GOD'S NAMES: A Portrait of His HeartAbba Father, Weel

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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

Our Abba Father is doing a re-parenting work in us and He is calling us to cooperate and partner with Him. Meditate on these truths to better equip you for that process:

A. More on Integrity

- The Father's maturing and purifying process is challenging sometimes: Heb 12:10-13 AMP--For [our earthly fathers] disciplined us for only a short period of time and chastised us as seemed proper and good to them; but He disciplines us for our certain good, that we may become sharers in His own holiness. For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems grievous and painful; but afterwards it yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it [a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness—in conformity to God's will in purpose, thought, and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God]. So then, brace up and reinvigorate and set right your slackened and weakened and drooping hands and strengthen your feeble and palsied and tottering knees, and cut through and make firm and plain and smooth, straight paths for your feet [yes, make them safe and upright and happy paths that go in the right direction], so that the lame and halting [limbs] may not be put out of joint, but rather may be cured.
- <u>Integrity, defined</u>—honesty, purity, completeness, simplicity, and wholeness
- The Hebrew word for integrity is "tom." It means unity or something that's not splintered or fragmented but brought together into oneness.
- The Greek word for integrity is closely related to the word "peace" in <u>Col 3:15 AMP</u>—And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ's] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always].
- The Father favors integrity and will do amazing things when our hearts are pure:

1. Alert

- Our Abba Father will intervene and alert us to the danger of snares that have been set for us because we walk in integrity before Him.
- He shows us a way to avoid the consequences of sin by giving us a way of escape: <u>1 Cor 10:13 TV</u>-- God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can handle. But He always provides a way of escape so that you will be able to endure and keep moving forward.
- <u>Biblical example of Abimelech: Gen 20:3-6--</u> "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife"... "Did (Abraham) not say to me, 'She is my sister?' And she, even she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this." And God said... "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her."

2. Avert

- When our hearts are pure and full of integrity, God will defend and deliver us from attacks of the enemy.
- Biblical Example of King David: Ps 25:19-21-- Consider my enemies, for they are many . . . Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me
- Instead of thinking like an Orphan, he cried out to the Father, sure of his favor: <u>Ps 147:11 NAS</u>-- The LORD favors those who fear Him, Those who wait for His lovingkindness.

3. Advance

 When we are living honestly before the Lord, it frees Him up to advance us in His Kingdom. He's able to enlarge and expand us and move forward His plans for us. Biblical Example: King Solomon: 1 Kg 9:4-5-- If you walk before Me in integrity of heart and in uprightness . . . then I will establish you. I will perpetuate the work of the Kingdom I've begun in you.

Insights:

B. More on Family Likeness

- Solomon had the heritage of one whose earthly father was a Man After God's Heart.
- He showed the family likeness early in his reign as successor to King David: 1 Kg 3:5-7--The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.
- Maybe our biggest challenge as maturing Huios children of God is to maintain our childlike heart before our Abba Father!
- Solomon wanted more than head knowledge of how to follow God's call. He wanted
 a heart of understanding: 1 Kg 3:9-- Therefore give to Your servant an understanding
 heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil.
- The Hebrew word for understanding literally means "hearing."
- Jesus moved in full authority as a partner in the family business. Yet He did so by living out of childlike faith that came from listening to the Father: <u>Jn 12:49 NAS</u>-- For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.

Insights:

C. More on Huios Hearing

- Moses had used the rod to produce water for the people in the past. He did not listen to God's instructions this time. God told him to speak to the rock (Num 20:8-11).
- Failing to listen to God cost Moses the Promised Land: <u>Num 20:12 NLT</u>-- Because you did not trust me enough to demonstrate my holiness to the people of Israel, you will not lead them into the land I am giving them
- There is a danger in becoming mature and operating in authority but not maintaining a childlike attitude of listening: <u>Deut 8:3</u>-- He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.
- We all need help staying in the heart and not the head. Habakkuk provides us with some helpful guidelines: <u>Hab 2:1-2 NAS</u>-- I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may

reply when I am reproved. Then the Lord answered me and said, "Record the vision and inscribe *it* on tablets, that the one who reads it may run.

- Use these key principles all together to help you develop better listening skills:
 - 1. Find your quiet spot
 - Habakkuk stationed himself on the rampart. Apparently this was his place for quieting his mind and emotions and tuning out other voices.
 - We need 1 or 2 places where our minds have permission to put other matters aside for the sake of connecting with God.
 - 2. Fix your eyes on Jesus
 - Habakkuk went focused on God. He wanted to see God in his issues instead of merely rehearsing them.
 - Ask God to reveal to you where He is in your situation. He's Emmanuel (Mt 1:23).
 That means He is with us in every place past, present, and future. Look for Him!
 - 3. Find the flow of God's voice
 - Habakkuk was expecting to hear from God. As a prophet, he knew that God's voice came "bubbling up" as spontaneous thoughts that are always consistent with His written word.
 - Jesus described the Holy Spirit as a River of Living Water (Jn 7:38). He is the Spirit of Truth who will speak to you and lead you into the truth (Jn 16:13).
 - 4. Facilitate communication by journaling
 - God commanded Habakkuk to write it down so that the one who reads it may "run with it." (Hab 2:2 NIV)
 - Journaling gives you a record of what you sense God is communicating. It also enables you to save the testing and application until you're finished listening.
- Give these guidelines a try this week as you spent time listening to the Father. Insights:

IV. PERSONALIZATION

- A. Cooperate with the Father's re-parenting process:
 - Continue to soak in Scriptures that speak the Father's words of affirmation to you. Allow them to free you from slavery and the orphan spirit.
 - Use the handout "Tools & Techniques: Liberation" to minister to your worth.
 - Let the Father mature you. Ask Him for the Holy Spirit in your hollow places:

Resourcefulness Integrity of Character Equal but Unique Consequences
Delayed Gratification Appropriate Priorities
Progressive Obedience Place in His-story

- B. Receive your true identity and legitimacy from your Abba Father:
 - Ask Him to show you how He sees you: Abba, who am I to you?
 - Continue to meditate on and explore all the truth of who you are in Christ.
- C. <u>Cultivate blessed spiritual eyes and ears</u>. Use the handout "Tools & Techniques: Listening to God" for biblical guidelines as you seek to hear God's voice.
- D. Spend time in God's presence through prayer and song using the names of God.
- E. 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.

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

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