DISCIPLESHIP EVANGELISM



LEVEL 2

LEVEL 2

LESSON 1
SELF-CENTEREDNESS: The Source of All Grief

By Andrew Wommack

Self-centeredness is the source of so much of what we experience. There is a verse in Proverbs 13 that you really ought to look up, because you wouldn't believe it if you didn't read it in your own Bible. Verse 10 says, *"Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom."* Many people at first would take issue with this and say, "Wait a minute. Pride can't be the only thing that causes contention or strife. Proverbs 17:14 says that contention is the beginning of strife, so strife has to be caused by more than just pride. It's what so-and-so has done to me." Others will say, "You don't understand; this is just the type of person I am." No, the scripture says that *only* by pride comes contention. It's not one of the leading causes; it's the only cause. Some people again would take issue and say, "I've got all kinds of problems, but pride isn't one of them. If anything, I've got such low self-esteem, there's no way anybody can accuse me of pride."

We have to redefine what pride is. It's is not just thinking you're better than somebody else, but in the simplest terms, it is seeing yourself as the center of everything. Self-centeredness is really the root of all pride. In Numbers 12:2, Miriam and Aaron, Moses' sister and brother, came against him, criticizing him because of an interracial marriage, saying, *"Hath the Lord indeed spoken only to Moses? Hath he not spoken also by us?"* The Scripture then says in parentheses in verse 3 that Moses was the meekest man on the face of the earth. Instead of taking offense at what they said, he began to pray and intercede for them.

When it says Moses was the meekest man on the face of the earth, stop and think about that. We don't know how many people there were on earth, but surely there were millions, and Moses was the meekest man of all these people. What makes this a really amazing statement is that he was the one who wrote it. Most people think if you're truly humble or meek, you won't even know it. That's a false impression of what arrogance really is. Pride isn't just thinking you're better than everybody else—it's self-centeredness. It's like having a stick with arrogance on one side and low self-esteem on the other side. Those are opposite expressions of the same thing, but they're both on the same stick. It's self-centeredness. It doesn't matter if you think you're better than everyone else or worse than everyone else, you're absolutely self-centered. Everything gets filtered through that. A timid, shy person is very proud and self-centered, thinking only about self.

The point I'm making is that self-centeredness is really the root of all pride, and if you plug that back into Proverbs 13:10, *"Only by pride cometh contention,"* what this says is that it is our own self-centeredness that makes us angry, not what people do to us. It's our self-centeredness that causes us to react to what people do. You will never be able to stop people from rubbing you the wrong way;

it can't happen. Faith is not to control other people but to help you deal with yourself and deal with the things that are inside you. So it doesn't matter what people do to you.

As Jesus was being crucified, He was able to turn to the very people who were crucifying Him and say, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." He didn't control those people but instead had control over Himself. It's self-centeredness that makes us angry. Jesus didn't come here for Himself, but He so loved the world that He came here for us. He thought of His mother as He hung on the cross and spoke to one of His disciples about taking care of her. The reason Jesus was able to forgive and operate in love—in the midst of intense agony, injustice, and everything that came His way—was because He was not self-centered.

It's your own selfishness that makes you angry, yet the Scripture says you're supposed to be dead to yourself. If I had a corpse in front of me, I could insult it, kick it, spit on it, or ignore it, but if it's truly a corpse, it wouldn't respond. The reason you respond the way you do to the things around you is not because of those external things but because of what's on the inside of you. You will never be so strong in faith that you can remove all obstacles and everything that rubs you the wrong way, but you can deal with yourself. You can come to a place where you make Jesus Lord of your life and love Him, His kingdom, and other people more than you love yourself. You'll find that when you do that and deal with self that the strife and contention in your life will cease.

One of the great keys for applying all of these things God has done in your life is to realize that He didn't give you the kingdom for selfish purposes. He didn't do these things just so you could have every need supplied. You need to learn it's in denying yourself and losing your life that you really begin to find out what life is all about. It's in loving other people and God more than yourself that you'll begin to defuse your anger and hurt, all those things that are inside you.

I pray that God will take these few things I've said and use them to open your heart to realize that it's your own self-centeredness that causes you grief. Instead of placing the blame somewhere else, you need to accept the responsibility, face it, humble yourself before God, and ask Him to come in and make Himself big in your life. That's the way for you to walk in victory.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Mark 9:33-34. What were the disciples arguing about on the road going to Capernaum?

2. Does this reflect the selfishness in all of us?

3. Read Mark 9:35. According to this scripture, if some one wants to be first, they must become what?

4. Explain in detail Jesus' teaching in Luke 22:24-27.

5. Read Proverbs 13:10. What is the only thing that causes contention?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

MARK 9:33-35 – *And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? **[34]** But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest. **[35]** And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.*

LUKE 22:24-27 – *And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. **[25]** And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. **[26]** But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. **[27]** For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.*

PROVERBS 13:10 – *Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

6. Read Galatians 2:20. How should we live our lives?

7. Read Matthew 7:12. What is the antidote for self-centeredness?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

GALATIANS 2:20 – *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

MATTHEW 7:12 – *Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read Mark 9:33-34. What were the disciples arguing about on the road going to Capernaum?
   They argued about who was the greatest

2. Does this reflect the selfishness in all of us?
   Yes

3. Read Mark 9:35. According to this scripture, if someone wants to be first, they must become what?
   Servant of all

4. Explain in detail Jesus' teaching in Luke 22:24-27.
   "And they began to argue among themselves as to who would be the greatest in the coming Kingdom. Jesus told them, 'In this world the kings and great men order their people around, and yet they are called "friends of the people." But among you, those who are the greatest should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. Normally the master sits at the table and is served by his servants. But not here! For I am your servant'" (Luke 22:24-27, New Living Translation***)***

5. Read Proverbs 13:10. What is the only thing that causes contention?
   Pride

6. Read Galatians 2:20. How should we live our lives?
   By the faith of Christ (or faith in Christ), not centered on our own strengths or weaknesses

7. Read Matthew 7:12. What is the antidote for self-centeredness?
   To be God centered and others centered. Treat others like we want to be treated

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 2
HOW TO MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

By Don Krow

The word *meditate* means "to muse over, ponder, to plan in the mind, to purpose, or intend." The Greek word implies "to revolve something in the mind" and is also translated to imagine.

Two reasons for biblical meditation are "to ponder over correct knowledge, also referred to as renewing the mind and to contact God behind His Word" through prayer, praise, and meditation; i.e., musing, pondering, and thinking about Him.

Meditation can be done from topical study—choosing a topic to ponder over. Example: baptism. Define the word from the Greek, Hebrew, or a good dictionary. Find the root word from which it is derived. Consider and ponder the context of verses and that will lead you to study other related subjects, such as remission (Acts 2:38), repentance (Acts 2:38), faith (Mark 16:16), the conscience (1 Pet. 3:21), calling on the Lord (Acts 22:16), etc.

You need to ponder questions that you have or that the Scripture raises, such as: Are there qualifications to be met before baptism? What is the purpose of baptism? When was it practiced? In what time frame?

Meditation can be done from expositional study; i.e., a verse-by-verse study of a book of the Bible. The key is to ponder and think over a book for so long that you become familiar with its content (verses and chapters).

Meditation can be done through word studies. What do certain words mean? What does it mean to believe? What does the word *Lord* mean? What does the word *Jesus* mean? What does the word *Christ* mean? What does the word justify mean, etc.

Y*ou can meditate from paragraphs in the Bible. A paragraph is a unit of thought in writing, usually containing several sentences.* When an author changes the subject of emphasis in their writing, they usually begin a new paragraph.

When meditating through scriptures, look for punctuation such as question marks. Why is this question being asked? How does it relate to the context, etc.?

Biblical meditation is not just looking at words, but for God behind the Word.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What does the word "meditate" mean?

2. What are two reasons for biblical meditation?

3. What is a topical study?

4. What is an expositional study of the Scriptures?

5. Read Luke 6:46. What do you think the word "Lord" means?

6. Read Matthew 1:21. What do you think the word "Jesus" means?

7. Read Luke 23:1-2. What do you think the word "Christ" means?

8. What is a paragraph?

9. Biblical meditation is not just looking at words, but for _____ .

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

LUKE 6:46 – *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

MATTHEW 1:21 – *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

LUKE 23:1-2 – *And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. **[2]** And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.*

ANSWER KEY

1. What does the word "meditate" mean?
   To muse over, ponder, or to revolve something in one's mind

2. What are two reasons for biblical meditation?
   To ponder correct knowledge (to renew my mind) and to contact God behind His Word (by musing, pondering, and thinking about Him)

3. What is a topical study?
   Choosing a topic from the Bible to study and think upon

4. What is an expositional study of the Scriptures?
   A verse-by-verse study of a book of the Bible

5. Read Luke 6:46. What do you think the word "Lord" means?
   Someone we obey (like a boss)

6. Read Matthew 1:21. What do you think the word "Jesus" means?
   A Savior that saves others from their sins

7. Read Luke 23:1-2. What do you think the word "Christ" means?
   One anointed to be a king

8. What is a paragraph?
   A unit of thought in writing

9. Biblical meditation is not just looking at words, but for _____.
   Contacting God behind His Word

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 3
RENEWING THE MIND

By Don Krow

Today we want to talk about renewing the mind. I'd like to read two passages. The first one is out of Philippians 4:8. It says, "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*" The Apostle Paul is obviously telling us that there are things we should think on. In other words, we can choose our thoughts. Now I know that we all have thoughts that are sometimes contrary to the Word of God, according to Romans, chapter 7, verses 22 and 23. The Law of sin that wars in us attacks our minds. But the Bible tells us out of Philippians that we don't have to sit there and let our thoughts build a nest, that we can choose what we think on. The Bible also tells us that as a man thinks in his heart, so is he (Prov. 23:7). So it's really important what we think on.

In Romans 12:1 and 2, the Bible says, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."* The Bible says we can be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Did you know that when the Apollo spacecraft went up into space, they had to make a course correction every ten minutes? They went to the moon in kind of like a zigzag. And when they eventually landed, they had a 500-mile designated landing zone, and they just barely made it within that zone by a few feet. Yet the whole flight was successful. We need to set a course and make a total commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ by being a living sacrifice. The problem with a living sacrifice is that sometimes it wants to crawl off the altar, so we have to make course corrections in our thoughts. We have to have a heart that says, "God, I want You and I want Your way."

Not only do we need to make a total commitment, but part of having a victorious Christian life requires that we take the next step and be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We can't think like the world, if we don't want the world's results. As we read in Philippians 4:8, we can choose what to think on. Whatsoever is lovely, just, of good report, think on these things. What they would do in the Old Testament is take the Word of God and put it on their doorposts and on their garments. It was constantly in front of them. God instructed that they were to talk about the Word of God night and day that they might observe to do what it said. And they were also to tell all these things to their children. It's very important what we think on. It's very important that we keep the Word of God in front of us all the time in order to really have a life of victory. The opposite of thinking on what's lovely, just, and of good report is to not

think on the things of God and the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:6 says *"To be carnally minded is death,"* but the next part of that verse says, *"To be spiritually minded is life and peace."* It is life and it is peace to think on the things of the Spirit of God. But if we start thinking about adultery, the things of the world, money, covetousness, and so forth, do you know what will happen in our lives? As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. We'll begin to act on those things. We'll begin to play those things out in our lives, and it will destroy our lives. You see, the real spiritual warfare for the believer is really not resisting or rebuking the devil all the time, although there are times that we need to do that. But spiritual warfare has to do with what we're thinking on and what we're dwelling on.

The Bible says in Isaiah 26:3 that God will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed upon Him. There are times during the day that we all need to make course adjustments, just like it says in Romans 12. We need to say, "God, those are wrong thoughts. I need to turn around and renew my mind and start thinking about the things that are lovely, just, and of good report."

So if you've got a stronghold, if you're in bondage, if you find yourself thinking things that you shouldn't be thinking, you need to catch yourself immediately. The Bible says, If we will draw near to God, He will draw near to us. If we resist the enemy, he will flee from us. There are times in my life when I've let things slip and let depression rise up. At those times, it's hard to pick up the Bible and sit down and take a passage and say, "God, this is what You say about me. This is who You say that I am. You are my strength." Did you know that your victory is just that simple? You need to say, "I'm going to resist what I'm letting the enemy do to me right now. I'm going to sit down and open the Bible, and I'm not going to just read some words on these pages, but I'm going to connect with the God behind these words. I'm going to let my mind be stayed upon Him. And, Lord, this is what You say about me. You say that I'm forgiven. You say that I'm cleansed. You say that nothing can separate me from Your love." When you sit there and just think about all of the good things that God has done for you, in just a few moments, you're going to forget about those other things.

Let me use an illustration. I heard a man one time say, "Now, I'm just admonishing you to not think about pink elephants for the next ten minutes." Do you know what happened? For the next ten minutes, all we did was think about pink elephants. Then he asked, "What color is the Statue of Liberty?" Somebody said green. And he said, "Well, which arm is the Statue of Liberty holding up?" And somebody said it was the right arm. Then he asked, "What does the Statue of Liberty have in her hand." And someone said it was a torch. Then the man said, "What happened to your thoughts about pink elephants?" They were gone. You see, it's not a matter of saying, "Now, don't you think these thoughts," because you know you'll think those thoughts. The Scripture is really telling us that we need to replace those thoughts with God's thoughts, and when we see these things coming against us and we're thinking something we shouldn't think, we need to immediately call to mind our new identity. We need to immediately turn to the Lord, connect with Him, not just with words on a page, but with the God behind those words. And the Bible tells us in Romans 8:6 that as we do, we will see the transformation the

life and peace of God gives, as our minds are stayed upon Him and the things of the Spirit. Think on these things, my brethren, and walk this day in the liberty and freedom that Christ has purchased for you.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Romans 12:1. What are we to do with our bodies?

