

TEACH THE WORD

discovery | illumination | activation

HOLLAND DAVIS




Calvary Chapel
School of Discipleship

Teach The Word Workshop
DISCOVER

Copyright 2022 Calvary Chapel San Clemente

1



Copyright 2022 Calvary Chapel San Clemente

2

Why Study The Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)
¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)
¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Copyright 2022 Calvary Chapel San Clemente

3

The Inductive Method Of Study

DISCOVERY: Discovering what the Bible says

ILLUMINATION: Discovering what the Bible means

ACTIVATION: Discovering what the Bible says to do

NOTE: Biblical Theological Approach

Study of the Bible that seeks to discover what the biblical writers, under divine guidance, believed, described and taught in the context of their own times

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente, Inc.

4

DISCOVERY

Answers the question... What does the Bible say?

- Begin with prayer
- Read the text several times
- Use various translations and compare
- Identify The Genre Of Bible Literature
- Identify The Context (Who, What, When, Where, Why, How)
- Identify Key Words (Conjunctions, Verbs, Nouns, Adverbs, Adjectives, Pronouns, Terms of Conclusion)
- Look for lists
- Watch For Contrast and Conditions

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente, Inc.

5

DISCOVERY :: 6 Genres Of The Bible

- Narrative
- EX: Old Testament Historical Books, The Gospels
- History and Theology combined in a story format
- Considerations: The context is the entire story from beginning to end, time and setting, the point of view of the author and the dialogue between main characters are important to note
- Progressive Revelation: God reveals Himself over time. The more time passes, the more we know and understand about God's past actions

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente, Inc.

6

DISCOVERY :: 6 Genres Of The Bible

- Poetry
- EX: Psalms, Proverbs, Lamentations, Job and portions of OT Books
- Human expression and Theology combined in an artistic format
- Considerations: Hebrew poetry rhymes thoughts, not sounds
- The construction of the poem, metaphors and imagery is key to interpretation
- Because human expression is such a big part of Hebrew poetry, great care must be exercised in giving theological weight

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente, Inc.

7

DISCOVERY :: 6 Genres Of The Bible

- Wisdom Literature
- EX: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job
- Human expression and Godly Wisdom
- Considerations: Caution should be exercised in removing sayings from their context
- Carefully follow the line of argument in the text
- Carefully interpret based on the author and time of writing
- Ecclesiastes was written when Solomon was in a backslidden state

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente, Inc.

8

DISCOVERY :: 6 Genres Of The Bible

- Prophecy
- EX: Old Testament Prophets, Revelation, Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah
- Prophecy is the declaration of God's Word
- Prophets were not called to predict the future, but to speak forth God's message
- Most predictive prophecy in the Bible has to do with God's dealings with Israel and the revelation of Messiah

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente, Inc.

9

DISCOVERY :: 6 Genres Of The Bible

- Parables
- EX: 1/3 of Jesus' teachings in the Synoptic Gospels
- Theology revealed in a true to life story form
- Note the setting, the surroundings, the background, the main points
- Apply the central truth to modern life
- Considerations: To determine what details carry spiritual meaning or theological implications
- Parables are not allegorical but realistic in nature

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente

10

DISCOVERY :: 6 Genres Of The Bible

- Epistle (Letters)
- EX: The Writings of Paul, Peter, John, Jude, James
- Each letter was written for a specific purpose with the exception of Ephesians
- Ephesians was Paul's definitive teaching on the Christian Life
- Considerations: Who wrote the letter, what situation were they dealing with, the logical flow of thought based on who the author is
- Be careful to only use an author to interpret himself
- I.E. Don't use Paul to interpret James or Peter

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente

11

DISCOVERY :: The Context

- **WHO:** Who is speaking? Who is this about? Who are the main characters? Who is being spoken to?
- **WHAT:** What is the subject or event covered? What do you learn about the people, event or teaching? What instructions, commands, promises are given?
- **WHEN:** When do or will the events occur? When did or will something happen to a particular person, people or nation?
- **WHERE:** Where did or will this happen? Where was it said?
- **WHY:** Why is something being said or mentioned? Why would or will this happen? Why at that time, to that person or in that place?
- **HOW:** How will it happen? How is it to be done? How is it illustrated?

IMPORTANT... WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente

12

DISCOVERY :: Key Words

- Identify and define key words
- Conjunctions and Adverbs show how the passage is connected to what precedes and what follows
- Verbs tell what action is being done
- Nouns tell who is doing or receiving the action
- Adverbs modify the verb and answer how much, to what degree, how often, how something happens, where it happens and when it happened or will it happen
- Adjectives modify the noun and describe the noun

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente, Inc.

13

DISCOVERY :: Key Words

- Pronouns identify who (I, you, he, she, it, we, our, etc)
- Find out how many times a key word is used
- Compare other scriptures that use the word
- Write your own paraphrase
- Look for words of conclusion (finally, conclusion, afterwards, for this reason, therefore, wherefore)
- Note expressions of time (until, then, when, after)

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente, Inc.

14

DISCOVERY :: Lists

- EX: The Fruit Of The Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- EX: Add to your faith... (2 Peter 1:5)
- EX: Love (1 Corinthians 13)
- EX: The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27-31)

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente, Inc.

15

DISCOVERY :: Contrasts and Conditions

- Light and Dark
- Proud and Humble
- Good and Evil
- Godly and Ungodly
- Self Righteousness and Righteousness of Christ
- If... Then
- Therefore

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente, Inc.

16

DISCOVERY :: EXERCISE

2 Peter 1:5–9 (NKJV)

Fruitful Growth in the Faith

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Copyright 2002 Calvary Chapel San Clemente, Inc.

17

TEACH THE WORD

PASSAGE:

DISCOVERY

CONTEXT	KEY WORDS / DEFINITIONS	LISTS	CONTRASTS / CONDITIONS
WHO IS SPEAKING?			
WHAT IS HAPPENING?			
WHEN DID IT OCCUR?			
WHERE DOES IT OCCUR?			
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?			

STEP 1: PRAY
STEP 2: READ THE PASSAGE SEVERAL TIMES

STEP 3: READ BEFORE AND AFTER THE PASSAGE
FOR CONTEXT



Calvary Chapel
School of Discipleship

Teach The Word Workshop
ILLUMINATION

1

2

ILLUMINATION

1 Corinthians 2:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which *the Holy Spirit teaches*, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because *they are spiritually discerned*.

3

ILLUMINATION

Ephesians 1:17–19 (NKJV)

¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you ~~the spirit of wisdom and revelation~~ in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the ~~eyes of your understanding being enlightened~~; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what ~~is~~ the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

4

ILLUMINATION

The key to rightly dividing the word of truth is laying a foundation of accurate discovery into what the scripture actually says. Without accurate discovery, your understanding will be influenced by what you think and feel or what other people have said rather than what God's Word says.

The Holy Spirit takes the information we've gathered and enlightens our minds with understanding by giving us revelation and insights into what the scripture means.

5

ILLUMINATION :: 4 Laws Of Logic

- The Law Of Affirmation – everything is identified with itself
- The Law Of Contradiction – a thing cannot be what it is not
- The Law Of The Excluded Middle – of two contradictions, one must be true and the other false
- The Law Of Sufficient Reason – every judgment must be based upon some satisfactory ground with fully justifies it
- How you reason and think is important!

