

Session Four – Discerning the Comforter's Thoughts

Introduction: Satan is always trying to trouble us with accusation, and the Holy Spirit is always seeking to comfort us with words of truth. As quickly as we sense a negative lie, we can turn and receive the positive truth that comforts our souls. We begin going through our minds, rejecting all spontaneous thoughts of negative and destructive origin and replacing them with the truth of the Word of God which the Holy Spirit brings to us.

A. The Edifying Work of the Holy Spirit

1. **The Comforter** “...He will give you another comforter, that He may be with you forever;” (Jn. 14:16). The Comforter (*Parakletos*—“one called alongside to help”) the Holy Spirit is constantly injecting spontaneous thoughts of life into your heart which are comforting and helpful. Accept only these! When you have non-comforting thoughts, do two-way journaling, and then see, believe and speak only what the Holy Spirit says!

a. How to create an impure heart and how to restore it—Read Psalm 73

- ✦ Verse 1—You start with a clean heart.
- ✦ Verse 2, 3—You slip by allowing envy in, by **looking at something other than Jesus**.
- ✦ Verse 4-12—You reason without divine perspective (i.e., on your own).
- ✦ Verse 13-16—Move into self-pity and for sure your heart has become impure!
- ✦ Verse 17-20—Come into the sanctuary of the Lord and seek revelation.
- ✦ Verse 21, 22—Reflect on how beastly you were as you thrashed around in ungodly reasoning.

- ✦ Verse 23, 24—Reaffirm those things you know to be true.
- ✦ Verse 25-28—Worship the Lord.

b. My Commitment—I will not reason outside of the presence of the Lord.

- ✦ After seeing Psalm 73, I made a commitment I would never reason outside the presence of the Holy Spirit. Note: The **only** command to reason in the entire Bible is found in Isaiah 1:18—“Come now, and let us reason together,” saith the LORD: ‘though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.’ Therefore, I will **never** reason on my own. Instead, I will pursue Spirit-anointed reasoning, where I fix my eyes upon Jesus, ask for wisdom, tune to flow and allow flowing thoughts to guide my reasoning process! **This is one of the best decisions I have ever made in my entire life! I will not reason on my own!**
- ✦ **Confession:** I will only reason in the sanctuary of God.

2. **The Spirit of Truth** “But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth....” (Jn. 16:13). Truth liberates! Jesus said, “...the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life” (Jn. 6:63). Lies bind us. Truth liberates us. Lies destroy us. Truth empowers us. Consider the following satanic lies, as contrasted with God’s words of truth and life. Speak God’s truth below, from your heart, which means you see it, feel it and you stay tuned to and responsive to flowing thoughts, pictures and emotions.

Bind & Reject Satan's Lie**Confess God's Truth**

I can't	<i>versus</i>	I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13).
I lack	<i>versus</i>	My God shall supply all my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19).
I fear	<i>versus</i>	God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7).
I don't have faith	<i>versus</i>	God has given to me a measure of faith (Rom. 12:3).
I'm weak	<i>versus</i>	The Lord is the strength of my life (Ps. 27:1).
Satan has really got me	<i>versus</i>	Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world (1 Jn. 4:4).
I'm defeated	<i>versus</i>	God always causes me to triumph in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 2:14).
I don't know what to do	<i>versus</i>	Christ Jesus is made unto me wisdom from God (1 Cor. 1:30)
I expect to get sick once in awhile	<i>versus</i>	By His stripes I am healed (Is. 53:5).
I am so worried and frustrated	<i>versus</i>	I can cast all my cares upon Him, because He cares for me (1 Pet. 5:7).
I'm in bondage	<i>versus</i>	Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2 Cor. 3:17).
I feel so condemned	<i>versus</i>	There is no condemnation to me, because I am in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1).

3. The Holy Spirit Convicts/convinces WITHOUT condemning:

- a. "And He, when He comes, will convict (convince) the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment." (Jn. 16:8) The word "convict" is better translated "convince." To convince is to positively draw one to a change of mind.
- b. Satan runs roughshod over your personality, seeking to dominate and destroy you. The Holy Spirit is a perfect Gentleman, tenderly entreating you to set aside sin, to put on righteousness, and to recognize holy judgment. He draws and convinces in a totally positive manner. He is the Spirit of Life, setting you free from sin and death (Rom. 8:2). Satan drives; the Holy Spirit draws. Satan demands; the Holy Spirit entreats.
- c. **The Edifier** "One who prophesies speaks to men for edification...." (1 Cor. 14:3) When the Comforter speaks (through

prophecy), His first order of business for the body of Christ is to edify, or to **build up**. We have all been around people who build us up, and we have also spent time with people who just tear us down.

- d. **The Exhorter/Teacher** "One who prophesies speaks to men for...exhortation...." (1 Cor. 14:3) The literal definition of exhortation (*parakaleo* in the Greek) is to call a person to the side to encourage some course of conduct, always looking to the future. (Notice how close it is to *parakletos* which is translated "comforter.")

