

- 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. TRUTH IN INMOST BEING

- God desires (intends) truth in our inmost being (Ps 51:6).
- If wrong thinking is present, it won't yield the fruit of peace and purity (James 3:13-18). We must backtrack using this continuum:
THOUGHT → CONVICTION/BELIEF → ACTION
- Truth that frees isn't found by policing behavior, but by asking ourselves, "What was I thinking?" Jn 8:32--You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
- Truth ≠ logos or rhema (biblical truth). Instead, Truth = reality, the way it really is (Strong's)
- Know ≠ acquiring information. Instead, Know = process of developing deep convictions
- Some practical considerations when you are seeking to discover wrong thinking:
 - Choose an issue where you lack these MOC traits: Pure, peace-loving, courteous, considerate, gentle, willing to yield to reason, full of compassion, wholehearted, straightforward, impartial, free from doubts, wavering, and insincerity. (Jm 3:17 AMP)
 - Wrong thinking is often hidden in plain view, in thoughts we consider "normal." Also consider those areas where you are not hopeful or open to change.
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth (the way it really is) about your underlying convictions. Then ask Him to identify the thought behind it.
 - Thank God for blessing your eyes to see it as He does. Confess your thoughts as wrong and receive His forgiveness. Ask Him to replace your thinking with truth that sets free.
- This kind of processing is an ongoing part of the life of a disciple who desires the MOC. Knowing God's intentions toward us will help us brave that process.

Insights:

B. INTIMATE KNOWING

- God's intention is that we know Him intimately: 2 Pt 1:2 AMP-- May grace (God's favor) and peace (which is perfect well-being, all necessary good, all spiritual prosperity, and freedom from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts) be multiplied to you in [the full, personal, precise, and correct] knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
- Deep, personal knowledge of the Lord promises some pretty amazing benefits:
 - Perfect Well-being: Is 26:3--You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on You*, because he trusts in You
 - All Necessary Good: Ps 23:1 NLT-- The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.
 - Victory Over Agitating Emotions: Ps 42:5 NAS-- Why are you in despair, O my soul? And *why* have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him *for* the help of His presence.
- As we get to know God better we find He intends to provide all we need for godly living: 2 Pt 1:3 MSG-- Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by

getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received!

- The promises of God help us to know Him more intimately because they reveal His intentions toward us: 2 Pt 1:4 NLT--Because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.
- "We have promises which are so great that they are not less than infinite and so precious that they are not less than divine." (Spurgeon)
- We can count on God's promises because they are based on His glory and goodness! They enable us to RISE above our circumstances.
- Biblical Example: Jesus was able to face a cruel death with strength and peace because He knew the Father intimately. He had God's word and His promises. They revealed that Jesus would conquer death and be the firstborn from among the dead. (Hosea 6, Rev 1:5)

Insights:

C. LOVE AND KINDNESS

- God has good things in store for us and always has: Eph 1:3-9 NAS--Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him
- God's promises and blessings are no guarantee of a problem-free life. But they are spiritual realities that provide us with hope and power to RISE above whatever we face.
- Spiritual Blessings are promises that we can pray for with great confidence.
- These blessings are like a trust fund that we can draw upon between now and the time of our completed redemption in heaven. We must appropriate them to benefit from them.
- God's intention of love and kindness toward us was true in eternity past, is true today, and extends infinitely into our future. (v. 4).
- Redemption exemplifies the Lord's kind intention past, present, and future (vv. 6-9):
 - God's grace replaces our bondage to sin (v. 5, 1 Pt 1:18)
 - Our ransom was paid with the blood of Jesus (v. 7, Rev 5:19)
 - The curse of the Law was removed from us (v. 7, Gal 3:13)
 - We stand before Him holy and blameless (v. 4, Col 1:22)
- Biblical Example: Jesus: Mt 9:36, 38-- But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd... Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."
 - Jesus experienced and expressed the kind and compassionate heart of the Father.
 - He knew that His Father answers when He hears the cry of His people (Ex 3:7-8)

- The MOC = ask for and expect God to express His love and kindness in our situation.
- At the beginning of your day, to ask God to help you see it when you experience His love and kindness. At the end of your day, pause to remember those moments. Be sure to thank Him.

Insights:

D. TRUSTWORTHINESS

- God desires that we know how trustworthy He truly is: 1 Cor 1:7-9 NLT--You have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Life often sends us the message not to trust God or anyone. "We Feel" afraid to trust, "But God Says" that He is worthy of our trust! Ps 91:14 MSG--"If you'll hold on to me for dear life," says God, "I'll get you out of any trouble. I'll give you the best of care if you'll only get to know and trust me. Call me and I'll answer, be at your side in bad times
- Biblical Example: Paul often wrote of God's intentions and assured his readers that they were trustworthy: Titus 3:3-8 NLT--Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But— When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. These teachings are good and beneficial for everyone.
- Despite circumstances, God is faithful in love, mercy, and goodness: Lam 3:20-25 NLT—I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him.
- Let's change our minds for the better and believe the best about God's heart. Let's do as Jesus did and as Paul did—set our attention on God's relational, loving, and trustworthy intentions!

Insights:

B. Continue to apply the principles from our previous teaching on the Mind of Christ:

- Set your intentions daily: cultivating the Mind of Christ, head to heart processing, commitment to God's will God's way, and to RISE above your circumstances.
- Pay attention so that you don't aimlessly drift due to immaturity, insecurity, or impurity.
- Cultivate heart knowledge by meditating on God's word vs. skimming the surface.
- 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. Come back ready to share!