

- 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

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. INTIMACY REVISITED

- Eph 3:14-19 NIV-- For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
- Here's a summary of this very rich prayer:

GREATER INTIMACY → GREATER FULLNESS → GREATER POWER

- The way God accomplishes this dynamic is through the person of the Holy Spirit coming to dwell inside. His work is to reveal the love and power of Jesus in our lives: Eph 3:19a AMP-- [That you may really come] to know [practically, through experience for yourselves] the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge [without experience]
- Dwell = "to make a home in your hearts" (Vines)
- Our capacity to experience His abundant life is determined by our intimacy. When we don't allow Jesus full access to us, we don't experience as much of Him as is possible.
- Giving Jesus unrestricted access to our hearts gives Him freedom to move and to pour out more and more of Himself: Eph 3:19b AMP-- That you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself!]
- God is passionate for us and desires our passion in return. He hungers for intimacy with us.
- Here Jesus is expressing His appetite for intimacy. His temperature for us is hot—He wants us to be close: Rev 3:15-16 TV-- You are neither cold *with apathy* nor hot *with passion*. It would be better if you were one or the other, *but you are neither*. So because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.
- Jesus has no taste for half-heartedness. He designed us so that our intention would match His.
- Becoming rooted and established in His love requires faith on our part. Faith involves risk: Eph 3:17a MSG-- Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in.

Insights:

B. INTIMACY REQUIREMENTS

- Most of our hearts have things we've either knowingly or unknowingly kept away from God.
- We want the benefits of intimate relationship but aren't sure of its costs and how to get there.

- Intimacy isn't based on pleasing God with our performance or any spiritual exercise. It's about a heartfelt desire to connect with God (or a person). There are 3 basic requirements for intimacy:

1. Time

- Intimate relationship doesn't just happen. It takes time—unrushed time alone together.
- Jesus has set His intention to love us in a way that is incomprehensible. Our faith work is to choose to love Him with our time above any other interest or responsibility.
- Abraham's faith life is recorded in Scripture as a series of personal encounters with God. His intimate communion and commitment grew over time: Jm 2:23 MSG-- It's that mesh of believing and acting that got Abraham named "God's friend."

2. Vulnerability

- Vulnerability is powerful. When we take courage and expose our true selves, it gives us power over shame. And it's disarming to many methods of defense.
- We must be totally honest with God. We must choose to trust Him with our unedited thoughts and feelings as Jesus did: Mt 26:38 TV-- Father, *this is the last thing I want*. If there is any way, please take this *bitter* cup from Me. Not My will, but Yours be done.
- "God, if you're listening I hope you're ok with all this. amen." (Micah J. Murray)
- We don't surprise Him: Ps 139:2 NLT--You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.
- God desires all of us. What's more, He has already given us His everything: Rom 8:32 NLT-- Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

3. Submission

- The idea of submission is scary because: a) It is often misunderstood. b) It has been abused in the past. c) We don't know God very well.
- The Trinity is a beautiful picture of intimacy and mutual submission. So is marriage: Eph 5:1-2, 21 NLT-- Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God... 21 And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- When both parties are committed invest their very best for the benefit of their beloved, intimacy happens: Jn 14:23 TV--Anyone who loves Me will listen to My voice and obey. The Father will love him, and We will draw close to him and make a dwelling place within him.
- This principle is true no matter what positions are involved (God/man, boss/employee, etc.)

Insights:

C. INTIMACY RECIPROCATED

- God extends intimate connection to those who want to be close to Him. He will not force us to reciprocate His love: Rev 3:20 NLT-- Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

- God responds with unimaginable power and glory when we choose greater intimacy and more of Him: Eph 3:20-21 NIV--Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
- Jesus is seated on the throne and is prepared to rule and overrule! Eph 1:21 Phillips-- That power is the same divine power which was demonstrated in Christ when he raised him from the dead and gave him the place of supreme honor in Heaven—a place that is infinitely superior to any conceivable command, authority, power or control, and which carries with it a name far beyond any name that could ever be used in this world or the world to come.
- For us who have intimacy issues, it's comforting to know that our ruling King Jesus offers hope for our broken receivers and trusters. He meets our intentionality in amazing ways:
 - Freedom to love without fear: 1 Jn 4:18 GNT-- There is no fear in love; perfect love drives out all fear. So then, love has not been made perfect in anyone who is afraid,
 - Being empowered to give our lives away: 2 Cor 5:15 AMP-- He died for all, so that all those who live might live no longer to *and* for themselves, but to *and* for Him Who died and was raised again for their sake.
 - Lasting and abundant joy: John 15:11-- These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.
 - Restoration of what's been broken or lost: Rev 21:5-- Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."
- 1 Cor 8:1 -- Knowledge causes people to be puffed up (to bear themselves loftily and be proud), but love (affection and goodwill and benevolence) edifies *and* builds up *and* encourages one to grow [to his full stature].
- Song 6:2ff TPT—(Bride) My lover has gone down into his garden of delight, the place where his spices grow, to feast with those pure in heart. I know we shall find him there. He is within me—I am his garden of delight. I have him fully and now he fully has me! (Bridegroom King) O my beloved, you are lovely. When I see you in your beauty, I see a radiant city where we will dwell as one. More pleasing than any pleasure, more delightful than any delight, you have ravished my heart, stealing away my strength to resist you. Even hosts of angels stand in awe of you. Turn your eyes from me; I can't take it anymore! I can't resist the passion of these eyes that I adore. Overpowered by a glance, my ravished heart—undone. Held captive by your love, I am truly overcome! For your undying devotion to me is the most yielded sacrifice.

Insights:

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, R.I.S.E. above your circumstances, and practice.
- Interact with God from the place of His intentionality toward you: Truth in the Inmost Being, Intimate Knowing, Love and Kindness, Trustworthiness
- 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.