Exhortation is to be done:

- lovingly (1 Cor. 13)
- gently (Gal. 6:1)
- patiently (1 Thess. 5:14)
- with great mercy (2 Cor. 1:3b)

- ✦ with desire to comfort (2 Cor. 1:3c)
- e. “I don’t speak to condemn you, for you are in our hearts to die together or to live together” (2 Cor. 7:3).

4. My Conclusion—speak only words of life:

- a. “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth but only a word which is good for edification according to the need of the moment so that it can give grace to those who hear it.” (Eph. 4:29)
- b. We only allow ourselves to speak words that strengthen and give grace to the hearer (this includes things we say to ourselves, our spouses and family members and our enemies)!

5. Know the Christian transformation process which includes:

- a. Identifying three sources of thoughts:
 - ✦ Spontaneous negative thoughts (which line up with the names of satan). These come from demons.
 - ✦ Spontaneous positive thoughts (which line up with the Names of the Holy Spirit). These come from the Holy Spirit.
 - ✦ Analytical thoughts (connected thoughts). These come from self.
- b. Learning to meditate on God’s thoughts ONLY by **receiving** the thought from the Bible and the Spirit, **repeating** the thought, forming a **pattern** of the thought, forming an **attitude** from the thought, **speaking** it out, and **acting** it out until our life becomes **transformed**.
 - ✦ “Sow a thought, reap an action;

- ✦ sow an action, reap a habit;
- ✦ sow a habit, reap a character;
- ✦ sow a character, reap a destiny.” ~
Ralph Waldo Emerson

- c. **My Confession:** I purpose to meditate on God’s thoughts only, causing me to abide in Christ.

B. Classroom Application Journaling Exercise:

Take 5 minutes and prayerfully write out the answers God gives you to the following question(s). Then turn to someone next to you and share your answers in groups of two (5 minutes). Finally, take 8 minutes or so and have 2-4 volunteers read their journaling to the entire group. Ponder in your heart what God speaks to you in your journal.

1. “Lord, what do you want to say concerning demonic thoughts versus the voice of the Holy Spirit within me?”
2. “Lord, how have I allowed the voice of the Holy Spirit to speak words of life to me?”
3. “In what areas of my life do I need to allow Him more access?”
4. “Where do I need to allow the Holy Spirit to speak more life to me?”
5. “In what ways do I need to be speaking words that strengthen rather than pull down?”

C. Classroom Activities:

1. Watch the journaling interview with Rhonda on the DVD/CD.
2. Let volunteers quote memory verses to the class and share what God has spoken to them concerning the verse.
3. Discuss the teaching, letting people ask questions and share their thoughts.

D. Exercises to Promote Ongoing Revelation at Home:

1. **Memorize Isaiah 1:18 and Psalm 73:16, 17.** Journal about each verse and ask God what He wants to say to you concerning it and its application to your life.
2. The statements on the list below likely have a divine origin. Check the thoughts below which **are recurrent for you**. Thank God for giving you these wonderful comforting thoughts. Obviously, the “I” must be the Galatians 2:20 “I” for some of these statements below to be Holy Spirit-inspired.

- Life is interesting.
- I feel really good.
- This is exciting.
- I have great hopes for the future.
- A nice, relaxing evening can surely be enjoyable.
- I have enough time to accomplish the things I need to do.
- I like people.
- I’m very blessed.
- That’s funny! (humorous)
- I can do it.
- I know what I’m to do in life.
- I am loved.
- God’s best is yet to come.
- I’m changing and growing by the strength of God.
- I’m full of wisdom.
- I’m surrounded by God’s hand of protection.
- I’m pure on the inside.
- I love life.
- I’m beautiful.

- My goals are going to find fulfillment.
- I’m going to get the desires of my heart.
- I’ll glory in this tribulation.
- God will work it out.
- God and I are a majority.
- Today is the day the Lord has made.
- I can’t wait to express love to them.
- I have a vision for my future.

3. **Journaling Exercise:** “Lord, what do You want to show me from my answers above?” Also complete any of the classroom journaling questions which you did not do during the classtime.

Journaling from Mark Virkler: “Mark, as a result of journaling, I have filled you with faith, hope and love. I have removed your negatives and I have given you hope. I have restored your life, even as I restore the lives of all who hear My voice. Teach My Church to hear My voice that it may be well with their souls. It is truly as simple as hearing and obeying. I have come to give abundant life. And those who come to Me, they do receive. Come to Me constantly.”

Session Five – Incubating Only Christ : The Dream Maker

Introduction: After discerning the work of the accuser and the Comforter, I desired to receive only the words of the Comforter and to birth His purposes out through the senses of my spirit.

God is a dream maker. He gives us dreams to hold in our hearts, and He allows us to birth them into the world. How does this process work? What are the five senses of our spirits and how does God go about filling all five senses, and birthing something great in the kingdom of God? How can I have faith in my heart which casts mountains into the sea (Mk. 11:23)?