

- 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. Find the audio message on our website under the Resources tab. ([www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com](http://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. SING

Singing is helpful in connecting emotionally to the truth.

Listen to the songs from this week's playlist to aid you in taking today's principles from your head to your heart.

This playlist and our master playlist for the Expectations series can be found on our Divine Design Discipleship YouTube channel. (Be sure to subscribe to our channel!) Our 2020 playlist is also available on Spotify. See the handout provided with your notebook for instructions on how to access these resources.

#### IV. PRINCIPLES

These principles will help you recognize and develop biblical expectations:

##### A. FOCUS

- Deuteronomy is essentially a sermon series given by Moses to the 2nd generation Israelites at the end of their Wilderness journey. He reviewed God's instructions.
- The theme of this book (love, relationship!) is repeated 8 times: Deut 6:5-- You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
- Standing on the verge of the Promised Land, Moses summarizes the covenant and the opportunity that lies before them: Deut 30:10-20 NLT—The Lord your God will delight in you if you obey his voice and keep the commands and decrees written in this Book of Instruction, and if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. "This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, and it is not beyond your reach. It is not kept in heaven, so distant that you must ask, 'Who will go up to heaven and bring it down so we can hear it and obey?' It is not kept beyond the sea, so far away that you must ask, 'Who will cross the sea to bring it to us so we can hear it and obey?' No, the message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart so that you can obey it. "Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. For I command you this day to love the Lord your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy. "But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. "Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life.
- As a good Father, God implores his children to choose wisely. He tells them to expect the reward of a good life and great blessing if they will follow His ways.
- Moses had given the 10 Commandments, God's boundaries to show the people where life is to be found. His heart was for their wellbeing. For example:
  - God tells us not to lie so that we will have trust-based, life giving relationships.
  - Coveting leads to death as we allow comparison and jealousy to fester in us.
  - By staying within God's boundaries, we discover that His way is best and that He is trustworthy. Truly, He is our great reward! (Gen 15:1)
- The entire text focuses on the heart and it lets us know that the people will fail and turn their hearts away from the Lord.
- Our heart controls our entire being. It determines what occupies our minds, what's most desirable to our emotions, and what our wills are fixed on doing.
- LISTENING: *When your mind isn't otherwise occupied, where do your thoughts go?*
  
- God's competitors for having first place in your heart will make themselves obvious: Mt 6:21 AMP-- Where your treasure is, there your heart [your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centers] will be also.

- The Good News is foretold that God will do the only thing that can be done to remedy our wayward hearts: Deut 30:6 AMP-- The Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants [that is, He will remove the desire to sin from your heart], so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, so that you may live [as a recipient of His blessing].
- “Remember that the law was only one aspect of the Old Covenant. There were also the aspects of sacrifice and the choice. God never expected Israel to perfectly obey the law and find righteousness through law-obedience. That is why He provided for the sacrifice.” (David Guzik)
- Israel was ultimately looking to the sacrifice of Jesus just as we do as NT believers: Eph 1:4 MSG--Long before he laid down earth’s foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love.
- God urges His people, under both Old and New Covenants, to focus on their hearts: Prov 4:23 NLT--Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.
- The Lord will be glorified whatever choice we make. Even so, He doesn’t take pleasure in seeing us experience negative consequences: Ezek 33:11-- I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?
- Insights:

## B. FACULTIES

- Despite God’s miraculous provision and guidance during the Wilderness, the people didn’t have the faculties needed to really get it: Deut 29:3-4 NLT--To this day the Lord has not given you minds that understand, nor eyes that see, nor ears that hear!
- In order to “Choose Life” we must not expect our natural senses and reason to be enough. We much learn to tune into our supernatural, spiritual faculties.
- Our minds are not naturally programmed to go after life-giving things without the help of the Spirit: Rom 8:6 JBP-- The carnal attitude sees no further than natural things. But the spiritual attitude reaches out after the things of the spirit. The former attitude means, bluntly, death: the latter means life and inward peace. And this is only to be expected, for the carnal attitude is inevitably opposed to the purpose of God
- When we received our new nature, we gained the capacity to see and hear beyond the ability of our human senses: Mt 13:16 AMP-- But blessed [spiritually aware, and favored by God] are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.
- Let us choose to cry out to God to bless our eyes, to open them to see the whole picture if we’re in a situation that looks like death: 2 Kg 6:15-17 NLT-- There were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. “Oh, sir, what will we do now?” the young man cried to Elisha.<sup>16</sup> “Don’t be afraid!” Elisha told him. “For there are more on our side than on

theirs!" <sup>17</sup> Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!" The Lord opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

