

- 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 these principles to help you understand and grow in Living Hope:

A. INDIVIDUALIZE

- The Lord has created each of us as unique individuals with varying gifts and calls: Rom 12:6 MSG--Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.
- Knowing our individual gifts and calling provides us with a sense of purpose and hope. It is our antidote for comparison, disappointment, resentment, and self-pity.
- We give power to the victim mindset when we agree with the Father of Lies. He tells us we are victims, orphans, abandoned, and impoverished. Nor do we have a gift.
- We must not allow the Liar to rob us of our identity or destiny! We do this every time we think or speak belittling things about ourselves.
- Our true identity is Child of God, well loved by the Father: Eph 1:4-6 NLT-- Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.
- Every day and in every situation, we have the choice to find Living Hope as we remember our identity and destiny: Jn 13:3-5 NIV-- Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist...and began to wash his disciples' feet
- Jesus found strength to trust and obey by getting aligned with the Father's call.

Insights:

B. IMPART

- The sacrifice of Christ on our behalf imparts worth to us. God's gifts in us are confirmation of our value to Him: Heb 2:3-4 JBP-- Salvation came first through the words of the Lord himself: it was confirmed for our hearing by men who had heard him speak, and God moreover has plainly endorsed their witness by signs and miracles, by all kinds of spiritual power, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, all working toward the divine plan.
- We have been commissioned by Christ individually and collectively for Kingdom work: Mt 28:18-20 AMP-- "All authority (all power of absolute rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always [remaining with you perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of the age."
- In Christ, we have the hope of glory, no matter our past, our weaknesses, or our circumstances because His presence has been imparted to us. (Col 1:27)
- It is our responsibility to strengthen ourselves in the Lord and pursue the future and hope God has for us.
- Biblical Example: David after the Amalekites took some of the community's families captive: 1 Sam 30:6-- Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.
- When feeling self-pity, bitterness, self-loathing, or disappointment, we must renew our minds: 1 Tim 6:12 MSG—(Wo)man of God: Run for your life from all this. Pursue a righteous life—a life of wonder, faith, love, steadiness, courtesy. Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life, the life you were called to, the life you so fervently embraced in the presence of so many witnesses.
- We are "In Christ" (Prince of Peace) and the Spirit inside imparts to us His peace.
- Jesus had the disciples breathe out fear and breathe in His peace: Jn 20: 19-22 NLT-- The disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus gave us His lifestyle to imitate. He carried the peace of God and imparted it to the disciples, likewise we're to carry and impart His presence to others: Mt 10:13 TPT-- If those living there welcome you, let your peace come upon the house. But if you are rejected, that blessing of peace will come back upon you.
- We're called to life-giving ministry as we model Christ and those more mature in the faith: Rom 1:11--I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift so that you may be established
- At the beginning of his great theological book to the Romans, Paul is reminding his readers of the life-to-life transfer that can only be imparted person to person.

- Impart = to share, to add, to give (Strong's G3330)
- Establish = to strengthen, make firm or steadfast (Strong's G4741)

Insights:

C. IGNITE

- Instead of being stirred up with disappointment, stir up the gifts of God inside you!
- We ignite Living Hope as we faithfully attend to the Spirit's fire and our personal gift mix: 2 Tim 1:6 AMP-- I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you
- Stir up = that with which fire is rekindled as with a bellows; to resuscitate or inflame one's mind, strength and zeal (Vine's)
- We ignite the fire of the Holy Spirit as we come to God and ask Him to breathe life into us afresh. He wants to partner with us so that His presence is released in us: Mt 3:11 MSG--"I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama...will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out.
- Jesus is our model. He pursued relationship with the Father in the Secret Place of prayer. He strengthened Himself in the Lord, igniting Holy Spirit fire for His call.
- Like Jesus, we can receive firepower for ourselves with plenty left to impact everyone around us: Jn 3:34 AMP--God gives the [gift of the] Spirit without measure [generously and boundlessly]!
- If God calls us to something, He gives us His grace to accomplish it: Eph 4:7 JBP-- Naturally there are different gifts and functions; individually grace is given to us in different ways out of the rich diversity of Christ's giving. As the scripture says: 'When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men'.
- Grace (besides unmerited favor) is defined as "the operational power of God."
- When we follow God's will and do His work in the power of the Spirit, the by-product is joy: Rom 15:13 NLT-- I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely

with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit

- Note that the Greek words for gift and joy are from the same root. This will help you spot your gifts and calling. They're those things that bring you joy:
 - Gift (*charis*) = that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, loveliness
 - Joy (*chara*) = delight, cheerfulness, gladness; Gift (*charis*) = that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, loveliness
- Find hope and joy as you meditate on God's vision for your life: Mt 5:14-16 TV--
You, *beloved*, are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. Similarly it would be silly to light a lamp and then hide it under a bowl. When someone lights a lamp, she puts it on a table or a desk or a chair, and the light illumines the entire house. *You are like that illuminating light*. Let your light shine everywhere you go, *that you may illumine creation*, so men and women everywhere may see your good actions, *may see creation at its fullest, may see your devotion to Me*, and may turn and praise your Father in heaven *because of it*.

Insights:

- D. GROW IN LIVING HOPE by applying the principles we have previously learned:
- Wonder in God's presence about 1) Your individuality and uniqueness, 2) Which gifts and callings He's imparted to you (individually and collectively), and 3) How, specifically, you might stir up or ignite them to experience more HS firepower.
 - Be alert for the lack of grace, power, and joy in following the Lord. This may be an indicator that the season for that dream/vision is past or it isn't from God at all.
 - Continue seeking the Lord about your own God-given dreams. Dream = a personal & specific God-given idea, plan, agenda, or goal that leads to God honoring results.

- Use the Promise Pages provided to make a list of your God-given dreams. Add the verses that apply to each one. Pray them back to God to keep your hope strong.
- Mediate on these verses that illustrate how we can choose to be Prisoners of Hope:
 - Rev 3:20 TPT-- Behold, I'm standing at the door, knocking. If your heart is open to hear my voice and you open the door *within*, I will come in to you and feast with you, and you will feast with me.
 - Ps 37:3-7 TV-- Live in the land *He provides; roam*, and rest in God's faithfulness.⁴Take great joy in the (Lord)! His gifts are coming, and they are all your heart desires! ⁵Commit your path to the (Lord); *let Him direct you*. Put your confidence in Him, and He will follow through *with you*. ⁶He will spread out righteousness for you as a sunrise *spreads radiance over the land*; He will deliver justice for you into the light of the high sun. ⁷Be still. Be patient. Expect the (Lord) to arrive *and set things right*.
- Use your emotions as an indicator of where God can offer Living Hope. Bring your feelings to God in prayer in your over-reactions, numbness, or hardness of heart.
- Embrace the Limp when you are dealing with an area of weakness or wounding. Call on the Father as a beloved child. Allow trustworthy, like-minded friends to support and speak into these areas. Offer your strength to them where you are mature.
- If you have not done so, take the assessment on Emotionally Healthy Spirituality. Use the results to pinpoint areas of growth in your relationship with God and others.
- Be alert for any Negativity Bias (focus problem) or Confirmation Bias (belief problem). Ask for hope (an expectation of good) where you're struggling.
- Keep asking: *What am I pursuing and prizing that indicate that my worship is off?*
- "Remember the Deeds of the Lord" and be encouraged by His faithfulness.
- Bring glory to God and grow in hope and faith by giving more weight to what He says than to your emotions, evidence, and errors. The resistance will make you stronger!
- Review regularly the benefits of being "In Christ" and having Christ is in you:
 - Surety—We can have confidence in God's unchanging character.
 - Purity—Our salvation is sure and our record is spotless because of Jesus.
 - Security—The Lord's acceptance, love, and worth for us is unconditional.
 - Maturity—We grow in Christ as we abide, repent, wait and watch for His word to be fulfilled.
 - Authority—In Christ we have authority to overcome the flesh, the world, and the enemy.
- The Scripture verses on the handout "Tools & Techniques: God Makes Things Right" offer comfort and hope when you have been wronged.
- Invite the Spirit to speak through His word and breathe His life-giving power where you have been lifeless and dry. Believe that those Dry Bones can dance again!
- For helpful hints about hearing God's word and allowing the Spirit to apply it to your life, refer to the handout "Tools & Techniques: Listening to God."
- Keep short accounts with the help of "Tools & Techniques: Understanding Forgiveness."
- Discover gaps in your belief system that may be responsible for some of your Dry Bones areas. Use the handout "Tools & Techniques: Hope of Glory Applications" to help you renew your mind and begin the transformation process.
- Be sure to journal your prayers and God's answers. Come back ready to share!