

“LORD,



TEACH US TO PRAY!”

YEAR ONE NOTEBOOK  
SECOND EDITION



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TEACH US TO PRAY”

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SECOND EDITION

“Lord, Teach Us to Pray!”

College of Prayer Year One Notebook, Second Edition

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# WELCOME TO THE COLLEGE OF PRAYER

## YEAR 1: LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

The vision of the College of Prayer International is to mentor, train and equip Christian pastors and leaders who will reach a lost world through a revived church. Many groups talk about revival in abstract terms; the College of Prayer, however, is seeing revival happen one life, one family, one church, one region at a time. Our training is patterned after Jesus' model of the Lord's Prayer Pattern. You will follow three years of training because Jesus trained His disciples for three years.

You will join Christ as He rebuilds His praying church. Today you begin a 3-year adventure where you will meet together for 2-3 days at a time twice a year for three years, as you learn to be a house of prayer for all nations. When Jesus ascended into heaven, all He left behind on earth was a prayer meeting Jesus said, *"My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."* (Mark 11:17). Our three year curriculum focuses on what Christ wants to do in us, our families, and our churches to build a life-giving, Christ-encountering upper rooms of prayer.

Year 1 – Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Year 2 – Lord, as Families, Teach Us to Pray

Year 3 – Lord, as Churches, Teach Us to Pray

The College of Prayer vision goes beyond prayer; we want to reach the final unreached people on earth. This happens all over the world where regional churches are building Christ-encountering prayer environments in which worship, prayer, teaching, and mentoring take place. Unlike conferences, seminars or even prayer summits, the College of Prayer offers a continuity of three years of training in which relationships can be fostered and life-changing kingdom-advancing principles embraced.

» We are a Christ-exalting ministry.

*"I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ." Romans 15:29*

» We are a Christ-encountering ministry.

*"I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple." Isaiah 6:1*

» We are a kingdom-advancing ministry.

*"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it." Matthew 11:12*

Since our beginning in 1997, the College of Prayer International has seen significant growth throughout the world. Requests are constantly coming in from all over the world to launch new campuses. To find a location near you and to learn how to establish a campus in your area, visit our website [www.CollegeofPrayer.org](http://www.CollegeofPrayer.org).

## Five Elements of an Encounter with Christ

Every encounter with God normally contains these 5 elements. Every College of Prayer Module should experience these same elements.

1. High worship
2. Deep repentance
3. Forgiveness of sins and freedom from strongholds
4. Being filled with the Holy Spirit
5. Being empowered for ministry

## Three Strategic Prayers

Because Christ will rapidly gain so much ground during the College of Prayer Module and because the enemy will rapidly lose so much ground, it is important for you to begin each session by praying these three strategic prayers of protection, direction, and revelation.

1. Protection – *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.” Psalms 46:1-2*
2. Direction – *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” John 16:13*
3. Revelation – *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.” Ephesians 1:17*

## Note to Pastors

We want to bless you and your people. This curriculum was written by pastors for pastors and their people. The College of Prayer serves the local church. We want to serve you. You are probably already too busy with too many demands. We promise you—the College of Prayer will give back to you much more than you invest in it. The College of Prayer is not a prayer seminar or simply a prayer meeting; it is a 2-3 day extended God-encountering gathering patterned after the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray. This curriculum is a resource for you to use to join Christ in building a praying church. This same curriculum has been field tested all over the world to lead the church to encounter the manifest presence of Christ. It is essential for you, as the Pastor-Leader, to encounter the manifest presence of Christ in your own daily prayer time, in order for you to lead others to encounter His manifest presence. God can only do through you what He has done in you. As you gather your people for 2-3 days (approximately 15-18 hours) for the College of Prayer Module, these guidelines will help you as you lead your people to a fresh encounter with Christ. You will engage in 3 activities: (1) intercession (prayer & worship), (2) instruction, and (3) interaction with each

other. While you will spend equal time in each of these elements, prayer and worship are unquestionably the most important parts because this is where you encounter the manifest presence of Christ. The manifest presence of Christ is the power cell of the praying church.

- » You pray toward an encounter with Christ.
- » You teach toward an encounter with Christ.
- » You share and process about your encounter with Christ.

Immediately following strategic times of encountering God, take time for your people to talk to each other. Have them get into groups of 2-3 people and discuss these 2 questions:

1. What did Christ just do in you?
2. What did Christ just teach you that you can take with you from this College of Prayer Module?

Do NOT allow your Module to become just another teaching seminar or just another prayer meeting. The goal is not to teach through every lesson in the exact order at one single Module. The goal is to teach the right lessons under the direction of the Holy Spirit that will most effectively lead your particular group to an encounter with Christ. The College of Prayer is a place where you and your local church will spend extended time together encountering and ministering to the manifest presence of Christ. The Module will help you become a powerful praying church.

*Enjoy Year One of the College of Prayer!*

SECTION 1  
FULLNESS  
THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S WORK IN US

## LESSON ONE

# “LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”

*“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’” Luke 11:1*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

“LORD, teach us to pray.” This sounds like a harmless little prayer—only five words—but don’t be fooled! This might be the most dangerous little prayer you ever say to God. It has the potential to radically transform your life. Once you learn to pray, there is nothing that God wants you to have that you can’t receive from Him. This little prayer set in motion a whole new way of life for the disciples, and it may change your life, as well.

The disciples had seen many people pray, but they had never seen anyone pray the way Jesus prayed. His prayer life was alive, vigorous, and relevant. From this verse we learn several things.

Jesus’ prayer was categorically at a higher level than anyone the disciples had ever seen.

