

- 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.

- C. Sing about what you're learning. It's helpful in connecting emotionally to the truth.

- III. 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 our "In the Vault" series can be found on our Divine Design Discipleship YouTube channel. (Be sure to subscribe to our channel!) Our 2021 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 explore what God says in His Word about living a victorious life in Him. Let's use them to know God more deeply and enrich our Vaults with His truth:

A. NO SURPRISE

- God has kept His promise to make David king over all Israel and has blessed him with His presence and His power. David's Vault was enriched! (2 Sam 5:12)
- Almost immediately after this outpouring from God, opposition comes: 2 Sam 5:13-25 NLT-- After moving from Hebron to Jerusalem, David married more concubines and wives, and they had more sons and daughters. ¹⁴These are the names of David's sons who were born in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, ¹⁵Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, ¹⁶Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet. ¹⁷When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king of Israel, they mobilized all their forces to capture him. But David was told they were coming, so he went into the stronghold. ¹⁸The Philistines arrived and spread out across the valley of Rephaim. ¹⁹So David asked the Lord, "Should I go out to fight the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?" The Lord replied to David, "Yes, go ahead. I will certainly hand them over to you."²⁰ So David went to Baal-perazim and defeated the Philistines there. "The Lord did it!" David exclaimed. "He burst through my enemies like a raging flood!" So he named that place Baal-perazim (which means "the Lord who bursts through"). ²¹The Philistines had abandoned their idols there, so David and his men confiscated them. ²²But after a while the Philistines returned and again spread out across the valley of Rephaim. ²³And again David asked the Lord what to do. "Do not attack them straight on," the Lord replied. "Instead, circle around behind and attack them near the poplar trees. ²⁴When you hear a sound like marching feet in the tops of the poplar trees, be on the alert! That will be the signal that the Lord is moving ahead of you to strike down the Philistine army." ²⁵So David did what the Lord commanded, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.
- God's Word tells us not to be surprised at ongoing battles with the enemy:
 - 2 Cor 2:11 JBP-- We don't want Satan to win any victory here, and well we know his methods!
 - Mark 4:15 NIV-- The message is planted. The people hear the message. Then Satan comes. He takes away the message that was planted in them.
 - 1 Peter 4:12-13 NLT-- Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.
- Though David had made some compromises in certain areas, he was still humbly following the Lord's instructions as he sought to lead his people to victory. (v.19)
- We may fight an enemy and win, but it's possible for this enemy to keep trying to make a comeback. The Philistines returned after their first defeat by Israel. (v. 22)
- The enemy hadn't forgotten their victories in times past. The Philistines had recently defeated and destroyed the fleshly King Saul.
- It's no surprise to suffer defeat by the enemy of our souls when we are focused on the desires of our flesh: Rom 8:5-8 NIV-- Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.
- Beware: Eph 4:27 EXB-- Do not give the devil a way to defeat you [foothold; opportunity].

- Insights:

B. NO PRESUMPTION

- David remembered the vain and foolish way Saul had lost favor with the Lord through his manipulation of God's Word. He wrote these words: Ps 19:13 AMP-- Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then shall I be blameless, and I shall be innocent *and* clear of great transgression.
- Presumption - the act of presuming; an overstepping of proper bounds; forwardness; effrontery, the taking of something for granted (Webster's New World College Dictionary)
- Saul's presumption at the battle at Mount Gilboa was extremely costly. Many lives we lost including that of Saul himself and 3 of his sons. (1 Sam 31:1-8)
- Instead of assuming and presuming upon the Lord, David waited to hear what God would say. He withdrew to be alone with Him to find strength and guidance: Ps 118:5-7 NLT--In my distress I prayed to the Lord, and the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? Yes, the Lord is for me; he will help me. I will look in triumph at those who hate me.
- David expected God to show up for him and He did! God told David to go up and fight and he gained the victory just as promised. (vv.19-20)
- Though the first campaign was successful, David did not presume anything in the second battle. He didn't rely on previous experience but intentionally sought God.
- When God's plan was victorious, David's heart (Vault) overflowed with gratitude and glory to God: Ps 124:2, 6-8 NLT--What if the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us? ...Praise the Lord, who did not let their teeth tear us apart! We escaped like a bird from a hunter's trap. The trap is broken, and we are free! Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
- "Manipulation never advanced God's promises, only hindered them...Faith knows that God's will done God's way will never lack for God's supply." (Mark LaCour)
- David and other authors of Scripture offer us encouragement when we are tempted to "help God," get ahead of Him, or resort to our own methods:
 - Ps 37:7 NAS-- Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not get upset because of one who is successful in his way, Because of the person who carries out wicked schemes.
 - Heb 10:36 AMP--For you have need of patient endurance [to bear up under difficult circumstances without compromising], so that when you have carried out the will of God, you may receive *and* enjoy to the full what is promised.

