

Session Outline:

I. Thinking Like God (0:00 minutes)

A. God Is Better Than You Think

1. You need to change the way that you think so that you begin to think like God.

a. Our inheritance is the mind of Christ.

2. It would be incredible to spend one hour thinking like God.

B. Changed Perspectives

1. Read the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and try to find the mind of Christ.

a. What was Christ thinking when He told the disciples to feed the multitude?

2. Christ is trying to build His perspective in us.

a. Take an inventory of yourself: do you look at problems differently now than you did a year ago?

What has changed, and how did it come?

- You cannot get that just through teaching.
- The quickest way to see change in how you view things is to experience supernatural intervention and let it affect your perspective.

b. Instead of being overwhelmed by a need, you are looking to overwhelm a need.

3. It is possible to experience a miracle, though, and not change your perspective.

a. Example: not expecting second food multiplication

II. A Different Perspective (6:22)

A. Jonathan's Courage

1. During a conflict between the Philistines and Israel, Saul kept himself guarded for safety. However, his son, Jonathan, had a different perspective (I Samuel 14:1-15).

My Notes:

a. Jonathan's thoughts led him to believe that he and a servant could take an army alone; his faith changed the perspective.

- Example: a fleece (a ridiculous military strategy); revealing himself to the enemy

2. Heaven cannot resist the radical devotion of faith.

a. Example: earthquake defeated Philistine army

B. Gideon's Courage

1. God told Gideon that he would defeat the Midianite army, but if he was afraid, he needed only to listen to what the men in the enemy's camp were saying (Judges 7:10-15).

a. Gideon heard them talking about a dream in which a loaf of barley bread knocked down their tent, and they interpreted it as the sword of Gideon.

2. God loves to increase the odds against us winning a victory naturally, which qualifies us to win it supernaturally.

a. When Jesus heard Lazarus was dying, He stayed a couple of days longer—THEN He went to raise Lazarus (John 11:6).

III. Courage Inspires People (20:00)

A. Courage to Stand

1. I Samuel 14:21 Jonathan's courage not only inspired his servant, but also the Hebrews (backsliders) that were in the camp of the Philistines.

a. When one person stood up with courage, they found it impossible to sit still in the enemy's camp.

2. Courage to stand up for Christ rattles the cage of everyone. Backsliders (people who have fallen away from faith in God) realize they need to come back into relationship and faith in the Lord.

3. Everyone has a thing inside that says, "I would rather live in courage than die in unbelief."

a. Example: Esther understood she was "born for such a time as this" and said, "If I die, I die."

b. Example: A student missionary under threat of death said, "Go ahead. I came here to die."

4. Nothing shows courage as much as when someone rises up in an impossible situation, ready to die.

a. "Attempt something so big for God that unless He shows up, you are bound to fail."—Pat Robertson

B. Jumping to the Front Line of Battle

1. The Hebrews who were with the Philistines left them and took part in the battle.

a. When a backslider sees your courage, he will come to the front line of the battle with you.

b. Others' courage reinstates those who have lost their place in God.

2. Those who had been hiding in the mountains (like those sitting in church, cold in heart, doing nothing) also jumped into the battle (I Samuel 14:22).

IV. Single-Mindedness (31:07)

A. Hold On to God's Word to You

1. Do not be distracted. Do not fear. Do not turn to the right or left. Do not compromise the commission you have been given (Joshua 1:5-9).

2. If your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light. The word *single*, is a combination of two words: *one* and *voyage*.

a. Definition of self-control: It is not having the ability to say "no" to other options. Rather it is being so devoted to one thing that you do not have time for other things.—Danny Silk

3. If the enemy cannot stop your call or you from serving whole-heartedly, he will try to get you to do things that are not really your call.

a. They will be good things, but taking time to do things you are not called to keeps you from doing what you **are** called to, and decreases your effectiveness.

- It takes courage to say "no" to great opportunities.

- Example: “born again” twice in the Bible
- c. He gives the word repeatedly to give you courage when facing opposition.
 - Matthew 13:20-21 “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.”
 - Tribulation or persecution arises because of the word. For the word to go deep in you, it has to survive opposition.

3. Psalm 105:19 “Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him.”

- a. Example: Joseph’s word brought him opposition and testing before it was fulfilled.

