

Course I

HEAVENLY IDENTITY

- LESSON 1 HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE
- LESSON 2 NEW CREATION REALITIES
- LESSON 3 YOUR HEAVENLY IDENTITY--AUTHORITY
- LESSON 4 DRAWING FROM YOUR HEAVENLY ACCOUNT
- LESSON 5 MAINTAINING YOUR HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE
- LESSON 6 FULFILLMENT OF YOUR DESTINY AND PROMOTION

Lesson 1

Heavenly Perspective

Lesson Objective. To understand that as a Christian, you must maintain your heavenly identity.

Lesson Overview.

The Word says that we are seated with Christ in heavenly places. Until we get out of the natural, and into the spiritual, we will not realize our full potential as God's children. You must understand that the old man is dead and that you are transforming into the image of God. The Word tells us that we are the body of Christ, that Christ lives in us, and that we have the mind of Christ. You must cut your former ties to the old man and begin to identify with Christ. The only way to identify with Christ is through the Word of God. If you don't understand how Christ thought, how can you begin to develop the mind of Christ? You must begin to renew your mind and strengthen yourself every day by the Word of God. You must continually remind yourself that you can not live off yesterday's meal, strength, or anointing.

As a believer, you must have an uncompromising revelation of why Jesus died for you. The Son always walked in victory; by his crucifixion and resurrection that same provision has been made for you. His victory at Calvary is your victory by faith. You must never let his death and resurrection become irrelevant to you.

As human beings we have our own personalities, but as Christians we should continually desire the characteristics of Christ. God can not, and will not change your will. Until you completely surrender, you will not be able to walk in your full provision. You must die daily to Christ.

Key Scriptures:

Colossians 3:9

Romans 13:12-14

Philippians 2:13

Ephesians 1:17-19

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 4:22-24

Review Questions.

1. How are you filled with fullness of God? Ephesians 1:19

2. Where should you be renewed? Ephesians 4:23

3. After what image is the new man created? Ephesians 4:24

4. What should we cast off, and what should we put on? Romans 13:12

5. Why does God work in us? Philippians 2:13

Practical Application. Determine how you can apply the principles in this lesson to a current situation in your life. On a separate piece of paper, describe the situation and note the date you began applying the principles. Practice these principles until they become ingrained in your daily walk. You must continue to stand on the principles in God’s Word in order to see the desired results.

Recommended Reading List: See Appendix A.

Lesson 2

New Creation Realities

Lesson Objective. To understand the realities of your new identity in Christ.

Lesson Overview.

The Apostle Paul said it is not I who lives, but Christ in me. The substance of a new Christian is a new spirit and a new quality. When we are born again, the first thing to change is our spirit. The old man dies, and we are reborn of the Spirit of God. This new Spirit allows us to walk in agreement with God. As we grow in the Word, and by our faith, our spirit man begins to mature. Our spiritual relationship with God will grow in proportion to our faith. The new quality that permeates us is our new nature and identity. The next thing which changes is our mind. The Word tells us to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. However, this process is not automatic, and is probably the most difficult. This takes a conscious effort on our part. Our souls are made of three parts; the mind, the will, and the emotions. Until you renew your mind through the Word, you will not be able to change your will and emotions. Without changing your will and emotions, you will not be able to get your flesh under control. The more we transform our nature, the closer we become to the identity of Christ.

As Christians, we need to understand that we have been forgiven for all past sins; we are dead to sin but alive to righteousness. That means we are in right standing with God. If we slip, we do not lose our salvation. On the contrary, the Word tells us that we have and advocate in the Father. The devil will try to bring guilt and condemnation upon you; however the Word is clear. There is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. A complete understanding and rhema knowledge of the Word will free you. The Words says that you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free. You must continually look at yourself in light of your new nature and identity. Your salvation is complete, but your spiritual

growth is dependent upon the effort you make to change your mind, will, and emotions. As you allow the Word to work in your life, you will begin to take on the nature of Christ.

Key Scriptures:

Romans 2:28-29

Romans 5:1-2

Romans 5:8-12

Romans 5:17-20

II Corinthians 5:17-21

II Corinthians 6:16-17

II Peter 1:3-4

Ephesians 2:5-10

Ephesians 4:22-24

Galatians 1:15-16

Galatians 2:20

Review Questions.

1. What happens when you are born again? II Corinthians 5:17

2. How do we have access to the Father? Romans 5:2

3. What are the great and precious promises given to us? II Peter 1:4

4. What is our current position? Ephesians 2:6

5. How are you saved? Ephesians 2:8

6. What must you do with the old man? and the new man? Ephesians 4:22-23

Practical Application. Determine how you can apply the principles in this lesson to a current situation in your life. On a separate piece of paper, describe the situation and note the date you began applying the principles. Practice these principles until they become ingrained in your daily walk. You must continue to stand on the principles in God’s Word in order to see the desired results.

Recommended Reading List: See Appendix A.

NOTES

Lesson 3

Your Heavenly Identity Authority

Lesson Objective. To further understand your relationship and identity in Christ.

Lesson Overview.

The Word says that I will lay a stumbling block before the people. Paul says that Christ was that stumbling block. Jesus simply was not what the Jews expected. The Jews saw Jesus as a threat to their religious traditions and customs. Jesus tried to tell them that religion without a relationship with God is useless. Because they did not know God, they tried to be wise in their own eyes. The Word says that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

As born again Christians, we must be constantly aware of the price that Jesus paid for us. If we take our eyes and our thoughts off of him, we make his death, burial, and resurrection of non effect. If we operate outside of God, we will be entering back into doubt and unbelief which of course is sin. Just because He is in you doesn't mean He 's living in you. We must give God full reign as we are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. You must develop that relationship so that you can walk in agreement.


Paul said, I travail until Christ be formed in you. You can not form yourself and Christ at the same time. You must allow Him to do the work. The Word says that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, to those who earnestly desire Him. His hope is that we can learn to walk in agreement so that we can do His will. Many Christians act like they don't know what God's will is for them. Jesus said, My will is to do the will of He who sent me. As my Father

sent Me, so I send you. Our job is to simply do the work of Christ on earth. We learn His will through His Word. If we do not develop our relationship with Him, or if we take our eyes off of Him, we can not walk in the provisions He made for us to do His will.

The old man is dead; he died at the cross and was buried with Christ. Therefore, you must completely dissociate yourself from him. When condemnation comes, remember who is bringing it upon you. By receiving Christ, we are seated with Him in heavenly places. It is the same power which allowed you to be born again, and which will rapture you out of here, that can transform you in the twinkling of an eye, if you only allow it. It is Christ in you which is the hope of glory.


Key Scriptures:

I Corinthians 1:23 


I Corinthians 1:30-31 


I Corinthians 2:2 


I Corinthians 2:15 

Galatians 3:5-16 

Galatians 4:7 

Galatians 4:19 

I John 5:14-15 

Romans 12:2 

Ephesians 3:17



Review Questions.

1. What is the confidence we have in Christ? I John 5:14

2. What should our glory be in? I Corinthians 1:31

3. Why should we not care what man thinks? I Corinthians 2:15

4. What is our unique relationship with the Father? Galatians 4:7

5. How does Christ dwell in us? Ephesians 3:17

Practical Application. Determine how you can apply the principles in this lesson to a current situation in your life. On a separate piece of paper, describe the situation and note the date you began applying the principles. Practice these principles until they become ingrained in your daily walk. You must continue to stand on the principles in God’s Word in order to see the desired results.

Recommended Reading List: See Appendix A.

NOTES

Lesson 4

Drawing From Your Heavenly Account

Lesson Objective. To understand the relationship between faith and hope.

Lesson Overview.


The Word says that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen. Our faith is the tangible substance of the things that we are hoping for. It is the confident assurance that God will do what He says He will do. Before you can take money out of the bank, you must build up your account to have something to draw from. The same is true for your heavenly account. How much you invest will dictate how much you can draw from. The first principle is that you must make your deposits in heaven, and not on earth. Never allow the natural realm to be your source or you will be dictated by natural circumstances. The Word tells us to seek the kingdom of God first, and all those other things will be added unto us.


You must also understand that you can not have faith in the present if you do not have hope in the future. Your continual hope must be in the promises which have been given to you. As you know, the old man is dead! You must place the life you lived behind and place the hope of God's glory in front of you. You must continually press toward the high mark.


Hope is the anchor to your destination in God. It is the thing which keeps your soul from wavering. If we put our hope in man, sooner or later we will be disappointed. However, we know that God is not a man that He can lie; therefore, we should confidently know the answers to his promises. By faith, we must apprehend the promises which are before us. Hope is the destination, the mark, that our faith is driving us toward. To get there, we must remove any doubt and confusion. We must take our eyes off the seen (our circumstances) and look toward


the unseen through the eyes of faith. You must come to a place in God where the Word becomes your motivation. God can't and won't give you what He has for you until you let go of your past. You must get out of your familiar territory and walk toward the hope of your high calling. In order to be counted as a friend of God, you must diligently pursue Him. It is your faith that will draw you to the hope of His promises. Once you have an unmoveable revelation of the fact that faith is the substance of things hoped for, then you will be able to make spiritual withdrawals.


Key Scriptures:


Matthew 6:19 


I Peter 1:3 


Hebrews 6:10-12 


Hebrews 6:19 


Hebrews 11:1 

Hebrews 12:2 

Genesis 12:1 

Genesis 17:1-6 

Genesis 18:17 

Romans 4:14 

Review Questions.

1. Why shouldn't you lay your treasures on earth? Matthew 6:19

2. How will we inherit the promises? Hebrew 6:12

3. What is our anchor of the promises before us? Hebrew 6:19

4. How should we describe the faith we have for the promises we hope for? Hebrews 11:1.

5. Where does your faith come from? Hebrews 12:2

6. What is our destination? Genesis 12:1

7. What is the quickest way to destroy your faith? Romans 4:14

Practical Application. Determine how you can apply the principles in this lesson to a current situation in your life. On a separate piece of paper, describe the situation and note the date you began applying the principles. Practice these principles until they become ingrained in your daily walk. You must continue to stand on the principles in God’s Word in order to see the desired results.

Recommended Reading List: See Appendix A.

NOTES

Lesson 5

Maintaining Your Heavenly Perspective

Lesson Objective. To understand how to maintain your heavenly identity.

Lesson Overview.

God commands us in the Word to go forth and preach to all the nations. Just as Nehemiah built a wall for the people, God commands us to build a wall; a wall of believers. The church is not a building; it is the body of Christ. God has sent us to go forth and build the body upon walls which we will not come down from. Today, there are too many inactive Christians celebrating the by and by because they are ignorant of the power and authority God gave them to do His will on earth. If they only knew that it just takes one anointed man to change the world-- look what Jesus did.


We all have a specific role. Something will remain undone unless we do our part. We can't disqualify ourselves through compromise. Your compromise and indecision can effect many others, as well as yourself. What would have happened if Kenneth Hagin decided not to open Rhema Bible College? When you are called of God, you must do your part. Do not disqualify yourself from your rewards.


God told us to feed His sheep and has equipped us with special gifts to do this work. We must be cognizant that there is an enemy who will try to stop us; but we also know that no weapon formed against us can prosper. In general, there are two types of spirits that will try to come against you. First, there is a spirit of opposition. The enemy will only come against you full strength when you are trying to do God's will. When he sees that you are concerned about the welfare of God's children, he looks for an opening. Second, is the spirit of the goodness of


Jehovah, or a spirit of religion, which operates through “religious” people. Do not be fooled by the name. On the exterior, they are nice people; however, they are really wolves disguised in sheep’s clothing. They are nothing but religious hypocrites who criticize you for preaching God’s Word. Do not be afraid of either of these spirits. The Word says that all who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. Jesus said, they will persecute you because they persecuted me first. God will use you in the midst of the enemy to do His will.


Like Nehemiah, you must learn to develop a heart for the people; and your must not compromise. Once we learn to make the people disciples instead of dependents, the wall will be strengthened.


Key Scriptures:


Nehemiah 1:3 

Nehemiah 2:7-10 


Nehemiah 2:18 


Nehemiah 4:1 

Nehemiah 4:6 

Nehemiah 4:20 

Nehemiah 5:6 

Nehemiah 5:11 

Nehemiah 6:1-2 

Nehemiah 6:9-10

Nehemiah 6:12

Nehemiah 6:15

Review Questions.

1. What has God commissioned us to do? Mark 16:15

2. What is our confidence that we will overcome the enemy? Isaiah 54:17.

Practical Application. Determine how you can apply the principles in this lesson to a current situation in your life. On a separate piece of paper, describe the situation and note the date you began applying the principles. Practice these principles until they become ingrained in your daily walk. You must continue to stand on the principles in God’s Word in order to see the desired results.

Recommended Reading List: See Appendix A.

Lesson 6

Fulfillment of Your Destiny and Promotion

Lesson Objective. To understand how to fulfill your destiny and allow God to promote you.

Lesson Overview.

The Word says that promotion does not come from the east, west, or south. It is God that puts one down and raises another. The greatest revelation you can have is that your strength comes from God who provides a supernatural result for you; not from man whose results can only be temporary. To make it to your time of promotion, you must make it through your time of testing. The good news is that God has provided the means for you to make it through your trials.

As we learned in the previous lesson, you will be persecuted because they first persecuted Jesus. We all must learn to fight the good fight of faith. God wants to use everyone of us; not just the five fold ministry gifts, to build the wall. The devil doesn't want us to be used by God, and will attack us once we begin to do God's work in earnest. The Word says we will overcome the devil because we are not ignorant of his devices. We know that the Word says we have the mind of Christ and are more than conquerors. The good news is that the devil was defeated almost two thousand years ago--you just need to constantly remind him of that fact. The promotion is ours when we learn to consistently walk in the victory Jesus achieved at Calvary.

We must learn to keep ourselves so that the wicked one touches us not. We must be sober, on a constant watch, because the adversary the devil as a roaring lion seeks whom he may devour. Just let him try. We have the shield of faith to put out every fiery dart he shoots our way. Remember, no weapon formed against you can prosper. Once you learn to live and act on the Word of God, you will walk through the door that no man can shut. Promotion comes to

those who have an ear to hear and are not afraid to walk by faith. You just need to do your part. Be narrow minded; your promotion depends on your ability not to compromise the Word. The more you commit to God, the more you will have to commit; but as you draw nigh to God, the Word says He will draw nigh unto you. If God is for you, who can be against you? Remember, God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Do your part, and as Psalm 75 says, you will be the one He promotes.

Key Scriptures:

Daniel 6:1-10

Daniel 6:16-19

Daniel 6:24

Hebrews 11

Review Questions.

1. Where does your promotion come from? Psalm 75:6,7

2. Who does God reward? Hebrews 11:6

Practical Application. Determine how you can apply the principles in this lesson to a current situation in your life. On a separate piece of paper, describe the situation and note the date you began applying the principles. Practice these principles until they become ingrained in your daily walk. You must continue to stand on the principles in God's Word in order to see the desired results.

Recommended Reading List: See Appendix A.

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