



INVISIBLE POWERS AND PLACES

Lesson 13

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WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Ephesians 6:10-12** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
- Today we conclude our study of Invisible Powers and Places
- **1 John 3:1** See **how great a love** the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
- In order to trust God in times of spiritual attack, we must first know and understand His character
- In order to honor God in times of adversity and attack, we must trust Him

THANKSGIVING

- Being able to give thanks to God in times of adversity isn't "natural." It is a fruit of the Spirit
- **Romans 1:21-23** For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- **Luke 17:15-16** Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan.

SUBMISSION

- There is a sense in which submission to God is reflected by our willingness to acknowledge our dependence on him
- It is easier to give thanks when circumstances are good
- Submission gives thanks in all circumstances realizing that God is in control
- **Romans 8:28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.
- The key is to love God and be working according to the purpose He has given you
- Purpose: *prothesis*: showbread; the setting forth of the purpose of God; OT sometimes says the “bread of faces” with the idea of having met with God and stood in His presence

WORSHIP

- We indicate our trust of God when we worship in times of attack and adversity
- **Job 1:20-22** Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD." Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.
- **Matthew 20:15** 'Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?'
- God has absolute power to do what pleases Him and is in absolute control of His actions
- But, God is for us, not against us. He acts toward us in love, mercy, and grace; we were sinners deserving hell; we worship because we are sinners saved by grace

HUMILITY

- **1 Peter 5:5-8** ...and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- **Humility:** *tapeinophrosunê*: appropriate opinion of yourself; not self-indulgent or with an attitude of self-importance
- **John 13:4-7** ...got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter."

EXAMPLE

- **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
- **Psalms 138:6** For though the LORD is exalted, yet He regards the lowly; but the haughty He knows from afar.
- We need to remember that we couldn't save ourselves
- This season, we celebrate the knowledge that Jesus came to do for us what we could not do for ourselves

FORGIVENESS

- Attacks often come because of hurtful actions by others. The natural tendency is resentment and revenge. When we are able to forgive people who have caused us harm, it indicates that we have learned important truths:

1. We are sinners; we are only forgiven because of the completed work of Jesus; we too have been selfish and uncaring at times

Ephesians 4:31-32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

2. The hurtful person is just a tool

Lamentations 3:38 *Is it* not from the mouth of the Most High that both good and ill go forth?

Isaiah 45:6-7...there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, the One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these.

DELIVERANCE

- Just because we are making an effort to be humble, worship God at all times, give thanks, and forgive others, doesn't mean that it is wrong to pray for deliverance
- **Matthew 26:39** And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."
- **Luke 22:31-32** "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."
- **Matthew 6:9-13** "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.']"

SEEKING GOD'S GLORY

- In all circumstances, good times and bad, we should seek God's glory and His desired outcome
- **Philippians 1:12-18** Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in *the cause of Christ* has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

UNDERSTANDING REDEMPTION

- This is the time of year set aside to recognize that Jesus came to earth as a human – we had to have a blood relative (human) to serve as our kinsman redeemer
- He had to be able to pay the price (not born with original sin imputed to Him – not born of the seed of man)
- He had to be willing to pay the price – His death was required

**THERE IS NO GREATER
GIFT THAN WHAT
JESUS HAS OFFERED
HUMANITY.
OUR ROLE IS TO
MAXIMIZE THE NUMBERS
OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW.**