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Well, welcome back. This is our Thursday night Bible study, and we're in an offshoot in the book of Ephesians from Revelation. We left Revelation to actually look at the Christian life to make sure that our understanding about what Christian life means to each one of us is reviewed in detail, so that when we go back to Revelation and start talking about what is going to happen in the end times, that you have a clear evaluation of your personal self to determine if you're going, if you, if you live to that time, are you going to be part of the rapture? Are you going to be part of the great tribulation? So hopefully you're moving along with that self-assessment on a continual basis, but we're going to go back into the book of Ephesians into, we're still going to be in chapter four.

We have this week and next week to complete the first six verses of chapter four, because we're looking at it at a very detailed level as to the meaning of the actual words that are tied to activities that we need to live by. Now remember Ephesians chapters one, two, and three are the doctrines, the pre-planning phase, the operations, the protection plans, all of that stuff of God before the foundation of the world, and in starting in chapter four, we're dealing with application. We're dealing with how do you take all of what we studied in chapters one, two, and three and put it in application into your life, and we're looking at the the way that we walk.

Now remember chapters three, four, four, five, and six talk about your walk, and your walk as we defined it in some of the last sessions, your walk is your conduct. So basically when you think about this, your conduct begins with your moral compass that is set in place by your thought process, and your thought process provides you then with your actions, and your actions become the fruits of your spirit, which is either good or bad. So you have the vehicle to know which direction you're going in by looking at your own fruits.

All right, so we've looked at this walk worthy in various ways over the last couple of weeks. We looked last time in lowliness, okay, and we said that was humbleness, that was walking in an honorable humbleness position, but it was not walking in a slavery type process. You're to be bold, we talked about that on Tuesday night.

You're to be bold, you're to have all that stuff, but you're supposed to be humbly bold, okay, and that's what this means. You're supposed to have lowliness is basically humbleness, but it doesn't take away your boldness, okay. Don't get timid with God.

He doesn't want that, he doesn't like that at all, because he tells you to come boldly to the throne. So we're going to look at this in a little different direction tonight, but we're going to be looking at your conduct as to how you walk your daily life, okay. So we're going to look at what I'm going to call about action fruit.

Action fruit. So if I were to ask you what your actions are and what are the fruit of your actions are, you should then go and look at that what you're doing, right, your conduct, and you should look at your conduct and the fruit, the outcomes, fruit is outcomes, the outcomes that your actions are producing, right. That's what you should be looking at.

So when we talk about action fruit, the first thing that comes out, that comes to my mind is the fruit of speech, because that is how you convey conversation to everybody. So if I were to say do a self-assessment on your speech and how you conduct yourself and how you talk to others, then that's what we're focusing on first. And we find that in Hebrews, Hebrew tells us to praise, right, remember prayer, go back to prayer.

You're to pray 24-7, 365, and you're commanded to pray if you're sick, and if you're not sick, you're told to praise, but you're told to completely communicate all the time with God, with Christ, all right. And you know that Christ is inside of you from the Holy Spirit due to the salvation process. We've already gone over that.

So in Hebrews, it says for us to praise. So that's the first thing. The fruit of unselfishness, which is basically giving, we find that in Philippians 4. The fruit of Romans 1, which is winning somebody to Christ, is another type of action fruit.

The fruit of Colossians, which is all the good works that you would do, and it's possible to have the action fruit without the attitude fruit, all right. The Spirit, when it begins to work on you through your sanctification, it works on your attitude first, because your attitude derives thought, and thought derives beliefs, and beliefs, you know, and beliefs and thoughts drive action. So the Spirit is going to work on you from an attitudinal position.

So the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control. That's all attitude, right. That's how you see yourself.

That's how you funnel your personality. That's all of that stuff. So that's what the Holy Spirit works on you first from, and then the action fruit without attitude fruit, that's legalism.

That goes back to Mosaic law. So the whole condition of the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament, remember, is the Holy Spirit. The church.

We're the church. That's the only difference. The law is the law is the law, same law.

The covenants are the same covenants, no difference. Everything from a doctrinal base, theology, Old Testament, New Testament are the same. The only difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament is the Holy Spirit.

And the reason why that's different is because we have got redeemed in that process through Christ shedding His blood and purchasing of us from His sins. So therefore, He provided us the Holy Spirit. We get that in Acts, and that Holy Spirit provides us with all of the fruits of the Spirit.

That's the reason why they're called fruits of the Spirit. The Spirit provides you the fruits of an attitudinal basis that controls your thought patterns, that generates then the action fruits of what you do in accordance to Scripture. Does that make sense to you? Okay, so Holy Spirit provides the attitudinal fruit which generates the action fruit.

When you circle those together, when you circle those together and they come together in your life, that's called sanctification. All right, you're giving up through the Holy Spirit, that which controls your whole personality, which is your attitude. And as you give that up, the Holy Spirit can then take charge of your actions by changing your thoughts to the Holy Spirit's thoughts.

And that's where your spiritual war exists, guys, right there. That's the fundamental crust of the spiritual war, which is the right shoulder good angel, left shoulder bad angel, and then the middle is your head. Okay, so it's all about the mind control.

So when God talks about worthy walk, it doesn't begin with actions. We tend to we tend as new Christians, we tend to want to do, to do, to do, to do, to do. Okay, we want to see something and then we fail and then we just sort of say, huh, that didn't work.

We don't even question what should I have been doing. What we question is, are we safe? That's where we go. And so we get this fear thing inside of us that doesn't allow us to move forward in this relationship with Christ.

It stammies us because we've allowed the fear ego system to take charge then of our mind and sort of give us this head trip that because it didn't work, what you did, then you're not going to be successful in this relationship. That's all of this stuff that goes on in your mind, but that's not how it works. Okay, when you get saved, your first action should be getting that relationship built up with the Holy Spirit and know that the Holy Spirit gives you fruits that are identified in Corinthians, fruits of the Holy Spirit that is your attitudinal fruits that changes everything.

Okay, that's where you got to start. So it begins with the attitude and we've just handed that to Beth and our Christian life works this way. It starts with the Holy Spirit, right? When you're saved, the first thing that comes into you automatically is the Holy Spirit.

You have to do nothing for it. No works, no quit, no ask, nothing. It's an immediate action and that immediate action requires you to start letting go of the process or you need to build the relationship with the Holy Spirit through the attitude change and then the attitude produces the action.

So don't get over your skis those of you who are just coming along with this. Don't get over your skis that whatever you're doing is not successful or you don't feel right or whatever. You're just going about it the wrong way.

You've got to deal with that relationship with the Holy Spirit to allow the Holy Spirit then to guide you into life-changing events to allow the Holy Spirit to take over. Paul is a good example of that. Yes.

He sat for three years. Yes. Learning.

Yep, yep. And you just don't start out, you don't start out even crawling in this, okay, because this is not set up to be that type of process. Remember we learned in Ephesians 3, 16 to 21 that there's an order to this.

You got to do the first thing and master that before you go to the second thing or whatever. Okay. So if you understand that that's a process to get your engine and all eight cylinders going, then you got to back up and say, how do I even get that started? And that's what we're talking about in the application.

You've got to go back and get that relationship built up in the Holy Spirit, not worrying about what you're doing physically to the outward world, worry about what you're doing inwardly so that the Holy Spirit can take charge. That's where your focus has to be. It's got to be on that inward man, okay, that relationship between you and the Holy Spirit.

So for a lot of Christians, we miss this. Okay. I can tell you for years, it didn't make sense to me at all that walking the Christian walk, really living the Christian life means not just going, don't, you don't have to go to, you don't have to worry about even going to church.

Okay. You have to worry about your relationship with the Holy Spirit or putting money. You don't, I mean, all of these things that are out there for obedience all come from the fact that your attitude is in the right spot.

Those of you struggling with obedience, those of you struggling with learning. Okay. Go back to the basics.

Go back to the relationship to the Holy Spirit and work on that attitude to allow that thought pattern that put that disbelief or fear in your head. Go back to the beginning and work on the attitude that led those thoughts to you, which led to the situation where you're questioning what's going on. Okay.

Yeah. Yeah. Terry, it doesn't mean you have to start anywhere other than where you're at.

Okay. Don't try to get over your skis by learning too much too quick. All right.

That's the other side of this. If you go back to Luke and Luke says, strive to the narrow gate, right? Didn't say accomplish that in a week. Didn't say accomplish that in a year or whatever.

It says strive to that. What Christ will do is He will work. This is like a boss and an employee or father and a child.

If your child is trying to do something successful and they're just not trying to get there, you're going to work with them longer and longer and longer until they get right. That's just how parenting works. Well, that's what Christ is doing with us.

All right. He just wants to see your actions go to Him. He wants to be in the first position, regardless of how slow or fast you move through the scriptures in learning all about this.

Okay. So the biblical issue is not what we do apart from what we are. That goes back to what Ashlund was saying.

Okay. You cannot change from where you are. Does that make sense? If your mind is at a certain position in thoughts about you, about your environment, about what's, you know, all this stuff, you can't go past that.

You're stuck right there until you figure out through the Holy Spirit what you have to do to change your attitude, to change your thoughts. All right. That's how this works.

So when you're sitting around contemplating your navel and you're trying to think about, okay, what should I be doing to move this relationship forward? You shouldn't be doing anything other than talking to the Holy Spirit about your attitude. All right. And if you have conditions, okay, if you have conditions that exist from your ego self, like fear, insecurity, or, because the Bible says, if you want knowledge, just ask and God will give it to you.

So there's not one thing he's withholding from us underneath this covenant that he has with us. All right. He's not withholding anything.

The blessing's already there. Remember, your storehouse is full. You just got to figure out how to manifest it into this earthly experience.

And the first thing you've got to do is change your attitude, right? You can't manifest something in the way that you want if your attitude is not in that direction. You're not in spirit. That's what's called in spirit.

All right. You're not living in spirit. If your attitude is somewhere and you're asking for something over here, but your attitude is over here, what you're going to get is what this attitude is.

You're not going to get what you're asking for. Okay. And we've talked about that.

You're asking outside of the spirit. Okay. I can't see everybody.

So does that make sense? All right. So walking the Christian walk, really living the Christian life means doing all of the things that the scriptures tell you to do with one caveat. It's not the external definition of Christianity that you need to be concerned about.

It's the internal manifestation of the relationship with the Holy Spirit that you have to work on to get all the outward physical things to happen. We tend to work backwards. So when we go back and look at this, so Paul simply gives us an exhortation based upon the first three chapters, calling us to walk worthy.

Then in verse two and three, we have the characteristics of the worthy walk. And if we are to walk worthy, then we need to understand what those characteristics are. How does it manifest itself? Okay.

And here we begin to pick up how it begins to do that because we're giving weight now to our inner self, our inner attitudes, that which controls our personality and our thoughts and our actions. So he closes then in verse four to six with the cause of the worthy walk. The call, the characteristics, and the cause of the worthy walk.

Okay. So we already know that we're already called, right? We learned that in Ephesians 1 verses 3 through 14. We're called, we're predestined, we're adopted, we're provided redemption.

And I want you to go back and read verse 14 again, guys. That was that was something that hit me today on this. Do you realize in verse 14 or chapter one that God is telling you before the foundation of the world that the only way we get redemption is after the purchase of the possession.

And what's the purchase of the possession? That's the crucifixion, the death and burial, the shedding of the blood. So before the foundation of the world, no one can tell you that this all wasn't planned out because it's given to you. That hit me like a two by four today as I was going through our spiritual war, because at the heart of the spiritual war is the knowledge of the fact that the war existed before even the foundation of the world.

God knew that this whole war was going to go on before he created one thing or manifested one physical creation. Okay, let's go back. I'm getting off.

So we've looked at the call to worthy walk, and we've seen the urgency for that because we picked that up again in chapter one. Therefore, in verse one, we then looked at the characteristics of the worthy walk, in verses two and three. And we talked about five inner graces that will manifest in the light.

And those five things lead us to the worthy walk. We talked about that last time when we were together. So the first one we discussed in the last sessions were lowliness.

Verse two, all lowliness. And we said that that means total humility. Does it mean insecurity? Matter of fact, it's the best strength position you can have.

Think about it. You could have all of the power. I want you to go back since the war, those of you read it, or studied it, or studying it, or whatever.

If you go back to that, and it tells you in times of weakness, be strong. And in times of strength, be weak. All right, that's humility, guys.

That's what humility means. So you're to present, okay, present yourself as Christ. All right, you're to put on Christ.

You're to live Christ. Okay, present yourself as Christ in everything you do. Now, Christ was bold.

Matter of fact, go back and reread the account of his clearing out the temple. And read in it, not only the boldness, that's what you really pick up on, but read the humility he showed. Okay? And if you can't find it, look at how he treated the people.