6

ILLUMINATION :: Principles

- Faith (dependency and prayer)
- Holiness (purity)
- Obedience
- Ministry Of The Spirit
- Centrality Of Jesus Christ
- Maturity
- Diligent Study
- Simplicity

7

ILLUMINATION :: Culture

- Geographical – distances, dimensions, cities, rivers, trees, countries, mountains, flowers, deserts, plants, climate, boundaries, borders, agriculture, animals, etc.
- Political – dates, names, events, battles, type of government, boundaries of nations, etc.
- Environmental – homes, tools, food, clothes, money, measures, weights, weapons, utensils, occupations, transportation, etc.
- Religious – beliefs, practices, traditions, leadership, temples, idols, sacrifices, influence on people and government, etc.
- Everything interpreted from the perspective of the Biblical times

8

ILLUMINATION :: What Does It Mean?

- Always begin with prayer
- Interpret In Context
- Let Scripture Interpret Scripture
- Biblical illustrations are better than Personal illustrations
- The New Testament is the Old Testament Revealed
- The Old Testament is the Commentary to the New Testament
- Interpret your experience by scripture, don't interpret scripture by your experience
- Do not be dogmatic where the scriptures are not

9

ILLUMINATION :: What Does It Mean?

- Interpret a passage literally unless the passage says to interpret it figuratively
- Imagine an Old Testament author describing a helicopter... It would be described as a stinging grasshopper
- Do not interpret scriptures by current philosophies and contemporary scientific theories
- Do not spiritualize the scriptures or read into the scriptures a spiritual truth that isn't there
- Remember, the scripture never contradicts itself

10

ILLUMINATION :: What Does It Mean?

- Do not create doctrines or base convictions on one obscure passage of Scripture
- Interpret Paul's with Paul or with the Old Testament Passages he quotes (BIBLICAL THEOLOGY)
- Remember, the Old Testament (and most of the New Testament) is a written by Jews and must be interpreted from a Jewish viewpoint
- Luke was a disciple of Paul
- Mark was a disciple of Peter
- Interpret the Scriptures with the nature of God in mind

11

ILLUMINATION :: Organize And Categorize

- Make an outline of the portion of scripture you are studying
- Organize it based on key thoughts and ideas
- Ask yourself what the connection is between your key thoughts
- Are they questions? Issues? Causes? Purposes? Reasons?
- Write your own paraphrase of the portion of scripture you are studying using the information you've gathered

12

ILLUMINATION :: Using Study Helps

- Bible Dictionaries
 - Research the authors
 - I.E. Thayer's Greek Lexicon is Seventh Day Adventist
- Reasons to check commentaries
 - To make sure you're not overlooking something
 - To see how others interpreted the passage
 - To gain a greater understanding of the passage
- Types of Commentaries
 - Homiletical or Sermon Based Commentaries (transcribed sermons)
 - Devotional Commentaries (personal applications)
 - Expository Commentaries (Understanding the passage based on context, history and grammar)

13

ILLUMINATION : : A WORD FROM GOD

- God's Word is God speaking revelation to us
- God's Word is fresh manna from heaven for that day
- Thus, the teacher of God's Word (Logos) is one who is so full of revelation from being in God's Word that it flows effortlessly and gives the people what they need for the moment (Rhema)
- The preacher doesn't come up with a message, the preacher receives a message from God and declares it.

²² So he answered and said, "Must I not take heed to speak what the Lord has put in my mouth?" Numbers 23:12 (NKJV)

14

ILLUMINATION :: EXAMPLE

Luke 11:5-10 (NKJV)

⁵ And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶ for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; ⁷ and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you?' ⁸ I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. ⁹ So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

15

ILLUMINATION :: EXAMPLE

- *This parable is often used to teach being persistent in prayer*
- But in Jewish culture, this story would not have happened
- First of all, if a friend asks you for 3 loaves of bread... a friend would give 3 loaves of bread... they would never say don't bother me
- Secondly, if a friend came knocking on the door at night... a friend would not say to his friend we're in bed we can't help... a friend would get up
- Third, a friend would never let another friend beg for help
- Thus the point is this... if an earthly friend would extend help... how much more will the heavenly Father help His friends?

16

ILLUMINATION :: EXAMPLE

- So the teaching is a 3 fold promise, arranged in level of intensity
- First... ASK... if you have need ASK and you will RECEIVE
- Second... SEEK... Seeking is asking put into action. You ask and now you're doing something to get your need met. That person will find help.
- Third... KNOCK... Knocking is asking put into action with perseverance
- All 3 words are in the present imperative tense which means ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking
- The promise is given when the command is obeyed... everyone who asks receives, seeks finds, knocks it will be opened

17

ILLUMINATION :: EXERCISE

Luke 15:8-10 (NKJV)

Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!' ¹⁰ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

18

TEACH THE WORD

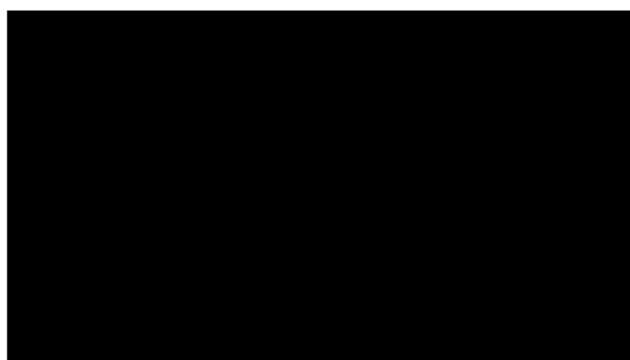
PASSAGE:				ILLUMINATION	
CULTURAL CONTEXT	KEY THOUGHTS / IDEAS	OUTLINE	PROPHETIC WORD		

PRINCIPLE 1: PRAY
PRINCIPLE 2: INTERPRET IN CONTEXT
PRINCIPLE 3: SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE

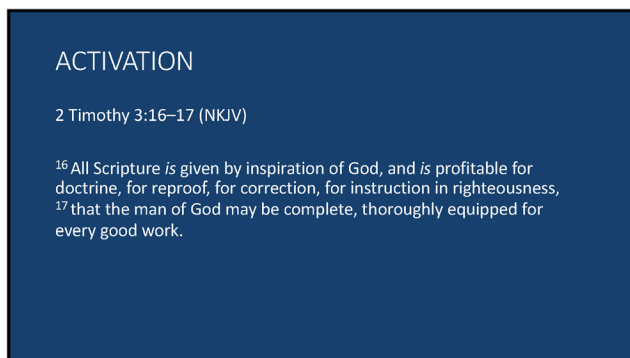
PRINCIPLE 4: BIBLE DOESN'T CONTRADICT ITSELF
PRINCIPLE 5: INTERPRET THE BIBLE LITERALLY



1



2



3

ACTIVATION

- Teaching (Doctrine) is what the Word of God says and whatever God says is absolute truth
- Reproof exposes areas in your thinking and behavior that do not align with God's Word including areas of unbelief and wrong belief
- Correction is applying truth to your life in practical ways
- Training In Righteousness means the Bible is the handbook for living
- Complete means fully outfitted with everything you need to complete a journey
- Equipped means you are fully prepared to do what is right

4

ACTIVATION :: What do I do?

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the actions steps
- Are there examples to follow?
- Sin to Forsake?
- Errors To Avoid?
- Promises To Believe?
- Commands To Obey?
- Actions To Take?

5

ACTIVATION :: What do I do?

- What do I plan to do about it?
- What difference will this make in my life?
- What specific plans can I make in my life?
- What will I do?
- How will I do it?
- What happens if I don't act?