John the Baptist taught his disciples to pray.

The disciples were hungry for God and eager to learn to pray.

Jesus responded to the disciples’ request by giving them many useful prayer tools.

### A. Jesus gives a prayer pattern.

*“He said to them, ‘When you pray, say, “Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.”’” Luke 11:2-4*

### B. Jesus gives a prayer picture.

*“Then he said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, “Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.” Then the one inside answers, “Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.” I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s boldness he will get up and give him as much*

*as he needs.” Luke 11:5-8*

C. Jesus gives prayer promises.

*“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?” Luke 11:9-12*

D. Jesus gives prayer power.

*“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Luke 11:13*

Jesus waits until verse 13 to fully answer the disciples' request, “Lord teach us to pray.” In a sense, He is saying, “OK, you want to learn the way to pray the way I do; you need to learn how to pray under the influence of the Holy Spirit. That’s how I pray.” Learning to pray under the influence of the Holy Spirit is the only way you will be able to pray effectively.

*“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.” Romans 8:26*

## HUNGER FOR GOD

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” Matthew 5:6*

When the disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray,” they demonstrated a sincere hunger for God. Hunger for God is a foundational kingdom reality. Hunger for God is the first work of God. To hunger for God is not to hunger for something from God, but to hunger for God Himself. All God’s great men and women have demonstrated a hunger for God.

*David: “O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You.”  
Psalm 63:1*

*Peter: “Crave the pure spiritual milk.” 1 Peter 2:2*

*Isaiah: “Come all you who are thirsty” Isaiah 55:1*

## ACTION STEPS

Get in groups of 2-3 people. Ask people to pray, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Then, as a large group, invite everyone to pray their hunger for God.

## LESSON TWO

# THE LORD'S PRAYER PATTERN

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Matthew 6:9-13 (Also see Luke 11:2-4)*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

The Lord's prayer pattern is the most foundational prayer ever given.

- » It is given by Christ Himself.
- » It is a pattern we can consistently use.
- » It contains all prayer.

You want to learn to use this model of prayer as a template to consistently use in both your private prayer life and your corporate prayer life. There are 7 key parts to the model Jesus gives us:

### 1. Relationship – "Our Father in heaven,"

All true prayer begins by receiving God's love and recognizing the relationship you have with Father God through Christ.

*"He who loves little, prays little, and he who loves much prays much."  
- St. Augustine*

### 2. Worship – "Hallowed be your name,"

All true prayer responds to the revelation of the glory of God's Name. It is appropriate to declare the value of His Name, emphasizing names of God particular to your situation.

### 3. Lordship – "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Once you declare the glory of His Name, you call for the advancement of His Kingdom reign. Praying the Kingdom includes praying for the Holy Spirit.

### 4. Sonship – "Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts."

There are two basic needs a child has: food and forgiveness. Your God brings in the groceries (food) and He takes out the garbage (forgiveness).

*"I find myself frequently returning to the Lord's prayer through the day as a child returns to its mothers breast."*

*- Martin Luther*

5. Fellowship – "As we forgive our debtors."

With the forgiveness you have received from Christ, you are able to extend forgiveness to others.

6. Leadership – "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."

Your two greatest enemies are sin and Satan. This portion of the Lord's prayer pattern confronts both these enemies.

7. Ownership – "*For yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever.*"\*

All true prayer moves towards Christ's ownership over all things.

\*While it is likely the words were not originally included in the Bible, they were probably used by Jesus and they have certainly been useful to followers of Christ through the ages.

## ACTION STEPS

Break into groups of 2-3 people and discuss the following two questions.

1. What have you just learned from the Lord's prayer pattern? Which of the seven parts of the pattern have you been spending the most time utilizing? Which of the seven parts of the pattern have you been spending the least time utilizing?

2. Into which parts of the seven parts of the Lord's prayer pattern is God inviting you to spend more time?

Take one hour during this module to pray through the Lord's prayer pattern as a large group.

## NOTES

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## LESSON THREE

# RECEIVING THE FATHER'S LOVE

*"It is good...to declare your steadfast love in the morning."*

*Psalm 92:1*

*"Keep yourselves in the love of God." Jude 21*

*"As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love." John 15:9*

*"The love of Christ controls us." 2 Corinthians 5:14 (ESV)*

*"For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" Romans 8:15*

*"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

We all need the love of God.

We need the Father to heal our love receptors, to heal our ability to receive His love.

Understanding the love of the Father will revolutionize your prayer life. There is nothing more important every day than to receive a fresh infilling of the love of God. It is like a vitamin to boost your immune system, or like an antibiotic to fight off disease.

Because we are in Christ, we are loved as Christ.

*"For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." Colossians 3:3*

We are hidden in Christ. This means that every time that God looks at us, He first sees His Son. All the love, favor, and blessing that He has for Christ, He has for you.

All true prayer rises out of your love relationship with God in Christ; everything else is nothing but hollow religious words. Encountering the love of God in Christ everyday is the headwaters from which you will learn to hear the voice of God.

*"In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to the be propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:10*

## 5 WAYS TO LIVE IN GOD'S LOVE

1. Receive His love every morning.

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies are new every morning." Lamentations 3:22-23*

2. Receive His love at the beginning of every personal prayer time and corporate prayer gathering. When we begin the Lord's Prayer with *"Our Father,"* it orients us to the relationship we have with the Father.

