

Women of the Word

*A teaching series to renew
women in their relationship
with God*

*"Women of the Word Ministries"
(WOW)*

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Lesson One: Re-establishing your “First Love”

Women of the Word – Lesson One
Re-establishing your “First Love”- getting your focus back

- I. The Church at Ephesus: Rev 2: 1-5
 - A. Had zeal, activity, involvement, persevered, discerned the true apostles & kept the doctrine pure but lost their “First Love”.
- II. The Church of Laodicea: Rev 3:15-17
 - A. Was “Lukewarm” because of materialism and contentment.
- III. Traits of being newly in love (first love)
 - A. Joy, excitement, passion, anticipation. Deut 6:5 – We are to love God with all our heart, mind and physical strength.
 - B. Activities, hobbies, & entertainment take a back seat to being with the one you love. Deut 6:15 – God is jealous of things and people that rob us of our love for him.
- IV. We can be subtly seduced by things, experiences and people that rob us of our “First Love”:
 - A. Materialism: Wanting (coveting) more, better and bigger.
Danger: Desiring things more than God.
 - B. Busyness: Full schedules with too much activity.
Danger: Crowding out God because of limited and no extra time.
 - C. Entertainment and Pleasing self: Relaxing and enjoying some down time, video’s, e-mailing, interneting, telephoning, socializing, exercising, shopping, eating etc.
Danger: Allowing comfort, relaxation & complacency to take the place of hunger, need and longing for spiritual renewal and impartation.
 - D. Ungodly/unspiritual/problem people: Spending much time with these kinds of people.
Danger: Allowing their influence to zap your spiritual energies and passion for God.
- V. Traits of one who has lost their first love:
 - A. Desire for more of God has left – comfort & complacency take over
 - B. Passion/excitement is gone – finds more joy & excitement in other things.
 - C. Neediness for his help and touch dissipates- becomes self sufficient
 - D. Brokenness dies – hardness & pride mask themselves
 - E. The voice of God vanishes- sin of self/things separate from him
- VI. Re-establishing your first love:
 - A. Repent
 - B. Limit, change, and or forsake the things & habits that stole your love
 - C. Do the first works you did when you first got saved
 - a. Love & sacrifice of prayer, personal study and mediation of his word, fasting, outreach,

“First Love” Scriptures:

Revelation 2:1-5 “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:2 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;3 “and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.4 “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.5 “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place unless you repent.

Revelation 3:15-17 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.16 “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.17 “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

Deuteronomy 6:5 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:14-15 “You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you. ‘(for the Lord your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the Lord your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.

Mark 4:19 “and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Isaiah 29:13 Therefore the Lord said: “Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

Galatians 3:3-5 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?4 Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Lesson Two: Marrying the Lord

Women of the Word- Lesson Two

Marrying the Lord – going from dating him to commitment to him

Dating and engagement: Courtship with God

Wedding: The new birth experience

Marriage: The committed, fruit-bearing Christian life

I. Dating & Engagement in the natural

- A. Definition: A time of getting to know each other; Talking, sharing ideas, goals, opinions & feelings.
- B. Purpose: To figure out if both persons have common interest & desires, If personalities are compatible, If character is appealing.
- C. Positive Results: Everything is working out and soon an emotion starts to build called “LOVE”. Love reaches a plateau then you find yourself wanting to become one with the person....this leads to Marriage.



II. Marriage in the natural

- A. Definition: Two people who have yielded themselves completely in oneness and trust by way of a life time commitment.
- B. Purpose: To love and enjoy someone with whom you can share your life.
- C. Positive Results: You don't just know about this person, but now you know this person intimately.

III. Dating & Engaged to God

- A. Learning about him and trying to understand him
- B. Becoming familiar with his presence
- C. Enjoying his blessings and provisions
- D. A relationship without full commitment

IV. Married to God

- A. Know him intimately
- B. Love his Word and responsible to it
- C. Sensitive to and yearning to be in his presence
- D. A relationship that is committed and accountable

V. The Dating & Engagement process

- A. The bride will talk about the Lord, tell great stories about him, but isn't ready to go beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies where she will submit to him.
 - 1.) Fear of change
 - 2.) Other things, people or plans are more valuable
 - 3.) Not attracted to Him (because of religious traditions)
- B. It's good to date until you feel the desire to marry the Lord because the Lord doesn't want a cheapened miserable marriage with a bride who isn't yet in love!