2. Read Romans 12:2. This scripture is telling us that we should be different than _____ .

3. Read Acts 17:11. We must make our thinking line up with?

4. Read Romans 8:5-6. To be spiritually minded is _____ .

5. Read Romans 12:1-2. What two things do we need to do, according to these verses?

6. Read Isaiah 26:3. How do we stay in perfect peace?

7. Read Isaiah 26:3. What are some ways we can keep our minds on the Lord?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

ROMANS 12:1-2 – *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. **[2]** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

ACTS 17:11 – *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*

ROMANS 8:5-6 – *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. **[6]** For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

ISAIAH 26:3-4 – *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. **[4]** Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read Romans 12:1. What are we to do with our bodies?
   Present, or offer, them to God

2. Read Romans 12:2. This scripture is telling us that we should be different than _____ .
   The world, or unbelievers

3. Read Acts 17:11. We must make our thinking line up with?
   The Scriptures, God's Word

4. Read Romans 8:5-6. To be spiritually minded is _____ .
   Life and peace

5. Read Romans 12:1-2. What two things do we need to do, according to these verses?
   Commit ourselves to God as a living sacrifice and begin to renew our minds

6. Read Isaiah 26:3. How do we stay in perfect peace?
   By keeping our minds on the Lord

7. Read Isaiah 26:3-4. What are some ways we can keep our minds on the Lord?
   Prayer, praise, meditation on the Word, giving thanks, etc.

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 4
THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

By Don Krow

Today we're talking about the importance of Christ's church. I'd like to read a scripture out of Hebrews 10:25. It says, *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."* As we look into the importance of Christ's church, my question is, "What is the church?"

I took the Discipleship Evangelism program into a local church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. We trained people how to use it, and we used it out in the field. Within six weeks of working with this local church, we had established twenty Bible studies outside of that local congregation. For months, we were working with these people in the Bible studies. The pastor really confused me one day when he said, "You know, the Bible says that the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Why aren't we seeing these people from the Bible studies come into our church?"

When we were out in the field, people were being saved and they were being discipled and ministered to. But what the pastor really meant was, "Why aren't they coming to meet together on Sunday morning in this building?" My concept of the church was a little off too. What the pastor said really troubled me, and I didn't know what to do. I thought, *Is the* Discipleship Evangelism *program really working? Are we really reaching people's lives?* I knew we were reaching many people, but what confused me was why they were not coming to the Sunday morning service.

I decided to do a study on the word "church." What's covered in this lesson is what I discovered. In Romans 16:3, 1 Corinthians 16:19, Colossians 4:15, Philemon 2, Acts 5:42, and Acts 20:20, the Bible primarily speaks about the early New Testament church meeting in someone's home. I know that there are all kinds of churches. There are home churches, churches with small and large congregations, and very large mega-churches. The one thing that really caught my attention in the Scripture was that the New Testament church seemed to meet together in small congregations in people's homes.

The Expository Dictionary of Bible Words by Lawrence O. Richards (p. 164) says, "Anyone may be excused for being a bit confused about the meaning of the word, 'church'; we use the word in so many ways. It means a particular building (e.g., the church on 4th street), a denomination or organized faith (the Reformed Church in America) [or the Baptist Church], and even a Sunday meeting (e.g., did you go to church today). None of these uses is particularly

Biblical." And I got to thinking, *What does this really mean? What does the word "church" really mean?* I'm going to quote further. It says, "Since many persons think of a church as a building for religious services rather than a congregation engaging in worship, the rendering church can be misleading." The Greek word for "church" is *ekklesia* and literally means an assembly of people together for the purpose of worship or prayer or praise or just looking unto God. I'm going to read some other things here. It says, "Ecclesia in the New Testament can encompass any number of believers. It can be used of small groups that met in homes (Rom. 16:5). It encompasses all believers living in a large city (Acts 11:22), or a large geographical district, such as Asia or Galatia." It goes on to say, "The typical meeting of the church was in a home. When such a congregation met 'everyone [had] a hymn, a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation' (1 Cor. 14:26). Individuals shared and others 'weighed carefully what was said' (1 Cor. 14:29)...such sharing remains essential to the very existence of the church as a community of faith...Each person was expected to contribute and to serve others with his or her spiritual gift(s)."

In Hebrews 10:25 it says, *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together."* The church is an assembly of people coming together for the purpose of looking to Jesus, praising the Lord, to receive direction from the Lord, to follow through with that direction. The primary purpose of the early New Testament church was edification. They met together for the purpose of building each other up in the faith.

The early church was an evangelistic church. People were scattered everywhere, sharing their faith in Jesus Christ, and as they did, the Lord added to the church—not to a building—but added to the people of God as they repented and believed. Then they assembled themselves together to encourage one another, to exercise their spiritual gifts, to serve one another, and to have a time of fellowship with one another by sharing a meal together. When they were together, they exercised their spirituals gifts to edify one another. Then they would go out and preach the Word, and the whole cycle would begin again. They believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and they assembled themselves together. It didn't matter where they assembled. It could've been in a building or someone's home. It could've been a large amount of people, or it could've been a small number of people meeting in homes. It didn't really matter, as long as they met together in the name of the Lord for the purpose of exercising their gifts, to encourage one another, and to fellowship with one another with the end result being edification, or building, each other up.

I discovered that what we were doing with the Discipleship Evangelism program through the local church I mentioned earlier, by meeting in twenty different Bible studies throughout the city, is we were meeting in twenty different churches. It wasn't church as we know it today, but we were meeting as "the church," twenty times a week, because we were meeting together in the name of the Lord Jesus to encourage one another, to look to the Lord Jesus, to be instructed out of the Word of God, and to exercise our spiritual gifts.

No matter what church you go to—no matter if you're in a denominational church or a non-denominational church, if you are meeting in a mega-church or a small home group—the

Scripture is telling us that as you see the Day approaching, and as sin abounds, the grace of God much more abounds. Grace is going to abound within these assemblies of God's people. In the church where each believer has a part of the ministry of Jesus Christ, you can minister to one another, exhort one another, and encourage one another as you exercise your spiritual gift with one another.

We would all benefit by meeting with a group of believers in this way. Even if it's just two or three that are meeting in the name of the Lord Jesus, we need to meet together on a regular basis. It is good to meet together to use our spiritual gifts, to exhort one another, to encourage one another, to look to Jesus together, and to pray for one another. There's a lot we could say about the church. We could talk about the elders, overseers, pastors, and church government, but that's not the purpose of this teaching. The purpose of this teaching is to know the purpose of the church and to know we do not have to be isolated like one man on an island all to himself. We cannot survive that way. When we received salvation, God put us in the body of Christ—the universal body of believers. We need one another, and we need to meet together as God's church to encourage one another and serve one another with the spiritual gifts that God has given us. I encourage you, meet together today with God's people.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Hebrews 10:25. What are we not to forsake?

2. Read Acts 5:42. Daily in the temple and in every home Jesus was _____ and _____ .

3. Read Acts 2:42. What four things did the early church continue to do?

4. Read Acts 2:44-45. True or false: The early church continued to give money to build a church parking lot.

5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:28. List eight different kinds of gifts that God has placed in His church.

6. Read 1 Corinthians 14:26. When the people of God meet together as the church, there was freedom to express their gifts. Name five things that happened when they met.

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

HEBREWS 10:25 – *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

ACTS 5:42 – *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

ACTS 2:42 – *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

ACTS 2:44-45 – *And all that believed were together, and had all things common; **[45]** And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:28 – *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

1 CORINTHIANS 14:26 – *How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

7. Read Acts 6:1. The early New Testament church shared daily food with _____ .

8. Read James 1:27. The only kind of religion that God cares about is the religion that _____ .

9. Read 1 Timothy 5:9-11. Widows who were supported by the early New Testament church had to meet what criteria?

10. Read 1 Corinthians 9:14. Besides the church supporting widows, orphans, and the poor, it also supported _____ .

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

ACTS 6:1- *And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.*

JAMES 1:27 – *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*

1 TIMOTHY 5:9-11 – *Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, **[10]** Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work. **[11]** But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry.*

1 CORINTHIANS 9:14 – *Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

11. Read Matthew 25:35-40. Why do people think giving money in an offering plate is the only way to give to God?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 25:35-40 – *For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: **[36]** Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. **[37]** Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? **[38]** When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? **[39]** Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? **[40]** And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

12. Read Acts 4:32-35 and Proverbs 3:9-10. The early church elders and pastors did what with the finances?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

ACTS 4:32-35 – *And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. **[33]** And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. **[34]** Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, **[35]** And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.*

PROVERBS 3:9-10 – *Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: **[10]** So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read Hebrews 10:25. What are we not to forsake?
   The assembling of ourselves together as believers

2. Read Acts 5:42. Daily in the temple and in every home, Jesus was _____ and _____ .
   Taught and preached

3. Read Acts 2:42. What four things did the early church continue to do?
   They continued in the apostles' teachings, fellowship, breaking of bread (eating together and sharing communion), and prayer

4. Read Acts 2:44-45. True or false: The early church continued to give money to build a church parking lot.
   False

5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:28. List eight different kinds of gifts that God has placed in His church.
   Apostles, prophets, teachers, those who do miracles, those who have the gifts of healing, helps, those with gifts of administration, and those who speak in unknown tongues

6. Read 1 Corinthians 14:26. When the people of God meet together as the church, there was freedom to express their gifts. Name five things that happened when they met.
   One person had a song, another a teaching, another would tell some revelation God had given, one would speak in an unknown tongue, and another would explain what the unknown tongue meant

7. Read Acts 6:1. The early New Testament church shared daily food with _____ .
   Widows

8. Read James 1:27. The only kind of religion that God cares about is the religion that _____.
   Cares for orphans and widows in their troubles

9. Read 1 Timothy 5:9-11. Widows who were supported by the early New Testament church had to meet what criteria?
   "A widow who is put on the list for support must be a woman who is at least sixty years old and was faithful to her husband. She must be well respected by everyone because of the good she has done. Has she brought up her children well? Has she been kind to strangers? Has she served other Christians humbly? Has she helped those who are in trouble? Has she always been ready to do good? The younger widows should not be on the list." (1 Timothy 5:9-11, New Living Translation***)***

10. Read 1 Corinthians 9:14. Besides the church supporting widows, orphans, and the poor, it also supported _____ .
    Those who minister the Word

ANSWER KEY

11. Read Matthew 25:35-40. Why do people think giving money in an offering plate is the only way to give to God?
Because that's what they have been taught

12. Read Acts 4:32-35 and Proverbs 3:9-10. The early church elders and pastors did what with the finances?
Gave to those in need, honoring the Lord with the giving

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 5
DELIVERANCE

By Don Krow

Today we're going to talk about demonology. Jesus spent His ministry on earth casting out demons, healing the sick, raising the dead, and doing other miracles. About one-fourth of His ministry was spent expelling evil spirits from people. The Bible tells us in Acts 10:38, *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him."* Also, 1 John 3:8 says, *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."* I used to have a different view of demonology—that demons, evil spirits, unclean spirits, devils, whatever you want to call them—only appeared in India or third-world countries where the people don't worship the True and Living God but worship idols. I was wrong.

I want to tell you about an experience I had a few years ago in a church in Dallas, Texas. All the people were singing when all of a sudden this girl just fell on the floor. It looked like she was having a seizure. There happened to be a medical doctor there whose name was Dr. Rice. Some people in the church had a home about a block from the church, and he said to take her there so he could examine her. When we got her to their home, this girl was like a wildcat! Her eyes were dilated, and there was a strong masculine voice speaking out of this little bitty teenage girl, who probably weighed less than a hundred pounds. Suddenly, this thing began to attack me verbally, saying things like, "YOU'RE GOING TO HELL!" I said, "No, I'm not." I was scared because I'd never seen anything like this before. It said, "YES, YOU ARE GOING TO HELL," and I said, "No, I'm not. I'm not going to hell." It seemed to have power or authority over me, and I didn't know what to do or how to deal with the thing that was in this girl.

One of my good friends was so scared that he left right away. So, there I was. I thought, *What in the world do I do?* The girl had supernatural strength, and she began to speak something like German that she had never learned—all kinds of wild manifestations of the devil came out of her. She was demon-possessed, and though I didn't know what to do, I'd always believed the Bible has power. It's like when you were a kid and watched those scary Dracula horror movies. The vampire would come toward the person, and all of a sudden, the person would pull out a cross and the vampire would go "ARRRGH!" That's the way I thought about the Bible. I knew it had power, but I didn't know how to get the power out of the Bible. The grace of God helped me, because I'd never experienced anything like this before. I opened my Bible to the New Testament and happened to turn to the book of Philippians. I began to read in chapter 2 verses 8-11: *"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name*

which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The demon said, "Don't say that! I can't stand those words! Don't say that!" I thought, *What a reaction!* So I said, "Well, at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow—things in heaven, things on earth, and things under the earth." "Don't say that! I can't stand those words! Don't say that, don't say that!" she yelled. I thought, *This devil is going crazy inside this girl, and all I'm doing is reading the Word of God!* So I read it again, "*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.*" Again, there was the same reaction; "Don't say that, I can't stand that!" Then the demon grabbed the girl by her ears, and she said, "Don't say that! I can't stand those words, don't say that!" The devil threw the girl down before me, and she began to bow at the name of Jesus. And I said, "At the name of Jesus every knee will bow, whether in heaven or in earth or under the earth."

Just moments before, that devil had authority and power over me. I thought he was going to whip me, beat me up, throw me out of there—I didn't know! All I knew was that the Bible has power, and I opened it and began to read. The Bible says in Ephesians 6:17, "*And take…the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*" You see, there is an offensive weapon which is like a sword that will cut and hurt the enemy. It is the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Do you remember when Jesus was tempted? The devil came to Him and said, "I'll give you all the kingdoms of the world if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said, *"Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve*" (Matt. 4:10). Then the devil tempted Him, and tempted Him again, and Jesus said "It is written, Satan…it is written," and then quoted the Word of God. He used the Sword of the Spirit, and the Bible says the devil took off and left Him for a season.

The only weapon we have to defeat the enemy is the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Do you know what I learned from that? I learned this: Every time I want to study the Word, I think about how hungry I am and have to go find something to eat, or I think about all the things I didn't do that day. I know that those in a discipleship class will have all sorts of excuses why they can't be there. I finally figured out why. There's something in the Bible that God wants us to know and the devil doesn't want us to know. So every time you come to study God's Word, or do a discipleship class, there's something in the Word of God the enemy doesn't want you to know—he doesn't want you to know the God behind these words.

