

I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. MEDITATION

A. Review your class notes from Tuesday.

- Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson. If you want to add details to your notes, you'll find the audio message on our website under the Resources tab. (www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com).
- Which of the scriptures referenced were particularly meaningful to you? Write out those verses below and spend some time studying them this week.

B. Rewrite your One Thing into a prayer, expressing your heart's desire for God to make this truth become your experience.

III. PRINCIPLES

A. Made In His Image

- Genesis 1:27 tells us that men and women are made in God's image.
- He is "Father of our spirits" according to Heb 12:9 NIV—We have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!
- If we want to truly live life abundant, we want understand and act on our design:
 - The Father of our spirits made us to connect Spirit-to-spirit: Rom 8:15-16-- You received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God
 - The Father of our spirits made us eternal beings: Eccl 3:11 AMP-- He has also planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God]
- Not only are we made primarily spiritual beings, but we also have a triune design as He does (Father, Son and HS). We are spirit, soul & body: 1 Thes 5:23 NIV-- May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Study the handout "Tools & Techniques: Spirit, Soul, and Body Design" to help you function in a way consistent with how God made you.
- Recalibrate your alignment throughout the day: Be still, exhale, and say this quick prayer: "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bring me into alignment with you spirit, soul, and body."

Insights:

B. Invited Into His Presence:

- Spending time in God's presence transforms us into His image: 2 Cor 3:18 AMP-- And we all, with unveiled face, *continually* seeing as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are *progressively* being transformed into His image from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory, which comes from the Lord, [who is] the Spirit.
- Because God is our Father, we can come boldly: Heb 4:16 NIV--Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
- Jesus talked about spirit-to-Spirit connection in Mt 15:8--These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from Me.
- We can enter God's presence with progressive depth: Ps 100:4 NIV--Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Insights:

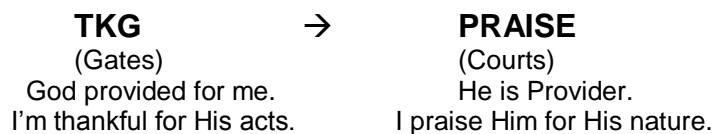
C. Thanksgiving

- Col 1:12--Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.
- Thanksgiving (TKG) means to give thanks for what God has done, to give Him credit for the goodness we see. TKG is intended to be spoken or expressed outwardly.

- Joy is found in thanksgiving: Thanksgiving = “ eucharisteo” and “charis” = joy.
 - We see Jesus giving thanks to the Father in Scripture:
 - Jesus gave thanks in a time of lack: Jn 6:11--Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted.
 - Jesus gave thanks even when it cost Him everything: 1 Cor 11:24--When He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you”
 - We are given the command to choose thanksgiving in everything: Eph 5:20--Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father
- Insights:

D. Sacrifice of Praise

- Praise goes beyond seeing what God does to the place of understanding His nature.
- Here is our pattern for experiencing true knowledge of God in greater depth:



- Study the different words that the Bible uses for praise and the scriptures referenced. Look for ideas on how to express worship to God and try them out:
 - Barouch--to bow in God's presence; to kneel in adoration; to be overwhelmed by the favor and majesty of the Lord. (Used 325 times) (Ps 72:15, 95:6)
 - Halell--to praise, boast of, celebrate; to be clamorously foolish; to dance; the root word for “hallelujah”. (Used 166 times) (Refs: Ps. 69:30, 150:4, 149:3)
 - Yadah--to worship with raised hands; *yad* means hands; hands lifted in response to what God has done; to throw out the hands to give thanks to God; an outward expression of what's on the inside. (Used 114 times) (Refs: Ps 9:1, 67:3)
 - Zamar--to praise God with any instrument; to pluck the strings of an instrument with song. (Used 42 times) (Refs: Ps 30:12, 2Sam 30:12)
 - Towdah--to corporately worship God with raised hands; praising God despite the circumstance, pushing through walls that have been built; praise that is lifted to heaven in time of need; possibly palms up in position of expectancy of receiving from God. (Used 32 times) (Ref: Ps 50:23)
 - Shabach--a shout; praise that is given before the answer comes about; a public testimony that drowns out noise. (Used 11 times) (Ref: Ps 63:3)
 - Tehillah--an elaborate expression that combines all the other words for praise. (Used 57 times) (Refs: Ps 149:1, 78:4)
- Use the songs on the CD in the registration packet to praise God as Father.
- The Bible clearly calls it a sacrifice when we offer TKG and praise in the face of contrary circumstances and emotions:
 - Ps 116:17-- I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.
 - Ps 27:6 NAS-- Now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord

Insights:

E. Worship

- In worship, we offer ourselves as the sacrifice: Rom 12:1-2 GNT--So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.
- Worship is a heartfelt response to what is of value to us. It's expression of worth.
- Humans were made to worship. We all worship something--the question is "What?"
- Worship in the Old Testament = "To bow low." In the New Testament the Greek word means "to adore, to kiss."

TKG (gates)

God provided for me.
I'm thankful for His acts.

→

PRAISE (courts)

He is Provider.
I praise Him for His nature.

→

WORSHIP

To bow low
Living Sacrifice
To adore, to kiss!

Insights:

IV. PERSONALIZATION

A. Ponder the amazing invitation that you are invited into the presence of God:

- Examine the Scriptures we studied this week. Ask the Father, no matter where you are in your life of worship, to take you deeper in desiring to know Him by practicing thanksgiving and praise.
- Strengthen your sense of connection between you and your heavenly Father by going to His throne boldly as His flawed, favored, and forgiven child.

B. Get to know God better by meditating on His names. His names portray different aspects of who He is and who we are because of Him. Try these strategies:

- Incorporate God's Names in your daily time with Him using the Nuggets" booklet.
- Continue praying, asking the Lord "Who do You want to be for me?" This is a wonderful prayer for each day, issue, or season of your life.
- For each name you focus on, ask the Spirit to bless your spiritual eyes to:
 - See the particular traits of God revealed in it.
 - See all the benefits that accrue to you because of it.
- Ask Him to guide you into greater understanding of your own identity as you receive these truths personally into your heart.

C. Receive God's abundant blessings as you ponder the truth that everything is yours in Christ. Every spiritual blessing is yours because of Jesus!

D. Keep a written record of how God ministers to you this week. Come back ready to share what you've experienced.