

- 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

The God of All Comfort has instructed us to prepare the way for His glory. He assures us that it is coming. Study these Scriptures to gain a better understanding of God's glory:

A. Glory Promised

- Isaiah 40: 1-5 MSG--"Comfort, oh comfort my people," says your God. "Speak softly and tenderly to Jerusalem, but also make it very clear that she has served her sentence, that her sin is taken care of—forgiven! She's been punished enough and more than enough, and now it's over and done with." Thunder in the desert! "Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God. Fill in the valleys, level off the hills, smooth out the ruts, clear out the rocks. Then God's bright glory will shine and everyone will see it. Yes. Just as God has said."
- The term "Shekinah" glory is often used to describe the revelation of God's glory.
- The root word "shakan" means "to dwell." It underscores God's nearness and closeness, not His loftiness. The related word "mishkan is translated "tabernacle."
- Theologians designate instances of Shekinah glory when 2 specific things occurred simultaneously: 1) the presence of God and 2) a dwelling place.
- Charles Spurgeon quote: The word Shekinah (the One Who dwells) reminds us that we did not seek to dwell with God but He with us and this truth should evoke continual thanksgiving in those who have been brought into covenant with Him under the shelter of His wings. And so in Exodus, we see that it was God Who first expressed His desire to dwell among men, instructing Moses to tell the people to "construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell (shakan) among them. According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle (mishkan)" (Ex 25:8-9)
- Moses built a moveable tabernacle that housed God's presence, His Shekinah glory.
- Solomon built a dwelling place for God. When he dedicated the temple, the people experienced God's Shekinah glory: 1 Kg 8:10-11 NAS--The cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.
- God moved closer to His people by transitioning away from dwelling in a building to dwelling within a human being.
- In Jesus we see a dwelling place of God's Shekinah glory: Jn 1:14-- The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Jesus prepared the way for us to experience God's glory through His life, death, and resurrection.
- He made tabernacles out of all who would receive Him. He is the One who got us ready in order that our lives might be examples of Shekinah glory, too!

Insights:

B. Glory Revealed

- How do we access the glory of God in our lives? How is it to be revealed? Col 1:27 GWT-- God wanted his people throughout the world to know the glorious riches of this mystery—which is Christ living in you, giving you the hope of glory.
- Pentecost was the day that Jews celebrated Moses receiving the Law on Mt Sinai.

- The cloud of God’s presence was breathed into believers and His Holy Spirit fire rested on them Pentecost in the NT: Acts 2:1-4 NLT-- On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit
- God’s Shekinah glory no longer dwelt in a cloud or fire or a building. It didn’t even dwell in just one man. God’s people had become the dwelling of Him who dwells.
- It is astounding to realize that God has chosen us to be dwelling places of His glory: 2 Cor 6:16-- You are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”
- God can and does choose many ways glorify Himself. One of the major ways God reveals His glory is through the lives of His people: Is 43:7 NLT-- I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.
- It’s comforting to know that God’s Shekinah glory does not depend on us. We merely house it, welcome it, and yield to its expression in our lives.
- The glory that He has placed within us is even greater than the visible Shekinah glory of the Old Testament: 2 Cor 3:7-8 TV-- Now *consider this*: if the ministry of death, which was chiseled in stone, came with so much glory that the Israelites could not bear to look at Moses’ face even as that glory was fading, imagine the kind of greater glory that will accompany the ministry of the Spirit.
- As dwelling places of the Most High God, think about your value this way:
 - It exceeds the \$16 billion tabernacle where God’s mercy seat resided.
 - It surpasses the \$60 billion temple that housed the weight of God’s glory.
 - It’s great enough to cause the Father to spill the blood of His only Son.
 - It has been chosen to be a living tabernacle of God’s Holy Spirit.
- We are priceless treasures to the Father of mercies and God of All Comfort.
- *Will you allow Him to comfort you with the truth of your incalculable value?*
- *How will you respond to so great an affirmation?*

Here are 2 biblical responses to the truth that you are a temple of God’s glory:

C. Move Closer

- God has moved toward us throughout the history of man.
- Everything that touches our lives is intended to grow our intimacy with Him and His glory on our lives: Rom 8:29-30 TV-- We are confident that God is able to orchestrate everything to work toward something good *and beautiful* when we love Him and accept His invitation to live according to His plan. *From the distant past, His eternal love reached into the future.* You see, He knew those who would be His one day, and He chose them beforehand to be conformed to the image of His Son so that Jesus would be the firstborn of a new family of believers, all brothers and sisters. As for those He chose beforehand, He called them to a different destiny so that they would experience what it means to be made right with God and share in His glory.
- When we choose to move closer instead of pulling away when our hearts hurt or our circumstances are difficult, we experience the “hope of glory” God promised:
 - Jer 29:11 NIV— For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
 - Ps 78:24 NLT--You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.

- Ps 73:28 NLT-- But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign Lord my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.

Insights:

D. Ask for More

- As His dwelling places, our lives possess the potential for even greater revelation of His glory as we press in: 2 Cor 3:18 AMP-- 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.
- When our lives are yielded to the purpose of God's glory, He responds generously to our prayers for more of Him and more fruitfulness in His kingdom:
 - Jn 15:7-8 NAS-- If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.
 - Ex 33:15-19 NAS—(Moses) said to Him, “If Your presence does not go *with us*, do not lead us up from here. For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the *other* people who are upon the face of the earth?” The Lord said to Moses, “I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight and I have known you by name.” Then Moses said, “I pray You, show me Your glory!” And He said, “I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you.”
- Eph 2:17-22 TV— The Great Preacher of peace *and love* came for you, and *His voice* found those of you who were near and those who were far away. 18 By Him both have access to the Father in one Spirit. 19 And so you are no longer called outcasts and wanderers but citizens with God's people, *members of God's holy family*, and residents of His household. 20 You are being built on a *solid* foundation: *the message* of the prophets and *the voices* of God's chosen emissaries with Jesus, the Anointed Himself, the *precious* cornerstone. 21 The building is joined together *stone by stone*—*all of us chosen and sealed* in Him, rising up to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In Him you are being built together, creating a *sacred* dwelling place *among you* where God can live in the Spirit.

Insights:

IV. PERSONALIZATION

A. Cultivate intimacy with God by connecting with Him daily by journaling:

- Find a quiet spot
- Fix your eyes of Jesus
- Find the flow of God's voice (sounds like spontaneous, biblical thoughts)
- Facilitate communication by journaling

B. Spend time in God's presence through prayer and song using the names of God.

C. Get to know God better by meditating on His names using the Nuggets” booklet.

- Ask the Lord “Who do You want to be for me?” in my day, issue, or season.

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