There is a kingdom of darkness, and there is the kingdom of God's dear Son. In Colossians 1:13, it says, "*Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.*" What kingdom are you in? A kingdom is where someone has the rule and reign. Jesus Christ is a king. Have you ever given your life to Him? Are you following Him today, or are you letting other things have priority in your life? Jesus said this in Luke 6:46: *"And*

why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" He wants to be preeminent in your life, to be number one. There is a kingdom of darkness that is trying to keep Him from that preeminence, that place of reigning in your life. The reason for this is the enemy wants to rise up in that place of preeminence. Turn to Jesus today with all your heart, and realize there is an enemy. His name is Satan and he has demonic power, but the Bible tells us we have authority over him.

Jesus said in Matthew 10:8, *"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."* Preach the Gospel of the kingdom, and as you go you have authority over the enemy. Don't let the enemy talk you out of what God has for your life any longer. Make Jesus Lord and number one in your life. You will never regret it.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Ephesians 6:12. How does this verse describe our spiritual conflict with the demonic realm?

2. Read Mark 16:17. What does this verse teach us about the authority of the believer?

3. Read James 4:7. What must a person seeking deliverance from demons do?

4. Read James 1:14. How does Satan deceive us into making something evil look desirable?

5. Read Romans 6:13. If a person fills their life with the things of Christ, demons will get uncomfortable and leave on their own. What does this verse tell us to do?

6. Read Romans 13:14. Demons feed on the works of the flesh, so starve them out by walking in God's ways of love and purity. We are to make no _____ the flesh.

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

EPHESIANS 6:12 – *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

MARK 16:17 – *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.*

JAMES 4:7 – *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

JAMES 1:14 – *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

ROMANS 6:13 – *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

ROMANS 13:14 – *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

7. Read Luke 10:17-19. Jesus never tells us to pray to Him to cast out demons. He's given us authority. This verse tells us we have power and authority over _____ .

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

LUKE 10:17-19 – *And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. **[18]** And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. **[19]** Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read Ephesians 6:12. How does this verse describe our spiritual conflict with the demonic realm?
   It is described as wrestling

2. Read Mark 16:17. What does this verse teach us about the authority of the believer?
   We have the authority in Jesus' name to cast out demons

3. Read James 4:7. What must a person seeking deliverance from demons do?
   Submit themselves to God and resist the devil

4. Read James 1:14. How does Satan deceive us into making something evil look desirable?
   He works with our own lust (to make something evil look desirable)

5. Read Romans 6:13. If a person fills their life with the things of Christ, demons will get uncomfortable and leave on their own. What does this verse tell us to do?
   Don't yield to sin but yield to God. Yield our members (parts of our body) as instruments of right doing

6. Read Romans 13:14. Demons feed on the works of the flesh, so starve them out by walking in God's ways of love and purity. We are to make no _____ for the flesh.
   Provision

7. Read Luke 10:17-19. Jesus never tells us to pray to Him to cast out demons. He's given us authority. This verse tells us we have power and authority over _____ .
   All the power of the enemy

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 6
AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

By Andrew Wommack

God has given us authority as believers. In order to address this, we're going to have to deal not only with the authority we have but the authority of Satan. He has been blown out of proportion. Christians have been led to believe we are fighting a being whose power is superior to ours, and we are just barely are able to cope with him. That's not what the Scripture teaches at all. It does say in Ephesians 6:12, *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* So Satan is a factor; he does exist. He has a hierarchy of principalities and powers that we're dealing with, but in the verse just prior to that, it says that we have to stand against the wiles of the devil. The only power Satan really has against us is deception. He doesn't have power to just overcome us.

In Genesis 3 we see that when the first temptation came against Adam and Eve, Satan didn't come with some superior force. For instance, instead of inhabiting a mammoth or an elephant, putting his foot on Adam's head, threatening them, and saying "Serve me or else," he inhabited a snake, the most subtle creature God made. The word "subtle" means "sly, deceptive, or cunning." The reason Satan came through the snake was because he really didn't have the power to force Adam and Eve to do anything. He could only deceive. He came against the nature and character of God and began to criticize Him, saying, "God doesn't really love you—He's holding things back from you." He used deception to tempt Adam and Eve to sin against God. They were the ones who had all the authority, and the reason Satan had to do it this way was because he didn't have power to come against God.

There's so much more I don't have time to go in to, but one of the main points I want to get across is that concerning the authority of the believer, you have to recognize that Satan has zero power and authority over you. He is a defeated foe. His only power against you is to come against you with lies and deception. If your life is being destroyed, you can say "Satan is the one who is firing these shots at me," but you are the one who is giving him the ammunition. You're the one who has to respond to his lies and deception. If you didn't yield to Satan, he would have no inroads or power against you. In 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 it says, *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."* These scriptures are talking about the weapons of your warfare, and every weapon mentioned refers to your mind, dealing with thoughts. Satan doesn't have the power to do anything to you except through deception.

I want to quickly summarize some things. In the beginning God, of course, had all authority. All power and authority has to emanate from God because He is the only one who has power in Himself. Everything else is delegated from Him. When He created the heavens and the earth, He had all power and authority. Then in Genesis 1:26, when God created Adam and Eve, He said, *"Let them have dominion…over all the earth."* Put that together with Psalm 115:16, which says, *"The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men."* God had ownership of everything by right of being the Creator, but He gave dominion, or authority, over the earth to physical human beings. Satan has never had the right and power to rule over the earth. He took it through deceiving man to sin. God gave that power to mankind, and when man fell, he yielded his God-given authority and power over to the devil. Satan was never given power by God to oppress man or to rule this earth.

Scripture does say that Satan is the god of this world, but it's not because God made him the god of this world. God never put Satan in a position above mankind. He gave mankind dominion and authority over this earth. The only reason Satan has ever been able to oppress, dominate, or cause the problems he does is because people yield their God-given authority to him. This posed a real problem for God, because He is a Spirit, and He gave authority over this earth to physical human beings. Only people who have physical bodies have the authority and power to rule and exercise influence in this earth. Satan has to come to us and get us to yield our authority to him. That's the reason that he likes to inhabit a body. In Scripture, demons have to have a body to possess because Satan can't do anything unless he is using a physical human body to work through. Because God is a Spirit and has given authority to physical human beings, now in a sense, He has His hands tied. It isn't because God doesn't have power and authority but because of His integrity. He gave authority to physical human beings, and to be true to His own Word, He can't just take it back and say, "This isn't the way I wanted it; time out, stop, we're going to do it over." No, God bound Himself by His own Word. Throughout history He looked for someone He could flow through, but the problem was that all men were corrupted and had yielded themselves to Satan. So what was He to do?

What God finally did was come to the earth Himself and become a man. This is tremendous when you understand it, because now the devil was in big trouble. He had been using mankind's power, and God couldn't intervene directly to solve all these problems, because man was willfully, legally yielding his God-given authority to Satan. Satan was wrong in what he did, but man gave him the authority and power that was theirs to give. But now, here came God, and He was no longer only the Spirit but was in the form of physical flesh. This put the devil in a bad situation, because God not only had authority in heaven, but becoming a man gave Him authority on the earth. Jesus said in John 5:26-27, *"For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man."* He was referring to His physical body.

Jesus came and exercised God-given authority. The devil tempted Him, and Jesus never yielded to him. Satan lost in every battle with Him. Then Jesus took our sins, died for them, went

to hell, rose again, and said in Matthew 28:18, *"All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth."* He won back the authority God had given mankind, which man misused, and as God in the flesh, Jesus now had all authority in heaven and in earth. In the very next verse He said, "Now you go, and you do these things." In effect He was saying, "I now have all authority in heaven and earth, and I'm sharing it with you." This time, however, there's a unique difference in the authority God has given back to us as believers. It is joint authority between us and the Lord Jesus Christ. It's no longer given to us solely as it was to Adam and Eve. They could give the authority away, allow the devil to oppress them, and basically be hopeless, but today our authority is shared with the Lord Jesus Christ. It's like having a joint bank account that requires both signatures in order to cash a check. Our authority is shared with the Lord Jesus, and His authority is shared with the church.

Although we may fail, God is never again going to sign this authority over to the devil. Satan is absolutely powerless. He has no ability to do anything in your life except what he deceives you in and what you voluntarily yield to. You may give him authority in your life, you may suffer personally for it, but the God-given authority that was given to man will never again pass solely to the devil. It is now shared between us and the Lord Jesus, and He will remain faithful regardless. You need to recognize that you're the one who now has authority and the power. Satan is fighting you with thoughts, and your weapons are such that you can take these thoughts captive. You can recognize that it's wrong for the devil to oppress you physically and find out what the Scripture has to say about healing. John 8:32 says, *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* You're the one who has power and authority. God has given it to you, and the only thing that keeps you from exercising it is that you haven't yet taken your thoughts captive. You haven't used these spiritual weapons to renew your mind and to realize what you have. It's encouraging to find out that you're the one with authority and power.

I pray that you'll take this, meditate on it, and God will give you the revelation that you're the one Satan trembles at. You shouldn't be trembling at Satan, because you are the one who has God-given power and authority. If you resist the devil, he will flee from you (James 4:7).

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 3:1. Satan does exist, but his real power exists in his ability to deceive us. What did the serpent (the devil) try to get Eve to question?

2. Read Genesis 3:1. Why do you think Satan used deception?

3. Read Genesis 1:26, 28. Who gave man his authority?

4. Read Psalm 8:4-8. How did God create man?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

GENESIS 3:1 – *Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

GENESIS 1:26 – *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

GENESIS 1:28 – *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

PSALM 8:4-8 – *What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? **[5]** For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. **[6]** Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: **[7]** All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; **[8]** The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:4. What does this scripture indicate happened?

6. Read Matthew 4:8-9. Do these verses strengthen this point?

7. Read Matthew 28:18. After Jesus' death and resurrection, who now has all authority in heaven and in earth?

8. Read Matthew 28:18-19. To whom has authority been delegated to, according to this verse?

9. Read Ephesians 1:19. The exceeding greatness of God's power is toward whom?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

2 CORINTHIANS 4:4 – *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

MATTHEW 4:8-9 – *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; **[9]** And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

MATTHEW 28:18-19 – *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **[19]** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

EPHESIANS 1:19 – *And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read Genesis 3:1. Satan does exist, but his real power exists in his ability to deceive us. What did the serpent (the devil) try to get Eve to question?
   God's Word (Has God indeed said?)

2. Read Genesis 3:1. Why do you think Satan used deception?
   He could not make them disobey by force. He had to deceive them to give up their authority

3. Read Genesis 1:26, 28. Who gave man his authority?
   God

4. Read Psalm 8:4-8. How did God create man?
   With dominion over the works of His (God's) hands

5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:4. What does this scripture indicate happened?
   That Satan took man's authority and became the god of this world (this system, or age)

6. Read Matthew 4:8-9. Do these verses strengthen this point?
   Yes

7. Read Matthew 28:18. After Jesus' death and resurrection, who now has all authority in heaven and in earth?
   Jesus

8. Read Matthew 28:18-19. To whom has authority been delegated to, according to this verse?
   The believer

9. Read Ephesians 1:19. The exceeding greatness of God's power is toward whom?
   To us who believe

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 7
HEALING IS IN THE ATONEMENT

By Andrew Wommack

Jesus has already purchased healing for us. In Mark 2 and Luke 5 Jesus was teaching in a house so crowded that a paralyzed man was let down through the roof by friends and Jesus miraculously healed him. In Matthew 8:14-16, after Jesus had been healing people, the Bible says, *"And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them. When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick."* Then verse 17 gives the reason for this happening: *"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."* In this instance, Jesus was healing many people, and it specifically refers back to and quotes from Isaiah 53:3-5: *"He is despised and rejected of men* [This is a prophecy about the Lord Jesus Christ]; *a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath born our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed"* (brackets mine).

These are powerful passages of Scripture. Some people take them and say, "Wait a minute; this is talking in a spiritual sense." The church I was brought up in didn't believe in physical healing for the body. They would take a scripture like this and spiritualize it—use it to say we were wounded emotionally, and when we commit our lives to the Lord, He heals us. But if we put this passage together with the passages we started with, it forever ends that application of these scriptures. It's true that Jesus will heal you emotionally and in other ways, but these scriptures are talking about physical healing for the body. You can see that because in Matthew 8:17, it says that these healings that took place were the fulfillment of the prophecy spoken by Isaiah we just read, "*With his stripes we are healed.*" It says this was the fulfillment that He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses. This is talking about physical sicknesses, hurts, and pains. Jesus healed people physically to fulfill the scripture that says we are healed by His stripes.

The Bible goes on to say in 1 Peter 2:24, *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body, on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."* This is in the past tense. Jesus came and part of what He came to do was heal our physical bodies. I am not diminishing the fact that He also came to forgive our sins. That's important, and forgiveness of sins is like the doorway, the entrance to everything else, but He didn't come only to forgive our sins. He also came to heal our bodies. In Greek, the word used for "salvation" in

the New Testament is *sozo*, an all-encompassing word that applies to many different things. But if you look it up, it's also translated "healed." James 5:14 states: *"Is any sick among you? let them call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; And prayer of faith shall save the sick."* The word "save" there is the Greek word *sozo*, and it is talking about the sick being physically healed in their bodies. This same word that was translated forgiveness of sins hundreds of times in the New Testament was also translated healed.

When Jesus sent His disciples out in Matthew 10, the command He gave them was to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils, and preach the Gospel. In the same breath that He told them to preach the Gospel, He told them to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and cast out devils. Healing is just as much a part of what Jesus came to accomplish in your life as forgiveness of sins.

In the same way you would never think that the Lord would want you to commit a sin to teach you that you could learn something through your sin, He would never want you to live in sickness. God is not the author of sickness in your life. Sometimes people say things like, "Well, this sickness is really a blessing from God because it turned me to Him." It's true that in crisis situations people turn to God, but He doesn't send sickness to teach you. He wouldn't do that anymore than He would put sin on you. Can you learn something if you go live in sin? If you live a life of adultery or homosexuality and get some disease, can you learn that the lifestyle was wrong? Certainly you can, but God didn't cause you to live that lifestyle. He didn't put sin in your life, yet you can learn from sinning. You can beat your head against the wall and learn that it's not the thing to do, but you could also learn that without physically beating your head against the wall. You don't have to learn everything by hard knocks. God does not put sickness in your life to humble you and teach you something. Jesus died to forgive you of your sins and also to heal you of your diseases. He bore your sins in His own body, and by His stripes you were healed.

