebeth {makh-ash-eh'-beth}¹

Meaning: 1) thought, device 1a) thought 1b) device, plan, purpose 1c) invention

Origin: from 02803; TWOT - 767d; n f

Usage: AV - thought 28, device 12, purpose 6, work 3, imaginations 3, cunning 1, devised 1, invented 1, means 1; 56

¹ Strong's Enhanced Lexicon. BibleWorks for Windows 7.0. BibleWorks, LLC, Norfolk, VA. Copyright © 2006.

As you can see, the word here can also mean “imagination, purpose, devised, invented.” Now why is this so important?

God planned the entire universe in His heart. From those thoughts came words. Those words released the creative power of God that formed the universe. Now God is thinking about you! God wants to speak His thoughts about you through you to release His power! Before you can speak, your thoughts must harmonize with God’s.

III. Promotion: It’s All a Head Game

There is much that the New Testament has to say about our thought life.

a. Pulling Down Stronghold

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV)

⁴For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

The enemy is after your future. This is why he has attacked your thought-life so much. We have the power through Christ to pull those destructive thoughts down and free ourselves from the cycles of failure and sin that Satan has built into our minds.

b. Think on These Things

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

⁸Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

We not only need to pull down strongholds, but we need to fill our minds with thoughts from Heaven to bring us in line with the Kingdom.

c. Having the Mind of Christ

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (NKJV)

¹⁴But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. ¹⁶For "*who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?*" But we have the mind of Christ.

There is a natural side of our minds that cannot comprehend what God is doing or how He is moving. However, for those that are born again, there is a spiritual side of our minds that can access the Mind of Christ.

How do we access the Mind of Christ?

- Meditation in the Word
- Prayer
- Being still before the LORD. (20 min. rule)
 - ^{KJV} **Psalm 4:4** Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.
 - ^{KJV} **Psalm 46:10** Be still, and know that I *am* God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

IV. Putting Our Minds and Our Strengths Where Our Mouths Are

Psalm 139:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

Between 6 months and 14 years of age, your brain has 100 billion brain cells, each cell having 15,000 synapses operating at full strength. This is the time that super learning is taking place. Children are like sponges: soaking up and trying to interpret everything around them.

After coming of age, 13 – 15, a protein bath comes over the brain and destroys 50% of all the synapse. We go from a time to super learning to making decisions.

Age of Learning to Age of Decisions

The surviving synapses are called “overcoming synapses” and are one of the keys of the Kingdom for you overcoming in life and building your future. In the “overcoming synapses” there will be 5 core or signature strengths that God has strengthened within your mind that will cause you to be an overcomer in this life!

These strengths will not seem special to you. Because they come naturally to you, they will seem ordinary. These are the strengths God is calling you to develop for His purposes and His Kingdom in the earth. **When those strengths are properly developed and used, they will bring you the greatest joy, sense of purpose and financial blessing.**

How to develop those strengths:

Consecrate Them for Good

God is not the only one that knows you have them. Satan wants to use them and pervert them for his purposes and use.

The Concept of False Strengths

Satan will bring false strengths into your life to keep you from recognizing and using your true strengths. These are not real strengths, rather they are strategically placed weaknesses to counter the strengths God has placed within you.

Use Discipline in Their Continued Development

Discipline in the further development of your strengths is the difference between being good and becoming great! Your core strengths are like muscles: you can build them just like a weightlifter does. Push them to their limits and watch them increase. These strengths can also atrophy for lack of use, but like muscles will never go away.

Infuse Them with Training

The world is full of gifted individuals that accomplish little in life. They have not taken the time to blend education and training to fully develop and empower those gifting.

Consistently Use Them in Your Life

If the Devil cannot get you to use them for his purposes, he will bring things into your path that will prevent or hinder their use. Expect it and watch for it! There is an unction in those strengths - if you plow through and continue to use them - will cause you to overcome.

If using those strengths brings joy, fulfillment, empowerment and blessing into your life; consistently using them will cause a consistent flow. You cannot get from God through faith and prayer those things that come through using your strengths. He will not short change what He has placed in you!

This concept of developing and using your core or signature strengths is the key to real happiness in life. We have all heard stories of men and women that made it to the top of their fields, making more money than they could ever spend and end up without joy and feeling empty on the inside. After getting all the fame and money, they are left with one overwhelming question: Is that all there is? Their true happiness and fulfillment in life will only be realized in the maturing of the strengths that God has placed within them!

Review Questions

1. What powerful truth does Jeremiah 29:11 teach us?

2. What can we do to bring our thought-life in line with God?

3. What are core strengths?

4. What do we need to do with our core strengths to mature them?



Next Level Living

Session Six: The Dynamics of Work & Power of Failure

I. The Dynamics of Work

Ecclesiastes 5:3 (NKJV)

³ For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice *is known* by *his* many words.

Ecclesiastes 5:3 (AMP)

³ For a dream comes with much business *and* painful effort, and a fool's voice with many words.

Going to the next level will always take a great deal of work. Just because it is of God doesn't mean that there will not be work involved. Workless deliverance is about salvation; it is about coming out of Egypt. Going into the Promised Land and receiving your inheritance in the Kingdom has ALWAYS been about rolling up your sleeves, working, and fighting for what God told you needed to be done!

James 2:17-18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

a. Everything is Spiritual

Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

For the believer, there is no such thing as sacred vs. secular. Secular is for the pagan, Greek and Roman. Once you belong to God, everything you are involved with and do is sacred!

