

Time to Leave!

Lesson 23 – Teacher's Guide

1. When we make Jesus Christ Lord of our lives by truly believing on Him, an instantaneous change takes place. This change occurs in our spirits, not our flesh (i.e., body and soul). Whether the change ever manifests itself in our physical realm depends on what we think.
2. The flesh, our natural self, pulls in one direction, and our spirits lead us in another. How we think determines what we experience. If our minds stay only on physical things—not even necessarily sinful things—then we'll be limited to and dominated by our flesh.
3. The only way we'll experience the power of God within us is to walk in the spirit. We have to get beyond the physical and acknowledge that there is a spiritual world. As we recognize our true power and believe, the spiritual realm will become more real to us than the physical. Everything in the natural may be coming against the Word, but if we stay in the spirit, fixed on what His Word says, our spirits will overcome our flesh and break its dominion. That's when we'll see the Word manifest.
4. Whether we ever see our true spiritual potential released into our physical lives or not depends on what we think (Rom. 12:2). If natural things—either sinful or just plain carnal—dominate and control our thoughts, we'll shut off the flow of God's Spirit through us. But if we dominate ourselves with the truths of God's Word and get beyond the natural limitations of our five senses, we can start releasing the supernatural life that's inside us.

1. A. Where does the change occur the instant we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ? (In our spirits)
B. Whether the change ever manifests itself in our physical realm depends on what? (What we think)
2. A. What do we call our natural selves? (The flesh)
B. If our minds stay only on physical things, then we'll be limited to and dominated by what? (Our flesh)
3. A. What is the only way we'll experience the power of God within us? (We must walk in the spirit)
B. What happens when—despite everything in the natural realm coming against the Word—we stay in the spirit, fixed on what God's Word says? (We overcome our flesh and see the Word manifest)
4. A. According to Romans 12:2, whether we ever see our true spiritual potential released into our physical lives or not depends on what? (What we think)
B. What happens when we dominate ourselves with the truths of God's Word and get beyond the natural limitations of our five senses? (We can start releasing the supernatural life that's inside us)

5. As long as we stay focused on the Word, we'll be able to experience a peace that passes understanding (Phil. 4:7 and John 14:1).
6. If we want to experience God's best, we must understand these truths concerning spirit, soul, and body. We need to spend less time feeding the flesh and focus on the spirit instead. We'll develop an entire mentality based on our new identity in Christ as we dominate ourselves with what we see in the spiritual mirror of God's Word. We need to soak our minds in these truths that God has spoken.
7. Renewing our minds to God's Word is a lifelong process. Until we see Jesus face to face, we never arrive; we just leave. Applying these truths will take some real focus and effort on our part. The Holy Spirit will reveal to us who we are in Christ.

5. A. What did Jesus command His disciples in John 14:1? ("Let not your heart be troubled, but believe in Me")
 - B. According to Philippians 4:7, what kind of peace will we experience as long as we stay focused on the Word? (A peace that passes understanding)
6. A. We need to spend less time feeding the flesh and more time doing what? (Focusing on the spirit)
 - B. In order to develop an entire mentality based on our new identity in Christ, we must _____? (Dominate ourselves with what we see in the spiritual mirror of God's Word)
7. A. What will it take for us to apply these truths to our lives? (Some real focus and effort)
 - B. How long must we continue the process of renewing our minds to God's Word? (The rest of our lives)

(Spend some time in prayer responding to what God has shown you through this study. You may wish to use the following prayer as a model)

"Father, I open my heart to the Holy Spirit to continue revealing these truths to me. I recognize that this is a process and not just a one-time thing. Therefore, I ask You to give me greater revelation of spirit, soul, and body throughout the rest of my life. As I apply what You've shown me, please encourage me with some quick results. I want to establish new patterns of walking by the spirit so I can live a full and effective life in You.

"Thank You for bringing these truths to my remembrance when I need them. Thank You for helping me to share them with others so they too can break free from their flesh's dominion. Thank You for setting me free and using me to set many others free too! I love You, Father! Amen."

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Lesson 23

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When you make Jesus Christ Lord of your life by truly believing on Him, an instantaneous change takes place. This change occurs in your spirit, not your flesh (i.e., your body and soul). Whether the change ever manifests itself in your physical realm depends on what you think.

The flesh, your natural self, pulls in one direction, and your spirit leads you in another. How you think determines what you experience. If your mind stays only on physical things—not even necessarily sinful things—then you’ll be limited to and dominated by your flesh. You might even be a very moral person, but you won’t experience the supernatural life of God.

The only way you’ll experience the power of God within you is to walk in the spirit. Believing God to raise someone from the dead goes beyond just living a good life. You must believe in something that has no proof or evidence in the physical realm whatsoever. You have to get beyond the physical and acknowledge that there is a spiritual world. As you recognize your true power and believe, the spiritual realm will become more real to you than the physical.