God's supernatural divine healing is available to all of us and is part of the atonement that Jesus died to produce. If you aren't receiving your healing, God's not upset with you. You don't have to be healed to love God. You can love God with your whole heart, not believe in healing, and still go to heaven. As a matter of fact, you'll probably get there quicker because you don't know how to walk in health. But you know what—it's available to you. Jesus died to produce it. God wants you to be well.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 8:16-17. How many people did Jesus heal?

2. Read Isaiah 53:3-5. What type of healing are these verses talking about?

3. Read Matthew 8:17. What happened to our sicknesses and infirmity?

4. Read 1 Peter 2:24. What two things does this verse say Jesus did for us?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 8:16-17 – *When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: **[17]** That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.*

ISAIAH 53:3-5 – *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. **[4]** Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. **[5]** But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

1 PETER 2:24 – *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

5. Read James 5:14-15. The word "saved" in verse 15 is the Greek word *sozo*, which is translated "to deliver, protect, heal, preserve, be whole." It is the same word the Bible refers to as "salvation." According to these verses and the Greek definition for salvation, what is included in salvation?

6. Read Matthew 10:7. When Jesus sent out His disciples, what did He tell them to say?

7. Read Matthew 10:8. What did Jesus tell them to do?

8. Read Mark 16:15. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?

9. Read Mark 16:16. Those that respond to the Gospel will do what?

10. Read Mark 16:17. What signs will follow the believer?

11. Read Mark 16:18. What other signs follow believers?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

JAMES 5:14-15 – *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: **[15]** And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

MATTHEW 10:7-8 – *And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. **[8]** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.*

MARK 16:15-18 – *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **[16]** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. **[17]** And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues. **[18]** They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read Matthew 8:16-17. How many people did Jesus heal?
   All that came to Him

2. Read Isaiah 53:3-5. What type of healing are these verses talking about?
   All types of healing (including physical)

3. Read Matthew 8:17. What happened to our sicknesses and infirmity?
   Jesus bore them

4. Read 1 Peter 2:24. What two things does this verse say Jesus did for us?
   He bore our sins in His body and took stripes for our healing

5. Read James 5:14-15. The word "saved" in verse 15 is the Greek word *sozo*, which is translated "to deliver, protect, heal, preserve, be whole." It is the same word the Bible refers to as "salvation.' According to these verses and the Greek definition for salvation, what is included in salvation?
   Healing

6. Read Matthew 10:7. When Jesus sent out His disciples, what did He tell them to say?
   The kingdom of heaven is at hand

7. Read Matthew 10:8. What did Jesus tell them to do?
   Heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out demons

8. Read Mark 16:15. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?
   To go into all the nations and preach the Gospel to everyone

9. Read Mark 16:16. Those that respond to the Gospel will do what?
   Believe and be baptized

10. Read Mark 16:17. What signs will follow the believer?
    They will cast out demons and speak with tongues

11. Read Mark 16:18. What other signs follow believers?
    Laying hands on the sick and seeing them recover

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 8
HINDRANCES TO HEALING

By Andrew Wommack

In the previous lesson, I talked about the fact that it is God's will to heal, and that healing is part of the atonement. Much more could be said, because even if you accept it and have seen it in the Scriptures, it still raises a lot of questions such as, "If it's God's will to heal us, why isn't everyone healed?" There are many reasons, and I'm just scratching the surface on the things I know. There is a lot of information that I simply am not able to get into here, but if it's God's will to heal, I want to address part of why people are not healed. One of the reasons is ignorance. You cannot operate in something you don't know or understand, and in my own life that certainly has been true.

I was trained to believe God's will automatically came to pass, that I had no authority, power, or say-so in it. So, through my ignorance, a number of things happened. My dad died when I was twelve years old and two or three people had died in my presence by the time I was twenty-one. I was praying for all of them to be healed, but I didn't see healing manifest, not because it wasn't God's will, but because of ignorance on my part. Ignorance is a reason why things happen, but it's not an excuse. It's like the law of gravity: a person could say, "Well, I didn't realize that if I walked off a ten-story building it was going to kill me." You don't have to realize it to have the full impact of that law to work against you. People are ignorant about some of God's laws. They don't know how His healing system works, so ignorance is killing a lot of people.

Another thing that can hinder us from receiving healing is sin. It really upsets people when you say that, because they interpret what you are saying as all sickness is a result of some sin on our part, which is not true. That's not what I'm saying. In John 9, there was an instance where Jesus was coming out of the temple, and His disciples pointed out a man there who was born blind. His disciples said in verse 2, *"Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?"* In other words, they were trying to relate his sickness directly to sin, asking if it was his sin or his parents' sin that caused this sickness to come on him. Jesus' answer was that neither of them had sinned. That's not saying that the parents or the son had never sinned but that it wasn't their sin that directly caused his blindness. It's untrue to say that all sickness is related to sin, but it's also untrue to say that sin is not one of the factors.

In John 5 there is an instance when Jesus was at the pool of Bethesda, and He healed a man supernaturally. There were multitudes in that place, and only one person was healed. Later the chapter shows that the man didn't know who healed him when the Jews asked him in verse 12, *"What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?"* Verses 13-14 continue, *"And he that was healed wist* [knew] *not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being*

in that place, Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (brackets mine). Jesus said right here that sin would cause something worse than his paralysis to come upon him. He tied the result of sickness to sin. He also said in John 9 that it wasn't because of anybody's sin that the man was born blind.

Some things just happen naturally, but there are times when sickness, disease, or problems can be a direct result of sin. Even in such cases, it doesn't mean God is the one who is doing these things to us. Take, for instance, a person who lives a homosexual lifestyle, which is a perversion of nature. The human body is not made to live that way. Sexually communicated diseases come from that lifestyle. God is not the author of these diseases—it's just nature rebelling because it's not set up to live that way. For instance, if you go out and eat the wrong food, your body will respond, and it's not God doing it to you. There are natural laws, natural factors here. So it is true that sin can be one of the reasons people aren't healed.

If there's a known sin in your life and you are believing God for healing, you need to stop the sin, because through it, you are giving Satan a direct access that's hindering you from receiving what God is doing in your life. Romans 6:16 says, *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servant ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"* That's not saying that Satan becomes master in the sense that you lose your salvation and go to hell, but it means that whether you are a Christian or not—if you're out living in sin—you're giving Satan an inroad into your life. John 10:10 says that the thief comes for no other purpose except to steal, to kill, and to destroy. But Jesus came to give you life. So, you've got Jesus trying to bring His life and health to you, but you've also got Satan trying to make you sick. If through sin you're yielding yourself to Satan, you are empowering him and giving him an opportunity in your life. You can pray and ask God for healing all you want to, but your actions are allowing the devil to come in and bring sickness. So, if you are living in sin, you need to stop it.

I need to add that you could become so introspective that you would say "Well, I'm always less than what I should be" and get to a place where even though you believe God can heal, you believe He won't because you don't deserve it. That certainly is wrong too. None of us are ever going to obtain healing from God because we deserve it. God's never had anyone qualified working for Him yet, so you don't need to associate God moving in your life only to your performance, your holiness. It needs to be based on what Jesus has done for you and your faith in Him. At the same time, you can't ignore your actions and yield yourself to the devil without him hindering you. You'll see healing work much easier, much better in your life if you repent and quit anything you're doing that would give Satan an inroad into your life.

Another factor that concerns healing that some people don't think much about is the negativity and unbelief of other people that can affect you. One of the classic examples of this is in Mark 6 where Jesus was in His hometown, and the people didn't respect Him because they remembered Him as a little boy. They knew His father and mother, brothers and sisters, and didn't respect Him the way some people did. They came against him and criticized Him. Mark 6:4-6 says, *"A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his*

own house. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief." This doesn't say that Jesus wouldn't do any mighty works, but that He couldn't. Here is Jesus, the Son of God, who came to earth as a man, who had no lack in His faith. And there certainly wasn't any inroad of sin in His life. Yet He was limited to what He could do for other people because of their unbelief. Put this together with Matthew 13:58, where it says *"And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief,*" and we see that Jesus, who had no limitations in Himself and certainly no sin in His life to give Satan an inroad, was limited in what He could do because of the people around Him.

This is really important to understand: It is God's will to heal everyone all of the time. If you believe that, you might possibly make the mistake of going to a hospital and trying to empty it of every sick person because you believe it's God's will for them to be healed. It is God's will for them to be healed, but He will not move against their own will. God will protect their right to be sick, their right not to be healed. No one can force them to be healed—and they can't get healed off of someone else's faith. Someone's faith can help them if they are struggling, but no one can do it for them. You can push a car when it's in neutral, but you can't push a car in park or reverse. If a person is set against healing, you cannot overcome it. Because of this, you can't empty a hospital or go into a church service and see every person healed without their cooperation. There's so much more that could be said about this. When Jesus healed people, even raising the dead, He would go up to someone and say, "Weep not." He would tell a mother not to weep and then raise her son from the dead. Somebody's faith has to be used somewhere. There needs to be faith on our part, and there are so many, many other things involved in healing. I've discussed just a few here, and hopefully they will help you, but one of the main things you need to get out of this is that God is faithful. It is His will for you to be healed, but you have to learn how to cooperate with Him. He can't do it for you; He has to do it through you. It will come from the inside of you.

I pray that these things will help you to start yielding yourself, to allow the power of God to flow through you, and to walk in His supernatural health.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 8:17. What did Jesus do to obtain healing for us?

2. Read Hosea 4:6. Some people are not healed because of:
   A. Ignorance (lack of knowledge)
   B. They don't go to church
   C. They are not good enough

3. Read John 9:1-3. What did the disciples think caused this man's blindness?

   Was their thinking correct?

4. Read John 5:14. Sin does open the door for sickness, but not always. Besides sickness, what else could sin produce in an individual?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 8:17 – *That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.*

HOSEA 4:6 – *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

JOHN 9:1-3 – *And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. **[2]** And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? **[3]** Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*

JOHN 5:14 – *Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

5. Read Romans 5:12-14 (in *The Living Bible* if possible). If sin is not always the cause of sickness, what could be another possible cause?

6. Read Acts 10:38. According to Acts 10:38, sickness can be caused by?

7. Read Matthew 13:58. Healing can be hindered by?

8. Read James 5:15. What will save the sick?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

ROMANS 5:12-14 (The Living Bible) – *When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. His sin spread death throughout all the world, so everything began to grow old and die, for all sinned.* ***[13]*** *We know that it was Adam's sin that caused this because although, of course, people were sinning from the time of Adam until Moses, God did not in those days judge them guilty of death for breaking his laws—because he had not yet given his laws to them nor told them what he wanted them to do.* ***[14]*** *So when their bodies died it was not for their own sins since they themselves had never disobeyed God's special law against eating the forbidden fruit, as Adam had. What a contrast between Adam and Christ who was yet to come!*

ACTS 10:38 – *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*

MATTHEW 13:58 – *And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.*

JAMES 5:15 – *And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read Matthew 8:17. What did Jesus do to obtain healing for us?
   He took our infirmities and carried away our diseases

2. Read Hosea 4:6. Some people are not healed because of:
   A. Ignorance (lack of knowledge)

3. Read John 9:1-3. What did the disciples think caused this man's blindness?
   Sin

   Was their thinking correct?
   No

4. Read John 5:14. Sin does open the door for sickness, but not always. Besides sickness, what else could sin produce in an individual?
   Many things worse than sickness, even death (Rom. 6:23)

5. Read Romans 5:12-14 (in *The Living Bible* if possible). If sin is not always the cause of sickness, what could be another possible cause?
   The fall (Gen. 3). Adam through his transgression introduced sin and sickness into the human race

6. Read Acts 10:38. According to Acts 10:38, sickness can be caused by?
   Being oppressed of the devil

7. Read Matthew 13:58. Healing can be hindered by?
   Unbelief

8. Read James 5:15. What will save the sick?
   The prayer of faith

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 9
FORGIVING OTHERS

By Don Krow

Matthew 18:21-22 says, *"Then came Peter to him* [Jesus]*, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven*" (brackets mine). I think Peter thought he was being very generous to ask how many times he should forgive someone who sinned against him, "seven times in a day, do you think?" Jesus said, "Peter, not seven but seventy times seven." That's 490 times, but it doesn't mean that after 490 times you don't have to forgive. What Jesus said was an impossible number of offenses that would happen to an individual in a day. He was saying forgiveness should be continual, that it should go on and on. Forgiveness should be the real attitude of a Christian. Jesus said in Luke 23:34, *"Father forgive them; for they know not what they do."* And also Stephen the martyr, in Acts 7:60 said, *"Lay not this sin to their charge."* Not all people will receive forgiveness, but the attitude in the heart of a Christian should be always to offer it.

Jesus tells a parable about forgiveness when He continues in verse 23 of Matthew 18, *"Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of* [make a reckoning with] *his servants, And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.* [*The Living Bible* says that is like ten million dollars.] *But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all*" (brackets mine). Now, here's the situation: There is a man who actually owes ten million dollars to his master. There is no way he can pay it—he knows he can't and the master knows he can't. In those days, you couldn't claim bankruptcy like you can in the United States—they'd sell you, your wife, your children, and everything you had, and you'd go into slavery. You would be sent to prison until everything was paid, and if it never was, you'd stay in prison all your life. This man did the only thing he knew to do: He got down on his knees and cried for mercy, "O master, please be patient with me! Please, I beg you. I'll repay you everything. Just be patient!" Notice what happened in verse 27. It says the master was moved with compassion for him, and he forgave him his debt.

We had a debt we could not pay. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23)—separation from God for eternity—all the silver and gold in the world couldn't redeem us. Then God in His compassion and in His grace sent His Son Jesus Christ to earth to pay the debt we couldn't pay. God looked upon us in His compassion and mercy and said, "I forgive you that debt."

This man who had just been forgiven ten million dollars was owed something like twenty dollars by a fellow servant. He found him and said, "I've just been forgiven ten million dollars, and what is twenty dollars to me? I want you to be as free as I am! Just let it go. It's okay, for I've been forgiven ten million dollars!" That is what should have happened, but it didn't. Let's read what really happened in verses 28-31. *"But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me what thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done."* He threw that man into prison for twenty dollars after he'd just been forgiven ten million dollars! Can you imagine that?

