

- 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).
- 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. IF YOU REMAIN IN ME

- Practicing the nearness of God yields the fruit of a powerful prayer life: John 15:7-8 NIV--If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
- Believers were placed in living union with Christ at salvation. Intentionally remaining in that union fosters the connection needed for growth and communication (prayer).
- A fruitful prayer life doesn't occur automatically. The amazing spiritual synergy Jesus has promised won't happen without communion: John 15:5 NLT--"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."
- As in any relationship, consistent contact leads to deeper knowing and greater trust. Conversation (prayer) is a natural overflow of the closeness vs. a discipline or duty.
- It's in daily remaining connected to Jesus and His Word that your requests become more aligned with His. You'll find the liberty to ask: John 8:31:32--"You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- Insights:

B. IF MY WORDS REMAIN IN YOU

- Jesus links fruitful prayer to remaining in His Word. Our understanding of His heart and Biblical truth increases, leading to confidence and boldness in prayer: 1 John 5:14-15--Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.
- As we fellowship with Jesus and feed on His Word (study, meditate, apply, and obey), prayer becomes a natural overflow: Col 3:16--Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- Staying present to God’s Spirit throughout the day will yield Spirit-led prayers. We will grow into recognizing His principles, promises, and promptings: Rom 8:26 AMP-- The [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid *and* bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer *nor* how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication *and* pleads in our behalf
- Eventually, the fruit of our remaining in union with Jesus and His Word will lead to a life constantly bubbling over with prayer: 1 Thes 5:17—Pray without ceasing.
- Insights:

C. ASK WHATEVER YOU WISH

- Scripture is a great starting point for our prayers. They can be as simple as taking God’s Word before Him in the form of a request. “Lord, you say _____.”
- The “big things” in our lives are often where we learn to ask of Him. These include:
 - Guidance: Ps 32:8 AMP-- I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you [who are willing to learn] with My eye upon you.
 - Wisdom: James 1:5 NLT-- If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.
 - Decision-making: Is 30:21 NLT-- Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, “This is the way you should go,” whether to the right or to the left.
 - Vision: Hab 2:1-4--I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected. ² Then the Lord answered me and said: “Write the vision and make *it* plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. ³ For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry. ⁴ “Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.
 - Heart Desires: Ps 37:4-5-- Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring *it* to pass.
- A robust prayer life is chiefly formed through daily, even moment-by-moment, conversations with the Lord about the “small things.” Intimacy and trust happen here.

- While you wait for a practical answer to your prayers, be sure to ask Him to move in intangible ways. You can pray with assurance for the fruits of His presence: Gal 5:22-23 NLT--The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- Insights:

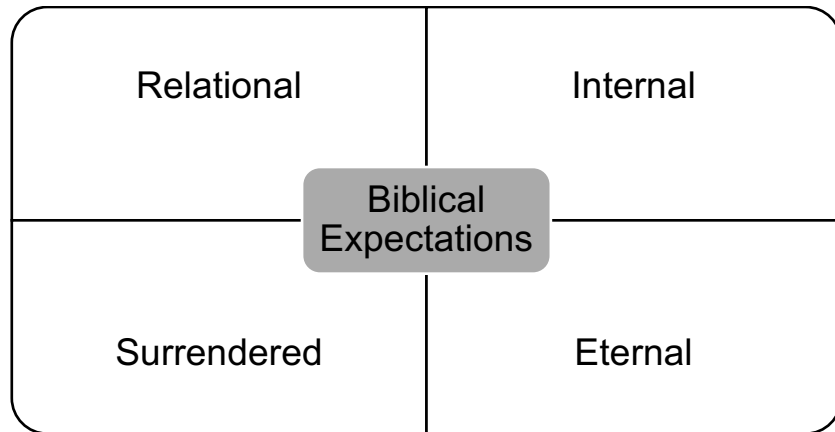
D. AND IT SHALL BE DONE FOR YOU

- Jesus is promising a fruitful, powerful, successful prayer life: John 15:7b—Ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you.
- C. H. Spurgeon speaks of this promise using the terms “carte blanche” and “signed check.” The Lord is offering us unexpected freedom and power with our prayers.
- Many other times Jesus invites believers to ask and expect Him to answer in very vivid terms. Take time to investigate His words and let them raise your expectations: Mt 7:7, 17:20 18:19, 21:22, Mk 11:23, Lk 11:9, 11:13, Jn 14:13,15:16, 16:23-24
- Remember the context of these prayer promises – they were made to His disciples, those who remained in close communion with Him and His Word.
- Throughout the Word of God, those who received amazing answers in prayer were consistently those who were wholeheartedly committed to God and His plans:
 - Moses, Friend of God: Ex 33:11-- The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.
 - Esther, All-In: Esther 5:2-3-- When the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, *that* she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that *was* in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter. And the king said to her, “What do you wish, Queen Esther? What *is* your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!”
- When our greatest delight is to be fruitful followers of Jesus, it is His delight to answer our prayers!
 - Pr 10:24-- The fear of the wicked will come upon him, and the desire of the righteous will be granted.
 - Pr 15:8 NLT-- The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but he delights in the prayers of the upright.
- We must remember to expect the unexpected as we look for the Lord’s answers:

- Delays: Ps 130:5-- I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.
- Resistance: Dan 10:12-14 NLT-- Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. Now I am here
- Unforeseen Outcomes: Is 55:9 MSG-- "I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work." God's Decree.
- What Goodness Looks Like: Ps 84:10-11-- For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand [anywhere else]; I would rather stand [as a doorkeeper] at the threshold of the house of my God than to live [at ease] in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord bestows grace *and* favor and honor; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.
- God will always provide the assurance and grace needed to recognize and follow through on His answers to our prayers:
 - Col 3:15 AMP-- Let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds
 - Phil 2:13 AMP-- [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure *and* satisfaction *and* delight.
 - Rom 10:17-- So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- Remaining with the Lord over the issues on your heart will always bring good fruit. We can expect Him to do good things in us and for us: Mt 7:7-8 NLT--"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.
- Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

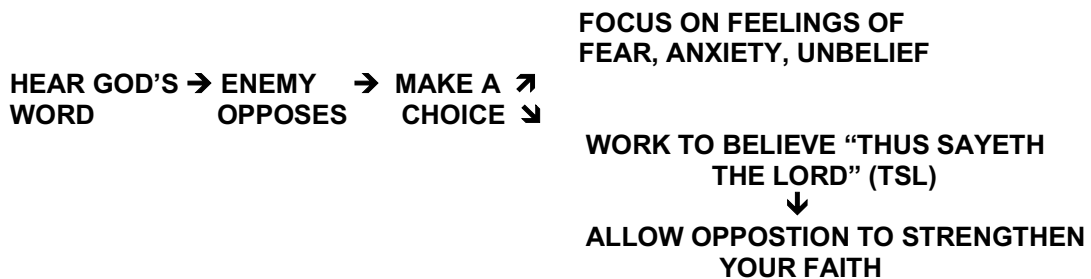
- For more pointers on growing in prayer study "Tools & Techniques: Supplication."
- Again this week, use the handout "Tools & Techniques: Be Renewed" to calibrate your expectations. Choose one particular area of doubt, struggle or conflict and repeat the exercise daily if possible. Notice what bubbles 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:



- With these mindsets as our starting point, we can expect to R.I.S.E. above our circumstances as we deeply know the truth and are set free:

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|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| R. | I. | S. | E. |
| Relational | Internal | Surrendered | Eternal |

- 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:

