



# Freedom



# FOUNDATIONS

## Study Guide

*"Whom the Son sets free is free indeed."*

*John 8:36*

Empowering People to Discover and Walk in the  
Freedom Provided Them Through Christ

**August 2024**

## Foundations of Freedom Study Guide

Original by Bob Hamp, Gateway's Freedom Ministries;  
*edited with permission* by Foothills Christian Church

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## **WELCOME TO FREEDOM MINISTRIES!**

**People come to Freedom Ministries for all sorts of reasons:**

- Mostly because they have a problem.
- They have something in their lives causing them great pain and discomfort.
- They want it to stop.

**We tend to look at Freedom from a guy in jail**

"If only I could get out from behind these bars", he thinks,

"Then I would be truly free."

(But some belief or action got him there...that's still with him....)

**Instead of looking at Freedom from the perspective of getting out of something, what if we:**

- Put on the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16).
- Asked God to show us HIS PERSPECTIVE on our lives.
- The One who knit us together in our mother's womb (Ps 139:13).
- Who numbers the hairs on our head (Luke 12:7).
- Loved us enough to send His own son for our punishment (Romans 5:8).

***"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is FREEDOM!"***

*(2 Corinthians 3:17)*

**Freedom is not the ABSENCE OF SOMETHING**

**(a problem or behavior)**

**It is the PRESENCE OF SOMEONE!**

**PURPOSE IN YOUR HEART to spend these next few weeks:**

- Seeking His Presence
- Studying these teachings
- Becoming surprised to find He has the answers you have been seeking.

## **FREEDOM MINISTRY**

### **Study Guide Table of Contents**

#### **Introduction**

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**Check out our Freedom webpage with link to  
watch the classes online below:  
<https://foothillschurch.org/ministries/freedom/>**

**Week 1: Defining True Freedom-Page 6****Neil Hoffman**

The Kingdom of God is the presence and the **power** of God. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is FREEDOM (2 Cor. 3:17). We all enter this Kingdom at different levels of life experiences. It causes us to interpret very differently what it means to "give our life to Christ." This class explains where we started to think wrong and how to think in a new and freeing way.

**Week 2: Levels of Change -Page 14****Linda Hoffman**

This class is designed to help identify and avoid traps common to man's attempt to change his own life and explain God's provision and strategy for changing your life from the inside out. The enemy wants you to work harder and harder with the wrong tools. The goal of this teaching is to think differently about the transformation process of a believer. There are five distinct levels of change - four you can do something about. One was done for you.

**Week 3: Kingdom of God-Page 22****Jenny Steckclair**

Jesus' message carried tremendous power to transform peoples' lives. The Scriptures say "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The phrase "at hand" means "it's within your reach" - within arm's length. Learn to be able to walk in that power that is filled with LIFE and love, peace, joy, and righteousness everywhere you go. The only thing that prevents you from accessing it could be the way that you see and think.

**Week 4: Hearing from God-Page 29****Jim Deyling**

If God speaks to us, then we have to learn to recognize and discern His voice. Hearing the voice of God is central to living out your created design. This class discusses ways to hear God and HOW we can discern that it is really God we are hearing. When we hear God personally, it changes us forever and we become passionate seekers of the One we have personally encountered.

**Week 5: Life in the Kingdom-Page 42****Fawn Goodrich**

In life, there are things that are God's job and things that are our job. When we understand the tools that God has given us, we begin to have victory. The power of core lies, soul wounds, life patterns, and demonic oppression begin to break off. We will learn to discern the voices, get rid of the wrong ones, and walk in God's transforming power and truth.

**Week 6: Breaking Strongholds-Page 50****Jim Deyling**

Learn a very simple step-by-step process to resolve personal and spiritual conflict. Learn how strongholds come in and how to break their hold over you and your relationships. Repentance and forgiveness hold the key the new life and real breakthroughs.

## 1. DEFINING TRUE FREEDOM - LECTURE NOTES

### Defining True Freedom - Neil Hoffman

#### WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT FREEDOM:

- John 8:36      "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."
- 2 Cor. 3:17      "It is for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."
- Isaiah 61:1      "The Spirit of the Lord God... was sent the afflicted, the brokenhearted, to bring liberty to the captive and to free prisoners."

#### Check the following if it relates to you:

- ◆ I can't break these feeling of anger and they are destroying my relationship with my spouse and kids.
- ◆ I can't quit this addiction and I'm afraid it will eventually take everything from me.
- ◆ Rejection has taken root in my life and now I am sabotaging every relationship that I have, and I can't stop. I feel I need to reject them before they reject me.
- ◆ The hurt that I have experienced is too much to ever forget. I believe that I am destined to carry this baggage to the end.

#### Two very dangerous thoughts

1. Gods freedom is for other people and not me.
2. My situation will always be hopeless.

**OUR JOB:** Make you understand freedom deeper and give you the tools to access it.

**YOUR JOB:** Show up every week and let nothing get in your way.

**SAUL VS DAVID:** Two people, both anointed by God, carrying the same promises, yet two totally different outcomes.

**SAUL: 1 Samuel 10:22**

Therefore they inquired further of the Lord, "Has the man come here yet?" So the Lord said, "Behold, he is hiding himself by the baggage."

**DAVID: 1 Samuel 17:22**

Then David left his baggage in the care of the baggage keeper, and ran to the battle line and entered in order to greet his brothers.

**SAUL:** One man hides behind his own weaknesses and pains of the past.

**DAVID:** The other gives them to the baggage keeper and relies no longer on his own strength.

**Our baggage holds our future hostage**

- Our problem is when we depend on our natural self it always comes along with baggage.
- But the truth is that David became great because he didn't let the baggage dictate him any longer.

**3 Counterfeit Definitions to Freedom**

**Counterfeit #1: Freedom is the absence of boundaries.**

**The Lie:** Freedom comes when the restrictive boundaries are gone.

**The Truth:** Freedom is not the absence of boundaries but the presence of the right boundaries.

**Counterfeit #2: Freedom is the absence of frustrating habits.**

**The Lie:** Fight the symptoms.

**The Truth:** Fight the root causes.

- I am no longer here because I have an anger problem.
- I am here to find out what makes me angry.

If Satan can get us to focus on the symptom, then the root cause will ways stay.