Verses 32-34 say, *"Then his lord, after he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him."* This man was then thrown into prison because of the way he treated his fellow servant, and thus forfeited his original forgiveness. Jesus said in verse 35, *"So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."* Isn't it foolish, having been forgiven all our sin—the wages of which are death and separation from God for eternity—to refuse to forgive? We beseech God, saying "Forgive me and have mercy on me through Jesus Christ," receive forgiveness, and then turn and refuse to forgive someone else for a little thing we think is so big—after having received forgiveness for all the things we've done. God's says that's wickedness.

I pastored a church awhile back, and there was a young woman in the congregation who was able to see things in the future. She came to me one day and said, "Is it the Holy Spirit telling me things to come and showing me things in the future? I know when people are going to die and when someone is going to have a car wreck, and things like that." I said, "You won't like my answer, but I don't believe that's the Holy Spirit. I think it's a spirit of divination, the same spirit that followed the Apostle Paul around in Acts 16. He finally rebuked it and commanded it to come out of that girl and she lost her ability to tell fortunes." I went on to tell her that I wasn't God, and said, "I want you to go to Jesus and ask Him, 'Lord, what is telling me things and giving me information, even before I was saved? Is it your Holy Spirit, or is it something else?'" She came back to me one day and said, "I talked to the Lord about it, and I think it's all right." I said, "Whatever the Lord says is all right—I'm not the Great Shepherd."

This was in early 1986, and do you know what happened in 1986? We had a space shuttle called the Challenger, and eight people went up in it. One of them was a woman schoolteacher. As this young lady was watching television, she saw the woman saying, "Tomorrow I'm going up in the Challenger," and talking about it. A spirit spoke to her and said, "She's going to die, she's going to die." The next day when the Challenger was launched, it blew up as the whole world watched, and all of the crew perished. The young lady came back to me and said, "Brother Don, I think what's talking to me and giving me information may not be the Holy Spirit. Would you pray for

me?" Following the service that night, after everyone left, I took her by the hand and said, "You unclean spirit of divination, come out of her!" Nothing happened. Jesus' disciples tried to cast an unclean spirit out of a young man once and couldn't do it. Jesus said, "Bring the young man to me." So I said, "Lord, I thought I knew what was going on here, but I bring this lady to you. Show us what's going on." My wife was praying with us and God gave her a word of knowledge. She said, "It has something to do with her mother." I said to the woman, "Will you forgive your mother?" The moment I said that, a voice screamed out of her, "NO! She gave me away!" Then I said "I bind you, you unclean spirit" and asked the woman again if she would forgive her mother. She then forgave and released her mother and let her go by the grace and help of God. She was able to let go by making the decision to forgive, and then she received her deliverance and freedom.

Just like Jesus said in the parable in Matthew 18, I'm saying that if we do not forgive from our hearts after we've been forgiven such a great debt by our heavenly Father, we will be delivered into the hands of the tormenters. What are the tormenters? They can be all kinds of things—demonic strongholds, oppression, sickness, depression, disease, and many other things. The root is unforgiveness. Not forgiving after we have been forgiven allows Satan a foothold in our lives. The Bible says we have to make the decision to forgive. In the Lord's prayer (Matt. 6:9-11), Jesus said to forgive as we've been forgiven.

Mark 11:25-26 says that when we pray, if we have anything against anyone, we're to forgive. What does that mean? Unforgiveness should stay in our hearts how long? Only as long as it takes us to go to the Lord and pray. And if we have the slightest bit of unforgiveness against anyone, we should release them and say, "God, I'm letting them go today. I'm forgiving them. I'm making a choice because You forgave me such a great debt."

"Lord, I pray for anyone reading this lesson that has unforgiveness in their life, that they make a decision right this moment to let that person go, to forgive them whether they are living or dead. I pray they will let it go and let that hurt be healed by your power and your grace today, Lord. I thank You, in Jesus' name. Amen."

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 18:21. How many times did Peter offer to forgive?

2. Read Matthew 18:22. How many times did Jesus say we were to forgive?

3. Read Matthew 18:23-24. How much money did this servant owe his master?

4. Read Matthew 18:25. Since this servant could not file for bankruptcy, what was going to happen?

5. Read Matthew 18:26. What was the servant's request?

   Could he have repaid his debt?

6. Read Matthew 18:27. What attitude did the master show toward his servant?

   What attitude did God show toward us and our debt (sin)?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 18:21-27 – *Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? **[22]** Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. **[23]** Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. **[24]** And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. **[25]** But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. **[26]** The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. **[27]** Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

7. Read Matthew 18:28. The servant that had been forgiven had a fellow servant who owed him how much?

8. Read Matthew 18:28. What was this servant's attitude toward his fellow servant?

9. Read Matthew 18:29-30. What did this servant do to his fellow servant?

10. Read Matthew 18:31-33. What did the master call the unforgiving servant?

11. Read Matthew 18:33. What did the master tell his servant he should have done?

12. Read Matthew 18:34. When the master found out what had happened, how did it affect his emotions?

13. Read Matthew 18:34. Did this unforgiving servant by his actions (or decision) forfeit the forgiveness that had been offered to him originally?

14. Read Matthew 18:35. What is the point of this parable?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 18:28-35 – *But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.* ***[29]*** *And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.* ***[30]*** *And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.* ***[31]*** *So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.* ***[32]*** *Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:* ***[33]*** *Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?* ***[34]*** *And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.* ***[35]*** [The Message Bible] – *And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read Matthew 18:21. How many times did Peter offer to forgive?
   Seven times

2. Read Matthew 18:22. How many times did Jesus say we were to forgive?
   Four hundred and ninety (or endlessly, continually)

3. Read Matthew 18:23-24. How much money did this servant owe his master?
   Ten thousand talents, or ten million dollars (an amount that probably never could be repaid)

4. Read Matthew 18:25. Since this servant could not file for bankruptcy, what was going to happen?
   He, his wife, his children, and all he owned was to be auctioned off at a slave market to pay his debt

5. Read Matthew 18:26. What was the servant's request?
   For the master to have patience with him and he would repay him everything

   Could he have repaid his debt?
   Probably not

6. Read Matthew 18:27. What attitude did the master show toward his servant?
   One of compassion and forgiveness

   What attitude did God show toward us and our debt (sin)?
   One of compassion and forgiveness

7. Read Matthew 18:28. The servant that had been forgiven had a fellow servant who owed him how much?
   A hundred pence (a day's wage)

8. Read Matthew 18:28. What was this servant's attitude toward his fellow servant?
   One of impatience, violence, and unforgiveness

9. Read Matthew 18:29-30. What did this servant do to his fellow servant?
   Cast him into prison till he could pay his small debt

10. Read Matthew 18:31-33. What did the master call the unforgiving servant?
    "O thou wicked servant"

11. Read Matthew 18:33. What did the master tell his servant he should have done?
    He should have had compassion on his fellow servant as the master had pity on him. He should have released him and forgiven him

12. Read Matthew 18:34. When the master found out what had happened, how did it affect his emotions?
    He became angry

ANSWER KEY

13. Read Matthew 18:34. Did this unforgiving servant by his actions (or decision) forfeit the forgiveness that had been offered to him originally?
Yes

14. Read Matthew 18:35. What is the point of this parable?
"And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy" (Matthew 18:35, The Message)

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 10
MARRIAGE - Part 1

By Don Krow

Today we're going to talk about marriage. First of all, I want to give you some statistics: 75 percent of all family units are going to need some kind of marriage counseling. One out of two marriages will end in divorce. In 50 percent of marriages, a mate will be unfaithful within the first five years. Even in the Christian realm, they say that as high as 30 percent of ministers will be involved in an inappropriate relationship with someone in their church. It appears to me that we obviously haven't understood the principles of the Bible if those statistics are anywhere close. We're going to look at the subject of marriage and see some of the things God says about it—how you might be able to strengthen your marriage relationship.

Marriage is God's idea. He designed it. Genesis 2:18 says, *"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."* Also Genesis 1:31 says, *"And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."* You have to remember that this was a perfect creation. God came and fellowshipped with man. He had a wonderful relationship with him. Each day He would come in the cool of the evening and fellowship with Adam. Sometimes we think if we had a perfect relationship with God, we wouldn't really need anything else, but that's not true. God said in Genesis 1:31, concerning the creation He made, *"And behold it was very good."* The first thing that God said was "not good" is found in Genesis 2:18, *"It is not good that the man should be alone."* So, marriage was God's idea to meet the need that man had, to give him a help meet to deal with the problem of loneliness he might experience in his life. Marriage, if we follow the instruction manual and put into it what God wants, was meant to bring happiness and not misery.

Genesis 2:24 is the first time the Bible really talks a lot about marriage. It says, *"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."* Marriage is leaving all other relationships to refocus your life on another individual, and God designed it that way. It's like a tri-unity relationship. In the marriage relationship, when God called Adam and Eve together, it wasn't just Adam relating to God or Eve relating to God. It was now Adam and Eve as a unit, in oneness of purpose relating to God. The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:7, *"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them* [your wives] *according to knowledge…that your prayers be not hindered"* (brackets mine). Genesis 5:1-2, a really great passage of Scripture, says, *"This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them, and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created."* Notice that Adam named his wife, Eve, but God called Adam and Eve, together as a unit, Adam. So, in the marriage relationship, it's no longer God and me or God and

that woman—it's me and my wife in oneness, heirs according to the grace of life who have been called to serve God in purpose, to walk in oneness and unity.

Genesis 2:24, which we just read, says a man will leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they shall be one flesh. The word "cleave" means to stick or adhere to, to become one, to be one in purpose. If you're having a problem in your marriage relationship today, let me ask you a few questions: Are the things you're doing, the way you're acting toward your spouse, the things you're saying to them, are they causing you to come closer together as one? Or, are they causing a breach, or separation? The commandment of Scripture for marriage is to cleave, to stick to. So, are the things you're doing building your relationship or tearing it down? You need to look at some of these things.

People think love is just an emotional feeling: "I used to love you, but I fell out of love—I don't love you anymore." Suppose you came from a dysfunctional family. You go before a minister or judge to be married; you commit to give your life to that individual; you really want this to work till death do you part. But because of your dysfunctional family, you've never seen love, never seen it expressed in your family, and never seen your parents share any warm expression of love. Your spouse may have come from a family that expressed a lot of affection, but you don't know how. Even though you want to love this person you're committing yourself to, because you're so dysfunctional yourself, having never seen love expressed before, you probably will fail. Chances are that within a few years you will go in for counseling and say, "We're just not getting along. I don't love them anymore." Well, I've got good news for you today: If you're having problems in your marriage, there's something that can correct it.

When you buy a new refrigerator and have a problem with it, you know to go to the manual. The manual will tell you what's wrong, or you can take it to a serviceman. There is a manual to work on your marriage, to fix it. It's called God's Word, and the Bible tells us in Titus 2:4 that love is something that can be taught, something that can be learned. If you came from a dysfunctional family and don't really know how to love your spouse—your marriage is falling apart—there's good news. In 1 John 5:3, it says, *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."* Through the commandments of Jesus Christ, who shows us how to love, how to express kindness and generosity, and how to seek the welfare of the other person in your marriage relationship, God can turn that situation around for you.

This is just an introduction to the subject of marriage. God bless you today as you continue in your study. I believe that God wants to impart more wisdom and knowledge as you look into this subject.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Ephesians 5:31-32. Ephesians 5:31 is a quotation from Genesis 2:24. By looking at Ephesians 5:32, what do you think God is really talking about in this passage?

2. Read James 4:4-5. What are these verses teaching?

3. Read 1 Peter 3:7. Why should you walk in unity and love toward your wife or husband?

4. Read John 15:5. Can your marriage succeed without Christ as Lord of your life?

5. Read Titus 2:4. Love is not just an emotion. According to Scripture, love can be _____ .

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

EPHESIANS 5:31-32 – *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. **[32]** This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

JAMES 4:4-5 – *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. **[5]** Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?*

1 PETER 3:7 – *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

JOHN 15:5 – *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

TITUS 2:4 – *That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

6. Read 1 John 5:3. When we walk in God's commands, we walk in _____ .

7. Read Matthew 7:12. If we are having problems in our marriage, it is because someone is not walking in _____ .

8. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4. Love is:
   A. Emotional
   B. A warm feeling
   C. Kind

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

1 JOHN 5:3 – *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

MATTHEW 7:12 – *Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4 – *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read Ephesians 5:31-32. Ephesians 5:31 is a quotation from Genesis 2:24. By looking at Ephesians 5:32, what do you think God is really talking about in this passage?
   A relationship between Christ and His church (likened to marriage)

2. Read James 4:4-5. What are these verses teaching?
   God is jealous over us and wants us to be true to Him

3. Read 1 Peter 3:7. Why should you walk in unity and love toward your wife or husband?
   So that my prayers will not be hindered

4. Read John 15:5. Can your marriage succeed without Christ as Lord of your life?
   No

5. Read Titus 2:4. Love is not just an emotion. According to Scripture, love can be _____ .
   Taught

6. Read 1 John 5:3. When we walk in God's commands, we walk in _____ .
   Love

7. Read Matthew 7:12. If we are having problems in our marriage, it is because someone is not walking in _____ .
   Love

8. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4. Love is:
   C. Kind

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 11
MARRIAGE - Part 2

By Don Krow

Today we're going to look again at the subject of marriage, and the question is, "What is marriage?" Have you ever thought about that? According to the Bible, it was God's idea to design marriage. Marriage is a joining together, a oneness, a uniting. Genesis 2:24 says, *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife* [they will be joined, and he will cleave to his wife] *and they shall become one flesh"* (brackets mine, *New International Version*). Did you know that marriage is more than a joining, more than oneness? For example, 1 Corinthians 6:15-6 says if I go out, being a Christian, and join myself to a prostitute, I become one flesh with her. Then consider the quotation from Genesis 2:24 about marriage. Joining myself to a prostitute would not automatically make me divorced from my wife or make me married to the prostitute because I had intercourse with her. So, what is marriage? If marriage is a oneness, if it's a joining together, if it's becoming one flesh, what is the difference between that and going to a prostitute? Obviously, if you went into a prostitute, you would become one flesh with her.