3. Declare and receive His love particularly during hardship and spiritual attack.

*"Neither death or life, angels or demons, present or future, power, height or depth can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:38-39*

4. Declare and receive His love when you face life's battles.

*"Give thanks to the Lord for His steadfast love endures forever." 2 Chronicles 20:21*

5. Declare His love following life's victories.

*"Victory belongs to the Lord." Proverbs 21:31*

## BREAKING THE ORPHAN SPIRIT

In order for God to heal our love receptors, He needs to break off from us the orphan spirit. Too many Christians live under an orphan spirit that keeps them from enjoying the blessings that Christ has for them.

### **THE FATHER'S BLESSING**

Freedom  
Acceptance  
Abundance  
Healing  
Respect  
Honor  
Blessing

Assurance of salvation

### **THE ORPHAN'S SPIRIT**

Fear  
Rejection  
Poverty  
Hurts, Wounds, Pain  
Abuse  
Dishonor  
Curse  
Insecurity/Fear of death

To any extent that the orphan spirit has been active in your life, today God wants to deliver you from that evil spirit.

» If you have listened to the lies of the orphan spirit.

» If you feel as though God has been unkind to you or that you deserve better.

» If you are angry or resentful toward God.

- » If you feel as though you have to work for everything you get, including your answers to prayer.
- » If you are uncertain that when you die you will go to heaven.

Now is the time for you to break off the orphan spirit and for you to receive the Spirit of adoption!

God loves you and He wants to heal your love receptors today.

## ACTION STEPS

It's time to break off the orphan spirit. As a group, read through these declarations and then stand to your feet and prepare to make these declarations aloud.

1. Submit yourself to God. *Father God, I submit myself, spirit, soul, and body, wholly to You. I declare the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ over my life and over all things.*
2. Renounce the enemy. *Satan, I bind you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. You spirit of orphan, I break you off of me right now, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and loose myself from your influence now and forever. You be gone from me. You go to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, never to return to me again. I am free from you, now and forever.*
3. Receive from Christ the spirit of adoption. *Loving Father, right now I receive Your Holy Spirit of adoption, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I claim my inheritance as a child of God. I receive not only the fullness of your salvation, I also receive the assurance of my salvation, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a child of God. I am loved. I am blessed. I am forgiven. I am adopted with all rights and privileges. Hallelujah. Amen.*

*"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13*

## NOTES

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## LESSON FOUR

# HEARING GOD

*"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God," Romans 8:16*

*"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22*

*"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."  
John 10:27*

*"Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." Hebrews 3:7-8*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

Hearing from God is a most significant gift to every Christian, and it is a vital part of every healthy prayer life.

If you are unable to hear and recognize the voice of God, you are in trouble at the heart of your spiritual life.

### **1. How does God speak? God speaks to us by His Spirit.**

There are many ways God speaks to us, but He always speaks by His Spirit. The Holy Spirit activates our receptors so that we can hear God.

*"The Spirit Himself bears witness..." Romans 8:16*

*"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit speaks to the churches." Revelation 2:7*

*"These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." 1 Corinthians 2:10*

The Bible is the primary tool God uses to speak to us.

*"All Scripture is God breathed." 2 Timothy 3:16*

*"The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit." Hebrews 4:12*

The Bible is given primarily to reveal Christ.

*"And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He [Jesus] interpreted to them*

*in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27*

*“You search the scriptures because you think that in them you will have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me.” John 5:39*

While the Bible is a primary tool God uses to speak to us, it is not the only means by which He speaks. All the manifestation gifts are activated by the Holy Spirit (i.e., the gifts of prophecy, discerning of spirits, words of wisdom, words of knowledge, etc.).

*“To each is given a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... all these are empowered by one and the same Spirit who apportions to each one individually as He wills.” 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11*

## GOD SPEAKS IN 7 PRIMARY WAYS

The Bible	His inner voice
Circumstance	Angels
Spiritual Gifts	Visions and Dreams
Family/Friends	

### **2. How do we hear God’s voice? We hear God’s voice in our spirit.**

*“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit.” Romans 8:16*

The Bible teaches that every person is spirit, soul, and body.

*“May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 5:23*

When you are born again, your spirit is made alive.

*“Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God... What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.” John 3:3, 6*

As soon as you are born again in your spirit, you are able to hear God at the deepest level—in your spirit.

*“The Spirit Himself bears witness to our spirit.” Romans 8:16*

### **3. What does God normally say to us? God tells us we are His children—we are accepted, secure, and significant.**

*“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.” Romans 8:16*

The fact that God loves us, accepts us, protects us, and gives us dignity restores our confidence so that we can call Him, “Father.”

*"You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" Romans 8:15*

*"See what kind of love the Father has given to us that we should be called children of God, so we are." 1 John 3:1*

Too often we think of hearing from God only when we are seeking God for advice in decision making. Normally, however, God's voice to us affirms God's acceptance, His protection, and the significance of our birthright. Encountering the love of God every day in Christ is the headwaters from which you will learn to hear the voice of God.

## HEARING GOD A CASE STUDY OF SAMUEL THE PROPHET

### *1 Samuel 3*

1. God loves to talk, and His voice is as clear as any other voice.

*"Then the Lord called to Samuel, and he said, 'Here I am.'" v. 4*

2. Hearing God's voice is a skill to be learned; it requires Holy Spirit revelation.

*"Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him." v. 7*

3. God is glad to repeat Himself.

*"And the Lord called again, 'Samuel!' and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.'" v. 6*

4. God wants your undivided attention.

*"Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down, and if He calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'" v. 9*

5. God's voice always tests you and holds you accountable.

*"And Eli said, 'What was it that He told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that He told you.'" v. 17*

6. God's voice is initially spoken to you in private (as if you were the only one listening), but His word is normally confirmed publicly.