6

ACTIVATION :: A Work Of Grace

- The difference between the law and grace is the law makes you want to try harder and do more with no lasting change
- Grace makes you want to rest in what's been done for you and change is effortless
- The law inspires new strategies, new methods, new systems of accountability
- Grace inspires actions that require faith
- The law makes you conform to it's high and unattainable standard
- Grace transforms you by the power of the Spirit

7

ACTIVATION :: Call To Action

- Evangelism Altar Call
- Call To Repent
- Call To Rededicate
- Call To Personal Transformation
- Call To Go
- Call To Serve

8

ACTIVATION :: Use Of Study Helps

- Homelitical Commentaries and Devotional Commentaries
- A Homelitical Commentary is a transcribed sermon which includes illustrations and action steps
- Devotional Commentaries offer insights on how to present truth in a way that people can hear

9

ACTIVATION :: EXERCISE

Ephesians 4:25-32 (NKJV)

Do Not Grieve the Spirit

²⁵Therefore, putting away lying, "*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.*" ²⁶*"Be angry, and do not sin"; do not let the sun go down on your wrath,* ²⁷*nor give place to the devil.* ²⁸Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

10

TEACH THE WORD

PASSAGE:

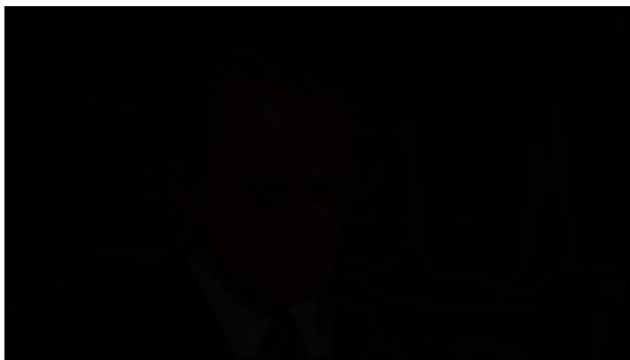
ACTIVATION

EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW	SIN TO FORSAKE	ERROR TO AVOID	PROMISE TO BE KEPT
COMMAND TO OBEY	ACTIONS TO TAKE	WHAT DO I PLAN TO DO	

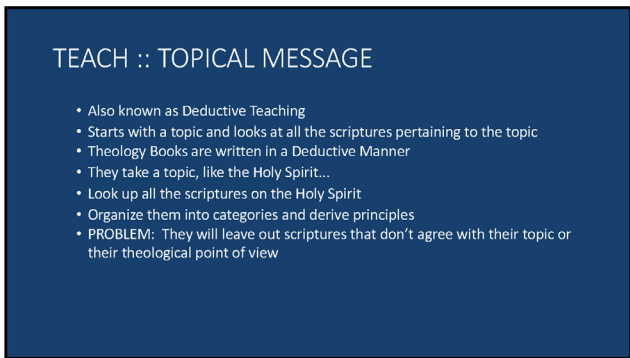
- STEP 1: PRAY
- STEP 2: LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT APPLY GOD'S WORD TO YOUR LIFE (RHEMA)
- STEP 3: WE DON'T FIT THE BIBLE INTO OUR LIFE
- STEP 4: WE MAKE CHANGES IN OUR LIFE BASED ON WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES (REPENTANCE)



1



2



3

TEACH :: CHARACTER STUDY

- Takes a person in the Bible and looks up all the scriptures written on that person to help bring the Bible character to life
- Organize the scriptures into stages of life or life principles
- Examples of Popular Character Studies... The Life of Joseph, David and Saul, David and Goliath, Gideon, David and Bathsheeba, Life of Paul the Apostle
- EX: MEPHIBOSHETH

4

TEACH :: RUNNING COMMENTARY

- Verse by verse teaching is a form of running commentary
- You read a passage of scripture and make comments
- This can be expositional or devotional in nature
- Expositional teaching uses the Inductive approach to Bible Study
- Devotional teaching primarily shares the teacher's opinion or life application
- EX: 2 KINGS 3-4 | THROUGH THE BIBLE

5

TEACH :: EXPOSITIONARY PREACHING

- Expositional or Inductive Method of Study
- This includes Verse by Verse from Genesis to Revelation, A Book Study or a Passage of scripture (Chapter or Paragraph)
- Allows the Bible to speak for itself
- Reveals the meaning of the words in their context
- Recovers the original meaning of the words on the basis of grammatical and historical usage
- Relies on the Scripture for it's own commentary
- Reflects the fact that the authority of the message is not the preacher or teacher but the Bible itself
- EX: HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR MIRACLE | THE ROAD TO BABYLON

6

TEACH :: BASIC ORGANIZATION

- READING OF THE TEXT: I want to turn your attention to....
- INTRODUCTION: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT
- MESSAGE OUTLINE INTRODUCING MESSAGE POINTS
- MESSAGE POINTS WITH SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE
- CALL TO ACTION
- TITLE THE MESSAGE AFTER YOU ARE FINISHED WRITING IT

7

TEACH :: OUTLINE

- An outline must present the prophetic word from God in an organized fashion
- The points and subpoints must come from the text
- Make your outline points personal, concrete and relatable, not abstract, impersonal and theoretical
- EXAMPLE from Message "How To Receive Your Miracle": (1) Listen to God's Word (2) Do What God Says (3) Worship The LORD
- NOTE: People don't have the capacity to remember a large number of points

8

TEACH :: THE PROPHETIC WORD

He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions. Psalm 107:20

- God wants to speak through you to His people
- The Word He speaks will heal and deliver people from their destructions
- You should be able to say this in a single sentence
- The prophetic Word of God is the hub the message revolves around

9

TEACH :: INTRODUCTION

- The purpose of an introduction is to connect with the congregation so they will listen to you
- Read the text as part of your INTRODUCTION
- You can summarize the background of the text and give context for the message
- You can open with a story that illustrates why they need your message and grabs their attention
- You can open with humor
- I like to mention the points of the message here to introduce them.

10

TEACH :: MAIN POINTS

- Let people know how many points you will be covering
- Identify timeless principles
- Insert the text or the part of the text to be addressed under each point
- Most people will have a hard time remembering more than 3 or 4 points
- Your subpoints should only support your main point and include observations, word studies, additional scripture and interpretations
- State how to apply each main point throughout your message

11

TEACH :: CALL TO ACTION

- Summarize your main points and applications
- Give a call to action
- Give people an opportunity to receive Christ
- Always close with prayer
- Teaching is not educational, it is transformational
- The Pastor / Teacher delivers God's Word and God's Word transforms lives

12

TEACH :: PRESENTATION

- Speak Clearly With Authority
- Use Your Voice Appropriately (Dynamics)
- Gain The Attention Of Your Audience by pausing and looking at them
- Don't speak too fast... Speak deliberately
- Minimize Distractions
- Communication involves facial expressions, voice inflection, hand motions

"When you speak of heaven, let your face light up... When you speak of hell well then, your everyday face will do." Charles Spurgeon

13

TEACH :: EXERCISE

- THE ASSIGNMENT IS TO WRITE A 5 MINUTE MESSAGE
- CHOSE A SCRIPTURE FROM THE LIST OF SCRIPTURES
- YOU CAN USE ONE OF THE SCRIPTURES USED IN PREVIOUS EXERCISES
- DEVELOP AN INTRODUCTION, 3 MAIN POINTS AND A CALL TO ACTION
- BE PREPARED TO PRESENT YOUR MESSAGE

14

TEACH THE WORD

LIST OF SCRIPTURES

Galatians 5:19–26 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Ephesians 4:25–32 (NKJV)

