

OCTOBER 2008 Week 4 TEACHING

TURNING PAIN INTO POWER- PART 4: Knowledge is Power!

The engine that fuels our triumphs over obstacles and adversity is knowledge! You cannot rise above that which you do not know, do not understand, or haven't been taught. Therefore if doubt, fear, condemnation, and strife are all you've learned from the lessons of life, unless you change your thinking you will continuously draw situations and circumstances that propel these negatives. God has given us enough goodies to be complete, whole, and joyous every moment of every day. If that isn't your reality a good portion of the time, then it is imperative that you consider that a new way of thinking may be exactly what you need.

Some of the information on which you have staked your very existence is faulty. It does not tell the truth about who you are in Christ, who God is, and what He will do for you. Unless you are prepared to expand your thinking by releasing the toxic information that is blocking your blessings, you may not be able to get past your pain and to receive the enlightenment from God's Word that you deserve. You will continue to draw situations and circumstances that keep you constantly seeking a breakthrough that you should have and could have received years ago.

You simply must develop an enthusiasm for expanding your thinking through the relentless pursuit of the right knowledge. Turning pain into power will be just another catchy title if you do not have more than a casual interest in hearing and seeking the knowledge that can set you free. This is where the prerequisite of humility takes on a tremendous importance, because it takes gob-smacking, gut-wrenching, knee-bending humility to admit that the knowledge you have acquired up to this point is not enough to get you through the pain you may be experiencing right now.

Believe this, your mind is your greatest instrument of healing, success, and personal well-being. It is the bridge to your spiritual growth and development, and the extension that allows you to reach out and take what is rightfully yours. Simply put, "*Right knowledge*" is the truth. It is useful information that expands or enlightens our understanding and awareness, heightens our positive attitude, and increases our capacity to love and to be loved. There is only one source of it, and that source is our Creator. Through His infinite mercy and grace He has made known to us the great mysteries of His will through His Word, as it says in Ephesians 1:9.

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Hosea 4:6 informs us that a lack of knowledge will ultimately yield in destruction; therefore, we must conclude that an abundance of right knowledge will very definitely lead us to success. Knowledge is fundamental to turning pain into power. That's why God desires us to soak in as much of the Word as possible in our hearts and minds. Not only does the bible clearly express the enormous importance and benefits of acquiring spiritual knowledge, but it provides the very information that will position us to receive the peace, joy, and abundance we desire.

Appreciate the fact that God has not left us in the dark concerning His promises or what He desires for us. That is why Jesus Christ is so pivotal to our relationship with God. He models for us how that relationship should look...what it should consist of. Jesus said in John 8:29 KJV, *"...he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."* He had never experienced a consciousness that would cause him to do anything other than those things that pleased God. Imagine that! He was intimately connected to the Holy Father, to the point that it fueled his every thought, deed, and act. Everything about him was perfect. He had perfect blood, a sinless nature, and he enjoyed a perfect connection to God. Now we weren't physically born that way, but after salvation we make a spiritual transformation that mirrors the very power and love that Jesus Christ had.

Salvation gives us the opportunity to renew, reprioritize, and redevelop. It gives us the clean slate that we so desperately need. This isn't where our work ends, it's where it begins. Will we make mistakes? Sure we will, but we have everything we need through the indwelling Holy Spirit to please God.

Pleasing God must be our priority. We have grossly underestimated the extent to which He holds us accountable for measuring up to the example of Jesus Christ by following His Word. Many of us make the assumption that we can continue our spiritual course towards higher heights by knowing only what we know right now, and that simply isn't true. Moving to the next level of spiritual growth requires a greater arsenal of knowledge.

Proverbs 4:7 KJV

7 Wisdom [is] the principal thing; [therefore] get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Proverbs 4:7 clearly tells us that wisdom is the principal thing, and wisdom cannot be acquired without an understanding of what the information

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is, and how it should be applied. There are times when incorrect information can be useful, but never optimum. We can get along reasonably well believing wrong information, but at some point we will face a situation or circumstance that challenges our assumptions. There comes a time in our lives where all of our experiences culminate, where we will be forced to question what we're made of. At that juncture, we can either retreat to our comfort zones or we can press forward to new territory by seeking a better understanding of the Word of God. At one time, people believed that the earth was flat. Many people who lived in that era actually died believing a fundamental piece of information that was not true. Although it was erroneous information, it served their understanding to some degree, but imagine their capacity for advancement had they known the truth.

God knew that we would all face a point in life when the entanglements of the world would become empty and unfulfilling. He knew that worldly offerings would not be sufficient to feed our spiritual hunger. We are wired to seek the truth, because it the only way to grow. Pain, any type of discomfort, is the calling card for change. It's an alarm clock that should signal for us that it is time to move up!

Psalm 119:105 says that the Word is a lamp unto "YOUR" feet, and a light unto "YOUR" path. "YOUR" feet must do the walking. In the split second it takes to position your body to walk, a message must be sent from the brain to the part of your leg that moves first. And even before that instance, you will have established your proximity and determined the direction of your next step. We do the walking, and we choose the direction. We have to get really honest with ourselves and admit that no matter how spiritual we think we are, if our lives are not blossoming we have steered ourselves in a runt, and we need to understand more about the map, which is the Word of God, to navigate a new course.

Our lives become chaotic when our experiences surpass our current level of awareness and lessen the effectiveness of our current way of thinking. This is the critical juncture in life where we have to get honest with ourselves, and ask "*Is it working for me?*" Cause' if it ain't working for ya', you need to turn it loose or fix it.

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OCTOBER 2008 WEEK 4 Scripture Study:

Scriptures link to [New Living Translation.com](http://NewLivingTranslation.com)

Day 1: Psalm 119:105	Day 2: Proverbs 4:7	Day 3: John 8:29	Day 4: Hosea 4:6
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Day 5:

Ephesians 4:14- 31 NLT

14 Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because someone has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth. 15 Instead, we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16 Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

*(*the puzzle so wonderfully fits together when we follow the plan God outlines here in this passage.)*

17 With the Lord's authority let me say this: Live no longer as the ungodly do, for they are hopelessly confused.

*(*Don't allow your mind to be consumed with the pettiness and vanity of this world. Renew it to the things of God.)*

18 Their closed minds are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God because they have shut their minds and hardened their hearts against him.

(They see things with fogging glasses, refusing to use spiritual lenses of the Holy Spirit.)*

Day 6

19 They don't care anymore about right and wrong, and they have given themselves over to immoral ways. Their lives are filled with all kinds of impurity and greed.

(When we lack the tenacity of real believing power, we give ourselves over to any ol' thing the enemy throws our way.)*

20 But that isn't what you were taught when you learned about Christ. 21 Since you have heard all about him and have learned the truth that is in Jesus, 22 throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of

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lust and deception. 23 Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. 24 You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness-righteous, holy, and true. (*You must put on the new nature that corresponds to your new reality in Christ Jesus. YOU MUST DISPLAY IT! God didn't say that He would display it for you. Had He meant that, He would have said it. YOU have to take control and renew YOUR mind.)

Day 7

25 So put away all falsehood and "tell your neighbor the truth"* because we belong to each other. 26 And "don't sin by letting anger gain control over you."* Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil.

28 If you are a thief, stop stealing. Begin using your hands for honest work, and then give generously to others in need. 29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

30 And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he is the one who has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

*Notes for study emphasis. Words in blue not in biblical text

Spiritual Focus for the Month of OCTOBER 2008: Turning Pain into POWER!

October 2008 Prayer FOCUS:

Getting into Position

(Remember to pray for those on the SMS Prayer List.)

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