*"So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, 'It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him.'" v. 18*

7. The more you listen and obey, the more God speaks to you.

*“And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.” v.19*

When you let none of God’s words fall to the ground, He will let none of your words fall to the ground!

## SEVEN TESTS TO DISCERN THE VOICE OF GOD

1. Is it true to Scripture?
2. Is it true to God’s character?
3. Does it make me contrite? Humble?
4. Does it exalt Christ’s name or mine?
5. Does it reinforce what God has been saying to me through other sources (Bible, prayer, circumstances, others)?
6. Does it induce faith or fear? (2 Timothy 1:7)
7. Does it advance Christ’s Kingdom?

### **SHEPHERD’S VOICE**

Brings humility  
Exalts Christ  
Faith inducing  
Belonging  
Contentment

### **STRANGER’S VOICE**

Brings pride  
Exalts us  
Fear inducing  
Rejection  
Confusion

## ACTION STEPS

We now want to put into practice what we have learned. Invite everyone to stand to their feet and pair up in groups of two. Take one minute to listen to God for what to pray over your partner.

Now one person at a time in each group will pray the words and burden God gives you. When you are done, then the other person in the group will do the same.

After you do this exercise seat the group and ask how many of them heard a prayer that struck a deep chord in their lives that they knew was from God.

## NOTES

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## LESSON FIVE

# THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF CHRIST

*"Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands." Revelation 1:12*

*"And the seven lampstands are the seven churches."  
Revelation 1:20*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

The greatest need in the church today is a fresh encounter with the manifest presence of Christ. Perhaps the greatest tragedy of the church today is that we have blurred the distinction between the omnipresence (or everywhere presence) of God and the manifest presence of God.

In Revelation 1 we gain perhaps that most accurate view of the ascended Christ in His manifest presence.

- » The ascended Christ is on fire from head to toe. His feet are glowing like metal in a furnace, His right hand is holding seven stars (balls of fire), His eyes are like flames of fire, and His face looks like the sun at midday.
- » The triumphant church is on fire—it looks like a flame holder.

What does this fire represent?

Throughout the Bible fire is often used to represent the manifest presence of Christ.

- » Abraham met God in the fire. (Genesis 15:17)
- » Moses met God in the fire. (Exodus 3)
- » All Israel met God in the fire. (Exodus 13, 19)
- » David met God in the fire. (1 Chronicles 21:26)
- » Solomon met God in the fire. (2 Chronicles 7)
- » Isaiah met God in the fire. (Isaiah 6)
- » Elijah met God in the fire. (1 Kings 18)
- » The early church met God in the fire. (Acts 2:1-5)

In every one of these examples, fire represented the manifest presence of God in Christ.

The reason the church is represented by a flame holder is because the single characteristic that distinguishes the church from every other institution on earth is the manifest presence of God. Every institution has access to the omnipresence of God; only the church has continuous access to the manifest presence of God.

<b>OMNIPRESENCE</b>	<b>MANIFEST PRESENCE</b>
Real	Real
True to God's Nature	True to God's Nature
God-Everywhere	God- Tangibly Perceived
Normally unknown	Always known
Theoretical	Transformational
Pride	Contrition
Impersonal	Personal
Obedience optional	Obedience required
No prayer required	Prayer Required

*Christ is the manifest presence of God!*

"The Presence and the manifestation of the Presence are not the same. There can be one without the other. God is here when we are wholly unaware of it. He is manifest only when and as we are aware of His presence." *A.W. Tozer, Pursuit of God*

As we have seen, God often chooses to encounter His people in the fire of His manifest presence; more often, however, God chooses to encounter His people in His manifest presence without the appearance of fire. The issue is not fire; the issue is God's presence.

## WELCOME CHRIST'S MANIFEST PRESENCE IN YOUR LIFE, YOUR HOME, AND YOUR CHURCH

### **1. Consistently invite God's manifest presence.**

God loves to come where He is invited.

*"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call on him while he is near." Isaiah 55:6*

We do not seek an experience with God.; we seek an encounter with God. We do not seek God's manifestations; we seek His manifest presence.

### **2. Look for God's manifest presence in your daily life.**

The Holy Spirit is constantly making Christ known to you and through you.

*"Do not put out the Spirit's fire." 1 Thessalonians 5:19*

*"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me." John 15:26*

*"He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you." John 16:14*

### **3. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.**

The most basic anointing we need is the empowerment to lead others to a fresh encounter with God's manifest presence. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you are filled with prayer, with His presence, and with power.

*"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Matthew 3:11*

*"I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ." Romans 15:29*

*"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor." Isaiah 61:1-3*

### **4. Always give preference to God's manifest presence.**

Learn to hear His voice.

*"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." Galatians 5:25*

*"Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." Romans 8:14*

### **5. Declare God's manifest presence in prayer.**

Learn to minister to the presence of Christ. Embrace your identity as a local church as a flame holder—that you exist for one ultimate purpose, which is to receive, sustain, and hold out the manifest presence of Christ (see Numbers 6:24-26).

## **ACTION STEPS**

Pray together as a group. Ask God to manifest His presence. Repent of neglecting the manifest presence of God. Break into groups of 2-3 people and discuss what you have just learned about the manifest presence of Christ. What is the difference between the omnipresence and the manifest presence? How have you personally encountered the manifest presence of Christ? What difference will it make in your life and family as you learn to attract and sustain the manifest presence of Christ?

## LESSON SIX

# HOLY SPIRIT, FILL ME

*"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit" Ephesians 5:18*

*"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:13*

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8*

*"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him: John 7:37-38*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

1. The Holy Spirit is a Person.
  - » He has a will. (1 Corinthians 12:11)
  - » He has emotions. (Ephesians 4:30)
  - » He has desires. (Acts 13:2)
  - » He is as much a Person as God the Father and God the Son.
2. The Holy Spirit is the Divine Person. He is God. He is the Spirit of God. He is as much God as God the Father and God the Son.
3. The Holy Spirit is the Invisible Person. He is like the wind (John 3:8). You can't see Him but you see His effect.
4. The Holy Spirit is the Indwelling Person. *"Spirit of God dwells in you..." 1 Corinthians 3:16*
5. The Holy Spirit is the Praying Person. *"Pray in the Spirit." Ephesians 6:18*
6. The Holy Spirit is the Loving Person. *"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." Romans 5:5*
7. The primary function of the Holy Spirit is to make Christ known to us. *"He [The Holy Spirit] will glorify me [Jesus]" John 15:26 "He [The Holy Spirit] will take what is mine [Jesus] and make it known to you." John 16:14*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT WANTS TO FILL EVERY CHRISTIAN

Yes, every Christian has the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). But not every Christian is necessarily filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

It is God's will for every Christian to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

While it is wrong to seek an experience, it is not wrong to seek an encounter with God (John 7:37-38).

God blesses those who hunger for fullness (Matthew 6:6).

Just as God wants us to know for certain that we have received the gift of eternal life, so God wants us to know for certain that we have been filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13).

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not something we do for ourselves, it is something Christ does for us (Ephesians 5:18, Acts 2:38-39).

Just as every Christian receives their salvation by faith, God desires us to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit by faith (Galatians 3:2-3).

## ACTION STEPS

Take time as a group right now to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

1. Submit yourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Lord Jesus, I surrender my life to you. Take control of my life. You are my Savior and my Lord."

2. Confess and renounce any and all sin. If you have sinned against someone, God may want you to go and make restitution. Tell Him you are willing to do that.

"Lord Jesus, I confess my sin... (be specific). I receive your full forgiveness. If there is any sin in my life I have not confessed, make that known to me also. I want to be a clean vessel. If I have sinned against someone to whom you want me to publicly admit my sin, and make restitution, I am willing to do that. Make it clear to me. I will obey you."

3. For a moment, stop praying and rebuke the evil one.

"Satan, I bind you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I command any spirit of bitterness or other spirits to be gone from me. I break any satanic bondage over me and command any evil stronghold in my life to go to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ. I declare my allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ alone."



SECTION 2

FULFILLMENT

THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S WORK THROUGH US

## LESSON SEVEN

# THE ASCENDED AND ANOINTED CHRIST

*“When he led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.” Luke 24:50-52*

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.” Isaiah 61:1-2 (Quoted by Jesus Luke 4:17-19)*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

An accurate and complete view of Christ is essential for a healthy church and healthy people.

The church is struggling because of an incomplete view of Christ.

Jesus warned, *“Many will come in my name saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray” (Matthew 24:5)*. The Apostle Paul warned of people *“turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the Gospel of Christ” (Galatians 1:6,7)*.

Without an accurate view of the ascended Christ it is absolutely impossible to have a healthy prayer life, or a healthy church.

- » We celebrate the birth of Christ, the incarnation.
- » We celebrate the crucifixion of Christ, the atonement.
- » We celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

Today, however, Jesus is not a baby in a manger.

Jesus is not hanging from a cross.

Jesus is not simply walking on earth as one who rose from the dead.

Today, Christ is ascended, glorified, and full of power and authority.

God wants us to focus on the ascended Christ.

*“If you that have been raised with Christ seek the things that are above where*

*Christ is seated at the right hand of God, set your minds on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”*  
Colossians 3:1-3

## THE ASCENDED CHRIST

All four Gospels refer to the ascension. (Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 24:51, John 20:17)

Twenty times the New Testament refers to Christ as “*at the right hand*” of God the Father.

Psalm 110:1 is the most frequently quoted Messianic promise in the New Testament; it points to the ascension of Christ. (Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 22:69, Acts 2:34, Hebrews 1:13)

It is the ascended Christ who we meet in the upper room.

It is the ascended Christ who empowers us for ministry.

## 5 REASONS THE ASCENSION IS ESSENTIAL

### **1. It validates the power and authority of Christ.**

*“... his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”*  
Ephesians 1:19-23

*“The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand until I make all of your enemies a footstool.”* Psalm 110:1

### **2. It guarantees Christ’s ongoing ministry.**

*“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up into heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen”* Acts 1:1-2.

» He prays for us (Hebrews 4:15-16).

» He is our Mediator and Savior (1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:6).

### **3. It provides Christ with spiritual gifts for us.**

*“When he ascended on high, he led a host of captives and he gave gifts to men.”*  
Eph. 4:7-12

### **4. It empowers Christ to empower us.**

*"God raised this Jesus to life and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear." Acts 2:32-33*

### **5. It promises us that Christ will return.**

*"This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into to heaven." Acts 1:11*

## THE ANOINTED CHRIST

The ascended Christ is the anointed Christ who today anoints us for ministry.

*"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners." Isaiah 61:1-2 (Quoted by Jesus Luke 4:17-19)*

Christ means "the anointed one." Jesus today is dripping with anointing oil. He shares His anointing with us so that we can minister in His name. All genuine anointing is received from Christ alone. While there are many christs, there is only one Lord's Christ.