**Counterfeit #3: Freedom will come when my circumstances or relationships change.**

**The Lie:** Freedom comes when OUTSIDE circumstances change.

**The Truth:** Freedom comes when INSIDE circumstances change.

**Circumstance vs obstacles**

Philippians 4:11 "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstance I am in."

**1 Samuel 17:22** Then David left his baggage in the care of the baggage keeper, and ran to the battle line and entered in order to greet his brothers.

- True freedom can never happen out of my own efforts; it can only happen when I give the baggage to the baggage keeper.
- It's not about what I stop doing! It's about Who I know.

**Freedom is not the absence of something but the presence of Someone!**

- 2 Corinthians 3:17 "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom."
- Galatians 5:16 "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh."

**DEFINITION OF FREEDOM: The ability to respond to God FULLY, out of who He made and redeemed you to be.**

**THE PROBLEM JESUS CAME TO SOLVE... was not that we were behaving badly.**

- We got disconnected from the source and connected to the wrong tree.
  - The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil instead of the Tree of Life.



**Lie:** You don't need God... you can be like Him...disconnect from Him and learn without Him.

As we walk according to the Spirit, God pours Himself fully into us and the things that we have struggled with all of our lives start coming off and we become **FREE**...

**...BECAUSE WHERE THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS THERE IS FREEDOM!**

## 1. DEFINING TRUE FREEDOM - *HOMEWORK*

**PRAY:** Say, "Lord, Your Word says You are near to the brokenhearted and You are a very present Help in time of need." I want to experience Your nearness, so I give You this time. Speak to me about my life. I'm ready to let You change some things. I am also afraid that things might not change. But I give you that fear also. Show me the way through to your freedom and peace."

### **READ THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES:**

*"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed!"* (John 8:36)

*"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."*

(2 Corinthians 3:17)

*"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."* (Galatians 5:1)

Isaiah 61:1 (Jesus' words)

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
Because the LORD has anointed me  
To bring good news to the afflicted;  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners*

**Whatever the Lord says is TRUTH, and if you have believed anything else, then you have believed a lie.** Here are common things people say all the time. Put a check next to those you also tend to say:

- ◇ I can't break these feelings of anger and they are destroying my relationship with my kids and spouse.
- ◇ I can't quit this addiction and I am afraid it will eventually take everything from me.
- ◇ Rejection has taken root in my life and now I am sabotaging every relationship that I have, and I can't stop. I feel I need to reject "them" before they reject me.
- ◇ The hurt that I have experienced is too much to ever forget. And I believe that I am destined to carry this baggage to the end.
- ◇ God's freedom is for other people ... not me.
- ◇ My situation will always be hopeless.

Maybe it's none of the above, but there is SOMETHING you keep saying that defines you and makes you feel defeated. Write it out below:

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Take a minute to also **examine your inner thoughts about how you view God, yourself and others.** Without thinking really hard, write the first thoughts that come to mind:

**God is...** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I am...** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**People generally are...** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said, **“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”**

Or in other words, we find what’s really in our hearts — what we really honestly believe — just coming out in unguarded moments. It’s those thoughts God wants you to be aware of. He wants you to examine them to see if they are truth or lies. If they are NOT IN ALIGNMENT WITH HIS TRUTH, **He wants to help change them and thereby change the course of your life.** HE SETS PEOPLE FREE FROM LIES, but we can’t be free if we don’t recognize the lie.

**OUR JOB: these next 6 weeks is to:**

- Train you up to see TRUTH in a way you haven’t seen before.
- Persuade you to get into God’s Presence and ask questions and learn to listen.

**YOUR JOB:**

- Is to show up every week and let nothing get in your way.
- The enemy wants to keep you trapped. He will put everything he can in your way.

Will you let him get in the way?

**You learned in the first class:**

**Lie #1: Freedom is the absence of boundaries.**

**Lie #2: Freedom is the absence of frustrating habit.**

**Lie #3: Freedom will come when my circumstances or relationships change.**

**TRUE FREEDOM IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF SOMETHING  
BUT THE PRESENCE OF SOMEONE!**

### *Pray/Hear*

**Pray:** *Lord, I want to invite you into all areas of my life. I ask for YOUR PRESENCE to shine on ALL my understanding and on ALL my weakness. I believe you love me and that you make old things new. Lord, in my flesh I don't want to give you control of these areas of my life. I'm afraid I won't be happy. But I know the first step is just to cry out for help. So here I am. HELP ME! Or I will be too weak. Your word says, "I will work in you the POWER to perform my good pleasure." I choose to believe that. Help me to just seek YOU FIRST and believe that in this new relationship with you, I will simply begin to walk in a new way.*

**THE PROBLEM JESUS CAME TO SOLVE** was not to help you behave better, but to reconnect you to God.

**Read all of Psalm 139** In this Psalm, it says, "I knew you while you were in your mother's womb and that Your eyes saw my unformed substance; and in Your book was written all the days that you ordained FOR ME even before one of them came to pass. How precious are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast the sum of them!"

**God gave gifts to you while you were being formed in the womb.**

- Therefore, you are born with a bent toward certain areas.
- You are drawn to specific things by God's design (writing, art, medicine, children, etc.).

**What do you feel drawn to?**

**Write it out and ask God why that desire is in you.** What does He want you to do with it? (Even if you don't hear something right away, listen over the next week and see what new insight comes to you.)

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Spend some time this week exploring some old dreams. What things used to make you feel alive when you did them? Why did you stop? Is it possible to carve out some time for those things?

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### ***Remember***

- “As a man believes in his heart, so is he.” Your beliefs overshadow everything.
- You discover your true identity as you discover who your Heavenly Father really is.
- Change is a process and it's something difficult and painful.
- Your wounds and limitations do not define your identity.

### **Digging Deeper Devotions**

#### ***Unlocking the Kingdom***

*Chapter 1 - Inheriting the Kingdom*

*Chapter 2 - The Secret Keys to the Kingdom*

*Read two pages a day as your devotion time with God*

## 2. LEVELS OF CHANGE - LECTURE NOTES

### FUNDAMENTAL IDEA ABOUT FREEDOM

***The life of the believer is  
no longer the life of the believer.***

*"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I  
who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now  
live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who  
loved me and gave Himself up for me."*

(Galatians 2:20)

### FIVE DISTINCT LEVELS OF CHANGE

#### 1. Environment



Freedom is when you can become the person you were created to be **REGARDLESS** of the circumstances you are in.

