

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. God's Original Intent

- From before time, we see the Father heart of God and His original intent for mankind: Eph 1:4-5 NLT-- Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.
- From the very beginning, God desired to connect with us as our Father and for us to be His children. We see this in Jesus' genealogy: Lk 3:38-- Adam, *the son* of God.
- If God, our Abba Father, has adopted us then our essential identity is as His legitimate children.
- Legitimate:(webster-dictionary.org)
 - Definition—lawful children
 - Synonyms—acceptable, admissible, authorized, genuine, honest-to-God, justifiable, legal, sure-enough, the real deal, valid

Insights:

B. Orphan Spirit

- Even though Adam and Eve had a Father, Satan convinced them to live like orphans.
- The Father of Lies seeks to keep mankind from our true identity and legitimacy as children of God.
- Instead of listening to and obeying the Father, we've all listened to the Father of Lies: Jn 8:44 NLT--For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
- Lucifer, the Angel of Light, was an archangel of great beauty, wisdom, and power. A high-ranking insider, he rebelled against God and lost his place of belonging. He became Satan, the first orphan and outsider. (Is 14:12-14)
- Satan demonstrated an orphan spirit and lured Adam and Eve to receive it as well:
 - Believes God is withholding the best (doubt)
 - Sets itself against God's loving will (disobedience)
 - Exalts itself above God (rebellion)
 - Independently relies on its own strength and wisdom (pride)

Insights:

C. Spirit of Sonship

- God addresses the issue of our legitimacy when He adopted us and gave us the Spirit of Sonship: Rom 8:15 NIV-- The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "*Abba, Father.*"
 - Who does God want to be for us? Abba Father!
 - Who am I because of Who He is? God's Legitimate Child and Heir

- The Spirit of Sonship is one means by which the Father seeks to restore what was lost in the Fall. By it we are able to receive:
 1. Access to the Father's presence: Rom 5:2,5 GWT-- Through Christ we can approach God and stand in his favor. So we brag because of our confidence that we will receive glory from God...We're not ashamed to have this confidence, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.
 2. Being at home with Him: Heb 3:6 NIV-- But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are His house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.
 3. Experience of the Father's love: Jn 17:23-26 NLT-- You love them as much as You love Me. Father, I want these whom You have given Me to be with Me where I am. Then they can see all the glory You gave Me because You loved Me even before the world began! O righteous Father, the world doesn't know You, but I do; and these disciples know You sent Me. I have revealed You to them, and I will continue to do so. Then Your love for Me will be in them, and I will be in them."
 4. Intimate connection with God: Jn 14:23 TV-- Anyone who loves Me will listen to My voice and obey. The Father will love him, and We will draw close to him and make a dwelling place within him.
 5. Legitimacy and true identity that drive out shame: Heb 2:11-13 TV--Jesus was not ashamed to call us His family, saying, *in the words of the psalmist*, 'I will speak Your Name to My brothers and sisters when I praise You in the midst of the community' ... And again, 'Look, here I am with the children God has given Me.'

Insights:

D. New Names and Labels

- Not only are we lawful and legitimate members of God's family, He also gives us new names: Is 62:2 NAS-- You will be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will designate.
- God calls us "child" to heal our identities in the places we've been wounded:
 - Abandoned: Hosea 1:10 NLT--At the place where they were told, 'You are not my people,' it will be said, 'You are children of the living God.'
 - Forgotten: Is 49:15-16 NLT-- Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you! See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands.
 - Unloved: Hosea 11:4 GNT-- I drew them to me with affection and love. I picked them up and held them to my cheek; I bent down to them and fed them.
 - Rejected: 1 Sam 12:22 NIV-- The Lord will not reject his people, because the Lord was pleased to make you his own.
 - Alone: Ps 139:7-10 NIV-- Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
 - Second Class: Is 56:3 MSG-- Make sure no outsider who now follows God ever has occasion to say, 'God put me in second-class. I don't really belong.' And make sure no physically mutilated person is ever made to think, 'I'm damaged goods. I don't really belong.'"

- Homeless: Is 43:6-7 MSG—“I’ll send orders north and south: ‘Send them back. Return my sons from distant lands, my daughters from faraway places. I want them back, every last one who bears my name, every man, woman, and child whom I created for my glory, yes, personally formed and made each one.’”
 - Let Abba Father do a deep work in your identity as you meditate on these Scriptures.
 - Go deeper by asking Him to give you a name or a picture He chooses just for you.
- Insights:

IV. PERSONALIZATION

- A. Receive your true identity and legitimacy as you allow your Abba Father to minister to your heart:
- Thank Him for all His fatherly ways revealed in the Scriptures above.
 - Praise Him for being your Abba Father and for every one of His fatherly traits.
 - Ask Him to show you how He sees you: *Abba, who am I to you?*
 - Pray that the Spirit of Truth will lead you into all the truth of who you are in Christ.
- B. Cultivate blessed spiritual eyes and ears. Use the handout “Tools & Techniques: Listening to God” for biblical guidelines as you seek to hear God’s voice.
- C. Spend time in God’s presence through prayer and song. Practice moving along this continuum:
- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| TKG (gates) | → | PRAISE (courts) | → | WORSHIP |
| God provided for me.
I’m thankful for His acts. | | He is Provider.
I praise Him for His nature. | | 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. Receive God’s abundant blessings as you ponder the truth that everything is yours in Christ. Every spiritual blessing is yours because of Jesus!
- F. Keep a written record of how God ministers to you this week. Come back ready to share what you’ve experienced.