When God is involved in all we do, it adds worth to what we do!

b. Become a Person of Your Word

Numbers 23:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ "God *is* not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

In many of today's churches, we are taught to speak and wait. The pattern that we see in the Word of God is to speak and do.

Always back up your words with actions.

Never say anything that you are not willing to do. Always enforce your words with the appropriate action.

Always keep your word.

If you promise something, always do it.

Psalm 15:4 (NKJV)

⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord; He *who* swears to his own hurt and does not change;

Never Speak Words that You Have No Intention of Doing

Matthew 12:36-37 (NKJV)

³⁶ But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Idle: Strong's # G692 ἀργός argos {ar-gos'}

Meaning: 1) free from labour, at leisure 2) lazy, shunning the labour which one ought to perform

Origin: from 1 (as a negative particle) and 2041; TDNT - 1:452,76; adj

c. Count the Cost; Make the Plan and Move Forward

Luke 14:28-30 (NKJV)

²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*-- ²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

Old Axiom: He who fails to plan, plans to fail.

d. Keep God Involved In All Your Plans

Proverbs 3:6 (NKJV)

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

II. The Power of Failure

Psalm 37:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds *him with His hand*.

Proverbs 24:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For a righteous *man* may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

The only person that does not make mistakes is the person who never attempts anything!

With each mistake, step back, analyses and rework your strategy!

Review Questions

1. How do dreams come?

2. How is everything in our lives spirit?

3. How do we become a person of our word?

4. Why is counting the cost important?

5. What can failure do?



Next Level Living

Session Seven: The Fear of the LORD

We are living in times in which the fear of the LORD is rare. Too many read into the Word what is not there and too many ignore what is clearly written. We have turned places of worship into places of entertainment. There is no respect for God in His houses of worship, in the homes of His followers or in the general community.

Without the fear of the LORD:

Sinners refuse to repent.

Sinners demand that everyone must accept their sinning.

Sinners demand that God made them that way.

Liars are liars because God made them liars.

Thieves are thieves because God made them thieves.

Murders are murders because God created them to commit murder.

There is no fidelity in marriage because they are genetically predisposed to cheat!

Saints miss out on the best God has to offer because it can only be accessed through fearing the LORD!

Transition over the Decades

In the '70's	Today
"The Devil made me do it!"	"God made me this way!"

I. Basics of the Fear of the LORD

a. What is the fear of the LORD?

^{NKJ} **Psalm 33:8** Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

Fear: Strongs # H3372 יָרֵא yare' {yaw-ray'}

Meaning: 1) to fear, revere, be afraid 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to fear, be afraid 1a2) to stand in awe of, be awed 1a3) to fear, reverence, honour, respect 1b) (Niphal) 1b1) to be fearful, be dreadful, be feared 1b2) to cause astonishment and awe, be held in awe 1b3) to inspire reverence or godly fear or awe 1c) (Piel) to make afraid, terrify 2) (TWOT) to shoot, pour

Origin: a primitive root; TWOT - 907,908; v

- b. Connection Between the Fear of the LORD and His Judgments.

^{NKJ} **Psalm 19:9** The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

The fear of the LORD is a pure thing that is supposed to remain in the Body of Christ forever.
Notice there is a link between the fear of the LORD and considering His judgments as true.

Where there is no fear of God, his saints dismiss His commandments and judgments as either suggestions or that they are no longer in effect!

- c. God will only give His secrets where there is the fear of the LORD.

^{NKJ} **Psalm 25:14** The secret of the LORD *is* with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

- d. The fear of the LORD releases divine protection.

Psalm 33:18-19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Behold, the eye of the Lord *is* on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy, ¹⁹ To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine.

What America needs today is to return to the fear of the LORD!

^{NKJ} **Psalm 34:7** The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.

- e. The fear of the LORD must be taught.

^{NKJ} **Psalm 34:11** Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

- f. True worship can only be entered by those that fear Him.

^{KJV} **Psalm 96:9** O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

- g. God's mercy and favor is loosed upon those that fear Him.

^{NKJ} **Psalm 103:17** But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,

- h. Fear of the LORD is the beginning of Wisdom

^{NKJ} **Psalm 111:10** The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever.

If one only begins to enter into wisdom with the fear of the LORD, can we say there is not real wisdom in those that do not have it? The difference between godly wisdom and worldly wisdom that James says is devilish is the fear of the LORD.

Again, a direct correlation between the fear of the LORD and moving in understanding by keeping the commandments of God.

- i. The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Knowledge.

^{NKJ} **Proverbs 1:7** The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, *But* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- j. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.

^{NKJ} **Proverbs 8:13** The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

- k. Is America at the door of Prov 1:20?

Proverbs 1:20-33 (NKJV)

²⁰ Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. ²¹ She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: ²² "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. ²³ Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴ Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, ²⁵ Because you despised all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, ²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, ²⁷ When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸ "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord, ³⁰ They would have none of my counsel *And* despised my every rebuke. ³¹ Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. ³² For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; ³³ **But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.**"

II. A Return to the Fear of the LORD

^{NKJ} **Psalm 34:11** Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

The fear of the LORD must be re-established in the house of God and among the people of God. The fear of the LORD is a choice, not a feeling. It must be demonstrated by mature believers, and taught to the children. We must lead by example. Unless the fear of the LORD returns to the house of God, America is lost! For those of us that know God, it is our divine responsibility to cultivate the fear of the LORD in our families, our workplace and our communities. It must become part of our culture and spiritual DNA!

Review Questions

1. Because there is no fear of God in society any more, what has happened?

2. What is the fear of the LORD?

3. What are some of the benefits of fearing the LORD?

