Lesson 1 - Preparation of the Man & Woman of God

Notes

- The preparation of the man or woman of God for the Healing Ministry is critical and cannot be rushed. Jesus was approximately 30 years old when He started His ministry.
- If we are going to be a part of an Healing Ministry Team, then our focus must be upon our relationship with God and not our ministry.
- A successful Healing Ministry is not about forms or formulas or praying that "special prayer". It's about a relationship. Jesus is the healer and He chooses to use us and work through us to accomplish His purposes.
- If we get into forms or formulas then we will miss what God is doing because we will be practicing RELIGION.
- It is a relationship, not religion that keeps us from falling into unbelief and doubt because we focus on Him rather than the things of the natural realm.
- God wants that relationship so that we can bring real healing into people's lives. He wants the healing done in a way that won't hurt other people or even ourselves.
- God looks at our heart. Is our heart pure before Him? (Ps. 24:3-4; Ps. 51:10)
- God is concerned about two things:
  - God is looking for a relationship with you.
  - God is not concerned about your ministry rather He is more concerned about your character and character building takes time - Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
- Miracles and signs are intended to validate God and His message but never the person's character, lifestyle or spiritual authority or even spiritual maturity (Mat. 7:22-23).
- Fruit - Godly character qualities - are God's focus in our lives.
- When we talk about the Healing Ministry, God's preparation in our lives is essential.
- Our lives are like the dirt in a strainer. Our desire should be to have our lives radically changed so that the junk or dirt is removed. As it is removed, we find that we do not hinder or taint the work that God wants to accomplish through us.
- Two ways that God works on our character to transform us:
  - **First way - Living life with all its tests, trials and temptations**
    - Hardships, trials, tribulations can bring brokenness, humility, meekness and a destruction of pride and

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self-sufficiency.

- In the midst of these difficulties, we learn about God's faithfulness, comfort, and love (II Cor. 12:10; II Cor. 1:4).
- God will also use circumstances. God will use people to disappoint us and disagree with us and push all of our buttons.
- The purpose for all of this is to show us what is really in our heart so the Holy Spirit can bring it to death (Deut. 8:2).
- We must understand lines of Spiritual Authority in our church and not allow the darkness to stir up strife or discord or hurt feelings - trying to break our unity (Jn. 17; II Cor. 2:11).
- It is critical that we submit ourselves to one another in the fear of the Lord (Eph. 5:19)
- When we begin to affect the Kingdom of Darkness, the darkness will fight back. When we affect his kingdom, we declare what Jesus did and that the Kingdom of God is at hand - satan's kingdom will fight back.
- The Darkness will look for character weaknesses and use those weaknesses to pull people away.
- Story of Todd Bentley & Lakeland revival.
- Ministry is to come out of who we are as a person and not what we can do through our spiritual gifts.
- God may withhold His full anointing if He sees that we don't have the integrity or strength of character to handle His blessings.
- People wound people.

♦ **Second Way - Spiritual disciplines**

- The practice of spiritual discipline brings us into the presence of God so we can develop an intimacy with our Heavenly Father (and position ourselves to receive more from God).
- We are talking about disciplines, NOT absolute rules that must be followed like a law.
- Purpose of disciplines is to seek God with all of our heart (Jer. 29:13)
- Richard Foster - Celebration of Discipline.
- Five spiritual disciplines:
  - Studying the Word of God

Notes

- Meditation
- Solitude
- Prayer
- Fasting

- Solitude - Jesus sought solitary places - away from people, crowds, and the needs of the people so that He was better able to hear His Father's voice.
  - A deep inner silence so I can hear God's voice.
  - Examples are: Luke 4:1-2; Luke 6:12; Matthew 14:13; Matthew 14:23; Luke 22:39-45
- Prayer
  - Jesus spoke words He heard His Father speak (Jn. 12:49).
  - Jesus spoke with authority because He knew the will of God before He began to pray.
  - Jesus and His disciples gave direct, authoritative commands for things to happen and they did.
  - We need to learn how to listen and then pray with the same authority.
  - When we hear God speak, those words become a living, creative word that imparts life and wholeness to a person.
- Fasting
  - Its purpose is not to twist God's arm and make Him do something.
  - The purpose is for each of us to draw closer to God and thus enrich our relationship with Him.
  - Fasting is not for ourselves - it is for others (Is. 58:5-12).
  - Fasting declares that we are not looking for our will to be done but His will through us.
  - Fasting will also reveal any strongholds in our life. What is a stronghold? It is what occupies most of our thinking.
  - Fasting helps remove the junk that hinders or taints the flow of God in our lives. In the Healing Ministry, fasting is not for ourselves, it is for others.
  - For Jesus to work through us, we must lose our life so that we will actually find it.

- It is God's desire that we be men and women of faith and possess Godly character.

- For us to have AUTHORITY over those things happening around us, we must first have victory on the inside. Said

another way, when we have VICTORY on the inside - in our life, then we have AUTHORITY on the outside.

- As Healing Ministers, we need both Godly character and a powerful anointing. That Godly character and anointing come as we live continuously in His Presence.
- Jesus has given us the victory but we must possess it. Will we take the time to properly prepare ourselves so that we may fulfill the ministry that we are called to do?
- The Healing Ministry shows us how to take what we have received and to humbly give to others who are in need.

Notes