



INVISIBLE POWERS AND PLACES

Lesson 11

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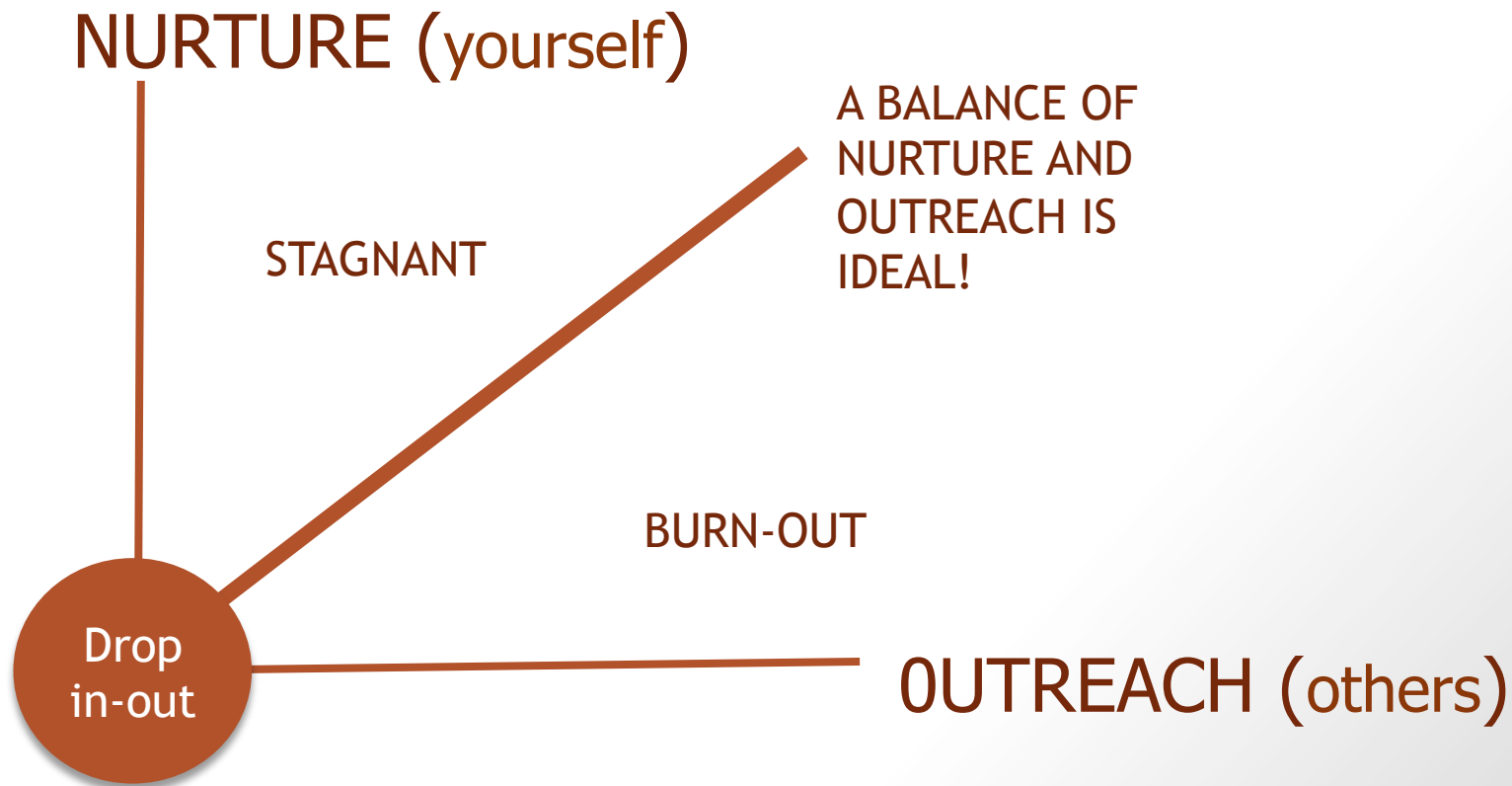
WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

- **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 are moving our study to practical applications of things that we have learned
- **1 Timothy 6:20-21** O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly *and* empty chatter *and* the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"— which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.
- Guard: *phulasso* (*phulaxon*): to protect; defend, safeguard
- Opposing arguments: *antithesis*: conflict of theories/dogma

BURN OUT

- Enthusiasm can often wane over time, especially when a lot of spiritual attack is involved
- Often temptation comes as a result of burn-out or withdrawal
- There is no such thing as neutral in Christianity; but there are times of rest
- God built in a day of rest (*shabath*)
- **Matthew 14:13** Now when Jesus heard *about John*, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard *of this*, they followed Him on foot from the cities.
- **2 Timothy 4:9-10** Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens *has gone* to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.
- **Philippians 3:14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

NURTURE vs OUTREACH



- Various sorts of spiritual battles cause us to react in different ways; some retreat back into the outer court; some just entirely drop out

TURNING AWAY

- **2 Peter 2:20-21** For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.
- **2 Timothy 4:1-4** I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

WHY TURN AWAY?

- **Many don't do it all at once;** Like a little sheep, they wander away one tuft of grass at a time
- Frequently starts when some teacher/or Christian leader has **disappointed them**
- PTL scandal
- It sometimes happens because a teacher/other Christian has **challenged** them
- **Titus 2:15** These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.
- Reprove: *elegcho*: to expose or bring conviction
- One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to bring conviction of sin; people who don't want to give up sinful actions or wrong doctrine don't like conviction
- **John 16:8** "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;"

INTRUSION OF THE FLESH

- Good things can become excessive
enjoying food –gluttony
self-respect – self-centeredness
communication – gossip
generosity – wastefulness
anger – rage
cautiousness – unbelief
- We need to be aware of how wrong thinking and false knowledge creep in
- **Mark 4:18-19** "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
- **John 8:31-32** So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

- **Hosea 4:6** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.
- **2 Peter 2:1-3** But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.
- Many emergent church leaders have rejected basic truths and are maligning those who hold them
- Many essentially deny Jesus, without actually saying so

ATTACK or CIRCUMSTANCES

- **Mark 4:16-17** "In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky *places*, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; and they have no *firm* root in themselves, but are *only* temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.
- They don't know how to stand; consequently they are overcome
- **Galatians 4:9-11** But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.
- **Philippians 3:14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

LEARNING TO HEAR GOD

- **Luke 8:19-21** And His mother and brothers came to Him, and they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd. And it was reported to Him, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see You." But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."
- **John 8:45-47** "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God."
- **God speaks through His word: 2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
- **John 10:27** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

HEARING GOD

- **John 14:16-17** "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.
- As we submit to God, the Holy Spirit begins to renew our conscience – transform our thinking
- Conscience: *suneidesis*: moral co-perception: link between what the brain takes in and what you perceive as right
- **Romans 12:1-2** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

ROLE OF PRAYER

- **John 14:12-14** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*."
- **James 4:3-6** You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."