

MAKING DISCIPLES - LESSON 7 APPLICATION

 **ACTION:** As you continue to work through each week's homework, please ask the Lord to enable you to gain truth both to implement in your own life and to assist those you will be discipling.

The Power Source

This week's homework will focus on various practical ways to tap into the power of the Holy Spirit.

 **READ:** Ephesians 1:17-20; Romans 8:10-11

 **WRITE:** What does it mean to you to know that the power of the Spirit of God, the same power that overcame sin and death on the cross, is indwelling and working within the lives of each believer?

 What specific differences would it make in your life if you chose to consistently tap into this power?

 What are some habits you can put in place to depend more fully on the Holy Spirit's power?

 Ask the Lord to enable you, moment by moment, throughout each day to become more aware of His presence and dependent upon His power.

 **Ephesians 6:18**

Although God wants us to come to Him on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests, He wants us to do so by acknowledging Him with a willingness to submit to His perfect will. Since God has purpose in all things, each moment of our lives has potential for spiritual significance.

 What specific differences would it make in your life if you developed a lifestyle of taking every situation to the Lord in prayer?

 In what situations are you most apt to make decisions without praying?

 Ask the Holy Spirit to prompt you to communicate with God and to consistently rely on His power in all things.

 **Psalm 9:1-2**

 What should it look like on any given day for you to praise God?

 List specific benefits to those who consistently communicate praise to God. (Use this list to encourage those you disciple to develop a heart of praise.)

 **THOUGHT PROVOKING:** Is it your habit to praise God throughout the day, regardless of circumstance? If not, establish a habit this week of doing so and expect to reap the benefits.

 **1 Chronicles 16:8-10; Psalm 9:1**

 What should it look like on a regular basis to rejoice in the Lord, continually giving thanks to Him?

 What would be the benefits of having a consistently thankful heart?

 **John 5:17**

 Can you easily **identify** the Lord working around you? If not, ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to see God at work around you and on your behalf.

 **FISHING FOR MEN:** In what ways would consistently **acknowledging** God's work become a discipleship tool?

 Practice this week identifying God's mighty works and proclaiming with thanksgiving all He has done. This will glorify the Lord and better equip you to point out God working in the lives of those you disciple.

Applying Truth to Develop Identity in Christ

 **2 Corinthians 5:16-17**

 Do you consistently perceive your value from a human perspective or a godly one?

Being in Christ affords us access to the powerful work of His Spirit so His unique godly characteristics can be developed within. As a result, we should no longer view our lives from a worldly, or human perspective, but from Christ's perspective. We are to view our lives from Christ's perspective and focus on His transforming work within us.

✈ As you further strive to grow in trust and reliance on God's powerful work within you, practice using the following exercise. (This may also be helpful in discipling others.)

1. Create a written list of godly attributes by writing each letter of the alphabet down the left-hand side of a separate sheet of paper, forming a vertical column.
2. Then, next to each letter write an attribute of God that corresponds to that letter. For example, A = all knowing, approachable, almighty, always near,... B = bread of life, beautiful, best friend,... C = creator, compassionate, consuming fire, caring, comforter, etc. Exhaust the list with as many of God's attributes as you can. (It isn't necessary that each letter have an attribute, nor is it important that some letters have more attributes than others. This is only a tool to consider the many characteristics of God.)
3. After completing the list, go back over the list of attributes, considering their meanings individually.
4. Ask yourself the following question by filling in the blank with each attribute: What difference should it make in my life that God is [attribute]?
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself to you, and then intentionally implement into your daily life all that He shows you.

Psalm 73:26

Even though you may initially view a situation from a limited, human perspective, you can quickly transition your thoughts to focus on God's eternal perspective by using the phrase "But, God".

✈ Below are examples of situations that the world would see as worrisome or problematic. Practice transitioning from each possible problem to the truth of who God is and all He can accomplish by:

1. Asking the Lord to bring to mind both His Word and His attributes that apply to each situation, and then,
2. Completing the phrase "But, God..." at the end of each description. (The first one has been completed as an example for you.)

Situation: Your close Christian friend shares with you that they have been wrongfully ridiculed by a family member. Your friend is deeply hurt and resentful. **But, God...** tells us that none of us are without sin; and therefore, we are to forgive others as Jesus forgave us (**Romans 3:10; Mark 11:25**); is our comforter, deliverer, sustainer, healer, redeemer, protector.

 **Situation:** The person you are discipling tells you that one of their parents has been diagnosed with cancer. The person is very anxious about the matter. **But, God...**

 **Situation:** Your neighbors, who are new Christians, just experienced a home fire. No one was injured, but they are worried about the momentary loss they have suffered and fearful about the future. **But, God...**

 **REMEMBER:** Learning to renew your mind with truth and choosing to trust immediately in it will promote spiritual growth in your own life as well as in the lives of those you disciple.

 How will you express to those you disciple the specific dangers of finding their identity in people, circumstances, or things other than the Lord Jesus?

Applying Truth to Correct Sin and Prevent Future Disobedience

 **1 John 1:8-9**

 What are the potential consequences of denying personal sin? (Consider yourself as well as others; be specific.)

 Does your lifestyle reflect the truth of these verses? _____ If not, what practical changes would you need to make in order to walk in obedience and freedom?

 How will you explain to those you disciple the spiritual significance of confessing rather than denying personal sin?

The enemy wants us to live with the shame and defeat that personal sin creates. To the contrary, Jesus wants us to experience continual victory and freedom that confession of sin and repentance, or genuine heart change, produces. In **Luke 3:8a**, John the Baptist told the Pharisees to produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

 Make no mistake: the fruit produced from our heart attitude and mindset is displayed in our actions and behaviors.

 **2 Corinthians 7:10**

 What are the distinct differences between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?

 **Romans 12:2**

 How does genuine transformation occur?

 What are the differences between behavior modification and spiritual transformation?

Those who repent and turn from sin pursue a proactive lifestyle while those who live in unrepentance continually deal with the consequences of poor choices and correcting undesired behavior patterns.

 How will you explain to those you disciple the benefits of becoming increasingly proactive in their pursuit of Christ?

 **CHECK UP:** What were some of the things you specifically chose to praise God for this week?

 **TO ENCOURAGE:** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (**John 15:7**)