

- 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.
- o Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson. If you want to add details to your notes, you'll find the audio message on our website under the Resources tab. (www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com).
 - o 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.

III. PRINCIPLES

A. Basics for Using God's Names:

1. Called By Name—God sets the example for us—He is big on calling by name:
 - Is 43:1-- Thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; **I have called *you* by your name; You *are* Mine.
 - Is 45:4-- **I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me.
 - Rev 3:5 MSG-- "Conquerors will march in the victory parade, their names indelible in the Book of Life. I'll lead them up and present them by name to my Father and his Angels."
2. For His Name—We want to show esteem for and commitment to God's names:
 - Ps 25:11-- For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity, for it *is* great.
 - Ps 31:3-- You *are* my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me.
 - *Acts 21:13-- Paul answered, "...I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
3. In His Name—God's names are awesome in power. We can access that power as we get to know the Person behind them:
 - Ps 63:4 NIV—I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.
 - Lk 10:17— Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."
 - Jn 16:23-24 AMP-- I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name [as My representative], He will give you. Until now you have not asked [the Father] for anything in My name; but now ask *and* keep on asking and you will receive, so that your joy may be full *and* complete.

Insights:

B. Who God Is Determines Who I Am: The Bible gives us these 3 examples of people whose identity was determined by who God was for them:

1. David

- Ps 51:6-- Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom
- 2 Sam 16:7—The Lord looks at the heart.
- David understood that the head has one kind of language (information, knowledge) but the heart is different.
- The heart "knows" by taking in pictures, stories (word pictures), poems, music, stillness, spirit-to-Spirit or spirit connecting.
- Who God Is = God that desires heart connection
- Who David Was = "A man after God's own heart!" (1 Sam 13:13-14, Acts 13:22)

2. Peter

- Mt 16:13-18-- Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"¹⁴ So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Peter's knowing Jesus as Son of the Living God was instrumental in receiving his true identity as Peter, rock and church planter.
- This understanding was heart knowledge that was revealed by the Father.

3. Abraham

- Gen 12:1-3--Now the Lord had said to Abram... I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
- Gen 13:14, 16 NASB-- The Lord said to Abram...I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth
- Who God Is = Yahweh, Self-Existent One, Covenant Keeping God
- Who Abe Is = Father of Nations
- There was a gap between who God said Abram was and his experience: Gen 15:1-5-- The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward."² But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house *is* Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" ⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord *came* to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." ⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."
- How do we bridge the gap between how we see ourselves now and what God has said about us?

Insights:

C. Everything Is Mine In Christ: God has a rich storehouse of blessings He longs to pour out on our lives:

- 2 Pt 1:3-4 NIV-- His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

- Eph 1:3 NOG--Through Christ, God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing that heaven has to offer.
- The most common rendering of El Shaddai is “All Sufficient God.” The literal meaning in Hebrew is “many breasted.”
- Anthropomorphism, defined--ascribing human, physical attributes to God to help us understand Him.
- Isaiah 66:12-13 AMP-- For the Lord says this, “Behold, I extend peace to her (Jerusalem) like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you will be nursed, you will be carried on *her* hip and [playfully] rocked on *her* knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you will be comforted in Jerusalem.”

Insights:

IV. PERSONALIZATION

- A. Get to know God better by meditating on His names. His names portray different aspects of who He is and who we are because of Him. Try these strategies:
- The “Nuggets” booklet in your registration packet is a great resource for including God’s Names in your daily time with Him.
 - Our music CD for this year has lots of songs about God’s Names. Sing to the Lord, giving Him thanks and praise for Who He says He is. He is worthy!
 - Begin to pray, asking the Lord “Who do You want to be for me?” This is a wonderful prayer for each day, issue, or season of your life.
 - For each name you focus on, ask the Spirit to bless your spiritual eyes to:
 - o See the particular traits of God revealed in it.
 - o See all the benefits that accrue to you because of it.
 - Ask Him to guide you into greater understanding of your own identity as you receive these truths personally into your heart.

Insights:

- B. Receive God’s abundant blessings as you ponder the truth that everything is yours in Christ:
- Use the handout “Tools & Techniques: Spiritual Blessings” to help you get started. Choose one or more blessing that fits your current circumstances.
 - Let the Scriptures listed fuel your faith as you reach out to God for each blessing. They are all yours because of Jesus!

Insights:

- C. Keep a written record of how God ministers to you this week. Come back ready to share what you’ve experienced.