*"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever." Revelation 11:15b*

Christ anoints us to minister to the same audience to whom He ministered. (Luke 4:17-19)

"Poor" - The spiritually destitute

"Brokenhearted" - The internally destroyed

"Captives" - The military prisoners of war (satan)

"Prisoners" - The domestic prisoners (sin)

Christ anoints us to minister in the same ways He ministered. (Luke 4:17-19)

"to preach good news to the poor"

"to bind up the brokenhearted"

"to proclaim freedom for the captives"

"release from darkness for the prisoners"

There is no limit to what God can do through you, as long as you give Him all the glory.

## ACTION STEPS

Take time right as a large group to worship the ascended, anointed Christ. Appoint an appropriate number of prayer stations (two trusted and mature leaders at each station, men paired with men and women paired with women). Give the group opportunity to go to these prayer stations for prayer ministry and to encounter the anointed Christ.

## LESSON EIGHT

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

*"From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of God has been forcefully advancing and forceful ones take hold of it."*

*Matthew 11:12 NIV '84*

*"To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom."*

*Matthew 13:11*

*"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves." Colossians 1:13*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

» We are told to seek the Kingdom.

*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33*

» We are told to pray the Kingdom.

*"Your kingdom come." Matthew 6:10*

» We are told to preach the Kingdom.

*"This gospel of the kingdom must be preached..." Matthew 24:14*

» Jesus preached the Kingdom.

*"He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke to them about the kingdom of God." Acts 1:3*

» Paul preached the Kingdom.

*"Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God." Acts 28:31*

» The Book of Acts starts with Jesus preaching the kingdom (Acts 1:3) and ends with the Apostle Paul preaching the kingdom (Acts 28:31).

We, therefore, need to be able to recognize the Kingdom.

## WHAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT

» Not political or military.

*"Gentiles lorded over them...not so with you." Mark 10:42-43*

*"Do you think I cannot call...more than twelve legions of angels?" Matthew 26:53*

» Not denominational.

*"Whoever is not against us is for us." Mark 9:40*

» Not vague.

*"The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you." Mark 4:11*

## WHAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS

» God's kingdom is personal

*"The kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:20-21*

*"The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 14:17*

» God's kingdom is ever-expanding

*"Of the increase of his government... there will be no end." Isaiah 9:7*

*"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast...worked all through the dough." Matthew 13:33*

» God's kingdom always calls us to repentance

*"Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 4:17*

## HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND PRAY THE KINGDOM

### **1. Genuine humility.**

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3*

### **2. Deep repentance.**

*"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15*

### **3. People concertedly seeking God.**

*"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it." Matthew 11:12*

### **4. New steps of obedience.**

*"The wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 6:9*

*"You will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering." 2 Thessalonians 1:5*

### **5. Demons cast from people.**

*"But if I drive our demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." Matthew 12:28*

### **6. Holy Spirit moving in people's lives.**

*"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 14:17*

### **7. True signs and wonders.**

*"For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power." 1 Corinthians 4:20*



## LESSON NINE

# CONQUERING THE SIN OF PRAYERLESSNESS

*"As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you." 1 Samuel 12:23 NIV '84*

*"Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not enter into temptation." Matthew 26:40-41*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

In order to develop a fervent and effective prayer life, we must deal with the sin of prayerlessness. Christ not only wants to expose the sin of prayerlessness, He wants to conquer it!

## THREE KEYS TO CONQUER THE SIN OF PRAYERLESSNESS

### **1. Humble yourself.**

Pride is the root of prayerlessness. If we disguise our prayerlessness as a weakness rather than a sin, we will always make excuses and never conquer it.

If we simply deal with prayerlessness as a weakness, we will always make excuses and never conquer it.

Prayerlessness is a sin of omission. It will not send you to hell, but sometimes it makes you feel like you're already living there.

Prayerlessness is rooted in the three big sins of pride, unbelief, and idolatry.

- » Pride - I don't need to pray; I can do it myself.
- » Unbelief - Prayer won't make any difference.
- » Idolatry - I put my hope in what I can see, not what I cannot see. *"Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that will lead you away from the living God." Hebrew 3:12*

Just as God wants to show us our own sinfulness, He also wants to show us the ugliness of the sin of prayerlessness.

## **2. Renounce discouragement and hopelessness.**

If you think you will never gain victory over prayerlessness, you never will. Discouragement, hopelessness, and unbelief must be renounced.

Of course you can conquer prayerlessness in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*"Pray at all times in the Spirit."* Ephesians 6:18

## **3. Receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit is a praying Spirit, and He will conquer prayerlessness and teach you to pray.

*"The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."* Romans 8:26

## ACTION STEPS

Take time right now to pray through these steps together.

### **1. Repent of pride and unbelief and renounce the sin of prayerlessness.**

*Father God, I humble myself and confess my sin of pride. Loving Father, I repent of my sin of unbelief. I renounce the sin of prayerlessness. I renounce discouragement and hopelessness. I receive Your forgiveness in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **2. Rebuke the devil.**

*Satan, I bind you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, for it is written, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." I recognize your efforts to hinder my prayer life, and I specifically bind the spirits that you have set against me, the spirits of pride, unbelief, and idolatry. I command these spirits to be gone from me right now to go to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, never to return to me again. I am free from you now and forever, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **3. Ask the Holy Spirit to impart to you His own prayer life.**

*Father God, right now, take control of my prayer life, and activate the full prayer life of the Lord Jesus Christ in me. Your Holy Spirit is a praying Spirit. Take control of my mind, will, and emotions, that I may pray like Jesus.*

## NOTES

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## LESSON TEN

# THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

*"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" Matthew 6:12*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

The enemy says the greatest power on earth is retaliation.