This applies to prosperity too! There will be times when there’s no basis for faith in your physical facts. Your bank statement won’t prove it. Everything in the natural may be coming against the Word, but if you stay in the spirit, fixed on what God’s Word says, you’ll be able to see yourself prosperous when everyone else tries to repossess your house, car, etc. As you hold on to God’s Word, your spirit will overcome your flesh and break its dominion. That’s when you’ll see the Word manifest!

Peace

You can be spiritually minded! Whatever you continually think on will dominate you (Prov. 23:7). If it’s who you are and what you have in Christ, then that’s what will eventually manifest itself in your physical life.

One-third of your salvation is already complete! Your born-again spirit isn’t in the process of growing or maturing. Right now in your spirit, you are exactly the way you’ll be throughout eternity (1 John 4:17). You have a physical body and soul that haven’t been changed yet. They are subject to change and can change, but it’s not automatic. However, the change of your spirit at salvation was total, complete, and automatic.

Whether you ever see your true spiritual potential released into your physical life or not depends on what you think (Rom. 12:2). If natural things—either sinful or just plain carnal—dominate and control your thoughts, you’ll shut off the flow of God’s Spirit through you. But if you dominate yourself with the truths of His Word and get beyond the natural limitations of your five senses, you can start releasing the supernatural life that’s inside you.

You'll be able to experience a peace that passes understanding. Even when it seems like everyone's against you and everything's crashing in the physical realm, you'll enjoy God's supernatural peace as long as you stay focused on the Word.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:7).

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1).

To the natural mind, this sounds unreasonable in light of the situation. Their Messiah, the One they loved and worshiped, was about to be executed. There's no natural way they could have peace in the midst of something like that, but Jesus had given them His Word. He'd told them many times, “I'll be crucified, but I'll rise again on the third day.” If they had meditated on and dominated themselves by what Jesus had said, they would have released the supernatural peace of God they needed for that trying situation.

What Will You Think?

If you want to experience God's best, you must understand these truths concerning spirit, soul, and body. You have unlimited potential, but it's all in the spirit. The victory God's given you isn't in your flesh; it's in the part of you that's been born again. As you mature in the Christian life, you don't become less carnal; you just let less carnality dominate and manifest, because you're yielded to the spirit instead.

Through God's Word, concentrate on seeing who you are in Christ. Spend less time feeding the flesh, and focus on the spirit instead. Surround yourself with people who speak faith, are positive, and center in on the potential we have in Christ instead of those who gripe and complain. You'll develop an entire mentality based on your new identity in Christ as you dominate yourself with what you see in the spiritual mirror of God's Word.

Nothing can separate you from God's love, because your born-again spirit has been sanctified and perfected forever. God is a Spirit, and He sees you in the spirit (John 4:24). He fellowships with you Spirit to born-again spirit. God doesn't give you what you deserve based on your thoughts and physical actions in your flesh; rather, He deals with you in the spirit realm. That's why He'll receive you at any time, in any condition—you're His beloved child!

You're constantly being fed information and drawn in one of two directions—the flesh or the spirit (Gal. 5:17). The Holy Spirit always endeavors to draw you toward God and remind you of your new identity in Christ. Satan, through the world, its images and voices—news media, movies, books, newspapers, magazines, associations, and even church organizations who are mistaken in some of their beliefs—constantly pushes you to accept defeat. What you continually think on is what you'll experience (Prov. 23:7).

Your flesh and spirit constantly fight each other in your mind. God proclaims, "You can do all things through Christ." The world answers, "No, you can't. You're just a failure!" On and on, the daily battle rages. That's why this life-changing truth isn't just something you learn one time and conclude, "I've got it!" This understanding of spirit, soul, and body should motivate you to aggressively pursue renewing your mind to God's Word—a process that'll continue for the rest of your life!

Soak Your Mind

Soak your mind in these truths that God has spoken. You might need to go back and reread your notes in a week or in a couple of months. Perhaps you should consider ordering the audio series so you can listen to this teaching again and again. Whatever you do, meditate these truths until they come alive to you. Then, keep them refreshed by occasionally coming back to them.

God spoke these truths to me over thirty-five years ago, but I'm still in the process of renewing my mind to them. Over time, He's been expanding, developing, and giving me even more understanding on this. I feel like the Apostle Paul, who after twenty or more years of knowing and serving God, said:

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14).

Don't be discouraged! I'm not saying you have to wait a long time before you see any results. I just want you to know that until you see Him face to face, you never arrive; you just leave. And if the Lord has spoken to you through this teaching, you need to leave right now! Turn from carnal-mindedness, and start being dominated by your born-again spirit instead. Discover the realities concerning who you are in the spirit, and let them control you. When you do, you'll experience life and peace. It really is that simple!

But it's not easy! In fact, changing your focus from the flesh to the spirit is one of the hardest things you'll ever do. It's a gradual, but total, reprogramming of your natural mind to agree with your spirit. Through renewing your mind to God's Word, you can become spiritually minded!