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, "*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*" for we are members of one another. ²⁶ "*Be angry, and do not sin*": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Galatians 5:16–26 (NKJV)

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

TEACH THE WORD

1 Timothy 6:6–10 (NKJV)

⁶ Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 Peter 1:13–21 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”

¹⁷ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ²¹ who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

James 1:2–8 (NKJV)

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Colossians 3:12–17 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

TEACH THE WORD

TOPICAL MESSAGE

MESSAGE TITLE	
PASSAGE	
PROPHETIC WORD	
INTRODUCTION	
POINT 1	
POINT 2	
POINT 3	
CALL TO ACTION	

TEACH THE WORD

CHARACTER STUDY

NAME	
PASSAGES USED	
PROPHETIC WORD	
INTRODUCTION	
STAGE 1 (I.E. THE BACKGROUND)	
PRINCIPLE 1	
STAGE 2 (I.E. THE CONFLICT)	
PRINCIPLE 2	
STAGE 3 (I.E. THE VICTORY)	
PRINCIPLE 3	
CALL TO ACTION	

INTRODUCTION: I want to bring your attention to 2 Samuel 4:4

- Today I want to look at the story of Mephibosheth
- The story of Mephibosheth is a powerful story of God's grace
- Mephibosheth is the son of Jonathan, King David's best friend
- In 1 Samuel 20, Jonathan makes a Covenant with David
- Jonathan knows David will become King of Israel and in 1 Samuel 20 he makes a Covenant with David to take care of his descendants forever
- Because of their friendship, David agrees

Now in our midweek study we've looked at the meaning of names

- What we've discovered is some names were changed to more accurately describe their character or their destiny
- This is true for Mephibosheth... it's not his original name
- His original name was Merib-Baal which meant Enemy of Baal
- His name indicates that his dad had high hopes for him
- He was going to follow in the family tradition and be a mighty warrior, a fighter of Baal like his dad and his grand dad
- But when he was 5 years old he was tragically injured
- His dad Jonathan and Saul were killed in battle on Mount Gilboa

2 Samuel 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son *who was* lame in *his* feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name *was* Mephibosheth.

- Mephibosheth's nurse, hearing the news that Jonathan and Saul is dead panics and picks up little Mee-bo to take him to safety
- As she's running, she falls on little Mee-bo and crushes his legs and he becomes crippled, lame, unable to walk from that point forward
- It's at this time his name is changed to Mephibosheth which means "destroyer of shame" or "end of shame"
- It's amazing how one moment can change your whole life, change your identity, change how others refer to you, how you refer to yourself
- I was born to be a warrior, but life has crippled me

But here's what I want you to see...

- Even though Mephibosheth is crippled for life, his name indicates a promise from God... one day I will end your shame
- That's what Jesus does for us... even though we may think we're crippled for life because of something that happened to us...
- God promises to end our shame

Now, Mephibosheth goes into hiding

- Remember... he doesn't know the covenant between his dad and David
- All he knows is David is probably out to kill him
- He's living with Machir, a close family friend and descendant of Joseph
- Imagine growing up the son of a King and being told... don't tell anyone who you really are... don't tell anyone you're royalty... it's dangerous
- The enemy doesn't want you to know who you are in Christ so he will do everything in his power to cripple you, rule over you with fear

2 Samuel 9:5 tells us Mephibosheth was living in Lo Debar

- Lo Debar in the Hebrew can mean one of two things
- It can either mean "no pasture" (barren) or "no word" (no word from God)
- Thus, you have Mephibosheth, living in hiding, no family, crippled, in fear of David, living in a barren land where there is no word from God...
- What a picture of hopelessness

Now why is Mephibosheth living in fear of David?

- First, David joined the Philistines, the enemies of King Saul
- Although David was wiping out the enemies of Israel without the Philistines knowledge... Saul didn't know that
- All he knew was David was the enemy
- Second, it was customary for the new King to wipe out the previous King's family to eliminate any future uprisings
- Mephibosheth was next in line and he believed his life was in danger
- Third, Mephibosheth heard that David didn't like lame people
- When David conquered Jerusalem the Jebusites taunted David saying you're so weak, the blind and the lame can defeat you

2 Samuel 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Now David said on that day, "Whoever climbs up by way of the water shaft and defeats the Jebusites (the lame and the blind, *who are hated by*

David's soul), *he shall be chief and captain.*" Therefore they say, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house."

- Imagine hearing the King say he hates lame people and worse yet... lame people will never have a place in Israel... and you're lame
- Now David didn't really feel that way... but the headlines on CNN and MSNBC stated... King hates lame people
- Now here's the problem... Mephibosheth didn't know his dad made a Covenant with David to take care of his descendants forever
- Thus, here he is living in a barren land, no word from God, living in fear of death because he doesn't know a Covenant was made with the King

That is the state of the world today!

- This world is barren, lifeless, harsh compared to heaven
- There is no word from God... only the word of the enemy who wants to steal, kill and destroy mankind
- Man lives in fear of death and denies they were created to rule and reign in life as a child of the King
- Thus Man is born separated from God, thinking God only wants to judge and condemn mankind to hell because man doesn't know that a New Covenant was made with the King

What is the Covenant Jonathan made with David?

1 Samuel 20:14–17 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; ¹⁵ but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth." ¹⁶ So Jonathan made a *covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, "Let the LORD require *it* at the hand of David's enemies." ¹⁷ Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

- First it was a Covenant of Grace
- The word used for "kindness" is "chesed" which is Hebrew for "grace"
- Second it was an eternal Covenant
- Jonathan said... that I may not die and it's with my house forever
- Third it was a one sided Covenant
- David made the Covenant on behalf of Jonathan

- It's not a Covenant made directly with Jonathan's descendants, although they will benefit from it... the Covenant is made with Jonathan
- Fourth it is a Covenant based on love
- It says he loved him as he loved his own soul

The Covenant Jesus made with us is a Covenant of Grace

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,*

It is an eternal Covenant

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

It is a one-sided Covenant

Hebrews 9:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

It is a Covenant based on love

Ephesians 2:4–7 (NKJV)

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Turn to 2 Samuel 9

- David is King 30 years at this point
- He remembers the Covenant he made with Jonathan

2 Samuel 9:1–7 (NKJV)

9 Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" ² And *there was* a servant

of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?” He said, “At your service!”³ Then the king said, “Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?” And Ziba said to the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan *who is* lame in *his* feet.”⁴ So the king said to him, “Where *is* he?” And Ziba said to the king, “Indeed he *is* in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar.”⁵ Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.⁶ Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, “Mephibosheth?” And he answered, “Here is your servant!”⁷ So David said to him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father’s sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.”

Notice David says...