#### 2. Behavior



Our Behavior is connected to what we **THINK AND FEEL**. Our environment is **under the dominion** of our behavior.

### 3. Self-Limitations

It is like a **THERMOSTAT** set in our hearts.



Growing pressure from the **THERMOSTAT** to conform to what has always been.

**Proverb 4:23 Guard your heart, for from it flows the issues of life.**

### 4. Our Beliefs

A belief is **OVER** your heart like a contact lens through which you perceive your experiences.



**AT EVERY DEFINING MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE, Satan is always ready to give definition to what "your current circumstance" says about you....AND SO DOES GOD!**

**Two categories in the issue of beliefs that we have to get a handle on:**

- What we believe about God
- What we believe about ourselves

### 5. Identity

Your **Identity** is the blueprint in the heart of God when He created you.



**If we think of sin as behaviors, thoughts, and feelings, two traps can snare us:**

- We attempt to solve sin at a behavior level trying to please God by acting differently.
- We bring only part of the problem to part of the solution.
  - My sin nature must be dealt with.
  - A new nature must be received.

**Understanding our identity surpasses all other attempts to change.**

The diagnosis has to fit the treatment-Jesus gave his very life to give me a new nature.

- Sin is a cancer and has a terminal diagnosis.
- Sin is the absence of God in the human soul.
- Jesus died because in you is death and he had to switch death to life.
- He took the thing you had (sin), so He could give you the thing He had (life).

*“And to as many as RECEIVED HIM, He gave the power to become the sons of God.” (John 1:12)*

**Solution to the absence of the old life**

1. **BIBLE:** Stimulating with NEW understanding with truths from God’s word.
2. **PRAYER:** Connects me to the source of life - Spirit of the Living God.
3. **GATHERING WITH BELIEVERS:** Focus on new relationships and “doing life” with people seeking truth.



## 2. LEVELS OF CHANGE - HOMEWORK

What are two of the most frustrating situations in your life right now?

List them here. \_\_\_\_\_

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What solutions have you attempted to apply to those situations? List your solutions and whether or not they have been effective in changing your situation. Be honest. \_\_\_\_\_

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***The life of a believer is no longer the life of a believer. The life of a believer comes from the One that we believe in.  
(Galatians 2:20)***

What “good advice” have you gotten to help you fix those problems you listed? According to our definition, what level of change does that advice fit into?

Identity - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Beliefs (thoughts & feelings) - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Self-limitations - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Behavior - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Environment - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**“Our self-limitations are like a thermostat set in your heart.”**

- We begin to look at our environment because of our behavior.
- Then we look at our behavior and we think, “But I don’t know how to change.”

**Have you ever had thoughts like:**

- It’s too late for me.
- I’ll never be different.
- Nothing will ever change.
- I’ll never be free from this.

**Describe the situation in your life that makes you say those things:**

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When you're feeling the immense pressure that comes with changing the things that have never changed before, that's how you know you've hit your "upper limits."

**Before you go on take a minute and answer this question:**

- What if the thing that "will never be different" could actually change?
- How would things look then?
- Pray and ask God to show you what life would look like, free from that thing.

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## **Pray/Hear**

We get our truth- or the version of our truth- from our experiences. Our “truth” leads to behavior, which reinforces that belief, and because we believe it, others react to our behavior again reinforcing our version of the truth. But most of the time, those experiences and beliefs are contrary to God’s Word and what He says about us.

*As a man believes in his heart, so is he.” (Proverbs 23:7a)*

Ask God this question: ***“Lord, what lie have I believed about myself that doesn’t match up with how You see me?”***

Use the Identity Papers you received in class to help you here. Say, “I choose to believe all you say about me. Help my unbelief, weed it out of me.” Read through those scriptures like a prayer. Tell the Lord you want to embrace each scripture as truth. “Thank you for this truth.”

Record your thoughts here:

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**Read these next verses out loud. Then, listen and hear what God has to say about you.**

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.*

### **Philippians 4:13**

*I can do all things through Him that strengthens me.*

### **Galatians 2:20**

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

Spend some time this week stimulating your new life, whether you just made a decision this week or if you accepted Jesus many years ago. Which of these three primary areas of hearing God is hardest for you? Why?

- Bible Reading
- Prayer
- Gathering with other Believers

Ask God what area He wants you to begin becoming stronger in **RIGHT NOW**. Record your thoughts here: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Remember**

- The cross says there's no such thing as "too late."
- If what you believe to be true about yourself is contrary to what God says about you in His Word, then it's a lie.
- "It's not what's in your mind that determines your experience; it's what in your heart." *"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."* Proverbs 23:7
- Jesus died, not just for what you've done, but for who you are.

### **Digging Deeper Devotions**

#### ***Unlocking the Kingdom***

*Chapter 16 - Kingdom Key of Inner Transformation*

*Read three pages a day to transform your thinking.*

*Listen to the audio version on Amazon audible.*

### 3. THE KINGDOM OF GOD - LECTURE NOTES

#### The Kingdom of God-- Jenny Stecklair

##### 1. Jesus preached one central message – The Kingdom of God

- He often started out with “The Kingdom of heaven is like”
  - Jesus would then end with “For those who have ears, let them hear” (He’s saying – don’t miss what I am telling you.)
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##### 2. The Basic Gospel Message We Know

Jesus died for your sin, His resurrection gives His power to overcome, if we believe and receive that Jesus died for your sins, you are saved and will go to heaven someday.

- His death and resurrection hadn’t happened yet!
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##### 3. Jesus’ message summed up in “Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand”.

- We interpret this message as “you better change, because God is coming and He will be ticked if you don’t get it together”.
  - John 1 tells us that “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God”.
  - JESUS’ UNDERSTANDING IS ETERNAL.
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#### 4. REPENT!

- We have applied our self effort and religious pressure to our lives (and the lives of others) in an effort to bring about repentance.

Metanoia – to think differently afterward

Describing a process, the point in time when the process begins.

Job 42:5-6: “I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes have seen you... therefore I repent in dust and ashes:

- Apply this to “Repent! For the Kingdom of God is at hand”
    - ♦ Is He telling us to straighten up? Or is He telling us there is a Kingdom within our reach, but we need to change the way we see reality to receive it?
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#### 5. The Way We See - The Tree of Life and the Tree of knowledge of Good and Evil

- Genesis 2:9, *“Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”*
- This shift for Adam and Eve from God as their source to their knowledge of good and evil as their source is like unplugging the power cable on a computer and trying to use the data cable for power.
- Satan has a 2 prong approach – Good and Evil
  - ♦ Knowledge of evil—You shouldn’t have done that.
  - ♦ Knowledge of good—You better straighten up try harder.
  - ♦ Knowledge of evil—showed Adam where he was insufficient
  - ♦ Knowledge of good—couldn’t fill him up with life

## 6. Jesus Came to give us LIFE

- Does John 10:10 say, “I came that they might do better, and do better abundantly”?? NO!
  - John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. But I came that they may have life, and have it to the full”.
  - Romans 12:2—“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what the will of God is. That which is good, and acceptable and perfect”.
  - Metamorphoo—transformed. Same word used at the transfiguration.
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## 7. Jesus and the Woman at the Well—John 4:7—30

- Jesus is confronting her source
    - ◆ Not shaking a condemning finger, but applying pressure to wrong thinking.
    - ◆ Won’t stand for anything that would harm the object of His love, even if it’s the object itself.
  - John 4:10 - Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”
  - “If you knew who I was”
    - ◆ It’s an invitation; the Kingdom of Heaven is within reach
  - “You would ask”
    - ◆ She needed to look with the eyes of heart, to see Him as her source.
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- “Rivers of living water”
  - ◆ She can now be plugged into the source that made her who she is in the first place.

### 3. THE KINGDOM OF GOD - *HOMEWORK*

What was the problem Jesus came to earth to solve?

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Have you ever felt real peace? What did it feel like? How did it affect you?

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What was lost in Genesis 3? What was the result of that loss?

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**Describe a time when heaven invaded your reality.**

(Hint: As believers in Jesus, we’ve all had that happen; it’s what happened at salvation. Suddenly you see the world around you differently, as if looking through God’s eyes. There are usually many more times also.)

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**A kingdom will take on the characteristics of its ruler.**

Take just a moment and examine your “kingdom”- your environment.  
What does it reflect? Anger? Frustration? Joy? Peace?

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Write out what you believe the following words mean. How would those things change your perspective on your circumstances?

**RIGHTEOUSNESS** MEANS: If righteousness ruled in my heart, my life would be different because... \_\_\_\_\_

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**PEACE** MEANS: If peace ruled in my life, my life would change because...

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**JOY** MEANS: If joy ruled in my life, my life would change because...

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### **Pray/Hear**

Romans 14:17 says, “*The kingdom of God is... righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*” Does your reality reflect this kingdom or another? Stop here, and ask the Lord to show you how to bring righteousness, peace and joy into your particular situation. Write down what you hear: \_\_\_\_\_

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**READ:**

2 Kings 6:15-18 tells the story of Elijah and his servant. Read the story and ask the Lord to open your eyes to the reality of His kingdom.

***Pray this prayer-Lord, would You show me where You are in this circumstance (name the situation)? Would You show me, like Elisha's servant, what You're doing?***

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**Meditate on Ephesians 1:15-19 this week.** "Meditation" simply means to contemplate or reflect on something. Chew on this scripture; memorize it. Sometimes it helps to write it out a few times.

*Ephesians 1:15-19-Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.*

**Pray:**

- ***Lord, would You open the eyes of my heart to see Your riches?***
- ***Lord, what is my inheritance in You? (Ask Him to be specific.)***
- ***Lord show me Your power!***

Journal your experiences here: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Digging Deeper Devotions**

### ***Unlocking the Kingdom***

*Chapter 6 - Kingdom Key of True Repentance*

*Read two (2) pages a day as your devotions.*

### **Remember**

- There is a heavenly space (domain, area, arena, place) that is in every way a reflection of God's character and desires. This domain is God's kingdom.
- When Jesus says, "The kingdom of heaven is like..." He's not telling us how to do earth, He's describing for us a reality that He has experienced-and we haven't.
- The Good News of the gospel is that we can be restored from exile to God's kingdom through the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- God spoke the earth and all of creation into existence. When He speaks, it's creative and tangible-not just words.
- The two trees in the garden were a picture of what we would access as our source of life: self as source (tree of knowledge of good and evil) or God as source (tree of life).
- Peace is when the power and presence of God moves in and overwhelms those things that were once overwhelming you.
- When things are right in the sense that they fit into God's plan, they are righteous.

## 4. HEARING FROM GOD - LECTURE NOTES

**God created mankind to have a relationship with Him.** It is one of our greatest privileges of the faith that we can commune with God:

*2 Corinthians 6:16b, 18 We are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people...18 "And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty.*

**Why does God speak?** Communication with God happens in the context of God's eternal purposes for mankind; that we should glorify God and enjoy Him forever. (Westminster Shorter Catechism)

**Compatibility is everything.** In order to enjoy relationship with anyone, even God, we must be compatible. That's why **God has always intended to produce many sons like His Son, Jesus.** These are the redeemed, those who share the character of Christ.

- Hebrews 2:10 [God] is bringing many sons to glory...
- Romans 8:29b: ...God predestined us to become conformed to the image of His Son...
- Ephesians 4:24 ...be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.
- Ephesians 5:1 Be imitators of God, as beloved children.
- Phil2.5a Have this mind in yourself which was also in Christ Jesus...
- 1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and...we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.

**The process of making us "like Jesus" is not automatic. It requires training:**

- Luke 6:40 [Jesus said,] A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.
- Hebrews 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

**God communicates with man so that we may be like Him and enjoy Him in eternal relationship. This requires that we mature into compatibility with God.** That's why He is more interested that we be a wise and discerning people than that we can merely discern His voice. God speaks in order to fulfill His purposes. He does not speak in order to satisfy curiosity, nor to excite religious thrills.

**There is no such thing as instant maturity nor instant compatibility with God.** We are not born able to enjoy and appreciate God. There is a process of maturing in a social setting that every person must undergo. Done well, you become increasingly compatible with God throughout your life, increasingly sharing His outlook and motivations.

Knowing the foundational purpose for God's "speaking," we can examine the various ways God speaks.