What God has spoken to you through this study has the potential of radically changing your life, but applying these truths will take some real focus and effort on your part. However, the good news is that God wants you to fully understand and walk in them even more than you do! He'll faithfully do His part if you'll just head in that direction acknowledging that "God, it's going to take a miracle to renew my mind! It's so used to being dominated by the flesh. I'm really going to need Your help!" The Holy Spirit will reveal to you who you are in Christ. He'll show you Jesus, spiritual truth, and reality. It just takes commitment and effort on your part to focus on the Word and the spirit.

Time to Leave!

Lesson 23 – Outline

1. When you make Jesus Christ Lord of your life by truly believing on Him, an instantaneous change takes place.
 - A. This change occurs in your spirit, not your flesh (i.e., your body and soul).
 - B. Whether the change ever manifests itself in your physical realm depends on what you think.
2. The flesh, your natural self, pulls in one direction, and your spirit leads you in another.
 - A. How you think determines what you experience.
 - B. If your mind stays only on physical things—not even necessarily sinful things—then you’ll be limited to and dominated by your flesh.
3. The only way you’ll experience the power of God within you is to walk in the spirit.
 - A. You have to get beyond the physical and acknowledge that there is a spiritual world.
 - B. As you recognize your true power and believe, the spiritual realm will become more real to you than the physical.
 - C. Everything in the natural may be coming against the Word, but if you stay in the spirit, fixed on what God’s Word says, your spirit will overcome your flesh and break its dominion.
 - D. That’s when you’ll see the Word manifest.
4. Whether you ever see your true spiritual potential released into your physical life or not depends on what you think (Rom. 12:2).
 - A. If natural things—either sinful or just plain carnal—dominate and control your thoughts, you’ll shut off the flow of God’s Spirit through you.
 - B. But if you dominate yourself with the truths of God’s Word and get beyond the natural limitations of your five senses, you can start releasing the supernatural life that’s inside you.
5. As long as you stay focused on the Word, you’ll be able to experience a peace that passes understanding.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:7).

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1).

6. If you want to experience God's best, you must understand these truths concerning spirit, soul, and body.
 - A. Spend less time feeding the flesh, and focus on the spirit instead.
 - B. You'll develop an entire mentality based on your new identity in Christ as you dominate yourself with what you see in the spiritual mirror of God's Word.
 - C. Soak your mind in these truths that God has spoken.
7. Renewing your mind to God's Word is a lifelong process.
 - A. Until you see Jesus face to face, you never arrive; you just leave.
 - B. Applying these truths will take some real focus and effort on your part.
 - C. The Holy Spirit will reveal to you who you are in Christ.
 - D. Pray out loud from your heart:

"Father, I open my heart to the Holy Spirit to continue revealing these truths to me. I recognize that this is a process and not just a one-time thing. Therefore, I ask You to give me greater revelation of spirit, soul, and body throughout the rest of my life. As I apply what You've shown me, please encourage me with some quick results. I want to establish new patterns of walking by the spirit so I can live a full and effective life in You.

"Thank You for bringing these truths to my remembrance when I need them. Thank You for helping me to share them with others so they too can break free from their flesh's dominion. Thank You for setting me free and using me to set many others free too! I love You, Father! Amen."

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Lesson 23 – Discipleship Questions

1. What key principle is revealed through the first half of Proverbs 23:7?
2. Read 1 John 4:17. As born-again believers, how are we in this world?
3. According to Romans 12:2, what are we not to do?
4. How are we transformed?
5. How does Philippians 4:7 describe God's peace?
6. What does it keep?
7. In John 14:1, what did Jesus command us not to do?
8. What did He command us to do?
9. According to John 4:24, God is what?
10. How must we worship Him?
11. How must we approach Him?
12. According to Galatians 5:17, what are the two contrary directions from which we are constantly being fed information and drawn toward?
13. Read Philippians 3:13-14. Did the Apostle Paul consider himself to have "arrived"?
14. What two aspects—working together at the same time—enabled Paul to press toward the mark?
15. What did Paul press toward the mark for?
16. As we press toward the same mark and prize, what must we forget and what must we reach toward?

In light of what God has been showing you through this study, take a few moments right now and respond to Him in prayer.

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Lesson 23 – Answer Key

1. As we think in our hearts, so are we.
2. As Jesus is.
3. Be conformed to this world.
4. By the renewing of our minds.
5. A peace that passes all understanding.
6. Our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
7. To not let our hearts be troubled.
8. Believe God.
9. A Spirit.
10. In spirit and in truth.
11. Through who we are in our born-again spirits.
12. The flesh and the Spirit.
13. No.
14. Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before.
15. The prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
16. Those things which are behind and those things which are before.

In light of what God has been showing you through this study, take a few moments right now and respond to Him in prayer.

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Lesson 23 – Scriptures

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:7).

“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world” (1 John 4:17).

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:2).

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:7).

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1).

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” (Gal. 5:17).

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13-14).