- Is there anyone left of the house of Saul that I may show the kindness (grace) of God?
- Ziba, one of Saul’s servants, answers... Ziba is a type of Satan, he’s the accuser of the brethren
- Ziba says... yes, there is one... but he’s lame... everyone knows you hate lame people and you said you wouldn’t let them in the house
- Isn’t that what the accuser does to you? You don’t belong in God’s house... you’re crippled, lame, you got problems
- What does David do? He sends for him immediately... bring him here
- Mephibosheth enters and he’s introduced as the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul... that’s how you introduce royalty
- Mephibosheth falls on his face before the KING... Here is your servant
- Now I want you to see what happens next... because it’s what God does with us... it’s a moment of grace in Mephibosheth’s life
- David says... don’t fear because I’m going to honor my Covenant with your dad and restore everything that belongs to your family to you and I’m going to treat you like my own son... your shame is ended!
- Listen Mephibosheth, you’re not my servant, you’re royalty and you are going to eat at my table like family for the rest of your life
- NOW: What did Mephibosheth do to deserve this kindness, this grace?
- NOTHING! He received it because He was born into Jonathan’s family
- That is the significance of being born again

- There's nothing you can do to earn or deserve God's grace, you might desire it but until you're born into the family of God you don't get it

NOTICE: What happens immediately after Mephibosheth is restored

- In 2 Samuel 15 Absalom attempts to overthrow David
- In 2 Samuel 16 Ziba takes advantage of the situation and falsely accuses Mephibosheth of trying to overthrow David's throne
- David believes Ziba and gives everything that belongs to Mephibosheth to Ziba... He rips off his inheritance
- That's what the enemy does to you... He accuses you and tries to rip off your inheritance... which is healing in your life
- BUT when David returns to Jerusalem after dealing with Absalom guess to comes out to greet him... MEPHIBOSHETH (THE CRIPPLE)
- Mephibosheth was a hot mess... toenails not cut since David left, mustache not trimmed, clothes not washed
- Why? Because he was in mourning while David was away
- David is confused because of Ziba's false accusations so David says to Mephibosheth, you two can divide the land and the money

But notice Mephibosheth's response

2 Samuel 19:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ Then Mephibosheth said to the king, "Rather, let him take it all, inasmuch as my lord the king has come back in peace to his own house."

- Mephibosheth says NO... Ziba can have my inheritance... all I care about is being in the Presence of My KING
- I want you in Jerusalem, I want you on the throne, I want to eat at your table, I want to be like one of Your sons

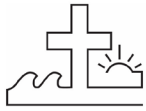
That is the heart of a man who has experienced the grace of God...

- Jesus, I want you in my Jerusalem, in my life
- I want you on the throne of my LORD as my Lord and KING
- I want to eat at your table... to dine on Your Word (Thursday)
- I want to be one of Your sons and daughters
- You can have what this world has to give I just want to be in the Presence of MY KING
- John 1:12 says as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God

TEACH THE WORD

RUNNING COMMENTARY

PASSAGE			
COMMENTARY			
PASSAGE			
COMMENTARY			
PASSAGE			
COMMENTARY			
PASSAGE			
COMMENTARY			
PASSAGE			
COMMENTARY			



INTRODUCTION:

- Elisha has replaced Eliyahu as the prophet of Ysrael
- He begins his ministry with 3 miracles that establish him as a prophet of God...
- He purifies the water in the city of Yericho
- Water being their primary source of life in the desert
- He heals the women of barrenness
- Children representing eternal life in that the name of the family would continue
- He rebukes some young men who are mocking the LORD and his ministry, and 2 female bears maul 42 of the youths
- Representing holiness and respect for the things of God
- Thus we see the measurement of fruitful ministry... salvation and healing (the restoration of life), eternal life and worship (awe and respect for God)
- When you see these 3 things happening in a community of faith, God is at work in that community

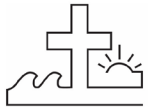
Chapter 3 changes focus

- Elisha is only briefly mentioned and the attention is shifted to the rebellion of the Mo'avee against Ysrael
- Keep in mind this only refers to the 10 northern tribes of Ysrael
- The ministry of Eliyahu and Elisha occurred in the north where Ysrael was given over to idolatry
- What we see in Chapter 3 is a pattern
- Wherever God's people are oppressed
- Wherever evil increases (what we would call the spirit of antichrist)
- God demonstrates His grace and mercy with power
- In the era of the Sofetim (Judges) God raised up deliverers
- In the era of the Kings God raises up prophets
- But there comes a time when God says... I'm speaking but you're not listening and He gives the people over to their desires
- In the case of the Northern Tribes of Ysrael this means they will be conquered by the Assyrians

2 Kings 3:1–3 (NKJV)

3 Now Y'horam the son of Achav became king over Ysrael at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Yehushfat king of Yehuda, and reigned twelve years.

² And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not like his father and mother;



for he put away the *sacred* pillar of Ba'al that his father had made.

³ Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Yerov'am the son of Nevat, who had made Ysrael sin; he did not depart from them.

Y'horam is the brother of King Achazyah

- His parents are King Achav and Iztzevel and he becomes King because his brother accidentally fell and died because of his injuries
- He becomes King in the 18th year of Yehushfat's reign in Yehuda
- He continues the worship of the golden calf started by Yerov'am after the nation was divided
- But he stops the worship of Ba'al that his parents instituted
- To put it in perspective, Ba'al is a foreign god but the Golden Calf was a graven image of God
- It would be like the Catholic Church that displays the graven image of Jesus on the cross and the statue of Mary
- The 2nd commandment says you will not make any graven images of God and thus Ysrael broke the 2nd commandment
- But only when they worshipped Ba'al did they break the 1st commandment
- Thou shalt not have any gods before me
- Thus Y'horam stops the worship of Ba'al, but continues the worship of the Golden Calf for political reasons... to maintain his position of power

2 Kings 3:4–10 (NKJV)

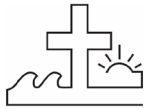
⁴ Now Mesha king of Mo'av was a sheepbreeder, and he regularly paid the king of Ysrael one hundred thousand lambs and the wool of one hundred thousand rams. ⁵ But it happened, when Achav died, that the king of Mo'av rebelled against the king of Ysrael.

⁶ So King Y'horam went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Ysrael. ⁷ Then he went and sent to Yehushfat king of Yehuda, saying, "The king of Mo'av has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Mo'av?"

And he said, "I will go up; I *am* as you *are*, my people as your people, my horses as your horses." ⁸ Then he said, "Which way shall we go up?"

And he answered, "By way of the Wilderness of Edom."

⁹ So the king of Ysrael went with the king of Yehuda and the king of Edom, and they marched on that roundabout route seven days; and there was no water for the army, nor for the animals that followed them. ¹⁰ And



the king of Ysrael said, “Alas! For the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Mo’av.”

- The land of Mo’av was known as the perfect place to raise herds of animals
- That is why Re’uven, Gat and ½ the tribe of Manashay settled East of the Yardeen... to raise their herds of sheep and goats
- Since the time of David (150 years), Mo’av is under the control of and pays taxes to Ysrael... 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 sheep
- When Achav dies, the King of Mo’av seizes the opportunity to break away from Ysrael and declares war
- The King of Ysrael enlists the help of Yehuda and Edom
- Now why would Yehuda help Ysrael?
- Because in 2 Chronicles 20:1-3, we read that Mo’av attacked Yehuda and causing great damage and Yehushfat wanted revenge
- Edom was under the control of Yehuda and provided a strategic route to attack Mo’av but the terrain is difficult
- **[SLIDE 1]** After 7 days of marching they arrive to a place where there is no water for the soldiers or their animals and the King of Ysrael says... great, God brought us here to deliver us into the hand of Mo’av

2 Kings 3:11–13 (NKJV)

¹¹ But Yehushfat said, “*Is there* no prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD by him?”

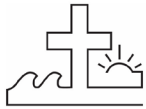
So one of the servants of the king of Ysrael answered and said, “Elisha the son of Shafat *is* here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah.”

¹² And Yehushfat said, “The word of the LORD is with him.” So the king of Ysrael and Yehushfat and the king of Edom went down to him.

¹³ Then Elisha said to the king of Ysrael, “What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother.”

But the king of Ysrael said to him, “No, for the LORD has called these three kings *together* to deliver them into the hand of Mo’av.”

