

- 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 help you understand God's desire for you to know Him and His truth in your Vault:

A. KNOWING

- Our security with the Lord is not based so much on what we know about Him, although knowing our theology is sound is certainly helpful.
- Deep, heartfelt security comes when we stand amazed in His presence having encountered His presence in His Word or in worship.
- Throughout the Bible we see God expressing His heart to connect with us relationally. He desires that we know Him:
 - Ps 46:10 AMP--Let be *and* be still, and know (recognize and understand) that I am God.
 - Hosea 2:20-- I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord.
 - Jer 29:13— You will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.
 - Phil 3:10 AMP—My determined purpose is that I may know Him that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly
- Jesus told the God seekers of His day that they had missed the main point of God's written Word: John 5:38-39 NLT--You do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one he sent to you. You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!
- We see this fundamental flaw in the approach of many present day seekers as well. It is not as much about knowing the Scripture as it is about knowing its Author!
- Our top priority is to not only know the Lord but to know Him at the heart level. There are 2 types of knowing referenced in the Bible:
 1. Gnosis -- head knowledge that gathers facts and information using our minds.
 - This approach to knowing God uses our minds to study facts like history or definitions. It has value but is limited in developing relational knowledge of God.
 - It's possible to hear and say truth without being truly impacted or changed by it: Is 29:13 NLT-- The Lord says, "These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.
 - Paul spoke of how God's chosen people didn't know Him deeply: Rom 10:2 AMP— For I testify about them that they have a certain enthusiasm for God, but not in accordance with [correct and vital] knowledge [about Him and His purposes].
 2. Epignosis— knowledge that penetrates the heart and produces change within
 - John Calvin spoke of *epignosis* when he said, "The knowledge of God is efficacious." In other words, time in God's Word and presence is transformative.
 - This type of knowing God is the work of the Spirit: 1 Cor 2:14-- The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.
 - Once we grasp the reality of the constant presence of the Spirit, it allows us to relax and open ourselves to His work in us: Jn 16:13-14-- When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.
 - The truths we know at this depth have been deposited into our Vault!

- As we begin to experience God's disclosure of Himself, we become more secure in our relationship with Him.
- Insights:

B. RELATING

- Psalm 119 is all about the Bible, however, these selected verses demonstrate that we're to approach the Word with the expectation of knowing God deeply: Ps 119:65, 111, 112, 130— You have dealt well with Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word...
¹¹¹Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, for they *are* the rejoicing of my heart.
¹¹²I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever, to the very end... ¹³⁰The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple
- *How can I expect God to deal with me?* His dealings will always be in accordance with His written Word. (v. 65)
- This means that when we observe how He deals with His people in the pages of Scripture, we will gain confidence in relating to Him: Rom 15:4 JBP--For all those words which were written long ago are meant to teach us today; that when we read in the scriptures of the endurance of men and of all the help that God gave them in those days, we may be encouraged to go on hoping in our own time.
- Any principle, promise, commandment, or interaction in God's Word reflects the unchanging nature of God.
- Let's take what we learn about Him and believe that what the Lord reveals about Himself is telling us something about who He wants to be for us personally.
- Ex: God told Abram to go to an undisclosed destination and He would show him the way. (Gen 12:1) I can believe that He will show me where He wants me to go, too!
- Insights:

C. REVELATION

- Thinking of Scripture as the testimony of the Lord instead of the stories of special people in special times, puts us on the pathway to *epignosis*, heart knowledge.
- “Your testimonies are my inheritance,” (v. 111) God’s dealings with His chosen ones throughout the ages are His testimony to us about Who He is and how He relates.
- Testimony = statement or declaration of a witness under oath; affirmation; evidence in support of a fact or statement (Dictionary.com)
- God alone can testify fully and give a completely accurate revelation of Himself: Heb 6:17-18 NLT— God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. ¹⁸ So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence
- Understanding that the Bible is more than a historical account but the living confession of God protects us from the threat of dead orthodoxy: Heb 4:12--For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- Jesus is the ultimate testimony of God’s purpose for us to live a life of nearness with Him: 1 Jn 5:20 NLT-- We know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life.
- Our relationship with the Lord will deepen as the truth that we already are at one with the Lord is implanted in our Vaults
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
How deeply do I believe that God is always present with me?

