

Week 4 Teaching:

The Three “Cs” of Spiritual Promotion

The Courage to Look, the Compassion to Accept, and the Confidence to Move On!

Anyone who knows me can attest that one of my constant prayers is “*Lord, help me to see what I need to see, hear what I need to hear, and to be who You would have me to be.*” It is a necessary prayer for many of us, because our tendency is to run away from the things we don’t want to face about ourselves. Some of us allow our best years to pass us by before we arrive at the conclusion that God has not withheld the blessing that we have so earnestly desired. We simply could not get out of our own way to see it. I might also add that it isn’t enough to see it, but we must have the spiritual strength to reach out and grab it as well.

Isaiah 45:3 NIV

3 I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.

Whether they are hidden in dark and secret places or in full view, God knows where our blessings and treasures are. He will guide us to them, but we have to remove the blinders from our eyes and unclog our ears, so that our inner being is fully attentive to the impetus of the Holy Spirit. It takes a boat load of three ingredients to do that. They are fundamental to our spiritual growth and well being, and I call them “The Three “Cs” of Spiritual Promotion”. They are courage, compassion, and confidence.

Ephesians 3:20 KJV

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Courage is the mental and spiritual strength that is derived from “*the power that worketh in us*”. It is our faith to venture into the unknown; to persevere and to withstand some level of pain with full assurance of victory. The origin of a Christian’s power does not lie within his or her mentality or physicality, no matter how exceptional they may be. Our power comes from God. He is our source of strength. With the collaborative efforts of our physical and mental prowess, our indwelling spirit will bring us to a place that exceeds our greatest expectation.

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You might think to yourself *“Well I’ve been saved for years now, and I know I have the spirit of God within me, but my life isn’t anything extraordinary.”* Even though you may feel this way and things may seem a bit mundane, you are probably still pretty thankful for the blessings of God, as well you should be. But rest assured that He is in the business of the extraordinary. His Word tells us that His kingdom is wrought with dynamic activity. There is nothing dull and uninspiring about God, and He didn’t intend our lives to be that way either.

If we are ever going to witness a move of God of any significant proportion, there is one thing that we must be absolutely clear about, and it has everything to do with our life on this earth. We are here to grow. That’s it...the whole shebang. The moment that anyone consciously or subconsciously resists spiritual growth, he or she will become stuck in neutral. From that point forward, the most important aspects of his or her life will be negatively impacted until the wheels of spiritual elevation are sufficiently in motion again.

Here’s a verse that you have no doubt heard, Proverbs 4:23. In the New Living Translation it reads *“Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do.”* The heart is the innermost part of our being. Not only does this verse tell us to diligently man the post of that deep reservoir of thought and intent, but it also tells us that it affects everything we do. You don’t get any plainer than that. And to put things REALLY in perspective, the verse begins with **“Above all else”**. This lets us know a thing or two about how important it is to keep our internal selves in check.

“To thine ownself be true.” That is my favorite Shakespearean quote. It resonated with me even as a teenager reading it for the first time in high school. But the truth is—most of us are not as honest with ourselves as we should be. If we were we would hardly ever ask the question *“Lord why...”*, and we would understand that the answer is nearly always *“Lord I.....I didn’t do what You told me to do...I didn’t listen or I didn’t see...”*

God doesn’t give imperfect gifts. Our indwelling spirit is not deficient in any way. Every answer to every question that is relative to our individual truth as spiritual beings rests within our indwelling Holy Spirit. It is constantly receiving information from God that is specifically beneficial to our lives. Part of our soul’s journey is to get to the place where we can hear, decipher, and heed that information.

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There are times when our abilities to perceive the Spirit's directives are not optimal. The areas where our fears are most prevalent and we have the least amount of fortitude; those repetitive circumstances that prompt us to make the same mistakes over and over again; old wounds, loneliness, past disappointments, jealousies, phobias, and addictions, all of these and more represent the secret places of our souls. They can block us from perceiving the guidance and directives of the indwelling Holy Spirit and potentially keep us from being our best for God.

That is why He admonishes us to guard our hearts with all diligence, because the moment we feel as though we are stuck and things are not progressing in the way of upward mobility, we should immediately ask ourselves why. Our next order of business should involve a combing process that fosters an honest look within. I know it isn't in vogue these days to lay claim to any of our shortcomings, but you cannot passionately proclaim victory unless you admit the struggle. Jesus Christ won the battle, that's for sure, but it doesn't mean that you and I won't have to extend immense effort to walk in the victory he guaranteed. We must have the courage to look at ourselves, examine what we see and begin the process of dealing with our stuff.

Our baggage keeps us from seeing and hearing. It weighs us down, clogs the channels, and causes us to miss out on opportunities to be blessed. And if we allow our hearts to go unchecked our lives can turn into a vicious negative cycle that continues to perpetuate spiritual inability. Living this way is wasteful and unnecessary, and we can do something to change it anytime we set our minds to.

To bring about a shift in our circumstances, we must first open our hearts to the spirit of **compassion**. If mustering courage is the goal, compassion is the prize. It is a notch on our spiritual belt, and God gives us plenty of opportunities to earn it. Compassion is a spiritual lesson, and there are a few things we must accept before we learn it well.

One of the things we must accept is that it is necessary to have compassion for ourselves and for others as well, and often for those who have imposed upon us the most harm. Our shortcomings have caused someone somewhere to experience pain. That is another truth we must accept. You and I have to develop a deep level of caring about those whose lives we have negatively impacted. We must remember them in prayer, and make amends in the best way that we can. As we struggle through the consequences of that truth, we should always remind ourselves of the suffering of others. Finally, the most

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important thing to accept is God's grace and forgiveness as we move forward in the healing and restoration process.

The **courage** to look within and the **compassion** to accept and address what we find will create a momentum towards spiritual promotion. Both are essential to our **confidence** to move on and have the kind of life God intends for every believer. And make no mistake about it; we'll not make any significant strides until we learn these lessons well. When we do we'll know it. The love of God will penetrate those areas within that were previously designated as "DO NOT OPEN". Then, without any effort at all, our hearts will invite the extraordinary to come on in and make itself right at home.

Week 4 Prayer

Most Gracious and Heavenly Father,

I humbly ask that You forgive me for the words I have spoken, thoughts I have thought, and deeds I have done that are contrary to Your Will. Father, I realize that fulfilling my dream is directly related to my purpose in Your plan. So I thank You for placing that dream in my heart and for helping me to know that I have everything it takes to make it come true. Help me to open my eyes and incline my ears not just to opportunities to be blessed, but to those that will position me to be a blessing to others as well. Help me to muster the courage to look within myself and to address anything that is keeping me from being my best for You. Teach me how to cultivate a more compassionate heart for those I have injured and for those who have injured me, so that I can make amends and move forward with Your divine agenda for my life. Thank You for allowing me to walk in the fullness of Your strength through Jesus Christ, and for loving me as I do. I pray this prayer in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

WEEK 4 Scriptures:

Day 1: [Philippians 4:6-8](#)

Day 2: [Psalm 145:15,16](#)

Day 3: [John 12:49,50](#)

Day 4: [1Peter 1:6-9](#)

Day 5: [Jeremiah 33:3](#)

Day 6: [John 16:13](#)

Day 7: [Isaiah 58:11](#)

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