GOD'S NAMES:	Father	of Our	Spirits.	Part 2
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09/29/15

I. <u>ONE THING</u>—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. Spiritual Eyes

- Because we are God's children we can all have blessed eyes: Mt 13:16-17--But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.
- We have the capacity to see with the eyes of our spirits, but those eyes need to be:

1. Expectant Eyes

- When we look with expectant spirit eyes, it tells God that we are hungry and thirsty for more of Him: <u>Mt 5:6 NAS</u>--Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- Here is what we can expect to see: <u>1 Cor 2:9 NIRV--</u> It is written that "no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human mind has known." God has prepared these things for those who love him.
- Do you believe that God is omnipresent?
- Do you believe that the Father of your spirit longs for you to see evidence of His presence and goodness throughout your day?

Insights:

2. Trained Eyes

- Let the Holy Spirit interpret for you the connection between the seen and the unseen; 1 Cor 2:9-12-- But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."10 But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God
- Reflection and mediation are necessary for revelation. Remember that the language
 of the heart and spirit includes quiet, pondering and meditating: <u>Ps 46:10</u>--Be still,
 and know that I am God
- Jesus grew spiritually, allowing Him to enjoy spirit-to-Spirit connection with the Father while in an earthly body: <u>Lk 2:40</u>--The Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.
- Jesus grew to the place all of us long to be: <u>Jn 5:19-20 NIV</u>--Jesus gave them this
 answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees
 his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father
 loves the Son and shows him all he does.
- We can actually live just like that! <u>Jn 14:21 NLT</u>--Because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.

Insights:

• Ezekiel had blessed eyes: <u>Ezek 1:1, 26-28 NAS</u>--While I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God...there was something resembling a throne, like lapis lazuli in appearance; and on that which resembled a throne, high up, was a figure with the appearance of a man. Then I noticed from the appearance of His loins and upward something like glowing metal that looked like fire all around within it, and from the appearance of His loins and downward I saw something like fire; and there was a radiance around Him. As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.

Insights:

B. Spiritual Ears

- The Father of your spirit will speak using the Holy Spirit and the Holy Bible: Rom 15:4 NIV-- For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- Here are two examples of someone with blessed spiritual ears:
- 1. <u>Jesus</u>--He maintained connection to the Father Of Our Spirits by listening to Him:
 - <u>Jn 8:28 GNT</u>-- I do nothing on my own authority, but I say only what the Father has instructed me to say.
 - Jn 12:49-50 NLT-- I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say.
- He promises us that we can live like He did:
 - Jn 14:12 NLT-- I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.
 - o Lk 10:27-- My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
- 2. <u>Moses</u>--He had the right idea and motives when he sought to connect with the Father.
- Ex 33:13 NAS-- Let me know Your ways that I may know You
- God showed favor to Moses because He made the choice to draw near:
 - Ex 20:19,21--They said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."...So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.
 - Ex 33:7, 11 NLT-- It was Moses' practice to take the Tent of Meeting and set it up some distance from the camp...Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.
 - Num 12:6-8--(God) said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the Lord.

Insights:

IV. PERSONALIZATION

- A. Use the handout "Tools & Techniques: Listening to God" for biblical guidelines as you seek to hear God's voice.
- B. Here are some questions to honestly and prayerfully consider in as you ask God to bless your spiritual eyes and ears. Take a few minutes to journal about each one, paying special attention to hindrances and strategies that rise to the surface:
 - Am I willing to examine the Scriptures about God still speaking today with an open mind?
 - Am I prepared to take the time and make the space to meet with God face to face?
 - Am I willing to do what Moses did—get in touch with my need for God? Will I humbly present that need and all my other needs to Him?
 - Am I willing to be still and listen? Am I willing to wait for His answers?
- C. <u>Go deeper in your heart knowledge of God</u> by spending time in His presence. Practice moving along this continuum:

TKG (gates) → PRAISE (courts) → WORSHIP
God provided for me.
I'm thankful for His acts.

PRAISE (courts) → WORSHIP
To bow low
Living Sacrifice
To adore, to kiss!

- D. Get to know God better by meditating on His names. 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.
- E. <u>Receive God's abundant blessings</u> as you ponder the truth that everything is yours in Christ. Every spiritual blessing is yours because of Jesus!
- F. <u>Keep a written record</u> of how God ministers to you this week. Come back ready to share what you've experienced.

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