How open and available is my heart to receiving His revelation in a personal way?

- Insights:

D. INHERITANCE

- Our inheritance can be enjoyed now and enrich every day of our earthly lives: Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever. (v. 111a)
- We have a stockpile of blessings that come through God's testimony (His Word) that are accessible now and that last forever: 1 Pt 1:3-4 AMP-- We have been born again to an ever-living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [born anew] into an inheritance which is beyond the reach of change *and* decay [imperishable], unsullied and unfading, reserved in heaven for you
- This rich inheritance is not just in heaven but is provided for our benefit on this earth. Let's access it now so that we might enjoy the abundant life Jesus came to give us!
- As we come to our time in the Word of God expecting to encounter Him there, each new discovery brings a deep inner joy: they *are* the rejoicing of my heart. (v. 111b)
- His presence with us is the greatest joy we can know, the pearl of great price.
- One great wonder of our inheritance is that God desires to teach us individually:
 - Is 48:17 NLT-- I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow.
 - Ps 32:8—I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.
 - Is 30:20 AMP-- Though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of oppression, yet your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will [constantly] see your Teacher.
- As we open our hearts to the Lord's teaching, He will provide light for our next faith steps: The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. (v. 130)
- God will give testimony through our lives as well. We will have a legacy to pass along and to enrich others.
- Insights:

E. POSTURE

- These relational interactions with God build trust and equip us. They also put us in the position to step out in faith: I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes (v. 112)
- Incline = intend, offer, stretch (forth, out), take (aside), turn, to yield (Strong's H5186)
- To incline ourselves toward God is to offer all of ourselves to God with ever increasing readiness and willingness to believe and to follow Him.
- God's children are not on a self-improvement plan. Instead, God's Word and Spirit are responsible for the change in us: Jer 23:29-- "Is not My word like a fire?" says the Lord, "And like a hammer *that* breaks the rock in pieces?"
- By putting our thinking, feelings, and priorities under the influence of God's presence and His truth we posture ourselves for transformation: 2 Cor 3:18 NLT-- All of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

- Standing on God’s principles by faith positions our hearts to receive them into our Vaults. Here are faith statements to meditate on from our Ps 119 passage:
 1. I can know the Lord more intimately as I will open my heart to Him and His Word.
 2. God desires that I know these truths in my innermost place (my Vault) and so do I!
 3. God deals with me according to His Word.
 4. My relationship with God and His Scriptures are my inheritance! I’m going to make withdrawals that will bring me joy.
 5. The Bible is more than information; it is the very testimony of the Lord Himself.
 6. I will incline my heart toward God, ready to encounter Him and to respond in faith to Him.
 7. I can be secure in believing that I will find light for the path ahead of me.
- May we all experience transformative knowledge of God as we pursue relationship with Him and begin to believe more deeply His testimony about Himself in His Word: Eph 1:16-17 JBP-- This is my prayer. That God, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ and the all-glorious Father, will give you spiritual wisdom and the insight to know more of him: that you may receive that inner illumination of the spirit which will make you realize how great is the hope to which he is calling you—the magnificence and splendor of the inheritance promised to Christians—and how tremendous is the power available to us who believe in God.
- Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- This week, 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.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you recognize what is currently in your Vault. Watch for times when your actions and emotions reveal what you value highly.
- Keep on considering the questions we’ll be exploring this year:

At the center of my being, what things do I firmly and completely believe to be true?

Where is it that I ultimately go to find the security I was created to experience?

- Refer to the handout “Tools & Techniques: Spiritual Blessings.” The truths and supporting references there are part of your inheritance. Target them for your Vault!
- Keep a record of what you discover in your notebook or spiritual journal. Come back next week ready to share what you experienced!
- Feel free to contact any of our leadership team if we can help you with questions:

Kathy Girardeau	kyg@bellsouth.net
Stephanie Alonso	alonsodesign@charter.net
Debbie Brazeal	debbiebrazeal@gmail.com
Sissy Flynn	sissyflynn@bellsouth.net
Kate McKnight	kateadams@gmail.com
Margaret Murdock	margrgm@aol.com
Mary White	maryswhite3408@gmail.com
Sand Price	sandprice@gmail.com

- NOTE: Permanent small groups for the year will begin meeting on Tuesday, September 28th. Please contact Kathy for more information about placement.