VI. The dangers of a pressured or forced marriage

- A. When one isn't attracted and interested by choice, the pressure and force leads to a feeling of violation, despicement and rebellion.
- 1.) God gets a miserable, cheapened relationship that becomes like a "Prostitute's" relationship. It is void of intimacy with God and instead becomes an act and a performance.
 - 2.) Our freedom of choice is so precious! God wants a bride that chooses to love him out of the desires of her heart.



VII. The responsibilities of the married saints to the dating/engaged people:

- 1.) To encourage their dating process.
- 2.) To share in the making of it.

The results of a true love relationship with God is evident by the FRUITS one will bear.....not just mere religious works that another has imposed upon them. MAN receives glory when a person's relationship is derived out of control and fear, however, GOD DOES NOT!!!

VIII. The Marriage commitment

- A. She now desires to go beyond his benefits into knowing his ways, thus bringing true understanding of him.

*Ps 103:7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.
Psalm 25:4 Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. (David)*

- B. She now takes hold of his Word and it becomes her sustenance and the very essence of who she is.

*Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
Matthew 4:4, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "*

- C. She now awaits, yearns and is sensitive to his presence. It's the place where she finds unconditional love and affection.

*Psalm 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good
Proverbs 8:34-35 Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the Lord;
Psalm 42:1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.*

- D. She now is willing to fully commit through the abandonment of self and self sacrifice.

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;

- E. She remains faithful no matter the trials and testings that come.

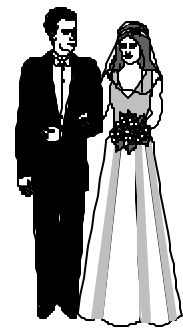
Revelation 3:18 "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire....."

James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 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.

- F. Through her intimate relationship she is willing to be pregnant with the Gospel and give birth to those that are lost:

Isaiah 26:17,18 As a woman with child Is in pain and cries out in her pangs, When she draws near the time of her delivery, So have we been in Your sight, O Lord. We have been with child, we have been in pain; We have,



as it were, brought forth wind; We have not accomplished any deliverance in the earth, Nor have the inhabitants of the world fallen.

“Married to the Lord” Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Isaiah 54:5 For your Maker is your husband, The Lord of hosts is His name;
And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

Jeremiah 3:14 “Return, O backsliding children,” says the Lord; “for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.

Revelation 19:7-8 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Hosea 2:19 And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

Lesson Three: Allowing God to change you

Women of the Word - Lesson Three

Allowing God to change you – dying to the works of the flesh

Isaiah experienced a divine vision of God that revealed the sin of his heart that left him a changed man that gave him a renewed ministry.

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Isaiah went to the temple to pray after King Uzziah died. As he was burdened & overwrought with the spiritual decadence of Israel, God gave him a vision that totally renewed his concept of God. He saw God in his glory and all the angels declaring his holiness. This divine experience caused him to see himself as unclean and undone. For the holiness of God revealed and exposed the sinful state of his humanity. God touched him and purged his sin and consecrated him a new. After he had undergone this radical change, the guilt of sin was taken away and he possessed a new freedom and new insights that made him an instrument far more fit for service than he was even before.

There are various conditions that bring us to the place of shedding a mask of denial, searching our hearts & seeking God for change. Such conditions include:

- Sin in our lives (David –Ps 51:10)
- Afflictions and hard trials (Children of Israel – Is 30:20-22)
- Spiritual decay & drought (Isaiah – Is 6)
- Suffering (Paul- Phil 3:10)

These conditions can push and usher us into a place of seeking God and examining self. It is when the heart is broken/contrite that God can reveal his glory and holiness to us. It is in the presence of a holy God that the impurities of the heart can be exposed and revealed only to be changed by the power of God then to be offered on the altar of ministry.

I. God was Holy meaning he was SEPARATE in nature from all humanity. He was SINLESS.

- A. At the born again experience, God gives us a new heart & a new spirit that is like unto his Holy nature. *Ezekiel 11:19 “Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh.”*
- B. Because we possess his holy nature, he admonishes us to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. *II Cor 7:1*
- C. Sometimes we aren't sure what filth to cleanse ourselves of until we ask God to examine our heart & show us self. *Ps 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting. Jer 17:9-10 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.*
- D. Serving God is not a performance issue but a heart issue!
 - 1.) The Heart: we believe unto salvation, God looks upon, we serve with, love with
- E. Before you can ever see sinful self and it's dark habits (works of the flesh) you first have to be exposed to light. Light reveals what's in the dark. *I Jh 1:5-6God is light*

and in Him is no darkness at all.6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

II. The conditions that allow for God to reveal our heart & shape our character is not to destroy us but to develop us.

- A. Jesus is the potter we are the clay. A potter doesn't just intend to play with clay but to make it a beautiful piece of pottery. This means some fire, shaping & molding.
- B. We want out of our misery and affliction but that is when the Lord teaches us character, endurance and brings deliverance to us.

Hardships & Testing Is.....

Not made to make you bitter but better
Not made to destroy you but develop you
Not made to corrupt you but change you
Not made to ruin you but refine you
Not made to shatter you but shape you
Not made to torture you but train you
Not made to make you bitter but better.....
It is to build your character and bring your deliverance

III. Deliverance & forgiveness brings about a more effective ministry.

- A. God changed Isaiah and purged his sin so he could see Gods power in a greater measure to do the needed work around him (Is 6)
 - B. David sought change so he could have an overcomers testimony and truly help convert sinners (Ps 51:13)
 - C. Your misery can become your ministry! What the devil intended to destroy you, God can use for his glory!
 - D. Deliverance & Forgiveness brings about Victory and victory can bring about Ministry.
- Some have a song to sing but God has to deliver from depression
 - Some have a testimony but God has to deliver from habitual sin
 - Some have a message to teach but God has to deliver from fear
 - Some have abilities to mentor but God has to deliver from gossip & slander
 - Some can minister tenderness & kindness but God has to deliver from anger
 - Some can minister love & compassion but God has to deliver from bitterness
 - Some can minister moral purity but God has to deliver from fornication & promiscuity
 - Some can minister edification and encouragement but God has to deliver from jealousy
 - Some have abundance to give but God has to deliver from greed

Psalm 51:7-13 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

Godly Change Scriptures

Romans 5:3-4

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Deuteronomy 8:2,16

And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.¹⁶ “who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end—

Isaiah 30:20-21

And though the Lord gives you The bread of adversity and the water of affliction, Yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, But your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

“.....that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Ephesians 4:22-24

<i>Put Off:</i>	<i>Put On:</i>
Passions of the flesh (I Pet 2:11)	Self Control & temperance (Titus 2:12)
Evil thoughts (Matt 15:18-19)	Good and pure thoughts (Phil 4:8)
Envy, bitterness & anger(Eph 4:31-32)	Forgiveness and tenderness (Eph 4:32)
Hatefulness (Titus 3:3)	Kindness & love (Titus 3:4)
Covetousness (I Tim 6:10)	Contentment (I Tim 6:6)
Unwholesome communication (Eph 4:29)	Edification (Eph 4:29)
Drunkenness, Partying (I Pet 4:3)	Soberness, self restraint, prayer (I Pet 4:7)
Sexual Immorality (I Cor 6:9-11)	Moral purity (I Cor 6:11)
Ungodly music (Eph 5:19)	Spiritual music (Eph 5:19)
Falsehood (Eph 4:25)	Speaking the truth (Eph 4:25)
Stealing (Eph 4:28)	Working & giving to those in need (Eph 4:28)
Friendship with the world (James 4:4)	Relationship with God (Jm 4:8)

When we become Christians, God puts his “Holy” Spirit in us enabling us to experience the power needed to become holy, as he is holy. However, to develop a life of holiness and spiritual fruit takes time & effort.

For many works and sins of the flesh become habit patterns and lifestyle to us. Therefore, lasting change involves a daily process of renewing the mind, yielding to Gods spirit, discipline, and self-control. Through the help and power of Gods spirit we can replace old habits with new godly ones thus causing us to become holy and Christ like.

Biblical Steps for Change:

1. Identify your sin (*Matt 7:1-5*)
2. Confess & repent of sinful deeds to the Lord. (*Prov 28:13, II Cor 7:10, I Jh 1:9*)
3. Pray & spend time in his presence. (*Gal 5:16-17, Phil 4:6-7, I Pet 4:7*)
4. Renew your mind with the Word of God by study, meditation, memory & praying the Word. (*Rom 12:1-2, Eph 4:23, Col 3:9-10, Ps 119:11*)
5. Be accountable to someone you can trust, through confession. A godly friend or church leader. (*Jm 5:16, Prov 19:20-21, I Pet 4:8-10*)

6. Daily practice good habits (the put-ons). Don't primarily concentrate on the habit your trying to change but concentrate on the righteous deed that brings the change (the put-on). (*Gal 5:22-24*)
7. If possible change environments, people you spend a lot of time with, and or situations that encourage sinful habits to remain. (*I Thess 5:22, II Cor 6:14, Eph 5:6-8, I Pet 4:4*)
8. Actively involve yourself with worship & ministry in the Body of Christ. (*Heb 10:24-25, I Peter 4:10*)

Deliverance & Victory over Sin causes us to:

1. Become humbled (we see ourselves as undone & in need)
2. Become transparent (confession brings us out of denial)
3. Become Christ-like (prideful egos & self righteous attitudes die)
4. Become open to more revelation (heart is pliable)
5. Become equipped for ministry (character is being built)

Lesson Four: Waking up to the need of prayer & intercession

Women of the Word- Lesson Four

Waking up to the need of prayer & intercession- prayer causes God to act

Our society is reaching the depths of decay and degradation. Abortion, murder, suicide and war ravage every continent. America's cup of iniquity is full. Hunger, starvation and disasters abound. Our world is in a state of chaos. Society is being destroyed by its own evil devices. We can't solve these problems by ourselves and education is not the answer to aids, drug abuse, crime, premarital sex nor the many other ills of our world.

The church has the answer! The answer is the presence and power of God expressed through an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Many are seeking his *presents* rather than His *presence*. They seek the power of God rather than relationship with the God of the power. Paul said, "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power" (I Cor 2:4) The reason we lack having the demonstration of the spirit is because to many believers are too out of touch with God to allow the spirit to display his power! Our powerlessness is largely a result of our prayerlessness. When we eat the bitter fruit of prayerlessness, our children, government, churches and society will reap the result of dry eyes in the pews and crusty hearts in the pulpits.

Not only does the church lack prayer, but it can easily loose its purpose. Rather than a commitment to reach the world with the gospel, most are satisfied to just attend weekly services and aren't concerned about their lives being the light and salt of the earth.

Along with *prayerlessness*, & *purposelessness* we have to be on guard for division that subtly sweeps into the body. It pulls the church as a whole apart from each other and reduces its effectiveness by causing it to operate in a spirit of dysfunction, disharmony and disillusionment. Unity comes when we link hearts and hands in prayer to partner with our Lord in his plan and purpose for saving the lost.

When the church is prayerful it will have power! For Overcomers are developed in the prayer closet. The more the church spends time investing at his feet, the longer we will be able to stand as a whole unified body empowered and charged with God's energy and authority to trample the enemy under our own feet.

I. Building an intimate relationship with God allows us to partner with him in bringing about his purposes and plans.

A. Partnering with him means Intimate times of listening, learning to trust through obedience to his Word and living in oneness with him through abiding in him. (Jh 15:7)

B. As our hearts become one with God, we take on his same desires, goals and burden. His burden becomes the focus of our intercession.

(A surgeon was doing an open-heart surgery. Two human hearts were lying side by side. Each was beating at different rhythms. The surgeon moved them together, until the tissue of one heart touched the other. Suddenly both assumed the same rhythm).

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God

II. God responds and acts according to prayer & intercession.

A. Many don't bother to develop intimacy because they are not convinced that their prayer will make a difference. Prayer does make a difference! It is the very deed that draws God and causes him to act and answer.

- *2 Chronicles 7:14* "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
- *Isaiah 38:3-6* And the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying,⁵ "Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years."⁶ "I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city."
- *1 Kings 8:35* "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them.
- *2 Chronicles 7:1* When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

III. Revival in America started with prayer and God wants revival back in America through prayer!

Prayer: As a daily lifestyle

Psalm 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Matthew 6:6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.....

Luke 22:46 Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.

Jude 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.

Luke 21:36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Lesson Five: Intercession...

what is it?

Women of the Word – Lesson Five

Intercession.....What is it? – the mechanics of intercession

“Likewise the spirit also helpeth our infirmities for we know not what we should pray for as we ought but the spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”
Rom 8:2-27

I. Meaning of Intercession

- A. Webster’s definition of Intercession: Pleading in favor of another
- B. Latin definition: Intercession is derived from the Latin word “inter” - meaning “between” and “cedere” meaning “to go”. It means, “to go between”.
- C. Intercession is different than prayer. Prayer means speaking, to request, to talk, to commune, to offer petition and supplication. Intercession means coming to God on the behalf of another.

II. God speaks to and through intercessors

- A. Gods prompting for intercession comes through various forms and feelings:
 - 1.) Heaviness, a desire to weep for no reason, a longing to be alone, emotional heartache, a sense of emergency, a flash of a name or face across your mind, a small quiet voice in your mind saying to pray.
- B. God will sometimes impart revelation and knowledge while in prayer so you may be ministered to or minister to another.(I Cor 14:30, Eph 1:17)
 - 1.) This places responsibility and accountability upon the intercessor to God. One must depend upon Him for discernment for what, how much and when to share what has been revealed.
 - a. Deliver words of encouragement, & exhortation joyfully.
 - b. Deliver words of correction & rebuke after you have received confirmation and then cautiously.
 - c. Deliver words of destruction only by God’s direction and usually these need to be subjected to pastoral leadership firsthand.
- C. Our prayers should not originate out of our own personal wills and agendas but from the mercy and heart of God. (don’t pray curses & vengeance on people but for God to show love, salvation, healing..etc)
- D. Examples of Intercessors:
 - 1.) Moses – for the nation of Israel (Exd 32 & 34)
 - 2.) Nehemiah – for unity to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem (Nehemiah)
 - 3.) Anna – for those all around her (Luke 2:3-37)

III. Standing in the Gap: Symbolically standing in prayer in the middle of what God wants and what the enemy is trying to do.

Ezekiel 22:30 “So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

Is 59:15-16 Yea, truth faileth, and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey and the Lord saw it and it displeased him that there was no judgment. And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor. There his arm brought salvation unto him and his righteousness, it sustained him.”

“God is more interested in availability than ability.”

A. The petitions of intercessory prayer are like “Spiritual Rebellion”.

1.) It is a refusal of every agenda, every scheme, and every interpretation that is at odds with the norm as originally established by God.

2.) It is expressing a holy dissatisfaction with the way things are and taking the necessary steps to bring change through authoritative prayer.

(Exp Prayer: “Through the Name of Jesus, I stop the devil’s plan to kill, steal and destroy and I cry out for your mercy that triumphs over judgment for this precious soul”. Jh 10:10, Jm 2:13)

3.) God uses people to intercede for individuals as well as entire cities. God had Jonah go into Nineveh and make a call for repentance. (Jonah 4:11)

B. Am I my brother’s keeper? (Gen 4:9)

1.) We are in a spiritual war and real casualties occur! The church needs to awaken from slumber and realize its responsibility.

IV. P.U.S.H! - Pray until something happens!

A. We must keep praying until the burden lifts. God will act upon our perseverance and faith. *(Luke 18:1-7 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,2 saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.3 “Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’4 “And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, “Though I do not fear God nor regard man,5 ‘yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’ ”6 Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said.7 “And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?)*

B. The following is evidence of a breakthrough:

1.) Tears stop and don’t flow easily

2.) A peaceful rest comes upon you

3.) Joy comes

4.) God tells you to stop praying

V. Be faithful in the small things and God will enlarge the horizons of your authority and burden.

A. Intercede for your family, neighbors, friends, pastors & church.

B. We cannot expect to be given the kind of revelation Moses received for a nation if we aren’t first faithful to pray for those close to us. We must be faithful over the things we can see before we can expect to be trusted with the unseen.

Intercessory Prayer: Coming to God on behalf of another

Isaiah 66:7-8 Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child.⁸ Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

Isaiah 59:16 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.

Ezekiel 22:30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. trustful

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

I Tim 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

Examples of Intercessors:

Moses: Exodus 32:11

Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said: "Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"

Nehemiah: Nehemiah 1:3-4

And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Rachel: Jeremiah 31:15

Thus says the Lord: “A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more.”

Lesson Six: Building blocks of “character” for the intercessor

Women of the Word – Lesson Six

Building blocks of “character” for the intercessor

I. Three tools that help strip the soul of hardness and prepare it for submission:

- A. **Suffering:** Suffering causes us to seek God and his provision. It allows us the opportunity to understand and “know” God as our Father who loves and cares for us. *2 Corinthians 12:7-10 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. Philippians 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,*
- B. **Brokenness:** Brokenness comes when we have allowed our heart to become tender as a result of crushing and shattering experiences that we’ve had. It is the opposite of hardness, which is the devil’s desire for our heart feelings and emotions. *Jeremiah 4:3 “Break up your fallow ground...” Psalm 95:8 “Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion...” Psalm 34:18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.*
- C. **Failure:** Were taught success and winning is everything and our fleshly human nature loves to self-glorify in it. God desires the opposite....that we have nothing to boast about but Him. Failure may come when we don’t actively submit to his will and Word. *“Disappointments are his appointments for then we may be taught to trust him.” Deuteronomy 28:45 Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.*

II. Building blocks of “Character” for the intercessor:

- A. **Humility:** Bringing all that you are under God’s control and becoming God dependent. Death to self brings the fruit of humility. *Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 1 Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time Isaiah 57:15 “...I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble...”*
“Humility is elusive. It is such a fragile plant that the slightest reference to it causes it to wilt and die.”
“Humility makes a man feel smaller as he becomes greater.”
- B. **Persistence:** Refusing to quit. Standing firm in spite of interference or opposition. Intercede until the promises that God and his Word have given come to pass.

Matthew 11:12 "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

"Violent" - *biastes* – one who is an energetic and aggressive taker of something.

Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

"The secret to success is to start from scratch and keep on scratching."

- C. Compassion: It is suffering with someone or experiencing that person's hurt with a desire to alleviate it through some form of action. Sympathy deals with emotional caring while compassion puts action behind the caring feelings. Compassion is the "heart" of intercession.

Matthew 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another;

"When God measures a Christian, he puts the tape measure around the heart not the head."

"You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving."

- D. Patience: The ability to wait for the answers and results of prayer. It is my job to pray, it is God's job to perform the action needed.

Romans 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

1 Timothy 1:16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life

"Like farmers we must learn that we can't sow and reap the same day."

"True patience means waiting without worrying."

- E. Servanthood: A willingness to spend and be spent. A servant's heart has joy in giving even when nothing is given in return.

Philippians 2:7,8 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Colossians 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

"Service is nothing but love in work clothes."

"Where there is no interest, there is no investment."

- F. Integrity & Purity: A person of integrity and purity will be honest and single-minded in living for God. Moral motives, behaviors and a godly lifestyle will be lived in their private life just as it is in their public life. The mind, will and emotions are surrendered to a life of truth, honesty, justice and mercy.

