GOD'S NAMES: A Portrait of His Heart--Abba Father, Week 5

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. <u>MEDITATION</u>

- A. <u>Review</u> 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. <u>Rewrite</u> 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 has liberated us from slavery to fear. He is doing a re-parenting work in us. Meditate on these truths to better equip you for that process:

A. Plans and Purposes

- God stated His purpose for His children back in the time of Abram--to raise up His family and through it "all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Gen 12:3)
- God set out to heal the insecurity, instability, wrong thinking, and painful emotions of slavery by lovingly and firmly fathering His children in the desert years.
- God was constant and consistent. He provided a stream of new memories of His faithfulness as He showed up for them again and again with protection & provision.
- God organized the Israelites by tribe, clan, and family. Our Abba Father uses the Family of God to re-parent and reassure us of that we are loved, valued, and safe.
- However, in this arrangement, the inevitable happens: differences and offenses!
- Moses and his leaders sought God for understanding on how to settle disputes. They counseled the Children of Israel in these matters. (Ex 18:19-24)
- It is necessary to receive God's counsel in our issues whether directly as Moses did (Ex 33:11) or through godly counselors:
 - <u>Prov 15:22 AMP</u>--Where there is no counsel, purposes are frustrated, but with many counselors they are accomplished.
 - Ps 25:8-13 AMP-- Good and upright is the Lord; therefore will He instruct sinners in [His] way. He leads the humble in what is right, and the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and steadfast love, even truth and faithfulness are they for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity and my guilt, for [they are] great. Who is the man who reverently fears and worships the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way that he should choose. He himself shall dwell at ease, and his offspring shall inherit the land.
- Our Abba Father filters everything before it gets to us and will use it for His good purposes: <u>Ps 119:91 NLT</u>-- Everything serves your plans.
 Insights:

B. Past Curses and Blessings

- The consequences of sin may be passed down for 3 or 4 generations. (Ex 20:5-6) But our God does not punish us for the sins of others or our own sins if we repent: <u>Ezek 18:20-22 NLT</u>-- The child will not be punished for the parent's sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child's sins. Righteous people will be rewarded for their own righteous behavior, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness. But if wicked people turn away from all their sins and begin to obey my decrees and do what is just and right, they will surely live and not die. All their past sins will be forgotten, and they will live because of the righteous things they have done.
- Our Abba Father commands us to show honor in His family and promises to bless it:
 - <u>Dt 5:16</u>-- Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.
 - <u>1 Pt 2:17</u>—Honor all people

- We're either bound to parents/ancestors by honor or by unforgiveness/bitterness:
 - <u>Mt 18:34-35 TV</u>-- The king turned over the unmerciful slave to his brigade of torturers, and they had their way with him until he should pay his whole debt. And that is what My Father in heaven will do to you, unless you forgive each of your brothers and each of your sisters from the very cockles of your heart.
 - <u>Heb 12:14-15 Phillips</u>-- Let it be your ambition to live at peace with all men and to achieve holiness "without which no man shall see the Lord". Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others.
- If there is a place where you are not experiencing God's blessing or freedom, ask the Father to reveal why you are stuck. It may be a generational issue:

$SIN \rightarrow WOUND \rightarrow SIN$

- Here are some principles to apply whenever dealing with generational sin:
 - 1. Which ancestor is the entry point for this sin? (mother, father, both, other)
 - Confess (agree with God about) your sin and the sin of your ancestor: <u>Neh 9:2</u> <u>NLT</u>-Those of Israelite descent separated themselves from all foreigners as they confessed their own sins and the sins of their ancestors.
 - 3. Pray, asking God to accomplish forgiveness for you: <u>Eph 4:31-32</u>-- Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
 - 4. Be sure to extend forgiveness to each party involved:
 - God, please forgive me.
 - I choose to forgive my parent/ancestor(s).
 - I choose to forgive myself.
 - See Jesus and His Cross standing between you and the sin and/or the people involved: <u>Col 2:14 NLT</u>-- He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

Insights:

C. Piece of Work

- Allow the Father to reveal the deposit of His image that He's put inside of each person in order to truly honor your parents and all people in the Family of God.
- Do more than just give mental assent or rote obedience in the issue of forgiveness. Calculate the cost of the debt being released:
 - Feel the feelings (fear, dread, anger, bitterness, shame, etc.)
 - Ask the Holy Spirit for a memory or a scene to help you get in touch
- Pray, asking your Abba Father to show you the deposit of Himself that He has placed inside of the person/people involved:
 - <u>Gen 1:27</u>-- God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him
 - Eph 2:10 AMP-- For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art]

Ask the Father to bring to light any empty way of life you've inherited from previous generations. Thank Him for His powerful work of redemption on your behalf: <u>1 Pt</u> <u>1:17-19 NIV</u>-- You call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Insights:

IV. PERSONALIZATION

- A. <u>Cultivate intimacy with God by connecting with Him daily</u>:
 - Practice the Middle of the Page technique of journaling with God:
 - 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
 - Find biblical guidelines and support for hearing from the Lord in "Tools & Techniques: Listening to God."
- B. 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
 Equal but Unique
 Delayed Gratification
 Progressive Obedience
 Lintegrity of Character
 Consequences
 Appropriate Priorities
 Place in His-story
- C. 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.
- 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. <u>Keep a written record</u> of how God ministers to you this week. Come back ready to share what you've experienced.