The Bible does say that marriage is a oneness, a joining together, a uniting together, but it's more than that. It is a uniting together by a covenant. The word "covenant" in Hebrew is *berith*, and it has the idea of binding together. It's a final commitment of an individual, even a commitment till death do you part. Now, if I went into a prostitute, if I did such an evil sin as that, there would be no commitment on my part to her. The essence of marriage is to first of all forsake all others. The Bible says you shall leave your father and mother and you shall cleave to your wife. Ezekiel says, *"You became mine."* It's forsaking all others for this one—to commit yourself to this one. Obviously if you, in an immoral way, go to another person when you are married, that would violate the principle of marriage, the oneness and unity that comes through a covenant, or commitment. Ezekiel 16:8 calls it a covenant of marriage. In Ephesians 5, we learn that in marriage, the husband is to love his wife, even as Christ loved the church, so it's a covenant of love. The reason it's a covenant of love is because love is the ruling principle in marriage. Above all things, love must be the ruling principle of marriage.

Marriage is a covenant of oneness. It says in 1 Peter 3:7 that if I don't honor and appreciate my wife as being the weaker vessel and realize that we are heirs together of the grace of life, our prayers will be hindered. Think about that—our spiritual lives could be hindered if we do not walk in the unity and harmony that God has designed for the marriage relationship. Proverbs 2:16-17 talks about a wayward woman who forsakes her marriage covenant, the guide of her youth, and that marriage relationship is called a covenant of her God. This is a very serious thing. It's a covenant

we make to an individual, but it's also a covenant that we make before God. As much as I love to minister to people, God has a priority, and that is to focus on my marriage. Marriage really is a focusing of my life onto another individual, and as I said, the ruling principle is love.

Matthew 7:12 says whatever you would want someone to do to you, do to them, for this is the Law and the prophets. This is exactly the principle that should rule in marriage. It's not a selfish thing, not for self, not about what this person can give you. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 13:4 that love is kind. That means to seek the welfare of another, to be generous and kind, and to always seek the best for another. The reason marriage is designed that way is because it is an example, a model, of what a real relationship with God should be. He has given us illustrations in the natural. He has shown us how to have a good marriage, a great marriage, because He wants us to have a model of what a real eternal relationship is to be with Him. Marriage is only until death do us part, a temporary thing. The Bible says that in the resurrection, they neither marry nor are given in marriage. God wants us to understand a good marriage—the principles of love—the principles of giving unselfishly to another. He is saying, "What I want you to really understand is that I've called you into a marriage relationship with Me—not a temporary relationship, not one that will just last a few years and then be gone, but an eternal relationship where all of My love will be manifested to you forever and ever."

Let me give you a few principles of marriage. Marriage is a merger, not just a partnership. The Bible talks about it in Genesis 4 as a knowing and in 1 Peter 3:7 as being heirs together of the grace of life. Marriage is a covenant, which means it is binding; there's a commitment involved. Sin did not enter the first church; it entered the first marriage, so we need to get the manual, get the instructions about marriage, and implement the principles of love in our lives. We also ask, "What is love?" The definition of love is really, in a sense, unselfishness. Isaiah 53:6 says we are like sheep, that we went astray and turned every one to our own way, but in marriage, we focus on the other individual and seek their welfare and benefit.

The Bible tells us in Ephesians that loving your wife is like loving your own body. We husbands are to cherish and honor the wife God has given to us, which means to appreciate her. To love your own body doesn't mean you sit around and hold hands with yourself, pat yourself, and say, "Oh, I love you." It's not that at all. To love yourself is to protect yourself, feed yourself, and look out for yourself. We should never take our wives for granted, never take one of her weaknesses and expose it publicly, never make fun of her, or do things that hurt her. We're to love her as we love our own selves.

Lift yourself up to God in prayer, and first of all, thank Him for loving you. Then, thank Him for your partner, the mate He gave you. That could be part of the problem. You may not have appreciated your mate, you may have put him or her down, and the Bible says that is basically selfish and is sin. It says in Ephesians 5 that Jesus cleansed the church by the washing of water by the Word, by His Words He spoke over the church. When you speak words over your mate, they will rise to the level of the words you speak. If you say "You're no good, you're ugly, you're overweight," you will suppress your marriage and not cause oneness but separation and alienation.

But if you speak words of kindness like "Honey, I appreciate the things you do. I appreciate you. I love you," and back them up with your actions, your mate will rise up to the level of those words.

Can't you see today that a lot of the problems in your marriage relationship are the words you've spoken? Have you brought your mate down rather than up? I encourage you to speak good words over your mate today. Love is not a feeling; love is seeking the welfare and benefit of another person regardless of how you feel. Begin today with acts of kindness, just like painting several layers of lacquer on a piece of wood. That's how love is built—by little acts of kindness. Start to esteem, honor, value, and speak words of love over your mate, and you'll see a difference. God bless you as you implement these principles.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Proverbs 18:22. Marriage is:
   A. A good thing
   B. Terrible
   C. Pleasing unto the Lord

2. Read Hebrews 13:4. Sex in marriage (or the marriage bed) is:
   A. Sin
   B. Dirty and evil
   C. Undefiled

3. Read Ecclesiastes 9:9 (*New American Standard Version*). True or False: A godly marriage is a gift and reward to you in this life from the Lord.

4. Read 1 John 3:18 (*New Century Version*). "Judge Phillip Gilliam stated that of the 28,000 juvenile court cases that he judged, the lack of affection between father and mother was the greatest cause of juvenile delinquency that he knew" (Together Forever, p. 152). How are we to show love?

5. Read Ephesians 5:28. True or false: I am not to neglect my wife any more than I neglect my own body.

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

PROVERBS 18:22 – *Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.*

HEBREWS 13:4 – *Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

ECCLESIASTES 9:9 (New American Standard Version) – *Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.*

1 JOHN 3:18 (New Century Version) – *My children, we should love people not only with words and talk, but by our actions and true caring.*

EPHESIANS 5:28 – *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

6. Read 1 John 3:16. True or false: The words "I love you" can be beautiful if they are backed with actions. Jesus backed up His words by laying down His life for us. We ought to lay down our lives for our mates in as many practical ways as we possibly can.

   Share some practical ways that you would like to be loved.

7. Read Ephesians 5:25-26. True or false: My wife is going to live up to what I speak over her. I bring her to the potential of that which I speak over her.

8. Read Romans 8:38-39 and 1 John 4:19. True or false: We are wooed (or loved) by the intimate words that are spoken to us followed by action. God wooed us by speaking to us intimate words from His love letters, recorded as Scripture.

9. Read 1 John 5:3 and 2 John 6. True or false: The how-tos of love are expressed and known by Jesus commandments. We can learn these principles of love from God's Word.

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

1 JOHN 3:16 – *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

EPHESIANS 5:25-26 – *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; **[26]** That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.*

ROMANS 8:38-39 – *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, **[39]** Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1 JOHN 4:19 – *We love him, because he first loved us.*

1 JOHN 5:3 – *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

2 JOHN 1:6 – *And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

10. Read John 14:15. True or false: Love is not a matter of your emotions but of your will. Every command in Scripture is given to man's will, never to his emotions. God never tells you how to feel, but rather He tells you how to act.

11. Read Galatians 5:22-23. Love is not natural. It must be learned and birthed into mankind by the Holy Spirit. Love is a fruit of:
    A. Man's thinking
    B. Man's nature
    C. God's Spirit

12. Read Ephesians 5:31-32. A good marriage is a small-scale model of what?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

JOHN 14:15 – *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

GALATIANS 5:22-23 – *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, **[23]** Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

EPHESIANS 5:31-32 – *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. **[32]** This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read Proverbs 18:22. Marriage is:
A. A good thing and ***C. Pleasing unto the Lord***

2. Read Hebrews 13:4. Sex in marriage (or the marriage bed) is:
C. Undefiled

3. Read Ecclesiastes 9:9 *(New American Standard Version)*. True or false: A godly marriage is a gift and reward to you in this life from the Lord.
True

4. Read 1 John 3:18 *(New Century Version)*. "Judge Phillip Gilliam stated that of the 28,000 juvenile court cases that he judged, the lack of affection between father and mother was the greatest cause of juvenile delinquency that he knew" (Together Forever, p. 152). How are we to show love?
By actions and true caring

5. Read Ephesians 5:28. True or false: I am not to neglect my wife anymore than I neglect my own body.
True

6. Read 1 John 3:16. True or false: The words "I love you" can be beautiful if they are backed with actions. Jesus backed up His words by laying down His life for us. We ought to lay down our lives for our mates in as many practical ways as we possibly can.
True

   Share some practical ways that you would like to be loved.

7. Read Ephesians 5:25-26. True or false: My wife is going to live up to what I speak over her. I bring her to the potential of that which I speak over her.
True. The Greek word used in Ephesians 5:26 is **rhema*****, meaning "spoken words"***

8. Read Romans 8:38-39 and 1 John 4:19. True or false: We are wooed (or loved) by the intimate words that are spoken to us followed by action. God wooed us by speaking to us intimate words from His love letters, recorded as Scripture.
True. God's Word is full of loving words toward us

9. Read 1 John 5:3 and 2 John 6. True or false: The how-tos of love are expressed and known by Jesus commandments. We can learn these principles of love from God's Word.
True

10. Read John 14:15. True or false: Love is not a matter of your emotions but of your will. Every command in Scripture is given to man's will, never to his emotions. God never tells you how to feel, but rather He tells you how to act.
True

ANSWER KEY

11. Read Galatians 5:22-23. Love is not natural. It must be learned and birthed into mankind by the Holy Spirit. Love is a fruit of:
C. God's Spirit

12. Read Ephesians 5:31-32. A good marriage is a small-scale model of what?
Christ and His church

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 12
GOD'S KIND OF LOVE - Part 1

By Don Krow

In 1 Corinthians 13:13, it says, *"Now abideth faith, hope, charity* [love], *these three; but the greatest of these is charity* [love]" (brackets mine). Then 1 Corinthians 14:1 says, *"Follow after charity* [love] *and* [yet] *desire* [earnestly] *spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy*" (brackets mine). The Bible says to follow after love, pursue it, and make it your highest aim. Some translations say to make it your greatest quest. It's the only thing we'll take out of this life into eternity. We won't take our cars, our homes, or our money, but we will take the love that Jesus Christ has imparted into our lives by the Holy Spirit. Love is the only thing that has eternal value and substance.

What does love really mean? I say, "I love my wife, I love ice cream, I love apple pie." There's only one word in English to describe love, so when I say I love my wife and then say I love the cat, is my wife impressed? Not at all. Do you see what I'm saying? When we use the word love, some people think it means sex, some think it means an intense warm feeling—people have all kinds of definitions for love. In the Greek language there are four major words. One is *eros*, which really is not used in the Bible, and is defined as sexual attraction or sexual love. God ordained that kind of love when He said a man shall leave his father and mother, cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. The book in the Bible entitled Song of Solomon is about sexual love that God has restricted to the marriage relationship. The other kinds of love, God says are free to be used by all mankind, but *eros* is restricted to the marriage relationship.

Another kind of love is called *storge* and is the natural bond or affection in a family relationship. Then there is *phileo*, which comes from the root word *philia*. This word is used about seventy-two times in the New Testament and means a warm feeling of affection that comes and goes in intensity. Most people who talk about love think that is what love really is, so "I fall in love and I fall out of love." If your marriage is built on that kind of love, there will be times when you have a high and times when you have a low. You could fall in love and out of love based on that.

The Bible says we're to love each other with God's kind of love, which is *agape* love. What is *agape* love? There are many facets, and 1 Corinthians 13 gives the whole definition of what love involves. In 1 John 5:3 it says, *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments."* Jesus' commandments show us expressions of love, but if I were going to sum it up, I would use Matthew 7:12, *"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."* It's not a matter of all those people down at the church who don't love me, don't care about me, and this and that. No, the Bible says whatever you would want someone to do to you, you do to them first. That is love. It goes against our flesh, against our

natural grain to seek the welfare and benefit of other people above ourselves. It takes God. Don't think I'm saying this can be manifested without God. The Bible says the fruit of the Spirit is love, and God is love. He is the source of love and the one who will show us how to love through His commandments. He's the one who will give us strength, even in light of our flesh, to make the right choices and decisions and act on the right principles.

One day I wanted to go and pray as I usually did after work. I was in a park, and I said, "God, I really want to minister to somebody." It was a fairly warm day, and I saw a little boy and a little girl sitting on the swings. There was a swing open, so I went over and got in the swing. I turned to the little girl and said, "It's a nice day, isn't it?" She said "Me no speak English," and I asked, "Where are you from?" She said she was from Romania. I knew there were Romanians in that area, and I saw these people looking at me, probably wondering why I was talking to their children. I went over and said, "I want to help you." They said, "You would want to help us? Why would you want to help us? You don't even know us!" I said, "Because God wants to help you." I had been meditating on the principles of love in 1 John 3:18 where it says, *"Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."* We're not to love with the words of our mouths only, but also with our actions. Although I usually don't carry money around with me, that day I had a little in my pocket. I reached out, said "This is for you," and gave them the money. Since I'd been fasting that day, I had a little bit of food with me, so I said, "And here's some food for your family." They were touched and said, "Who are you?" I told them, "God has made a divine appointment for us to meet today, and I am going see you again."

I went home and told my wife about the encounter with those Romanians. I took a roast out of our freezer and cooked it. The next day I bought a box full of dishes at a garage sale and went back to the park with my wife. The Romanians and their children were there, and I said, "I bring gifts to you. They're heavy, so I'm going to get in my car, and if you'll show me where you live, I'll take the gifts to your home." When we got to their little one-bedroom apartment, I took the dishes and silverware—everything matched—out of the box and began to give things to them, one at a time. As I handed it to them, tears began to roll down their faces, and the lady said, "Me going to cry! Me going to cry!" I said, "On Monday night we have a Bible study at our home, and I would like to invite you there." They said "We want to come," but I said, "I don't want you to come because I gave you gifts." They said, "No, we want to come and meet your friends."

Since they didn't have transportation, I picked them up, took them to my home, and before long, God began to touch them. They couldn't speak English very well, but He touched them when we prayed for them. The love of God was being manifested to them. Before long, we met another Romanian couple, and I said to the first couple, "Will you go and help me meet another Romanian couple?" They agreed and I got a call one day from them, "Mr. Don, we heard about you. We have the lonelies bad, and we want to meet you." So I took my Romanian friends and went to meet them. I took gifts, food, and all kinds of things to them. As I did that and began to visit with them, everything was great until one of the first Romanian couple said, "You need to go to the Bible study. They talk about Jesus, and it's wonderful!" They said, "Wait a minute! We came from a communist country and don't know if there's a God. We don't want this Jesus stuff."