- Expect God to reveal a life option to you when you turn your attention toward Him!
- In our busy world, we are bombarded with so many messages. To choose life, we must train our spiritual ears on the voice of the Lord: John 10:27 AMP--The sheep that are My own hear My voice *and* listen to Me; I know them, and they follow Me.
- Incredible as it sounds, we can actually access the mind of Christ! 1 Cor 2:14-16-- Only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. <sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. <sup>16</sup> For, "Who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.
- Expect these spiritual faculties to become sharp with practice: Heb 5:14 EXB--They are mature enough [...who through practice/exercise have trained their faculties/senses] to know the difference between good and evil.
- Insights:

### C. FINDING LIFE

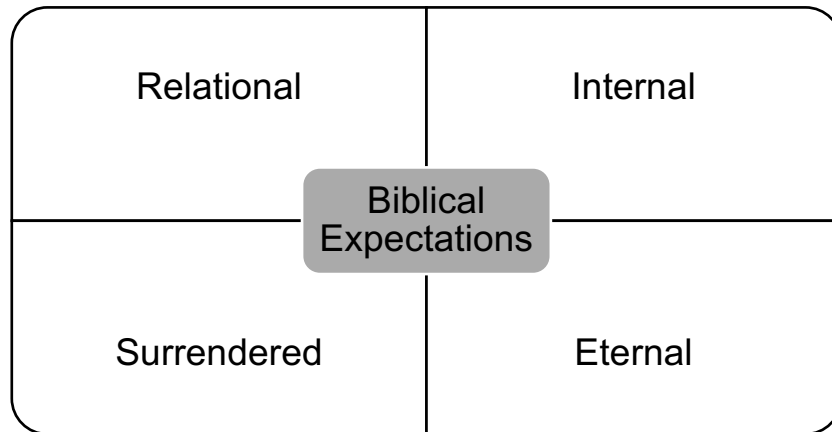
- We are being offered a choice between death (our human way) and abundant life. Choices involve setting priorities.
- Prioritize--determine the order for dealing with (a series of items or tasks) according to their relative importance (Oxford Languages)
- *What will have the highest place and final say on our expectations?*
- If we fail to take time to consider and choose what is most life giving, it's highly likely that we will default to:
  - Human reason, opinions, judgments
  - Feelings, preferences, sensitivities, comfort zone
  - Fleshly desires, ambitions, propensity to control
  - Facts, statistics, history, science
- Don't expect to like the outcome if you choose one of those options: Rom 7:18 AMP-- For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh [my human nature, my worldliness—my sinful capacity].
- And don't expect that biblical expectations will be the foundation of your thinking without some effort: Mt 7:25 MSG-- If you work these words into your life, you are like a

smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock.