- Notice the difference in attitude
- The King of Ysrael has no faith
- The King of Yehuda wants to hear from the LORD
- That is the advantage the child of God has over people who are religious or spiritual... who do not belong to God



- God's people want to hear His Word
- So they call Elisha and when Elisha sees the King of Ysrael he confronts him... why are you coming to me?
- You have your own prophets... go to them?
- The King of Ysrael says to Elisha... this isn't about me... this is also about Yehuda and Edom and the LORD has brought us here to be defeated
- We need a word from the LORD

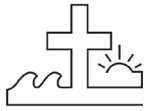
2 Kings 3:14–19 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And Elisha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Yehushfat king of Yehuda, I would not look at you, nor see you. ¹⁵ But now bring me a musician."

Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. ¹⁶ And he said, "Thus says the LORD: 'Make this valley full of ditches.' ¹⁷ For thus says the LORD: 'You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.' ¹⁸ And this is a simple matter in the sight of the LORD; He will also deliver the Mo'avee into your hand. ¹⁹ Also you shall attack every fortified city and every choice city, and shall cut down every good tree, and stop up every spring of water, and ruin every good piece of land with stones."

- Elisha tells the King of Ysrael, I'm only doing this because of Yehushfat
- Elisha recognized Yehushfat was a worshipper of God
- Worshipers of God can recognize another worshipper of God
- He orders them to bring a musician to him
- It's interesting to me the connection between worship and prophecy
- Elisha wasn't asking for a musician because of some ritual
- He wants to worship because he's upset at the King of Ysrael and worship refreshes him, puts him in the right place to hear from God
- He prophesies God will deliver the Mo'avee into their hands and gives them the strategy for how this is going to happen
- Part of this strategy involves digging trenches to contain water
- This requires an act of faith the land is a wilderness and there is no sign of rain... so how is the water going to fill the trenches?

2 Kings 3:20–27 (NKJV)



²⁰ Now it happened in the morning, when the grain offering was offered, that suddenly water came by way of Edom, and the land was filled with water.

²¹ And when all the Mo'avee heard that the kings had come up to fight against them, all who were able to bear arms and older were gathered; and they stood at the border. ²² Then they rose up early in the morning, and the sun was shining on the water; and the Mo'avee saw the water on the other side as red as blood. ²³ And they said, "This is blood; the kings have surely struck swords and have killed one another; now therefore, Mo'av, to the spoil!"

²⁴ So when they came to the camp of Ysrael, Ysrael rose up and attacked the Mo'avee, so that they fled before them; and they entered *their* land, killing the Mo'avee. ²⁵ Then they destroyed the cities, and each man threw a stone on every good piece of land and filled it; and they stopped up all the springs of water and cut down all the good trees. But they left the stones of Kir Haraset *intact*. However the slingers surrounded and attacked it.

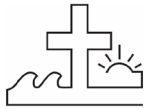
²⁶ And when the king of Mo'av saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took with him seven hundred men who drew swords, to break through to the king of Edom, but they could not. ²⁷ Then he took his eldest son who would have reigned in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering upon the wall; and there was great indignation against Ysrael. So they departed from him and returned to *their own* land.

- All of a sudden water runs off the mountains and fills the trenches!
- When the enemy looks at the water in the valley the reflection of the land makes it look red as blood
- Thus the enemy thinks the 3 nations have killed each other and they go down to take the spoil... a big mistake because Ysrael is waiting for them, defeats them and the enemy flees

2 Kings 4:1–7 (NKJV)

4 A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves."

² So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."



³ Then he said, “Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. ⁴ And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones.”

⁵ So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought *the vessels* to her; and she poured *it* out. ⁶ Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.”

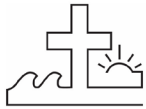
And he said to her, “*There is not another vessel.*” So the oil ceased. ⁷ Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you *and* your sons live on the rest.”

Chapter 4 puts the focus back on Elisha

- This chapter contains a series of events where Elisha ministers to the poor, resurrects the dead and feeds the hungry
- The events in this chapter are prophetic in nature and point to Jesus as the coming Masheach of Ysrael
- The first event is about a Hebrew widow who is about to lose her house
- The rabbis say she is the widow of the prophet Ovadyah
- She comes to Elisha because he is the chief prophet of Ysrael and the head of the community of prophets
- Her husband has died and she can't pay the debt her husband made
- Her sons are not old enough to assume the responsibility of providing for the family
- AND The creditors are coming to take her sons as bond servants to work off the debt until the debt was paid or until the year of Jubilee... whichever came first

Leviticus 25:39–43 (NKJV)

³⁹ ‘And if *one of* your brethren *who dwells* by you becomes poor, and sells himself to you, you shall not compel him to serve as a slave. ⁴⁰ As a hired servant *and* a sojourner he shall be with you, *and* shall serve you until the Year of Jubilee. ⁴¹ And *then* he shall depart from you—he and his children with him—and shall return to his own family. He shall return to the possession of his fathers. ⁴² For they *are* My servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves. ⁴³ You shall not rule over him with rigor, but you shall fear your God.



- The widow doesn't want her sons to be taken because she needs them to help her support the family
- So Elisha asks her... do you have anything of value in the house?
- She says all we have is "asuk shemem"... olive oil, specifically anointing oil (the main tool of his trade as a prophet)
- Elisha asks her to go to her neighbors and get as many empty flasks and jars as possible, the LORD fills them, she sells the oil to pay off the debt and her and her sons live off the excess

There are similarities to the wedding at Cana

- Both wine and oil represent the Holy Spirit
- Both involve the filling of clay pots
- Both center around a mother of sons

Now there is another principle here...

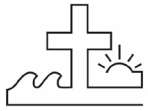
- Prophets weren't magicians or conjurors who created things from thin air
- God uses the natural realm (the jars she had) combined with supernatural power (to fill them with oil) to miraculously accomplish what only He can do in order to bless the widow with abundant provision
- We often think of God as a big magician in the sky who pulls a rabbit out of His existential hat... that's not how God works
- Miracles happen when natural means are ordered by God's supernatural power... feeding of the 5000, healing, wine at the wedding of Cana and here the filling of the jars with oil

[SLIDE 2] The second event is in Shunam in territory of Yisachar

- It involves a family that remained faithful to the LORD during a dark time when idolatry characterized the lifestyle of the 10 northern tribes of Ysrael

2 Kings 4:8–17 (NKJV)

⁸ Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunam, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. ⁹ And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this *is* a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly. ¹⁰ Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there."



¹¹ And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there. ¹² Then he said to Gehayzee his servant, "Call this Shunameet woman." When he had called her, she stood before him. ¹³ And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What *can I* do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?' "

She answered, "I dwell among my own people."

¹⁴ So he said, "What then *is* to be done for her?"

And Gehayzee answered, "Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old."

¹⁵ So he said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway. ¹⁶ Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son."

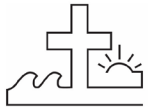
And she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!"

¹⁷ But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her.

- Elisha is recognized as God's prophet and even though King Y'horam didn't like Elisha he would listen to him
- On his way to and from seeing the king Elisha would pass through Shunam
- A woman in town knows who he is and asks her husband to build an apartment for Elisha and to repay her for her kindness he asks... do you want me to give a message to the king on your behalf
- She declined, she was content with her life in the village and didn't want to get involved in governmental politics, but Elisha wanted to bless her
- He discovers she has no children, she's barren and she and her husband are too old to have children naturally
- He prophesies that she will have a child the same time the following year
- Miraculously, she conceives and has a son (Rabbi's bring childless couples here to this day because they believe it's infused with power)
- NOTE: It was through children the family name and inheritance were passed down from generation to generation... a great miracle!
- The child grew old enough to work in the family business

2 Kings 4:18–37 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And the child grew. Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers. ¹⁹ And he said to his father, "My head, my head!"