I said "Let me be a friend," and began to take them out on the weekends and buy them clothes, coats, and things they needed. They were very embarrassed and reluctant. "Well, don't you need a coat?" "Well, yes I do, but…" "Then let's get this coat for you." I began to love them in action, but they wouldn't come to our Bible study until I said, "There are probably some Americans there who will help you get a job." Then they came right away. At the Bible study that night, I said something very foolish to the Lord, "Lord, you're going to have to give me a genuine gift of tongues tonight because we can't even communicate with each other very well." There were some Americans at the Bible study that night who gave their testimonies. When I began to speak, the lady from the second Romanian couple began to lighten up, and I knew something was happening. After the study, I said "Let me pray for you," and as we prayed, God suddenly touched them and filled the whole atmosphere of the room with His love. Then the lady said, "You know, when the Americans were speaking, I couldn't understand anything they were saying, but when you got up and started speaking about Jesus, His love for us, and what He did so we could have a relationship with Him, I understood every word you said! I understood it perfectly! It must be God! It must be God!" As a result, all of our lives were changed, not just the Romanians.

My home began to be filled on Monday nights with international people—Romanians, Bulgarians, and people from Russia. God was changing lives, and they knew we loved them. We even had people from Africa. Though we could hardly speak to each other, one thing they knew: When we prayed, God would manifest Himself to them. They also knew that I would do anything for them and that I loved them. God changed their lives and the lives of many other people. It happened because one day in a park, I saw some people of another color, another nationality. I didn't have any warm feeling of affection, but I knew that love was this: Whatever you would want someone to do to you, do to them. I sought their welfare and benefit regardless of the way I felt, and you know what happened? They so appreciated it that what rose up in them for me was *philia* love, the love that has feelings, and they began to say to me "I love you" and hug me and kiss me. What it did in me was generate that kind of feeling for them. If you want to have a love that has feelings in your life, practice *agape* love. Seek the welfare and benefit of others regardless of how you feel, and this will generate a love that has feelings.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 John 5:3. God's love is shown through His _____ .

2. Read Romans 13:9-10. Explain how the commandment in these verses show love.

3. Read Romans 12:19-21. How can we love our enemies, even when we don't feel like it?

4. Read Titus 2:4. What does this passage show us about love?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

1 JOHN 5:3 – *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

ROMANS 13:9-10 – *For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **[10]** Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

ROMANS 12:19-21 – *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. **[20]** Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. **[21]** Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

TITUS 2:4 – *That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

5. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 *(Contemporary English Version)*. Describe the principles of love in detail.

6. Read 1 John 3:18. How must we practice love?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8 (Contemporary English Version) – *Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude.* ***[5]*** *Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do.* ***[6]*** *Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil.* ***[7]*** *Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting.* ***[8]*** *Love never fails!*

1 JOHN 3:18 – *My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read 1 John 5:3. God's love is shown through His _____ .
   Commandments

2. Read Romans 13:9-10. Explain how the commandment in these verses show love.
   Love works no wrong to its neighbor. Each commandment shows love by showing how we should respond to our neighbor

3. Read Romans 12:19-21. How can we love our enemies, even when we don't feel like it?
   If our enemy is hungry, we can feed them; if they are thirsty, we can give them something to drink. We can seek the welfare and benefit of others, regardless of how we feel

4. Read Titus 2:4. What does this passage show us about love?
   Love can be taught. It's not just a feeling

5. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 *(Contemporary English Version)*. Describe the principles of love in detail.
   "Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude. Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do. Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil. Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting. Love never fails!"

6. Read 1 John 3:18. How must we practice love?
   Let us not love only with our words, but also in our actions

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 13
GOD'S KIND OF LOVE - Part 2

By Don Krow

Jesus Christ was the greatest expression of love that ever came on the face of the earth, yet as far as it is recorded in the Bible, He never said the words "I love you." Isn't that amazing? The greatest expression of love never said "I love you." Do you know why? It's because love is more than words; it is action. Suppose I said to my wife "I love you" and then went out and committed adultery against her? Would she believe my words, or would she believe my actions? She'd believe me according to my actions, because 95 percent of love is nonverbal. It's not in the things you say; it's what you do.

In 1 John 3:18 we read, *"Let us not love in word, neither in tongue* [let us not love just with the words of our mouths]; *but in deed and in truth*" (brackets mine). Love is an action word. In Matthew 25:35-36, Jesus describes love by the actions it prompts, saying, "I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink. I was naked, without any clothing, and you clothed Me. I was sick, and you cared for me." Then in verse 40 He says, "By doing this to the least of these My brethren, you've done it unto Me." You see, love is an action; it's something you do. Hebrews 6:10 says, *"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them" (New International Version)*. In Matthew 22 when Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, He said it's to love God and love for our fellow man. These two commandments are really one, if understood correctly. When you show love to the least of these my brethren, Jesus said you are actually showing it to Him. The Bible is teaching that we have a wonderful opportunity to love Jesus Christ in practical ways, by loving others.

In the last lesson, I told about the Romanians I met in a park. Their lives were changed because I sought their welfare and benefit regardless of how I felt. They were a different color and nationality, but I knew that God's love expresses itself when we reach out and seek the welfare and benefit of others like Jesus did. He didn't feel like going to the cross. He said, "Father, if there's any other way, let it be, yet not My will but Yours be done." Jesus sought our welfare and benefit regardless of how He felt.

One day I got a call from the Romanians. They were in tears. They had been in the United States for seven-and-a-half years. They now lived in Kansas and were working. They said, "We finally got a ruling on our political asylum papers. They're giving us thirty days to make an appeal, and then we are going to be deported." There is normally only a 2 to 5 percent chance of ever getting political asylum in this country. The Romanians went to a lawyer, and he basically said

they didn't have a chance. I told them we would pray and try to help them. How, I didn't know. I thought it would be a great injustice to send them back—especially when their children could now barely speak Romanian.

A friend of mine called our Colorado congressman who said to contact Senator Sam Brownback in Kansas, since the Romanians now lived in Kansas. That was great because I have a friend named Kim who worked for Senator Brownback. I contacted Kim and she got four people in Washington D.C. working on this case. The community in Sublette, Kansas, got behind the Romanians with a petition of signatures stating that they wanted these Romanians here. "They're good people, they pay taxes, and they work hard. We want them here." There was a full coverage newspaper article about what had happened. It was a miracle, and because there were high officials in our government who understood what was going on, the Romanians got a letter saying the decision was reversed and they could stay in the United States.

I went to Sublette, Kansas. My friends didn't know I was coming, and when I got there, they were on the phone thanking Senator Brownback for helping get their political asylum. He couldn't be there personally because it was the last day of President Clinton's impeachment hearing, but ABC and NBC News were there with their cameras. As soon as they hung up, they ran over and hugged me, and the cameras went right over to me. They said, "Who are you, and how do you know these people?" I told them the whole story, how I met them and sought their welfare and benefit because of God and what Jesus said in Matthew 7:12.

We then went to the gymnasium where there were red, white, and blue balloons everywhere and patriotic songs were being sung. When my friends came in, everyone started shouting, and they were weeping. The mayor of the city said, "Today, February 12th, is going to be Jucan Family Day, in honor of these Romanians." They took an American flag that the senator had flown over the capitol in Washington, D.C. in their honor and presented it to them. He also presented them with papers that said they were legally able to stay—basically for the rest of their lives. They all gave a testimony and then asked me to pray. I said, "There's one person we haven't thanked enough yet today, and that's God Almighty. In a park in Colorado Springs, CO, seven-and-a-half years ago, I was seeking God, telling Him that I wanted to reach out with His love to someone that day. I was led to these Romanians." I then repeated the story and said, "God wants to help you—welcome to the U.S.A."

The way it all came about was a miracle. I knew the right people in the right places at the right time. My friend Kim had made arrangements for Senator Brownback to come and meet me at Andrew Wommack Ministries a year before all this happened. She said, "You just need to meet Don Krow." I didn't know why and I was very uncomfortable. Little did I know that God was setting things up to help a family He had revealed Himself and His love to, simply because of the command of Jesus that what you would want someone to do to you, do to them. It's a miracle they'll never forget, and they'll tell you today, "It's because of God." Anka, the Romanian lady, said, "My faith wavered, but God is faithful, and He allowed us to stay in the United States of America."

There are multitudes of people right now who are crying out for love. The only way they can get it is when you and I make the decision to understand the principles of love from God's Word. Love is kind, love seeks the welfare of others—just like Jesus sought our welfare when He went to the cross. God bless you today as you look more into these principles of what it really means to love with God's love.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 7:12. In your own words, tell us what the golden rule is.

2. Read Matthew 7:12. In trying to discover love, many people try to find the right person. Should you try to find the right person or become the right person?

3. Read 1 John 5:3. Is love a feeling, or is love something you do?

4. Read 1 John 3:18. If you told your wife or husband "I love you!" but went out and committed adultery, would she/he believe your words or your actions?

5. Read Romans 5:6-8. Do you think Jesus felt like dying?

6. Read Galatians 5:22. Can we really love without God as the center of our lives?

7. Read 1 John 4:8. The reason that we need God to help us truly love others is because He is the only One who is _____ .

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 7:12 – *Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*

1 JOHN 5:3 – *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

1 JOHN 3:18 – *My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*

ROMANS 5:6-8 – *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. [7] For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. [8] But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

GALATIANS 5:22 – *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.*

1 JOHN 4:8 – *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

8. Read 1 Corinthians 13:5 *(New Living Translation)*. Choose from the following words a description of what love is not: Rude, selfish, unforgiving.

9. Read 1 Corinthians 13:8 *(New Living Translation)*. What is the only thing you will take from this life into the next life, or beyond the grave?

10. Read Proverbs 10:12. First Corinthians 13:5 *(New Living Translation)* says, "Love keeps no record of when it has been wronged." Love will cover how much sin?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

1 CORINTHIANS 13:5 (New Living Translation) – *Or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged.*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:8 (New Living Translation) – *Love will last forever, but prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will all disappear.*

PROVERBS 10:12 – *Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read Matthew 7:12. In your own words, tell us what the golden rule is.
   Doing to others what you would want someone to do for you

2. In trying to discover love, many people try to find the right person. Should you try to find the right person or become the right person?
   Become the right person

3. Read 1 John 5:3. Is love a feeling, or is love something you do?
   It is something we do by walking in God's principles (commandments)

4. Read 1 John 3:18. If you told your wife or husband "I love you!" but went out and committed adultery, would she/he believe your words or your actions?
   Your actions. Actions would speak louder than words

5. Read Romans 5:6-8. Do you think Jesus felt like dying?
   No, yet he sought the benefit and welfare of all of us, regardless of how He felt

6. Read Galatians 5:22. Can we really love without God as the center of our lives?
   No

7. Read 1 John 4:8. The reason that we need God to help us truly love others, is because He is the only One who is _____ .
   Love

8. Read 1 Corinthians 13:5 *(New Living Translation)*. Choose from the following words a description of what love is not: Rude, selfish, unforgiving.
   All of these words (rude, selfish, and unforgiving) describe what love is not

9. Read 1 Corinthians 13:8 *(New Living Translation)*. What is the only thing you will take from this life into the next life, or beyond the grave?
   Love. It will last forever

10. Read Proverbs 10:12. First Corinthians 13:5 *(New Living Translation)* states, "Love keeps no record of when it has been wronged." Love will cover how much sin?
    All sin

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 14
FINANCES - Part 1

By Andrew Wommack

Jesus wants you to prosper financially. This is something that is important to everyone. It takes money to live, to get your needs met, and to be a blessing to others. God didn't leave us alone in this area and say, "I'm concerned about your spiritual part, but I don't care about your financial part…you're on your own." No, He loves you in every way—spirit, soul, and body—and He's made provision for you. Most people recognize that some degree of financial prosperity is necessary, but religion basically has taken a stand against having an abundance.

The Word of God teaches against greed in many different ways but also makes it very clear that finances are a blessing. In 3 John 2, the Apostle John said, *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* What a strong statement. John says, "Above all things!" It's talking about healing, emotions, relationships, and finances. The Lord wants you to prosper and be in health above everything else. He wants you to prosper in spirit, soul, and body. That's His will for you.

Many religious people actually say that God wants you to be poor, that being poor is a godly thing, and the poorer you are, the more godly you are. I was raised under that kind of thinking, that preachers shouldn't have very much, that a Christian is a person who should do without. This certainly cannot be substantiated by Scripture. Abraham was the richest man of his time, so much so that kings asked him to depart because his possessions were affecting the wealth of their countries. The same was true of Isaac and Jacob. Joseph was a man who prospered and had super abundance. David gave to the Lord out of his own personal treasury over 2.5 billion dollars worth of gold and silver to build the temple. Solomon, David's son, was the richest man that ever lived on the face of the earth. When you look at it scripturally, people who have really served God were blessed financially.

There are examples of people who struggled and did without. Paul said in Philippians 4:13 that he could do all things through Christ and had learned to be content in whatever situation he was in. He said he knew how to be abased and how to abound. There were times when God's servants went through poverty and difficulty, but you cannot find in Scripture that the poorer you are, the more godly you are. That is not true, and you can go out on the streets and see it disproved. So, yes, there's a truth here that greed is wrong. In 1 Timothy 6:10 it says, *"For the love of money is the root of all evil."* Some people take that and say money is the root of all evil, but it says the "*love of money is the root of all evil.*" There are people who love money and don't have a dime; others have great wealth but don't love it. They just use it.

Deuteronomy 8:18 shows the real purpose of financial prosperity. The Lord was talking to the Israelites, who were about to enter into the Promised Land and were going to experience wealth and prosperity in a way they never had before. He told them, *"But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day."* According to this passage of Scripture, the purpose of prosperity is not to have an abundance of things for your own selfish purposes, but so you can establish God's covenant here on earth. In other words, God will bless you so that you can in turn be a blessing. In Genesis 12:2 the Lord told Abraham, *"I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing."* Before you can be a blessing to anybody else, you have to be blessed yourself.

You need certain things and have certain needs that God wants to meet, but it goes beyond a selfish thing. He wants to prosper you so He can get His money through you and so you can be a blessing. In 2 Corinthians 9:8 it says, *"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."* This tells why God is going to prosper you—so you can abound to every good work. It's actually like a scriptural definition of prosperity. What is prosperity? Is it having a nice home, a nice car, good clothes, and food on your table? According to this verse, it is having enough to meet all of your needs and abound unto every good work. If you are unable to give to things you feel God has touched your heart about, if you would like to be a blessing to someone but are unable, then you aren't prospering financially according to what the Scripture says. God says He will bless you to the degree that all of your needs will be met, and you'll be able to abound unto every good work.