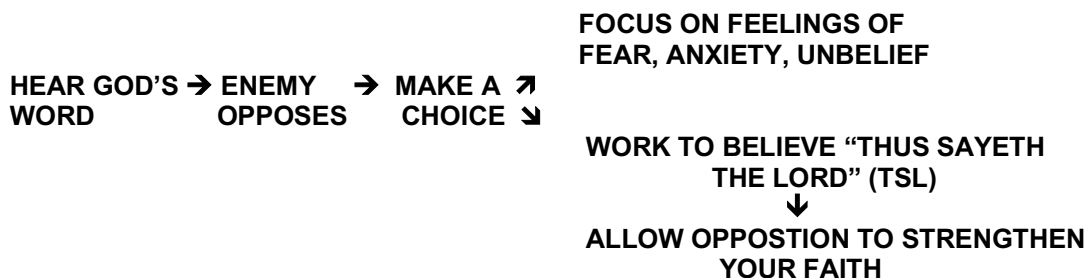
- Choosing life is a continual process. It takes intentional time every day and attention throughout the day: Prov 8:33-36 NLT-- Listen to my instruction and be wise. Don't ignore it. <sup>34</sup> Joyful are those who listen to me, watching for me daily at my gates, waiting for me outside my home! <sup>35</sup> For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord. <sup>36</sup> But those who miss me injure themselves. All who hate me love death.
- Beware! The human mind is subject to deception: Prov 14:12 NLT-- There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.
- God has promised that He will provide a way of escape so that you might choose life in every situation: 1 Cor 10:13-- God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tried above your strength, but will in the midst of the trial make a way to escape out.
- Let's be proactive in prayer and prioritize going after unbiblical expectations: 2 Cor 10:4-5 MSG-- We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ. Our tools are ready at hand for clearing the ground of every obstruction and building lives of obedience into maturity.
- Use the handout "Tools & Techniques: Renew Your Mind" to identify the thoughts that are competing with what God says.
- Invest the time needed to listen and learn so that you may replace these competing thoughts with truths from Scripture that minister to your heart. Strategies include:
  - Verse search—Look up key words relating to your issue using [biblegateway.org](http://biblegateway.org) or plug them into Google beginning with the word "verse \_\_\_\_\_."
  - Versions—Different translations may express a truth in a way that fits better.
  - Original Language—This often reveals nuances that help. ([blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org))
  - Context, Cross-Refs, Bible Stories—Gain additional insight into your issue.
- Stay at it until you are fully convinced and God's Word has the last word. You will be rewarded with a rich and satisfying life: Prov 2:1-10 MSG-- Good friend, take to heart what I'm telling you; collect my counsels and guard them with your life. Tune your ears to the world of Wisdom; set your heart on a life of Understanding. That's right—if you make Insight your priority, and won't take no for an answer, searching for it like a prospector panning for gold, like an adventurer on a treasure hunt, believe me, before you know it Fear-of-God will be yours; you'll have come upon the Knowledge of God. And here's why: God gives out Wisdom free, is plainspoken in Knowledge and Understanding. He's a rich mine of Common Sense for those who live well, a personal bodyguard to the candid and sincere. He keeps his eye on all who live honestly, and pays special attention to his loyally committed ones. So now you can pick out what's true and fair, find all the good trails! Lady Wisdom will be your close friend, and Brother Knowledge your pleasant companion. Good Sense will scout ahead for danger. Insight will keep an eye out for you. They'll keep you from making wrong turns, or following bad directions
- Insights:

## II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Again this week, use the handout “Tools & Techniques: Be Renewed” to calibrate your expectations. Choose one particular area of doubt, struggle or conflict and repeat the exercise daily if possible. Notice what bubbles up and shifts as you “abide in the truth.”
- Write down your processing. Come next week ready to share what you experienced.
- Refer to “Tools & Techniques: Listening to God” to help you grow in intimacy in your relationship with the Lord and find biblical guidance for this important practice.
- The whole truth about any topic or situation is multifaceted. We must ask the Holy Spirit to bring understanding about all the elements and to aid us in balancing them:



- Pay attention to what God *is doing* while you are waiting on Him to do the thing you want most. Praise Him for the promises He has given and don't forget to ask for patience!
- Take personal time with God for Meditation then Practice the Presence during your day.
- When we feel empty and unsatisfied, it's time to check in on our deepest core needs. *What other source are we expecting to fill those needs? Where are we relationally with the Lord?*
- Get in touch with your feelings by being honest with God. Journal about your issue using the handout “Tools & Techniques: I Feel But God Says.” Take time in the coming days to search out Scriptures that offer you accurate expectations instead.
- Refer to this continuum to help you make a choice whenever storms threaten your peace:



- Use the handout “Tools & Techniques: Spiritual Blessings” to help you connect to the wonderful things you can expect from God as He does His internal work in you.
- Each step of our journey with God is intended to teach us to know and trust Him relationally. Developing a relational mindset could be depicted this way:

