

- 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 strength and success. Let's use them to add truth to and rid error from our Vaults:

A. STENGTH

- We return today to the account of Joshua as he and God's people were called to let go of the past and take possession of God's promised inheritance to them: Josh 1:6-9 NLT--Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. ⁷ Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. ⁸ Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. ⁹ This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.
- Obviously, the Lord felt Joshua needed much strength and courage for the commission ahead because He mentioned it 3 times in 4 short verses!
- Joshua may have been experiencing Fear of Failure. Forty years prior he had seen firsthand the strong people who occupy the Promised Land and their fortifications.
- The task ahead must have seemed impossible based on the facts, yet God is imparting His Word to Joshua to stir a faith that overcomes any obstacle.
- Fear of Man must have been a temptation for Joshua. The Hebrews had complained against Moses and God Himself, criticizing their leading and providing.
- Joshua is likely suspecting that the same treatment is awaiting him.
- The unfamiliar and the difficulty of the assignment is further cause for anxiety.
- The Lord was now asking them to stretch, to take more personal responsibility than before. In other words, He was raising the bar for Joshua and his followers.
- God's call to greater strength and courage was attainable because this instruction came with the promise that God would be with them.
- *"Be strong and courageous" is a popular Bible verse, but what does it really mean?*
- The biblical definition of "courage" = steadfastly minded, stronger, establish, fortify, harden, increase, prevail, strengthen (self), make strong (obstinate). (Strong's H553)
- The courage God was asking of Joshua did not mean that he would not feel fearful at times. Instead, he was to find strength in God and in His infallible Word.
- "In essence, every principle of Scripture becomes a promise because with the principle comes the inherent promise of God who is perfect veracity so that we can count on the principle." (J. Hampton Keathley, III) (Veracity = habitual truthfulness)
- So, implicit in the command to be strong and courageous is the promise that God will be there to provide the strength they need for His purposes. Let's apply it:
 1. Fear of Failure: Pr 16:3 AMP-- Commit your works to the Lord [submit and trust them to Him], and your plans will succeed [if you respond to His will and guidance].
 2. Fear of Man: Is 51:12, 15-- "I, *even I, am* He who comforts you. Who *are* you that you should be afraid of a man *who* will die, and of the son of a man *who* will be made like grass? ... I *am* the Lord your God, Who divided the sea whose waves roared— The Lord of hosts *is* His name.

- LISTENING EXERCISE:
Is there anywhere that Fear of Failure is looming in my life?

Which people or situations stir up insecurity or Fear of Man in me?

- Insights:

B. SUCCESS

- In a worldly sense, success is equated with achievement, power, influence, and wealth. While having these things is not wrong, they can lure us into false security.
- If our idea of success is based on temporal things like these, we are believing the lie that they will lead to security and satisfaction in life: Ecc 3:11 AMP-- He has also planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God]
- Our successes in this world will never completely fulfill us. The success that brings true satisfaction is spiritual and happens in the context of our relationship with God.
- Scriptural success has several components. God revealed some of these to Joshua:
 1. Warfare
 - God tells Joshua that his mission to fight enemy nations will be successful if he goes in God's strength to answer this call. (v.6)
 - Our enemies are spiritual in nature. We, too, are promised victory for the battles we face: Jm 4:7 EXB-- So give yourselves completely [submit] to God. Stand against [Resist] the devil, and the devil will run [flee] from you.
 - Success is guaranteed only when our hearts are surrendered first to God.
 2. Obedience
 - The Lord makes a clear correlation between success and obedience to His instructions. (v. 7)
 - Responding to God's instructions in faith and obedience will be difficult if we have unbiblical beliefs about the source of success lurking in our Vaults.
 - Identifying these false beliefs and replacing them with the God's truth will free us to obey the Lord: 2 Cor 10:5 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.

3. Priorities

- God urges Joshua to make time with God and His Word a priority. (v. 8)
- Investing in our relationship with God holds the promise of authentic success.
- True success, quality of life and long-term satisfaction are the dividends we reap when we seek God first: Pr 8:18, 19, 21, 32, 34, 35, 36 NAS-- Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches and righteousness. 19 My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver...21 That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, that I may fill their treasuries...32 "Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep my ways...34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. 35 For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord; 36 But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."
- We see, once again, the Lord's ultimate promise to us. This is the true secret to success, "*For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*" (v.9)
- Success comes from greater awareness and dependency upon our ever-present God: Ps 138:3 NLT-- As soon as I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me strength.
- Insights:

C. MEDITATION

- God commands Joshua to mediate on His Word continually for "*Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.*" (v.8b)
- The Hebrew word for meditation is *hagah*. It is an instructive word that means to ponder, imagine, mutter, groan, sigh, sing, remember, or to mutter an inarticulate sound. (Strong's H1897)
- Notice that meditation is more than studying for intellectual understanding, but it involves our emotions, our voices, and our inner being. It is a Vault exercise!
- The meditation of Eastern religions is focused on emptying one's mind. Instead, God wants us to fill ourselves with His Word: Ezek 3:3 MSG-- As I opened my mouth, he gave me the scroll to eat, saying, "Son of man, eat this book that I am giving you. Make a full meal of it!" So I ate it. It tasted so good—just like honey.
- Some of the benefits of meditating on God's Word are amazing. Here are just a few:
 1. We are transformed as we expose our minds and hearts to the living, active Word of God: Rom 12:2 JBP-- Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.

2. Mindsets that are not in agreement with Scripture are brought to light: 2 Tim 3:16 NLT-- All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.
 3. We begin to thrive as we gain security and fruitfulness: Ps 1:2-3 MSG-- Instead you thrill to God's Word, you chew on Scripture day and night. You're a tree replanted in Eden, bearing fresh fruit every month, never dropping a leaf, always in blossom.
 4. Meditation gives rest to our busy minds, time off from trying to figure everything out: Ps 62:1-- Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.
 5. Practicing God presence through meditation is an act of worship. Our devotion to Him will grow as we see and experience more of Him: Ps 27:14 NLT-- The one thing I ask of the Lord— the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple
- Meditation, in its most basic form, is to put oneself in the presence of the Lord and under the power of His living and active Word. Try these suggestions for yourself:
 - Choose a Scripture that you want to make your own, to believe with your whole heart, and deposit in your Vault.
 - Look up your verse in different versions to find the one that best expresses its truth to you. (Use a Bible search engine like biblegateway.com.)
 - Begin your time of meditation, by asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to the wonderful truths in the passage. Pray that He will personalize His word and apply it to your life as you sit before Him.
 - Read through the passage several times, being alert for the insights and wisdom that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.
 - Choose the truth that is most meaningful to you. Now write it down and pray it back to God. Thank Him for what he has shown you.
 - Sit quietly, meditating on this particular truth for a few minutes. If your mind wanders, simply go back to the Scripture and continue to reflect.
 - Continue this practice periodically (daily, weekly) expecting to discover different insights and experience deeper understanding each time.
 - God commands Joshua to meditate because He knows that it will give him faith, hope, guidance, and, most importantly, a place to enjoy fellowship with Him.
 - This practice requires an investment of our time, but the payoffs of transformation and of knowing God more deeply are certainly well worth whatever the cost!
 - Is 58:10-11 NLT--“The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.
 - Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Set aside a time this week for practicing biblical meditation. See the suggested approach on page 5 of this handout. Write down what you experienced.
- Here are a few Faith Statements targeted to put In The Vault from Joshua 1:1-5:
 - God has a purpose for me even in situations that are uncertain or unstable.
 - The Lord calls me to rise up and move forward into His purposes.
 - His plans for me will always be too big for me to accomplish on my own.
 - God's boundaries are a gift to me. They keep me safe.
 - When I walk with God, He will deliver me from the obstacles I will surely face.
 - I can count on God's presence at all times and in every situation!
- This week, generate a few of your own faith statements from Joshua 1:6-9. Write the truths that you want to put into your Vault in your own words. Revisit them often.
- Rehearse "The Ultimate Promise" that the Lord has given: *I will be with you. I will never leave you nor forsake you.* Spend some time journaling about any inner resistance to it and situations where you'd like to apply it (what it would look like).
- 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.
- Study "Tools & Techniques: Listening to God" for practical help and Scriptural support in your pursuit of making God's truth your own.
- Refer to the handout "Tools & Techniques: Spiritual Blessings." The truths and biblical references there are part of your inheritance. Target them for your Vault!
- 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?

- Keep a record of what you discover in your notebook or spiritual journal. Come back next week ready to share what you experienced!