Psalms 26:11,12 But as for me, I will walk in my integrity; Redeem me and be merciful to me. My foot stands in an even place; In the congregations I will bless the Lord.

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

"Your spirituality isn't so much measured by what you do but by who you are."

"All men are honest until they are faced with a situation tempting enough to make them dishonest."

“A man’s character and his garden both reflect the amount of weeding that was done during the growing season.”

Lesson Seven: “My house
shall be called a house of
prayer”

Women of the Word- Lesson Seven

“My house shall be called a house of prayer”

Isaiah 56: 7 “.....For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

A socializing event? An entertainment center? A musical pageantry? Talent show house? Debate & politic meeting?

Preaching center?

NO.....the purpose for the church is that it is a house of PRAYER

I. We have the choice to make the church whatever we want it to be! (Matt 21:13)

- A. Jesus expressed great anger twice when entering the temple. He drove out the money changers, overturned tables & stopped people from carrying in their merchandise. He even made a cord to whip them & drive them out with.
- B. They did belong there for they needed to collect money for temple taxes and needed to sell the oxen for the sacrifices. It was how they were doing it that Jesus didn't like. They were overcharging the people, making it a business, taking the temple for granted by carting stuff through the temple instead of going around it.
 - 1.) It became as a secular business to them
 - 2.) They had forgotten the true religious purpose of the temple in all their business and hustle

II. The question is not, “Are we having church?” “Are we leading?” It's HOW, WHY and with WHAT SPIRIT are we doing it with?

- A. When the church allows administration, talents, positions, programs, activities & local ministries to operate without an aggressive pursuit of prayer & seeking God, it will fall prey to just the maintenance, activity & business side of the ministry.
- B. The purpose of all ministries and the church services is to get people in contact with God. Helping them to find the cross and the gospel.

III. The Church needs to understand the necessity of prayer:

- A. Paul told Pastor Timothy that the first and foremost requirement of his congregation in public worship was to pray, intercede, give thanks. (I Tim 2:1) Then that they should lift up holy hands (2:8).
- B. The First church (Acts) had a natural instinct to pray for everything. They prayed when they were in trouble, challenged & persecuted. They continued steadfastly in prayer. (Acts 2:4-47)
- C. When the leadership of a church prays then prayer is much easier and quicker to ignite in the services. Saints are looking for pacesetters, models and examples in order that they may live a life of prayer and seeking God.

IV. The Church needs to know “why” prayer is so effective to the ministry:

- A. If a church doesn't learn the effectiveness of prayer then they won't desire to pray. They need to not only know how but WHY.
- B. Why is a “praying church” so effective vs. a non praying church?
 - 1.) They host his presence (Ps 145:18, Jer 29:13)
 - 2.) The service leaders & participants flow in a spiritually sensitive environment allowing the spirit of the Lord to have his way & profit the people. (Heb 4:2)
 - 3.) Those that are captive and bound will be able to find healing and deliverance. (Jm 5:16, Acts 12:5)
 - 4.) They have released, honored and elevated the prayer warriors & intercessors

Realizing they serve as enhanced tools & servants to the body, leadership and the pastor.

Lesson Eight: Set your affection on things above

Women of the Word- Lesson Eight

Set your affection on things above not on this earth!

Colossians 3:2

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

A. Godly women are measured by how much they fear the Lord and possess godly and holy character. They are not measured by what they look like or what they wear as portrayed by Hollywood.

1 Peter 3:3-4 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. *Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.*

Proverbs 31:30

B. Godly women are measured by the fact that they can find their joy in their relationship with God that is grounded in trust, confidence and contentment. They are not measured by how many material things they possess or own. The world places great emphasis upon what one owns and the materialistic success they have gained or acquired.

Hebrews 13:5-6 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”⁶ So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper;

1 Timothy 6:6-8 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.

C. Godly women are measured by their ability to be submissive, kind, gentle, modest, chaste and. They are not measured by how aggressive, independent and how much power they can possess over men or anyone else.

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Proverbs 11:16 A gracious woman retains honor

1 Peter 3:2 While they behold your chaste lifestyle coupled with fear.