True biblical prosperity is not just to get your needs met, but so you can be a blessing to other people. The person who thinks only of themselves is actually selfish. If someone says "I'm believing God for more," others may think them greedy or selfish, but it depends on the motive. If you ask God for more so you can get a bigger house or a better car, that's not the right scriptural attitude. But if you are believing God for more because you have gone beyond seeing your own needs met and want to be a blessing to others, that is the attitude He wants you to have. He wants you to prosper. It's His will for you to prosper.

Matthew 6 talks about the things we need and then says if we will seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, all of these things will be added to us. As you begin to put God first, He will supply all of these other things. All of your needs will be met, and you will be a blessing to other people. God does want you to prosper, but it really is dependent on your motive and your actions in this area.

I pray that this has challenged you and that today you're going to start believing God for His very best, which is for you to prosper.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-8 *(New Living Translation)*. When you give to others in need, this is one way that you can prove?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 8:13-14 *(New Living Translation)*. When all of us join together to give, God wants there to be some kind of what?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 8:13-14 *(New Living Translation)*. How will everyone's needs be met?

4. Read Ephesians 4:28. The person that has been a thief should steal no more, but rather should begin to work and make their own living. What does Ephesians 4:28 also say they should do?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

2 CORINTHIANS 8:7-8
(New Living Translation) – *Since you excel in so many ways—you have so much faith, such gifted speakers, such knowledge, such enthusiasm, and such love for us—now I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving.* ***[8]*** *I am not saying you must do it, even though the other churches are eager to do it. This is one way to prove your love is real.*

2 CORINTHIANS 8:13-14
(New Living Translation) – *Of course, I don't mean you should give so much that you suffer from having too little. I only mean that there should be some equality.* ***[14]*** *Right now you have plenty and can help them. Then at some other time they can share with you when you need it. In this way, everyone's needs will be met.*

EPHESIANS 4:28 – *Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

5. Read Genesis 13:2 and 12:2. God could trust Abraham with riches because Abraham was not just thinking about himself but was a _____ to others.

6. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-18 *(New Living Translation)*. What three things is the rich to do with their money?

7. Can God trust you with finances?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

GENESIS 13:2 – *And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.*

GENESIS 12:2 – *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.*

1 TIMOTHY 6:17-18 (New Living Translation) – *Tell those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone. But their trust should be in the living God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.* ***[18]*** *Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-8 *(New Living Translation)*. When you give to others in need, this is one way that you can prove?
   That your love is real

2. Read 2 Corinthians 8:13-14 *(New Living Translation)*. When all of us join together to give, God wants there to be some kind of what?
   Equality, everyone should give what they can

3. Read 2 Corinthians 8:13-14 *(New Living Translation)*. How will everyone's needs be met?
   By giving what you can, when you can

4. Read Ephesians 4:28. The person that has been a thief should steal no more, but rather should begin to work and make their own living. What does Ephesians 4:28 also say they should do?
   Give to the poor, those that are in need

5. Read Genesis 13:2 and 12:2. God could trust Abraham with riches because Abraham was not just thinking about himself but was a _____ to others.
   Blessing

6. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-18 *(New Living Translation)*. What three things is the rich to do with their money?
   Do good, give generously to those in need, share with others whatever God has given them

7. Can God trust you with finances?

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 15
FINANCES - Part 2

By Andrew Wommack

In the last lesson, I explained that it is God's will for you to prosper. There are keys to how this works. Luke 6:38 says, *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall it be measured to you again."* There are many principles involved, but you can't talk about prosperity without talking about giving.

When you talk about financial prosperity, a lot of people say, "All right, so God wants to prosper me, but I don't have it to give." You can see in the Bible where Jesus talked about the widow who put her last two mites into the offering. He had been watching the rich people put in huge sums of money, yet He called His disciples together and said this woman gave more than them all. He said this because they gave out of their abundance, but she gave out of her poverty. God does not evaluate the size of your gift by its monetary value but rather by the percentage of what you had to give. When a person says "I don't have anything to give," it's not true. If nothing else, you could take a piece of clothing you have and give it away. Everyone has something to give, so do away with this argument that you don't have anything to give. As a matter of fact, the time you seem to have little of anything is when your giving can be a greater percentage than any other time. A person who has ten dollars and gives away five has given a much larger gift than someone who gives a million dollars when they have billions and billions left. God set it up so every single person can give.

Why did God tell us to give? There are many things involved, but one of the main purposes is that God wants you to trust Him in every area of your life. If there isn't a God, and if His Word isn't true when He says *"Give, and it shall be given unto you,"* taking a portion of what you have and giving it away is the stupidest thing you could ever do. Instead of moving toward the goal of having all your needs met, you're actually moving away from it if God hasn't promised to bless you. It takes faith to be able to give the way God says, and that's the reason He told you to do it.

In Luke 16 there is a parable about a steward who cheated his master, and it finally comes down to this: He says if you haven't been faithful in the unrighteous mammon (talking about money), then who will commit to your trust the true riches? If you haven't believed God in the smaller things, concerning money, how are you going to get to the more important things, such as spiritual values? Scriptures like this make money one of the least levels of stewardship. If you can't trust God with your finances, how can you trust Him with your eternal destiny? How can you truly believe Jesus has forgiven your sins and that you're going to spend eternity in heaven?

In comparison, the spiritual things we supposedly put our faith in the Lord for are much more significant than money. Money is a minor thing, but it's the bottom line of starting to trust God. Proverbs 11:24 says there are some that give away more than it looks like is necessary, and yet they prosper, and there are others that tend to hoard what they have, and it only causes poverty on the inside of them.

If you seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first, then He will add these things to you. If you say you want God to help you in your finances, and you're praying for His help—but aren't seeking first the kingdom of God, and you aren't taking a step of faith, trusting Him with your finances, and giving—then you really aren't trusting Him.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read John 3:16. What motivated God to give?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:3. The motivation behind our giving must be what?

3. Read James 2:15-16. Explain the meaning of this verse.

4. Read Luke 6:38 *(New Living Translation)*. What is this verse saying to you?

5. Read Ephesians 1:7. Did God give out of His riches or according to His riches? Explain the difference.

6. Read Proverbs 19:17. When you give to the poor, what are you doing?

   Will God pay you back?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

JOHN 3:16 – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:3 – *And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*

JAMES 2:15-16 – *If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, **[16]** And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

LUKE 6:38 – *Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.*

EPHESIANS 1:7 – *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*

PROVERBS 19:17 – *He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

7. Read Psalm 41:1-3 *(New Living Translation)*. Name five things that God does for those who give to the poor.

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

PSALM 41:1-3 (New Living Translation) – *Oh, the joys of those who are kind to the poor. The LORD rescues them in times of trouble. **[2]** The LORD protects them and keeps them alive. He gives them prosperity and rescues them from their enemies. **[3]** The LORD nurses them when they are sick and eases their pain and discomfort.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read John 3:16. What motivated God to give?
   His love

2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:3. The motivation behind our giving must be what?
   Love; i.e., seeking the welfare and benefit of others regardless of how we feel (Matt. 7:12)

3. Read James 2:15-16. Explain the meaning of this verse.
   Ninety-five percent of all love is nonverbal. It's not in what we say but in the things that we do

4. Read Luke 6:38 *(New Living Translation)*. What is this verse saying to you?
   Whatever measure you use in giving (large or small), it will be used to measure what is given back to you

5. Read Ephesians 1:7. Did God give out of His riches or according to His riches? Explain the difference.
   According to His riches. He gave everything to redeem us, His only begotten Son

6. Read Proverbs 19:17. When you give to the poor, what are you doing?
   Lending to the Lord

   Will God pay you back?
   Yes

7. Read Psalm 41:1-3 *(New Living Translation)*. Name five things that God does for those who give to the poor.
   He rescues them in times of trouble. He protects them. He gives them prosperity. He rescues them from enemies. He heals them; i.e., nurses them back to health

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LEVEL 2

LESSON 16
WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR PRAYERS SEEM UNANSWERED

By Andrew Wommack

I want to share about what to do when your prayers seem unanswered, and I want to put the emphasis on the fact that your prayers "seem" to be unanswered. The truth is that God always, always answers any pray that is prayed according to His Word in faith. In 1 John 5:14-15 it says, *"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."* That is a lot of confidence. God always answers prayer, but it doesn't always look like it's answered. Matthew 7:7-8 says, *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."* Those verses are saying that God does answer prayer. Yet every one of us can think of a time in our lives when we asked for something that we believed was a right thing, a good thing, not totally selfish or outside of God's will, yet we didn't see the answer.

God's Word says to ask, and it will be given to us. But our experience says we asked, and it wasn't given to us. Which is true? The answer may surprise you, but the truth is that probably both are true. Most people think, *Now, wait a minute, God's Word says He will answer, and I didn't see it happen.* John 4:24 says, *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."* God operates in the spiritual realm to answer our prayers, but it takes faith on our part to manifest. Faith is what takes things from the spiritual world and moves them into the physical world. This is basically what Hebrews 11:1 says: *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* It didn't say faith is the evidence of things that don't exist. They do exist, but they are not in the seen, physical world but in the unseen, spiritual realm. Faith reaches over into the spiritual realm and draws those things into the physical world.

It's like a radio signal. Radio and television stations are broadcasting constantly. You can be in a room where you can't see or hear the signals, but that doesn't mean they aren't there. You have to turn a radio on and tune it to the frequency you want to hear. Then the radio pulls those signals out of a realm you can't perceive and rebroadcasts them in a realm where you can hear them with your human ear. God answers our prayers in a similar way: He gives things in the spiritual realm, and by faith, you have to reach out and bring them into the physical world. The physical and spiritual worlds move parallel to each other. God moves and answers your prayer, but you may never see it manifest in the physical unless you let faith bridge the gap between the unseen spiritual realm and the physical world we live in.

For example, Daniel, a man of God, was praying and asking God to give him a revelation. For the sake of time, I'll summarize the story. The Lord sent the angel, Gabriel, to appear to Daniel and answer his prayer. Daniel 9:22-23 says, *"And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth; and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision."* Here is the point: Gabriel said that at the beginning of Daniel's prayer, the commandment from God came for him to bring the answer. If you read how long it took to bring the answer, it was about three minutes, a three-minute lag time between God's command and the physical manifestation.

We make a lot of suppositions that if God is really God and something is His will, it just happens like the snap of a finger; but that's not true. In this instance, God gave the command, and it took approximately three minutes for Gabriel to cover that distance. I don't have all the reasons for this, and it's really not essential. The point I'm trying to make is that from the time God gave the command, there was a lag time of approximately three minutes before it was manifest. Now if that was the longest we had to believe for an answer to prayer, most of us could probably hold on, but it's not always that way.

In Daniel 10 we find the same man praying another prayer, and this time it took three weeks for the answer to come. Many people who read this would say, "Why did God answer one of Daniel's prayers in three minutes and the next prayer in three weeks?" Daniel 10:11-12 says, *"And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words."* This shows that God commanded the messenger from the very first day of Daniel's prayer. It took three weeks for that answer to manifest, but God is faithful. Scripture that says He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8).

If you put chapters 9 and 10 together, I believe God answered both prayers instantly. One took three minutes and the other took three weeks, but God wasn't the variable. Here's the point: God answers our prayers. He does things, but there are a lot of variables that can happen between the time He answers prayers and you see the answers manifest. You have to believe; faith has to reach into the spiritual realm and bring the answer into the physical realm. So faith is one of the critical ingredients.

Also, you can see in verse 13 of Daniel, chapter 10, *"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."* This isn't talking about a physical person but a demonic hindrance. Satan is another variable in the process. Sometimes God answers our prayers, but Satan hinders them through other people. For instance, if you're believing for finances, God isn't going to give you money personally. He's not going to counterfeit United States currency or any other currency of this world. He's not going to make money, rain it down from heaven, and put it

in your pocket. Luke 6:38 says, *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom."* God will move and answer your prayer, but it's going to come through people. Some people are bound by greed, and if they are angry with you or you're doing things to offend them, Satan can hinder the manifestation of your prayer through them. When you're praying, especially for finances, you need to recognize that other people may be a part of your financial miracle, and you may have to pray for them.

God is faithful. He has never failed to answer any prayer that was based on His Word and prayed in faith. He always gives, but you may not see the manifestation, depending on other variables. I pray this will help you to build your faith and let you know that God always answers your prayers.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 7:7-8. What can we expect from God if we ask?

2. Read Matthew 7:7-8. If we seek God, what can we expect?

3. Read Matthew 7:7-8. What can we expect to happen if we knock?

4. Read John 10:35. Will God give anything less than what His Word has promised?

5. Read James 4:1-3. Why were these people hindered from receiving from God?

6. Read 1 Peter 3:7. If you are mistreating your mate, what will be the result in your prayer life?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

MATTHEW 7:7-8 – *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: **[8]** For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

JOHN 10:35 – *If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken.*

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? **[2]** Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. **[3]** Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

1 PETER 3:7 – *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

7. Read 1 John 5:14-15. What is a key to have your prayers answered?

8. Read Mark 11:24. When you pray, what are you to do?

SCRIPTURES TO USE WITH QUESTIONS

1 JOHN 5:14-15 – *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:* ***[15]*** *And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

MARK 11:24 – *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

ANSWER KEY

1. Read Matthew 7:7-8. What can we expect from God if we ask?
   We can expect it to be given

2. Read Matthew 7:7-8. If we seek God, what can we expect?
   To find

3. Read Matthew 7:7-8. What can we expect to happen if we knock?
   That it shall be opened unto us

4. Read John 10:35. Will God give anything less than what His Word has promised?
   No

5. Read James 4:1-3. Why were these people hindered from receiving from God?
   Their motives and hearts were wrong. Everything was about them and for them. Total selfishness were their motives

6. Read 1 Peter 3:7. If you are mistreating your mate, what will be the result in your prayer life?
   Your prayers will be hindered

7. Read 1 John 5:14-15. What is a key to have your prayers answered?
   Asking according to His will

8. Read Mark 11:24. When you pray, what are you to do?
   Believe that you receive, and you shall have

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