The Lord says the greatest power on earth is forgiveness.

*"As we forgive our debtors" is the only portion of the Lord's prayer pattern that Jesus reemphasizes immediately following the prayer. "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:14-15*

### WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

- » Not minimizing the offense.
- » Not excusing the offense.
- » Not denying the hurt.
- » Not subjecting yourself to continued abuse.
- » Not merely an emotional response.

### WHAT FORGIVENESS IS

- » Giving up my right to get even.
- » Saying, "I will not hurt you for hurting me."
- » A decision of the will.
- » An act that makes us like Christ.
- » Voluntarily putting down my weapons of anger, vengeance, and retaliation.

Jesus forgave: *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*  
*Luke 23:34*

Stephen, the first martyr, forgave: *"Lord, do not hold this sin against them. When he had said this, he fell asleep."* *Acts 7:60*

### WHY WE FORGIVE

- » God forgives us. *Psalms 103:3*

- » Jesus tells us to forgive. Matthew 6:12
- » It will assist us in getting answered prayer. Mark 11:24-25
- » It makes us like Jesus. Philippians 3:10; Luke 23:34
- » It validates God's forgiveness for us. Matthew 6:14-15
- » It releases others from their bondage. *"If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* John 20:23

## HOW TO FORGIVE

1. Admit your pain to the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Make a decision to obey Christ and forgive the offense. Forgiveness is not based upon whether the person deserves forgiveness; it is based on what Christ has done to forgive us.
3. Give up your right to God to be angry or to get even.
4. Ask God to forgive others.
5. Pray for and bless those who have sinned against us.
6. Go one step further...ask God to bless them.
7. Receive the healing, grace and deliverance of Jesus for the wounds in your own heart. *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."* Ephesians 4:32

## ACTION STEPS

As a group, everyone take a full sheet of paper. On one side, write all your sins against God that He brings to mind. Take your time. Keep thinking. Keep writing specific sins. Then draw a large cross over the entire page, from top to bottom and side to side; this represents the forgiveness of Christ for all your sins.

Now, turn the paper over. Write down the names of those who have sinned against you. Be specific. Take your time. When you feel as though your list is complete, take your paper to a safe place and throw it away, or even set it on fire. Renounce it completely as a declaration that your sins against God have all been forgiven and forgotten as an act of God's will, and all those who have sinned against you have also been forgiven by an act of your will.

## NOTES

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LESSON ELEVEN  
TAKING BACK GROUND FROM  
THE EVIL ONE

*"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."  
Matthew 6:13*

*"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of  
the evil one." 1 John 3:8*

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come  
that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Lead the group to put on the full armor of God as stated under the Daily Warfare Procedure #3 towards the end of this lesson.]*

We all have two basic problems and Christ is the answer for both.

1. Sin ← Forgiveness: **Christ is our Forgiver**
2. Demonic strongholds ← Freedom: **Christ is our Bondage-Breaker**

Jesus Christ came to break the bonds of wickedness and set the captives free.

*"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." Colossians 2:15*

## WHAT IS A STRONGHOLD?

A stronghold is a thought pattern that sounds logical, but is not biblical. A stronghold is based on a lie. Dismantling the lie of the enemy behind the stronghold is the beginning of freedom.

*"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:3-5*

*"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." John 8:32*

*"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."  
James 4:7*

## POTENTIAL STRONGHOLDS

Imagine the diagram below as the ground of your soul (mind, will, and emotions). Each of the four quadrants represents a different area of your soul.

<p><b>1. Religious Strongholds (Idols)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Witchcraft</li> <li>Sorcery</li> <li>Control</li> <li>Spiritual Apathy</li> <li>Religious Sleep</li> <li>False Religions</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. Sexual Strongholds (Asherah Poles)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adultery</li> <li>Fornication</li> <li>Homosexuality</li> <li>Masturbation</li> <li>Bestiality</li> <li>Frigidity</li> <li>Pornography</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Generational Strongholds (High Places)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Idolatry</li> <li>Iniquity</li> <li>Familiar Spirits</li> <li>Hurtful Words</li> <li>Abuse</li> <li>Mocking</li> <li>Addictions</li> </ul>	<p><b>4. Emotional, Mental Strongholds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fear</li> <li>Bitterness</li> <li>Anger</li> <li>Suicide</li> <li>Low Self Esteem</li> <li>Self Hatred</li> </ul>

## SIMPLE GUIDELINES

1. Submit yourself first to the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember that the strongest person **without** Christ is weaker than the weakest demon.
 

*"God made man a little lower than the angels." Psalm 8:5*

*"Submit yourselves to God; resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7*
2. Confess any and all sin. Receive Christ's forgiveness and cleansing. Before we take back ground from the enemy, we want to make sure we have received forgiveness so that the enemy does not have legal ground in our lives. 1 John 1:9
 

*"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy." Proverbs 28:13*
3. As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we have authority over Satan. The

strongest person **without** Christ is weaker than the weakest demon, but the weakest person **in** Christ is stronger than the strongest demon.

*"To crush Satan under your feet." Romans 16:20*

*"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me." Matthew 28:18*

4. Use the full name, The Lord Jesus Christ, when confronting the enemy.
5. Bind Satan first. We are told to bind the strong man first (Matthew 12:29). We are then able to bind other spirits and command them to be gone.
6. Command evil spirits to come to attention. Tell them they cannot sleep or hide nor multiply or divide. Command them to go to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. When you resist Satan, use scripture, "It is written..." Jesus did this (Matthew 4:1-11). Some helpful verses include James 4:7, Psalm 110:1, and Matthew 28:19.
8. Forbid evil spirits from ever returning to you again.
9. Enjoy your freedom in Christ.  
*"If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed." John 8:36*
10. Now that you are free, we recommend using the daily warfare procedure below.