B. Milk and Meat

1. The milk of the word comforts; the meat of the word—the word of righteousness—provokes you to change.
2. When you have made a declaration about your life, the word of the Lord will come, not to prove failure, but to equip you to succeed.
 - a. The word will knock off of you everything that disqualifies you for your assignment. It comes to cut, refine, burn and knock off everything inconsistent with the proclamation you have made over your life.
3. We do not just look for the verses that make us feel good, but the ones that provoke us to change.
 - a. Example: walking toward the extended sword

VI. The Results of Courage (58:56)

A. What Courageous People Do

1. Courageous people who do not walk in fear are a key for the restoration of backsliders.
2. Courageous people are the key to ignite those Christians who are inactive.

d. There is an extraordinary realm of anointing that is needed for that, but it requires extraordinary humility because it would be easy to divert the glory from Jesus and write a book on how to get Down syndrome healed and promote oneself.

e. The Lord is releasing that anointing to people like you who care about it.

3. If we are supposed to have authority, why did the demons attack the sons of Sceva?

a. The context was a group of Jewish people who were not Spirit-filled believers, but only exorcists who were trying to bring deliverance by using the name of someone they did not serve. The demons recognized that they were not in relationship with the Lord; that is a dangerous thing to do.

b. Jesus gave authority to His followers, so anyone who uses that Scripture to prove that some people cannot deal with demons, needs to read the rest of the Bible.

4. Some Christians pronounce judgment while others do not. Is it wrong to pronounce judgment?

a. It is a real deal. You read in Revelation that judgment is coming. But we emphasize that 95% of the time, God does not want to bring judgment. He is looking for someone to pray and to intercede and to bring a breakthrough. God's desire is mercy. But sin requires judgment, so if it is not dealt with either by the blood of Jesus through their repentance or by the intercessor pleading their case (and either of them will turn away judgment) judgment is coming.

b. One of the fundamental laws in our creation is, "The soul who sins, shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). God loves mercy so He has another law—Jesus, a Man Who stands in the gap—but that requires our participation. Judgment is a real deal. It is coming, but it does not have to come.

7. When someone gets a succession of prophetic words from several people, is a grace being released for that?
- a. A grace is given in every word spoken. Words never come by themselves; they always come manifesting the kingdom.
 - b. Jesus is the Door. No one enters except through Jesus. Jesus is wisdom personified. If you go through Jesus, you will find the kingdom (1:24:44 end).

Review Questions:

- 1. How does the courage of one affect others?**
- Courage to stand up for Christ stirs the hearts of everyone. When backsliders (people who have fallen away from faith in God) or passive people in church see a Christian who walks in courage, they are stirred to do the same. They may be in the condition they are in because they are disillusioned with church, as they knew it. When they see someone move in courage, it stirs their hunger and draws them back to God—not just to watch, but to join you on the front line of battle. We are all born to risk and do great things for God. We must all live with the motto, “I would rather live in courage than die in unbelief.”

- 2. What is the quickest way to see real change in your life and in your perspective?**
- We change when we experience God’s supernatural intervention and let it affect our perspective—we encounter God’s power and allow it to affect us. If we have seen Him do a particular miracle, we have to adjust our thinking to expect that again. We have to let it change our perspective. We should meditate on the Gospels and ask ourselves what Jesus was thinking when He did what He did. We need to think like Him, and we can. The Bible says that having the mind of Christ is our inheritance.

3. What does being single-minded mean and how do you keep your focus on God's plan?

Single-minded means keeping your focus, your eye, on one thing; it means holding onto the word of God to you and not letting anything distract you. If your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light. It means pursuing your call, serving whole-heartedly, and guarding against distraction from the enemy—which may include “good opportunities” that are not your call. Our self-control, our “yes” to God’s plan, must be so strong that everything else is an automatic “no.” Meditating on God’s Word, remembering what He has already done in the past, and being courageous will keep you filled and focused on His plan.

4. How does the word of the Lord prepare you for what is coming?

Sometimes God’s word to you prepares you for what is coming; sometimes He may give you the same word several times, or only once. If you received the same word several times, it does not mean it is necessarily more important, but just that the word may receive more opposition. In that opposition, you may need to hear it more than once (confirmation) to have the courage to pursue its fulfillment. For the word to go deep in you, it has to survive tribulation or persecution. Once you make a declaration, the word of the Lord will come, not to prove failure, but to equip you to succeed. The word of the Lord will cut, refine, burn and knock off everything that may disqualify you from fulfilling God’s assignment for your life. Listen to God’s voice and look for verses that do not just comfort, but for ones that provoke change.