- Col 3:24 AMP--Knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [and not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [real] reward. [The One Whom] you are actually serving [is] the Lord
- Heb 6:13-17 MSG--When God made his promise to Abraham, he backed it all the way, putting his own reputation on the line. He said, "I promise that I'll bless you with everything I have—bless and bless and bless!" Abraham stuck it out and got everything that had been promised to him. When people make promises, they guarantee them by appeal to some authority above them so that if there is any question that they'll make good on the promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee his promises, he gave his word, a rock-solid guarantee—God *can't* break his word. And because his word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable.
- Not only should we anticipate recurring harassment from our enemies, we can also expect that God is on our side! He has promised His power and presence.
- Insights:

C. NO GOD

- David looked to the Lord for victory. The Philistines had no god but their carved idols: Is 44:9-11 MSG-- All those who make no-god idols don't amount to a thing, and what they work so hard at making is nothing. Their little puppet-gods see nothing and know nothing—they're total embarrassments! Who would bother making gods that can't do anything, that can't "god"? Watch all the no-god worshipers hide their faces in shame. Watch the no-god makers slink off humiliated when their idols fail them. Get them out here in the open. Make them face God-reality.
- The Philistines brought their idols to battle in hopes of securing their help.
- There is no god that can honestly claim the name "Lord of the Breakthrough" but Yahweh! He is God of the angel armies and does supernatural exploits!
- David brought his faith in the character and the Word of the Lord to the battle. He provides an example of how to face obstacles and opposition in the power of God.
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *What do we bring to our situations and struggles thinking they will protest us or propel us to the place we want to be?*

- Elevating no gods inappropriately only leads to confusion and frustration because we are asking of them something they have no capacity to deliver.
- Until we put these no gods in their appropriate place, we are deterred from the One who is able to meet all our needs perfectly: Jonah 2:8 AMP-- Those who regard and follow worthless idols turn away from their [living source of] mercy *and* lovingkindness.
- 1 Sam 12:20-22-- Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. And do not turn aside; for *then you would go* after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they *are* nothing. For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people.
- Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Continue to ponder the principles that you don't fully accept or understand. Please get these to your group leader or to Kathy ASAP. Thanks! (kyg@bellsouth.net)
- Reflect on your own commitment to God's purposes for your life. *How willing are you to let your fleshly ways decrease so that Christ might increase?*
- Discover secret riches as you meditate on and appropriate God's many promises.
- Refer to the handout "Tools & Techniques: Spiritual Blessings." The truths and biblical references there are part of your inheritance. Target them for your Vault!
- Continue to grow in your personal knowledge of God by calling on His names. The handout "Tools & Techniques: Names of God" can serve as a resource for you.
- *Where in your life are you withholding from God your first fruits? Will you give to Him whatever it may be for the sake of greater depth of relationship with Him?*
- Pray for greater awareness of God's presence with you throughout your days. Ask the Lord to keep you focused on knowing Him in a relational way.
- Use "Tools & Techniques: I Feel But God Says" to process your feelings, fears or unbelief. Ask God to address them and begin to replace them with His truth.
- Study "Tools & Techniques: Listening to God" for practical help and Scriptural support in your pursuit of making God's truth your own.
- Keep a record of what you discover in your notebook or spiritual journal. Come back next week ready to share what you experienced!