**God communicate through:**

1. His written word, the Bible
2. Spiritual authorities
3. Inner promptings and spiritual gifts (visions, dreams, prophecies)
4. Inner peace or the lack of it
5. Circumstances

The most trustworthy and routine way God communicates is through the Bible and through covenantal relationships (spiritual authority and fellowship).

**1) God has *already* spoken through the Bible.**

*Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.*

*2 Timothy 3:15-17...the sacred writings... are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

*Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of **the Scriptures** we might have hope.*

God has chosen to communicate His eternal will for all mankind through the written medium of the Bible. As you gain God's wisdom through habitually reading His word, your thinking comes more and more in line with God's:

- John 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (Think like Jesus and you'll ask for the right things.)

All spiritual experiences must line up with scripture or they not legitimate.

## **2) God speaks through the authorities He has placed in your life.**

God never intended to rule the world directly. Instead, He delegated authority to humans as His representatives and ambassadors. Both being IN authority and being UNDER authority train us into compatibility with God.

Romans 13:1 *Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.*

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey your [church] leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.*

Most of God's guidance, affirmation, correction, and encouragement is going to come through those with whom you are in covenant relationship. People who isolate cut themselves off from much of God's blessing.

## **3) God speaks through spiritual gifts.**

Acts 2:17-18 *"It shall be in the last days," God says, "That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams; 18 Even on My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit And they shall prophesy."*

**Spiritual gifts personalize the broad truths of scripture.**

- Visions, dreams, prophecies
- Inner sense/knowing
- Prompting/nudge: could be subtle or urgent
- Conviction of sin or fault

Spiritual gifts can be incredibly valuable but can also be open to misunderstanding.

**Factors that influence the expression of spiritual gifts:**

- Your imagination, personality and motives
- Your understanding and expertise in the Word
- Your training and life experiences
- The grace of God (the level of gifting and authority in your life)
- What God actually wants to say

Spiritual gifts have the potential to minister remarkable blessing into our lives. We should be careful and humble in our delivery because we humans are prone to errors or nuances that don't always fully reflect what God is trying to deliver.

1 Peter 5:5b *God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble. (Grace is divine aid and direction.)*

- 4) God “speaks” through Inner peace or inner tension.** Since inner peace is the normal Christian condition, anxiety or ill-ease can be meaningful.

Philippians 4:6-7 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*



**Inner peace can act as an umpire regarding your decision making and behavior.** Anxiety can indicate that you need to make adjustments so that peace rules again, i.e. delay that decision or examine your behavior, or go back and apologize, or seek more direction before acting. A lack of peace can act as a warning about possible danger or spiritual oppression.

**Peace in the midst of trouble.** In trial or suffering, a feeling of real and present peace in your heart and mind encourages you that the Lord is present and has eyes on you and that you are going in the right direction.

**5) God can “speak” through circumstances.**

*Proverbs 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.*

People in good-faith relationship with God can expect that He is ordering the overall events of their life. Many important life-lessons and divine directions come through events and experiences that we were not consciously pursuing. When doors open, doors close, opportunities arise, obstructions appear, this may be the Lord guiding our steps.

*Romans 8:28 We know God causes all things to work together for the good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

**Conclusion:** *The primary way the Spirit guides [God speaks] is through serious Bible study, studious counsel, serious prayer, genuine accountability, and serious response in obedience to whatever truths we’ve been shown already. (J.I.Packer)*

Here’s why:

- Regular Bible study gives God a regular opportunity to speak into your life and transform your thinking.
- A regular prayer life gives God another regular opportunity to commune with you and build relationship.
- Trust and accountability to authority keeps you on the safe path and opens you up to a wisdom and experience level greater than your own.

***Proverbs 8:17 "I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me. To "find" God means to receive His direction and blessing.***

#### **4. HEARING FROM GOD - HOMEWORK**

In this lesson you heard: **God communicates with man so that we may be like Him and enjoy Him in an eternal relationship with Him. This requires that we mature into compatibility with God.**

- This is why God has always intended to produce many son/daughters like His Son, Jesus.
- Go back to the first page of your "Hearing From God" notes and re-read the scriptures on that page.
- Those are God's beautiful intentions for you as you seek Him.

You also heard: **There is no such thing as instant maturity nor instant compatibility with God.**

- There is a process of maturing in every social setting that every person must undergo. As you do this you become increasingly compatible with God, slowly throughout your life.
- You increasingly share His outlook and motivations. You become "like Christ."

GOD'S FOUNDATIONAL PURPOSE FOR "speaking to us" is for us to "see Him", "hear Him" and love it so much we desire to "become like Him." (and He can make that happen!)

**From your notes, what are the 5 ways God communicates? The first one is done for you.**

1. Through His written word, the Bible
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE, OR END RESULT OF READING THE BIBLE?**

(Put a check mark next to what you believe to be the best answer)

- ☐ To have a clear and definitive answer to what is right or wrong so we know how to effectively judge one another.
- ☐ It's a record of God's interaction with men/women, recorded and handed down so that each generation can know who made us, and why we are here on earth.
- ☐ To help us know and hear God more clearly so that we can experience Him as a Father and Friend.
- ☐ It is a "lens" of truth through which we become able to see and understand everything around us: our origin, our purpose, the truth about right and wrong and what our eternal destiny is.

The Bible can be an instruction book, but it is primary a means by which we draw near to God to experience His guiding hand in our lives.

What do you usually “get” out of reading the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

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What do you think God wants you to “get” out of it? \_\_\_\_\_

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Write out an experience in which God’s Word “jumped off the page,” or “spoke to you.” \_\_\_\_\_

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**READ HEBREWS 4:12, 16**

*For the word that God speaks is alive and full of power; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the soul and the deepest parts of our nature, exposing the very thought and purposes of the heart...Let us then fearlessly and confidently draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in times of need.*

What is the **first word** that tends to come to mind when you think about reading the Bible? (confusing, boring, fun, a duty, exciting):

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Ask the Holy Spirit to give you **one word** that describes His desire for you when you read the Bible. Take a minute and quietly listen.

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Do you really believe that you can hear God in a personal way through His Word? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Which of the following examples do you relate to most? Mark them:**

Counselor Bob Hamp said this,

- ◇ “If you are looking, listening or tuned into the many ways God speaks, I believe you will find He is deeply invested in communicating with you.”
- ◇ If you are angry, hurt or disappointed with God, then your heart might be resistant to receiving any communication from Him. You might even have difficulty believing that He desires to communicate with you at all.”
- ◇ “You also may be skeptical and looking for God to ‘prove Himself’ to you before you invest yourself in any real manner to seek Him.”

Why do you think you feel skeptical, hurt, angry or disappointed?

What experiences may have shaped our attitude? \_\_\_\_\_

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Stop a moment and pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you revelation about your feelings or experiences: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE AUTHORITIES HE HAS PLACED IN YOUR LIFE

Who are the authorities God has placed in YOUR life, to guard, protect and guide you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which of them is it hard for you to hear from? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Stop and Pray and ask God what you should do about that? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**This was said in the lesson,** “Many Christians only THINK they have a pastor. But in truth they do not. They reveal that they have no spiritual shepherd because they make their live decisions with NO input from the spiritual authority in their lives.

**NOTE:** if you find that you are often being fired, or quitting a job, hating the upper management, unable to let anyone speak into your life or lead you... you have an authority problem. **IF NO ONE can guide or help shape you, you are missing out on God’s protection and guidance.** Authorities are His protection. You may need to see someone who can help you process this. No one is a law unto themselves. **YOU NEED PEOPLE.**

If the last statement relates to you, **STOP, PRAY** and ask the Holy Spirit, who you should go to, that might help you get back into the right relationship with authorities God has placed in your life to bless you. \_

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### **3. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES:**

What is a circumstance you are currently stuck in, that God might be working through? What might He be trying to teach you? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **4. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH SPIRITUAL GIFTS:**

Read Acts 2:17-18 (this is written out on your class notes on page 31.)

Have you ever experienced any of the spiritual gifts listed on page 32 in your class notes? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do you make sure you are hearing from God and not misguided in your interpretation? \_\_\_\_\_

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Are you in a group that helps you grow in understanding these gifts?

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**STOP, PRAY and ask the Holy Spirit...**

“Is there a gift you have for me that I have not yet accessed? Where do I need to go to grow and learn more about hearing You? (Record your thoughts) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Digging Deeper Devotions**

**Unlocking the Kingdom**

Chapter 4 - A Hidden Life With God.

Chapter 12 - Kingdom Key of Inspired Imagination

Read three to four pages a day as your devotion time with God.



## HEARING FROM GOD - NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page.

## 5. LIFE IN THE KINGDOM - LECTURE NOTES

### Life in the Kingdom

**What's our part and what's God's part in each of the following areas:**

1. Lordship
2. Transformation
3. Authority
4. Spiritual Warfare

Roadblocks:

We as modern Christians stake our entire life on a belief system built on a worldview that many of us don't have and haven't shifted over to.

As modern Americans, we are materialistic and intellectual.

A Christian worldview is built on a spiritual and natural worldview that's integrated.

### Genesis 2:9

#### 1. LORDSHIP

**Our Part:** Lordship is when we surrender our will to God.

**His Part:** He makes us new. He puts His spirit in us. He gives us the mind of Christ.

If you are deciding which individual issues to surrender to God, you are still exercising and therefore strengthening YOUR WILL.

**What does it mean to surrender our will to the Lordship of Jesus?**

- We approach God and recognizing He is the source of all things.
- So how should we use our will? SUBMISSION
- God's voice/ Power VS Our Ability/Strength  
Basis: the tree of life.

We surrender to the Lordship of Jesus, by submitting our will, choosing Him as the power source of our lives.

We surrender to the Lordship of Jesus, by submitting our will, choosing Him as the power source of our lives.

## 2. TRANSFORMATION

**Our part is to:** Understand the change we are engaging in.  
(Romans 12).

**NOT**-Good vs Evil

**BUT**-LIFE vs Knowledge.

**God's Part:** To accomplish that change.

1. Am I allowing my flesh to empower the transformation process or am I surrendering increasingly over time to the Spirit?
2. Is that God's voice or is that my flesh?
3. He's after you growing in the ability to see more the way He sees.
4. **Lie:** YOUR DEATH CAN DO MORE FOR YOU TO SET YOU FREE THAN THE DEATH OF JESUS
5. Baptism in the Holy Spirit. - Acts 1:3-8
  - a. Our part is to wait here
  - b. God's part is to bring power.

## 3. AUTHORITY

Power is the strength or ability to accomplish something.  
Authority is delegated power.

Luke 10:19

**Our part?** To exercise authority

**His part?** To empower our actions, words etc.

1. Be under authority.
2. It comes from His presence and our submission to who He is and our asking.
3. You do not have authority over another person but you have authority over the spiritual realm around them.

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE (2 Cor. 10:3-5)

1. The central issue in spiritual warfare is not what's in front of us but which voice we listen to about the issue that's in front of us.
2. SPIRITUAL FORCES ARE EMPOWERED BY HUMAN AGREEMENT.

**Our Part:** Is to be a place inhabited by the Kingdom of God

**God's Part:** The presence and power of God in you steps into the geography and doesn't turn back the circumstance necessarily but the power of that circumstance to dictate the truth of that moment.

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God.

1. Speculations are thought processes that are rational in nature based on evidence.
2. Every lofty thing: Anything we fear more than we trust God

### Remember:

We live in a world that is both Natural and Spiritual at the same time.

WE have a part to play in the Kingdom. There is a part that only God can do, but there is a part He will not do for us because it is YOUR part to do.

We surrender to the Lordship of Jesus, by submitting our will, choosing Him as the power source of our lives.

Am I allowing my flesh to empower the transformation process or am I surrendering increasingly over time to the Spirit? Is that God's voice or is that my flesh?

He has the power but we have to exercise our authority to accomplish the things that line up with His character.

The central issue in spiritual warfare not what's in front of us but which voice we listen to about the issue that's in front of us.

*Spiritual forces are empowered by human agreement.* Ask God what He sees.

Our job is to be a place inhabited by the Kingdom of God to push back the kingdom of darkness even in places where it thinks it has dominion. The presence and power of God in you steps into the geography and doesn't turn back the circumstance necessarily but the power of that circumstance to dictate the truth of that moment.

## 5. LIFE IN THE KINGDOM - *HOMEWORK*

Think about your life before you met Jesus and after you met Him. Compare the two. What's the difference now?

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Describe a time when you've seen God's power at work in your life.

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What does it mean that we have a "Will"?

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How do you hear from the Lord? What do you do to help you hear from Him?

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**Do you feel like there are parts of your life you've surrendered to Him, but not others?**

- Is there an area you have not yet surrendered?
- How would it be different if you surrendered your will completely?

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Pause for a moment here and surrender your will in the issue you wrote about above to Him. **Pray the following prayer:**

***Lord, today I choose to surrender my will to You. I choose to get out of the driver's seat and let You get in. I choose to let You steer, to be the passenger along for the ride You choose.***

**What's your first thought when you hear about something miraculous?**

- Skeptical?
- Unbelieving?
- Why do you think that is?
- Do you need to ask for greater faith?

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**Describe a time when you tried to do God's job for Him. How did that work out?**

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Describe a time in your life when something happened that could only have been God's doing. What was that like?

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### **Pray/Hear**

**What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

**Acts 1:8**

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Jesus asked His disciples to WAIT there until He had sent the Holy Spirit.

**Wait... Don't do... Don't go... Don't move... Just wait.**

Then when the Holy Spirit had come upon them, giving them His supernatural power, they were able to go out and do what He had called them to do.

**This is called the "baptism in the Holy Spirit."**

Spend some time waiting now. God sent the Holy Spirit to be real and present with us; ask Him to come now.

**PRAY:** *Father, fill me with Your Holy Spirit, right now, right here. I want to see more of You. I want to see Your power. I want to see Your Kingdom come on the earth, through me.*

**NOW WAIT.** Allow a few moments for God to work. Set aside your expectations and agenda. Let God define what this experience needs to look like for you.

Life in the Kingdom of God involves a continual shift in our way of thinking – from our way to His way. **Spiritual warfare is simply making the shift from agreeing with the lies of the enemy to agreeing with God’s truth.** Take some time this week and ask God to help you identify some areas where you might have believed a lie. Then ask Him to tell you the truth.

Journal some of what you hear.

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LIE: 

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TRUTH: 

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LIE: 

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TRUTH: 

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2 Corinthians tells us to bring *“every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”*

**Pay close attention to your thought processes this week.** Did you notice some areas where you’re beginning to think differently? What about some areas where you might be stuck in an old way of thinking? Take authority over your mind and thoughts, coming into agreement with Jesus.

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Are there any situations in your life that don't line up with what God says? Ask Him what He says about them then declare the truth He speaks. Exercise the authority He's given you over those situations. Journal your thoughts and experiences here.

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### **Remember**

- We have a part to play in the Kingdom. There is a part that only God can do, but there is a part He will not do for you because it is YOUR part to do.
- We are created in God's image – He is not in our image.
- Life in the Kingdom is a journey toward discovering how God sees, thinks, feels, etc.
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- Transformation is a qualitative change; it's so much more than wiping out our past.
- The choice we have to make is between being our own source (Tree of Knowledge) and allowing God to be our source (Tree of Life).

### **Digging Deeper: Devotions**

Unlocking the Kingdom

Chapter 3 - The Kingdom Key of Thanksgiving and Praise

Chapter 5 - The Kingdom Key to Overcoming Faith

Read two pages a day as your devotions.

## 6. REPENTANCE - BREAKING STRONGHOLDS

***Repentance is not a one-time event but a lifestyle you practice daily.***

Fallen human nature seeks to find an environmental cause for sin (brain chemistry, poor upbringing, poverty, childhood abuse, evolutionary drives, etc). But the Bible doesn't allow it. The bad news is that all mankind is under the wrath of God and we deserve it. Notice how unflattering Paul is to his fellow Christians (and himself) when describing their former condition:

*You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest (of mankind). Ephesians 2:1-3*

To understand the heart of the reason we have problems we must understand this **FOUNDATIONAL RULE** about the human condition:

**All human sin and failure is the result of unbelief, disobedience, or ignorance of God or His life principles.**

**REPENTANCE IS THE CURE.**

When the gospel writers wished to summarize Jesus teachings, this is what they wrote:

*Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Mark 1:14-16*

*The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great Light, and those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, Upon them a Light dawned. From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:16-18*

That means you must turn from your sin and rightly relate to God because the powers of God's kingdom age [salvation and all it entails] are only available to those do. If you won't repent- you won't enjoy the freedom of life in God.

*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.*

*Acts 17:30-31*

### ***Repentance is central to all life in God.***

#### **WHAT IS BIBLICAL REPENTANCE?**

The Greek word used for repentance in the New Testament is ***metanoia***: **to change one's mind leading to a change of heart.**

- **Repentance is a process of rejecting one set of beliefs or perspectives and replacing them with another.**
- Repentance includes sorrow for sin, and embracing the truth (instead of the untruth that got you into this mess). This is a reversal of thought where you displace the thought patterns, ambitions, inclinations and longings of the old nature with the new nature given to you by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- **Principle: the first step in solving ANY life problem is to take responsibility for your role in the problem.** If it's not your fault, if you are merely a victim, if you have done no wrong- there is nothing to repent of.
- Ways people AVOID taking responsibility for their sin: minimize, rationalize, deny, blame shift.

## **THE REPENTANCE FORMULA**

In repentance, you replace sin with obedience and replace false beliefs with the truth.

1. **Confess the sin**
2. **Reject the lie**
3. **Embrace the truth**
4. **Restitution (if necessary)**

**Let's examine each step in repentance.**

### **1. Confess the sin.**

Confessing means you admit or acknowledge your guilt. You take responsibility for your actions.

*So it shall be when he becomes guilty in one of these, that he shall confess that in which he has sinned. Leviticus 5:5*

*The descendants of Israel separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. Nehemiah 9:2*

*I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah. Psalm 32:5*

*If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. 1 John 1:8-10*

**A biblical confession must be specific.** You should name the sin: fear, worry, lust, greed, unforgiveness, etc.

**A confession acknowledges the injured party:** God and/or man.

**Receiving the forgiveness.** You should acknowledge the Lord's forgiveness: "Thank you Lord for forgiving me." Don't beg God for forgiveness.

**Forgiveness of sins is now ours through covenant.**

*"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days," says the Lord: "I will put My laws upon their heart, and on their mind I will write them," He then says, "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." Hebrews 10:16-17*

**Repentance involves more than just securing God's forgiveness. It includes reversing your thoughts and life direction on the subject. Therefore true, biblical repentance involves rejecting the lies and embracing the truth.**

**2. Reject the lie.**

Reject the lie: To renounce something is to reject or disown or repudiate it.

*"We have renounced the hidden, shameful things ..." 2 Corinthians 4:2*

*"But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints..." Ephesians 5:3*

Renunciation is a choice, an act of the will, where you repudiate the sinful activity or attitude and instead, embrace the new, godly one.

Turn from that sin back to the opposite (obedience to God).

*"He who steals must steal no longer (he must reject thievery); but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need." (generosity is the opposite of thievery) Ephesians 4:28*

**3. Embrace the truth:** knowing the truth is what sets us free. Declare the truth about your situation. The truth is going to contain the biblical opposite of your sin: lust vs. purity, fear vs. trust, revenge vs. forgiveness, stealing vs. working hard, laziness vs. diligence, treachery vs. loyalty, etc.

It would go something like this: *"Lord, I reject and disown the sin of (name it) and I choose not to (name it) any longer. Instead, with Your help, I will (name the opposite action or belief)."*

**4. Restitution- apologizing and making good**

Restitution is typically necessary where others are harmed: gossip, stealing, lying, etc. In a situation where your sin has affected others- repentance means you will humble yourself, admit your fault to them, and make good the loss.

Restitution is making good. It involves apologizing, returning what was stolen, or restoring the relationship, or making the wrong right again. The biblical concept of restitution is part of repentance.

*"...they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance." Acts 26:20*

*"...then he shall confess his sins which he has committed, and he shall make restitution in full for his wrong and add to it one-fifth of it, and give it to him whom he has wronged." Numbers 5:7*

*"If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he shall pay five oxen for the ox and four sheep for the sheep."  
Exodus 22:1*

*"He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need."  
Ephesians 4:28*

**Examples of restitution:**

- Apologizing to the one(s) you injured.
- Admit to the professor that you cheated on the tests.
- Return the money you stole and face the authorities.
- Go back and tell the truth to someone you lied to (or about).

In restitution, you are attempting to make things right- to undo the wrong as best you can. You are throwing yourself on the mercy of the person you have wronged:

*"If you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison."*

Matthew 5:23-25

**Conclusion:**

When confronting a mental stronghold, spiritual weakness, sin, or interpersonal conflict, you must take responsibility for your part of the problem and repent, that is, you replace sin with obedience and replace false beliefs with the truth.

1. Confess the sin
2. Reject the lie
3. Embrace the truth
4. Restitution (if necessary)

## BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION

***This is not the end of your freedom journey;  
in fact, it's just the beginning!***

Take a few minutes to reflect on the past few weeks.

Is there a new truth God has made clear to you, that you are committing to walk in?

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A few weeks ago, we talked about our “lenses” - how we see reality. **Have your lenses changed during this study?** List some things you will do differently after going through this series.

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**For most, there was a “problem” that brought you here in the first place. How do you think differently about that problem now?**

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**What are some ways you can now see the Kingdom at work in your life, where maybe you couldn’t before?**

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**We learned more about how to hear God speak. Give some examples of when you’ve heard God’s voice in your daily life since starting this study.**

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### **Pray/Hear**

**Read Isaiah 61, out loud. Declare what God says about you!**

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

*To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;*

*To grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.*

*They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.*

*Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers.*

*But you shall be called the priests of the Lord; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.*

*Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.*

**Ask God to speak to you about how you can be a conduit of the kingdom, personally. God is very creative; be open to some new experiences and opportunities!**

### **Digging Deeper Devotions**

Finish reading **Unlocking the Kingdom**— Chapters 7-11

**START READING** the book now if you haven't yet been able and use it the next few months as your devotions reading 2 to 4 pages a day meditating on it.

### **In Summary**

The end of this series is not the end. Hopefully throughout this series, you've ***begun to realize that "freedom" isn't a destination, it's a journey.*** And you've just started! There is so much more of God, and so much more of the real you, to discover.

***There are many ways to stimulate the new life, new creation, the kingdom, inside of you.***

- Remember, these are not things to check off; not new behaviors to "learn."
- These are ways of growing in intimacy with your heavenly Father, the One who created your identity and wants to shape it -
- His way is by healing hurts, speaking life and working real transformation in your life through His presence and voice.

**Spend some time reading the Bible.** Read it a lot, even the parts you might not understand. **Find some favorite passages and memorize them.** Consider starting in the Psalms. David gives us a very real picture - good, bad and ugly - of what life in the Kingdom looks like.

**Pursue Him. Seek Him. Talk to Him.** You'll find Him, and when you do, you'll find that He is the true source of life and the one who can provide everything you need.

# Freedom Foundations

## Notes

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## Notes

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## Freedom Foundations

### Notes

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### Notes

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# Freedom Foundations

## Notes

# Freedom Foundations

## Notes

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## **Remember**

- Real change can only happen at the identity level.
- God is the only one who can change how you really see yourself.
- Freedom isn't about the absence of something; it's the presence of Someone.
- Freedom is the ability to relate to God fully as the person you were created and redeemed to be.
- Going to church, reading your Bible, seeking a group to do life with - these aren't just "good" behaviors, but ways to stimulate the new life inside of you.
- Freedom is a journey, not a destination.

## **Resources**

To find Video resources, as well as schedules of upcoming classes and events, <https://www.foothillschurch.org/ministries/freedom>

## **SIGN UP FOR THE FREEDOM CONFERENCE**



Freedom is the ability to respond fully to God out of who He created and redeemed you to be. Foundations of Freedom is designed to set the stage for you to begin your journey to freedom and help you become the person you were created to be.

As you go through this study, you will be challenged in several significant areas:

- Adjusting your focus to seeking God's Kingdom first
- Shifting your main target from your behaviors to you beliefs and identity
- Changing your emphasis from more knowledge to experiencing the voice of God
- Clarifying your choices as life vs. death rather than simply good vs. bad

Through Foundations of Freedom, you will go deeper in your experience of freedom and learn how to maintain a life of freedom over time and be an influence in the lives of others.

Bob Hamp



August 2024