

- 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

B. 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.

C. Rewrite your One Thing into a prayer, expressing your heart's desire for God to make this truth become your experience.

III. PRINCIPLES

Use the principles found in these Scriptures to help you understand and cultivate a new way of thinking. This process will transform you to become more and more like Christ:

A. Our Intentions

1. Head to the Heart

- Having God's word penetrate from our heads to our hearts is a biblical goal:
 - 1 Cor 2:16—We have the mind of Christ.
 - Ps 51:6 NAS-- Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being

2. RISE Above Circumstances

- RISE is an acronym that is composed of 4 mindsets modeled by Jesus:
 - Relational—nothing in life done apart from intimate relationship with the Father
 - Internal—primary focus is the hearts of those with whom He's relating
 - Sacrificial—willing to give to the point of death for the sake of God and His Kingdom
 - Eternal—every situation viewed long-term, with eternity in mind
- Is 58:14 MSG—"I'll make you ride high and soar above it all. I'll make you feast on the inheritance of your ancestor Jacob." Yes! God says so!

3. God's Will God's Way

- We must intend to do God's will God's way if we want to have the Mind of Christ (MOC).
- This intention was the mindset of godly men throughout the Bible:
 - Job 23:11-- My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside.
 - Ps 17:4-5 MSG-- I'm not trying to get my way in the world's way. I'm trying to get *your way*, your Word's way. I'm staying on your trail; I'm putting one foot in front of the other. I'm not giving up.
 - Ps 44:18--Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from Your way

4. Practice

- Discipleship is a life of practicing, especially as we seek to develop biblical thinking:
 - Phil 4:9 NAS--The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
 - Heb 4:14 TPT—We must cling in faith to all we know to be true.

Insights:

B. Our Attention

- Stephen lived a Head to Heart lifestyle and he certainly cultivated the Mind of Christ!
- Biblical Example of Fixing Attention on God: Acts 6:8-10, 7:51, 54-60 NIV-- Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue...who began to argue with Stephen. 10 But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke... 51 "You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! 54 When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." 57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone

him...59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

- Stephen gives us an amazing model of setting our Intention and Attention on God.
- Like Jesus, Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit. He thought, spoke, and acted as God led him to do. Also, like Jesus, he encountered opposition.
- We see him demonstrate the MOC as he practices the example of Jesus before the Sanhedrin and in forgiving his tormentors.
- He looked up to heaven. He gazed on Jesus in the midst of this extreme circumstance.
- By renewing his mind in the heat of the moment, Stephen accessed the greater reality of that situation (spiritual). The power of the Holy Spirit enabled him to do so.
- The Spirit reminds Stephen (and us) of the truth that heaven is open to us believers because the veil was torn when Jesus was crucified. Jesus is now our Mediator.
- Stephen was willing to do God's Will God's Way. He presented himself a living sacrifice.

Insights:

C. HIS INTENTION

- Finding God's Intention toward us in His Word will aid us in maintaining our Intention and our Attention no matter what the earthly situation.
- In uncertain times, God intends to give us the strength we need. Go for it: 1 Sam 30:6-- Now David was greatly distressed...But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.
- As we rehearse God's faithfulness in the past, we will be reassured of His intentions.
- Meditate on your "vault" truths about God's heart (those that have made it personally from head to heart, of which you are "fully persuaded" and have little doubt). Examples:
 - Ps 84:11— For the Lord God *is* a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good *thing* will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.
 - Ps 34:10b-- Those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good *thing*.
 - Rom 8:38-39-- For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- What has God been communicating lately? Review the last year or two of walking with God. Look for a theme for this season or situation. Examples:
 - Ps 111:5b TV--He will always remember His covenant.
 - Is 55:3 TV--Listen closely, and come *even* closer. My words will give life, for I will make a covenant with you that cannot be broken, *a promise* of My enduring *presence and* support
- There's nothing more faith-building, and attention-fixing than a fresh personal word from the Lord! Ask Him to wield the Sword of the Spirit in a way that penetrates heart and mind. Example: Ps 65:4-5 TV--You invite us near, drawing us into Your courts—what an honor *and a privilege*! We feast until we're full on the goodness of Your house, Your sacred temple *made manifest*. You *leave us breathless* when Your awesome works answer us by putting everything right. God of our liberation—You are the hope of all *creation*
- We are safe to give our uncertainties to God because His Intentions are a known!

- He loves me. (Jer 31:3, etc.)
- His plan is to take me from glory to glory. (2 Cor 3:18)
- In Him I have a future and a hope. (Jer 29:11)
- He has prepared good works beforehand for me to walk in. (Eph 2:10)
- He's prepared a place for me in heaven when I leave this earth. (John 14:2-3)
- Prayerfully choose to give your current circumstance and/or your future as a whole to God. You can trust His intentions: Is 55:8-13 TV-- My intentions are not *always* yours, and I do not go about things as you do. 9 My thoughts and My ways are above and beyond you, just as heaven is far from your reach here on earth. 10 For as rain and snow can't go back once they've fallen, but soak into the ground and nourish the plants that grow, providing seed to the farmer and bread for the hungry. 11 So it is when I declare something. My word will go out and not return to Me empty, but it will do what I wanted; it will accomplish what I determined. 12 For you will go out in joy, be led home in peace. And as you go the land itself will break out in cheers; the mountains and the hills will erupt in song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands. 13 Prickly thorns and nasty briars will give way to luxurious shade trees, *sweet and good*. And they'll remind you of the Eternal One *and how God can be trusted absolutely and forever*.

Insights:

- D. Continue to apply the principles from our previous teaching on the Mind of Christ. Here's a brief summary of the MOC principles from semester one of Think Again:
- Cultivate heart knowledge by meditating on God's word vs. skimming the surface, shallow commitments, or being suffocated/unsettled by fear and misinformation.
 - Present your feelings, wants, desires, passions, and ambitions to God honestly and without editing. Use the "I Feel But God Says" exercise to let God have the last word.
 - Recognize the major battlegrounds for the Mind of Christ: 1) Identity, 2) Reality, and 3) Destiny.
 - Remember that there is a rivalry inside of us believers between pleasing the old self and pleasing God. The great news is that our new hearts want to please Him!
 - Avoid the trap of reasoning Jesus warned about: 1) Leaven of Pharisees where there's lots of knowledge *about* God without "yada" personal knowing of Him. 2) Leaven of Herod where there is lip service to God but lives that reflect practical atheism.
 - Develop a lifestyle of renewing your mind. That is the process by which we cooperate with God's purpose of transforming us to be more and more like Jesus.
 - Believe and pursue freedom from misplaced trust and long-standing false mindsets like strongholds, lies, vows, bitter roots, generational sins, and soul ties.
 - Employ the weapons of warfare -- they are powerful for demolishing wrong thinking: helmet of salvation, vulnerability, remembering, forgiveness, reimagining, worship, faith, and focus.
 - Relax knowing God is primarily responsible for our victory. Our part includes taking responsibility for our for our current thinking then tackling it with resolve and readiness
 - Tools & Techniques: Elevation and Articulation (I Feel), Listening to God, Liberation, Understanding Forgiveness, Personal Inventory, and Spiritual Blessings (promises)

Keep a written record of how God ministers to you this week. If you don't have one, start a spiritual journal. Come back ready to share what you've experienced.