So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." ²⁰ When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and *then* died. ²¹ And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut *the door* upon him, and went out. ²² Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and come back."

²³ So he said, "Why are you going to him today? *It is* neither the New Moon nor the Shabat."

And she said, "*It is well.*" ²⁴ Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you." ²⁵ And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehayzee, "Look, the Shunameet woman! ²⁶ Please run now to meet her, and say to her, '*Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?*' "

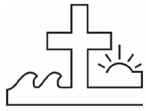
And she answered, "*It is well.*" ²⁷ Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehayzee came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul *is* in deep distress, and the LORD has hidden *it* from me, and has not told me." (NOTE: Someone in the office of a prophet doesn't always have a word from the LORD. They can only say what God instructs them to say)

²⁸ So she said, "Did I ask a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?"

²⁹ Then he said to Gehayzee, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child."

³⁰ And the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her. ³¹ Now Gehayzee went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but *there* was neither voice nor hearing. Therefore he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child has not awakened."

³² When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. ³³ He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. ³⁴ And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. ³⁵ He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again



went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. ³⁶ And he called Gehayzee and said, "Call this Shunameet woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son." ³⁷ So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out.

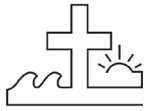
NOTE: The child is working out in the field with his father

- The Hebrew scriptures use different words to describe the stage of growth
- And infant is a "yeled"
- A child who is breast fed, but not an infant is called a "yonek"
- A child who is eating solid food is called an "olel"
- A child who is about 5 years of age is called a "gamel"
- A school aged child under his mother's supervision is called a "taph"
- A child of 11 or 12 and under the supervision of his father is called an "elem"
- The word used for the son here is "elem" and it appears that he has a brain aneurysm and dies
- **[SLIDE 2]** The mother rushes her son to see Elisha (Mt. Carmel)

But notice her faith

- When she is questioned... why are you going to see Elisha, it's not a holy day she says it is well (shalom)
- When she is asked how everyone is doing she says it is well (shalom)
- But when she sees Elisha she falls apart at his feet
- She says to him... did I ask for a son? Did I not say do not deceive me?
- In other words, don't promise me something that isn't going to happen
- Thus, giving her a son and taking it away is just like promising something that isn't going to happen
- Elisha first wants to send his servant to go in his place, but she doesn't go for it... I'm not going anywhere without you
- She knew that whatever God was going to do, it would be done through Elisha... life came through Elisha once before, life will come again
- So Elisha relents and goes to her home where he prays for the son and the son comes back to life
- The Dead Sea Scrolls say the Messiah will heal the wounded, revive the dead and bring good news to the poor

2 Kings 4:38–41 (NKJV)



³⁸ And Elisha returned to Gilgal (historically the first place Ysrael camped when they entered the promised land), and *there was* a famine in the land. Now the sons of the prophets *were* sitting before him; and he said to his servant, "Put on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets."

³⁹ So one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered from it a lapful of wild gourds, and came and sliced *them* into the pot of stew, though they did not know *what they were*. ⁴⁰ Then they served it to the men to eat. Now it happened, as they were eating the stew, that they cried out and said, "Man of God, *there is* death in the pot!" And they could not eat *it*.

⁴¹ So he said, "Then bring some flour." And he put *it* into the pot, and said, "Serve *it* to the people, that they may eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot.

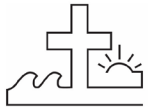
- In this event, Elisha provides food for a group of disciples who are part of a guild of prophets at Gilgal during a time of famine
- Gilgal is to the north near Yeriho
- They make a soup out of plants and gourds they found foraging in the wild
- When they taste the soup they discover the soup is poisonous
- Elisha puts flour in the pot and the soup is made edible
- There is nothing to suggest the flour made the soup edible, this is a true miracle... but it demonstrates God's power to order creation and transform something that brings death into something that brings life

2 Kings 4:42–44 (NKJV)

⁴² Then a man came from Ba'al Salisa, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley bread, and newly ripened grain in his knapsack. And he said, "Give *it* to the people, that they may eat."

⁴³ But his servant said, "What? Shall I set this before one hundred men?" He said again, "Give it to the people, that they may eat; for thus says the LORD: 'They shall eat and have *some* left over.' " ⁴⁴ So he set *it* before them; and they ate and had *some* left over, according to the word of the LORD.

- **[SLIDE 3]** The last event in this chapter occurs during the Feast of Firstfruits

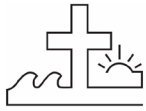


- According to the Talmud, the first fruits of the earth nowhere ripened so quickly as at Ba'al Salisa (Lord of Three)
- Barley was the first of the grain harvest of the year and was the standard offering for the First Fruits (Sunday after Passover)
- Keep in mind, the northern tribes did not go to the Temple at Yerushalayim but there were those who found ways to obey the Torah and observe the Feast Dates (even during a time of governmental prohibition)
- This is a lesson we must learn today... to obey God's law over man's law
- Elisha takes the 20 loaves of barley and feeds 100 families
- There are many parallels with the feeding of the 5000 in John 6
- Both occur in the north of Israel
- Both occur near the time of Passover
- Both use barley loaves to feed the people
- Both use the disciples to feed the people
- Both resulted in leftovers
- And after Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the 5000... the people made the connection between Elisha and Jesus (800 years later) and said... this has to be the prophet who is supposed to come into the world
- AGAIN... notice how God works in patterns... how He repeats the message over and over in the same place, doing the same things in order to communicate a consistent message!
- This is key in rightly dividing the word of truth to recognize the patterns in the Hebrew Scriptures and how Jesus is the fulfillment of these patterns!

TEACH THE WORD

EXPOSITORY MESSAGE

MESSAGE TITLE	
PASSAGE	
PROPHETIC WORD	
INTRODUCTION	
POINT 1	
POINT 2	
POINT 3	
CALL TO ACTION	



Today I want to call your attention to 2 Kings 3

2 Kings 3:6–10 (NKJV)

⁶ So King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel. ⁷ Then he went and sent to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, saying, “The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?”

And he said, “I will go up; I *am* as you *are*, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.” ⁸ Then he said, “Which way shall we go up?”

And he answered, “By way of the Wilderness of Edom.”

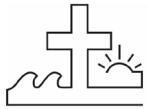
⁹ So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom, and they marched on that roundabout route seven days; and there was no water for the army, nor for the animals that followed them. ¹⁰ And the king of Israel said, “Alas! For the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab.”