## DAILY WARFARE PROCEDURE

1. Submit yourself to God.

*"Heavenly Father, I give you control of my body, my mind, my will and emotions. I invite you to be Lord of my life in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."*

2. Confess and renounce any sin.

*"Lord Jesus, you know my heart. Search me. Point out any wicked way in me. I confess to you now the sin of \_\_\_\_\_. I receive from you your full forgiveness. Thank you for forgiving me. I am clean in the Lord Jesus Christ."*

3. Put on the armor of God.

*"Father I put on the Belt of Truth. Jesus is my Truth. I put on the Breastplate of Righteousness. Jesus is my Righteousness. I put on the shoes of the Gospel of Peace. Jesus is my Good News. I take up this Shield of Faith. Jesus is the Faithful One. I put on the Helmet of Salvation. Jesus is my Savior. I take up the Sword of the Spirit. Jesus is the Word of God. And I take all prayer. Jesus is my indwelling*

Intercessor. I stand complete in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

4. Make a declaration to renounce the evil one.

“Satan, I bind you. I command you to be gone from me. You have no control over my body, my mind, will and emotions. I loose myself from you. I cancel all your plots against me in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

5. Be filled with the Spirit.

“Heavenly Father, I receive from you the infilling of your Holy Spirit in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Take control of my body. Take control of my mind, will and emotions. Take control of every area of my life. Reveal Jesus to me today. Hallelujah! Amen.”

## ACTION STEPS

It is now time to put into practice what we have learned. Direct your attention to the diagram with the four potential strongholds. Put a check next to the area you have noticed in your own lives (religious strongholds, sexual strongholds, generational strongholds, emotional and mental strongholds). Then stand to your feet and, as a group, go through this four step process. Keep in mind that the third step, renouncing the evil one, is not prayer, but a declaration against the enemy.

» Prayer of submission:

“Heavenly Father, I give you control of my body, my mind, will and emotions. I invite you to be Lord of my life in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

» Confess sin:

“Father, I come in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I confess to you the sin of giving ground to the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_. This spirit is not from you and I do not want it in my life. I confess that I have sinned and right now I receive the forgiveness that comes from the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross. Thank you for forgiving me right now.”

» Renounce the evil one: (This is not prayer, so open your eyes and make a declaration.)

“Satan, I bind you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and I command you to be gone from me. It is written, ‘Resist the devil and he will flee from you.’ You evil spirit of \_\_\_\_\_, I call you to attention. You cannot sleep or hide, you cannot multiply or divide. You cannot manifest or influence me in any way. I take authority over you in the



## LESSON TWELVE

# MINISTERING TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

*"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.'" Acts 13:2 (ASV)*

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8*

*[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]*

The highest **privilege** you have in life is to encounter the manifest presence of Christ—a privilege you get to begin enjoying now, and it will continue through all eternity.

The highest **calling** in life is to minister to the presence of Christ. As follower of Christ, there are so many ways you serve Him; there is no more important way to serve Him, however, than to minister directly to Him.

Definition: Ministering to the presence of Christ is expressing directly to Him your worship through words, actions, and attitudes.

The only way to understand the manifest presence of Christ is to encounter the manifest presence of Christ. Once you encounter His manifest presence you will want to linger in His presence and learn to minister to His presence.

The ministering-to-the-Lord pattern is seen throughout the Bible.

» The early church ministered to the Lord.

*"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted." Matthew 28:16-17*

*"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers." Acts 1:14*

*"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'" Acts 13:2*

» In the Old Testament they ministered to the Lord as priests.

*"To stand before the Lord to minister" Deuteronomy 10:8; 1 Chronicles 15:2, 16:4*

*"The boy ministered before the Lord" 1 Samuel 2:11*

» David ministered to the presence of the Lord.

*"One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord, and to seek Him in His temple." Psalm 27:4*

» Angels minister to the Presence of the Lord.

*"All the angels worship Him." Hebrew 1:6*

» All of us as priests now have the privilege of ministering to the presence of the Lord.

*"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood..." 1 Peter 2:9*

## FROM THE UPPER ROOM TO THE NATIONS (THE FULLNESS-FULFILLMENT PRINCIPLE)

In the upper room in Antioch the small group of believers gathered with one purpose—to minister to the presence of the Lord. As they were doing this, the Lord gave them their secondary assignment, "Separate for me Baranabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" Acts 13:2.

Every mission trip in the New Testament was launched out of the upper room prayer meeting in Antioch, where they ministered to the Lord.

God's strategy to reach the final unreached peoples of the earth is from the upper room to the nations. It is in the upper room that we minister first to Christ and then He gives us our secondary assignments.

Jesus led His disciples into the upper room in order to give them the Holy Spirit (Acts 1,2) and teach them to minister to His presence (Acts 13:1-3). Receiving the manifest presence of Christ, and ministering to the manifest presence of Christ is our highest calling.

Paul and Barnabas went to the upper room prayer meeting in Antioch in order to fulfill their first assignment—to minister to the presence of God. As they were fulfilling their first assignment and ministering to the presence of God, the Holy Spirit gave them their secondary assignment—"set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul." This is the fullness-fulfillment principle.

*"As they ministered to the Lord [fullness] the Holy Spirit said, 'Separate for me Barnabas and Saul [fulfillment]." Acts 13:2*

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you [fullness] and you will be My witnesses [fulfillment]." Acts 1:8*



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