INTRODUCTION

- One of the clear messages of the Bible is God’s people are a supernatural people and our God is a miracle working God
- Miracles are not to be the exception
- Miracles are to be our expectation
- We are to expect God to work in miraculous ways in our life
- As Paul wrote to the Ephesians... God is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20)
- Not only is He able, but He is willing, He wants to
- So often we will say... God can do something, He is able to do something because God can do anything, but we don’t believe He wants to do it for us
- And so we’ll come up with all kinds of weird ideas about God to justify why we’re not seeing God’s miracle working power in our lives
- So today I want to look at two things....
- The greatest barrier to God’s miracle working power
- AND how we can experience God’s miracle working power in our lives

BACKGROUND

- The Kings of Israel, Judah and Edom are in an impossible situation
- They need a miracle
- They’ve gotten themselves into a mess
- The King of Mo’av declared war on Ysrael



- Ysrael has enlisted the help of the Southern Kingdom of Judah and Edom to attack the Moabites
- They put together a strategy, a plan of attack that made sense to them at the time... we'll ambush them from the south through Edom
- What they didn't realize was the journey through Edom would take 7 days through rugged terrain and they would end up tired, worn out and without any water... in the middle of a hot desert
- No water for the soldiers
- No water for their animals, their equipment transports and battle horses
- They were in a desperate place
- The only viable option was to give up, to surrender to the enemy

That is the problem with human wisdom

- Human wisdom is weak, it's limited in understand
- It easily gives up because it's limited by one's experience
- I only know what I know
- Thus human wisdom is the greatest barrier to experiencing God's miracle working power

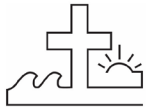
1 Corinthians 3:18–20 (NKJV)

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "*He catches the wise in their own craftiness*"; 20 and again, "*The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.*"

- The wisdom of the world is foolishness with God
- The thoughts of the wise are futile (pointless, without purpose)
- The Bible says the wisdom of man is nothing more than human craftiness or human strategy... man trying to figure things out

We see this in the 3 Kings... the King of Ysrael, Judah and Edom

- They put together a strategy to attack the King of Mo'av
- The King of Judah says let's attack from the south
- The King of Ysrael listens and agrees this is the best strategy
- No one consults God to see if He thinks it's a good idea
- They walk 7 days through the Wilderness of Edom (the long way)
- Convinced they're doing what's best (a form of self-deception)



- There is no water for the army or the animals that followed them and they realize they've made a big mistake (caught in their own craftiness)
- And the King of Ysrael freaks out and says... we're gonna die
- We might as well give up (don't you just love these kind of people)
- And then he blames the LORD... the LORD brought us here to deliver us into the hand of the enemy
- And yet... God had nothing to do with it
- They led themselves into the wilderness, took the long way around and it was all the result of trusting in human wisdom

What does the Bible say?

Proverbs 3:5–10 (NKJV)

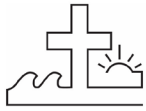
⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. ⁸ It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.

- There are so many weird teachings about God
- People trying to make sense of life using human wisdom
- Those who believe God makes us go through suffering for His greater glory... what kind of God causes you to suffer so He can look good?
- Or those who believe God allows you to be sick to teach you a lesson
- How can you pray for healing if God is the one making you sick?
- I guess you ask God to really give it to you so you can learn the lesson you need to learn!
- I knew a guy who negotiated a salary that was too little for his family to live on and he blamed God for it... I guess God wants to teach us how to live with less after all God is in control!
- How about admitting God had nothing to do with it
- You're just a terrible negotiator and you never consulted God as to what you should ask for?
- That's the problem with trying to figure out life using human wisdom

Solomon, the wisest man on earth, tried and he couldn't do it

Ecclesiastes 8:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ When I applied my heart to know wisdom and to see the business that is done on earth, even though one sees no sleep day or night, ¹⁷ then I saw all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the



sun. For though a man labors to discover *it*, yet he will not find *it*; moreover, though a wise *man* attempts to know *it*, he will not be able to find *it*.

Jesus speaking to the Sadducees said...

Matthew 22:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.

- When it comes to life, we tend to look at our circumstances and make conclusions based on what we can do or what we can handle
- We don’t even consider that we are God’s people, and He is a God who works miracles

As Paul wrote to the Romans...

Romans 8:31–32 (NKJV)

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

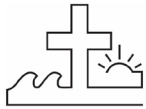
- Jesus didn’t die on the cross so you could suffer for His greater glory
- God doesn’t need your glory
- He’s already glorified Himself through Jesus

That’s why Paul could say

Romans 8:35, 37–39 (NKJV)

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Nothing the enemy can do will defeat you because we are more than conquerors through Jesus who loves us
- How are we more than conquerors?
- Through God’s miracle working power working in my life



So how do I experience God's miracle working power in my life?

- Vs. 11 Is there no prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD by him?
- The first step to experiencing God's miracle working power is to hear God's Word (this is why we study God's Word verse by verse)
- But notice... it's not just from any source... Jehoshaphat says concerning Elisha... the word of the LORD is with him... He hears from God

Paul wrote to the Romans

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- In the Greek it says "pistis ek akon, ha de akon dia rhema Kristos"
- Translated it means... faith comes as you are hearing God's Word preached through a preacher... but not just any preacher
- Paul says but I say have they not heard, but I say did Israel not know, but I say has God cast away His people.... referring to Paul's teaching
- To the Galatians Paul said if any man preaches another gospel other than what you've heard from us let him be accursed (Galatians 1:9)
- It matters who you listen to... not everyone has the word of the LORD
- Many preachers today teach their opinions, their philosophy, their politics, their psychology or relationship principles
- Often people miss God's miracle working power because they haven't really heard from God
- They've heard from friends, family, mentors... but not God
- King Jehoram had hundreds of prophets
- BUT Elisha had the word of the LORD... we need the word of the LORD

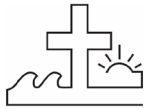
Second... do what God says to do

- God told the three kings through Elisha to make this valley full of ditches

2 Kings 3:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For thus says the LORD: 'You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.'

- Dig ditches to hold water AND you will not see wind (to blow in rain clouds) and you will not see rain



- In other words, this is more than an act of obedience, this is an act of faith
- God says I'm going to do something beyond the natural
- I'm going to do something supernatural
- But in order for you to experience it, you need to trust me enough to do what I tell you to do
- That requires an act of faith... not a blind leap into the unknown
- But a logical act of obedience because God is a God who keeps His Word... God is a waymaker, a miracle worker, a promise keeper
- As the writer of Hebrews said... He who has promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:23)
- He will do everything He said He would do

This leads us to the third step... worship the LORD

2 Kings 3:20 (NKJV)

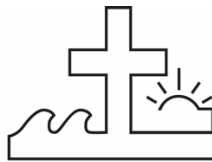
²⁰ Now it happened in the morning, when the grain offering was offered, that suddenly water came by way of Edom, and the land was filled with water.

- The grain offering was an act of worship
- They dug the ditches, trusting God would fill the ditches as He promised and in response to God's Word, they worship the LORD
- And as they are worshipping the LORD, the land was filled with water
- We're really good at thanking God after He's done something
- It takes faith to thank God knowing He's about to do something
- When Israel was standing at the banks of the Red Sea Moses told the people... do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the LORD.
- When Israel lost hope in the wilderness because there was no water the LORD provided water in the desert
- When the King of Ysrael blamed God because they were about to give in because they marched 7 days with no water, God filled the land with water
- If I ask every person in the room you probably have story after story of God's miracle working power in your life
- What will it take to convince you that God is worthy of worship before He acts because you know He will keep His Word to you?
- What does God have to do before you believe that He loves You and that He is Your Warrior King who has given His only begotten life so that you could experience His miracle working power? What will it take?

TITLES AVAILABLE FROM
CALVARYCHAPELSTORE.COM

Living Sharper And Powerful
Let It Rise: A Manual For Worship
The Ministry Of Intercession
New Ministry Planning Manual

FREE BOOKS FROM
PASTOR CHUCK SMITH
Calvary Chapel Distinctives
Charisma Versus Charismania
The Reproducers



CALVARY CHAPEL
SAN CLEMENTE

PO BOX 5946
SAN CLEMENTE, CA. 92674
CALVARYSANCLEMENTE.ORG