That's where his humility was shown. He destroyed the tables. He threw their money all over the place.

He let the animals, they did all that stuff. But what did he do to the people? Not one thing. In his boldness of clearing out the temple, they got what they needed to get with all humility for humanity.

That's what we're supposed to do. Okay, so the walk begins with total humility. And in the absence of self, the absence of selfishness, okay, you cannot have humility if you're self-centered.

If the focus is on you, there's no humility. Let me repeat that, because that's another one of those profound statements. If the focus is on you, you have no humility.

It's the bottom line on Christian living, to be honest with you. You're always to be thinking of others, right? That's scripture. And you're always to be loving others, especially your brothers and sisters in Christ.

But you can't do that if you're thinking about yourself. Now, we talked last week about all the ways that Satan tempts us to be proud, right? Remember that? And how we must resist in all of those areas, because pride leads to self-centeredness, leads to less and less humility. So let me give you one little other wisdom statement.

Hypocrisy is your reality. I'll repeat that. Hypocrisy is your reality.

You try to live on both sides of the fence, because that's what your attitude and your actions require you to do, okay? Which is total hypocrisy. So you can look at your reality and go backwards and say, if my reality is not in total obedience and therefore I'm in a hypocritical state, right? You're outside of the covenant of God. So hypocrisy is your reality.

Now, I'm not questioning what reality is in any shape, form, but what I am going to say is you cannot have or submit to the authority and power of God unless you're humble. That's an oxymoron, okay? How can you submit to something if you're not humble, all right? And humble means that you have humility. Let's just walk all of this back.

And humility says what? You're not hypocritical. And humility says you're bold, you're not timid. You can walk all of this back to get your circle back to the root.

So when we look at this whole thing and we see that with all lowliness and meekness, humility produces the meekness. Meekness, oh gosh, I've had people define meekness as a feminine trait. That's not true, all right? Meekness is humility.

Okay, humility is your personality. Meekness is your mindset, okay? Humility is what the spirit provides you as fruit. Meekness is the outcome of your mind from giving up control over you to have humility.

Does that make sense? Yeah. So I was just going to say to me what you are describing is a meek person because a meek person is a powerful person. They're wise, they know when to speak, when to be silent.

But that's what you've been describing to me is a meek person is not shy, they're not timid. No. That's what you've been describing in my mind is meekness, the meek shall inherit the earth.

Yeah, you get into a confrontation. Let's just put in, let's try to put in real life experience. You get into a confrontation and it doesn't have to be a street fight.

It could be just a disagreement, okay? And if you're not listening, you'll never know what the problem is. And listening in a situation where there is argumentative conversation requires you to be meek, requires you to give yourself up for purposes of trying to understand what the other person is saying. Yeah, Rothy, you're controlled.

It's a control strength, okay? It is, yeah. Yeah. You operate with the mindset that you're not going to fly off the handle.

You're not going to engage until you have all of the information. You're not going to engage until you have all of the facts. You're not going to engage in an angrily position.

You're not going to engage with a wrong tone. It is your mindset, okay, that gives you that power. Yes.

You get it? Yeah. So attitude creates meekness. Meekness is your thoughts of how you move to create the action, all right? Now, in both of those cases, the other fruit of the spirit is long-suffering that it talks about.

Well, where there's long-suffering, there will be forbearing one another in love, okay? So, all right, so think about this. I'm going to try to put all this tonight in just matter-of-fact phrases so you can get your arms around this. You can't love somebody unless you have long-suffering, okay? Now, I'm not talking about this, okay, physical likeness or whatever.

I'm saying you cannot love somebody unless you have long-suffering, but there's a first time they do something to offend you. You have to almost let it go to get to the root to determine how you're going to forgive whatever forgiveness is required, and you got to get through that period of time, all right? Now, let's take this into the home. Let's say we have a husband and a wife.

They start out in a casual conversation, and it is escalating. Have you ever had that? It just escalates. It escalates.

The voice gets higher and higher and higher, and it gets more intense, intense, intense. Somebody better have some long-suffering in there and let this thing shut down so that you guys can get back to the root of the original conversation, because somewhere it got off kilter, okay? That's long-suffering, all right? You don't allow things to get in your gut. You don't allow them to get in your grill, okay, type stuff.

That's long-suffering, and where these occur, you keep the unity of the spirit. Remember, you're living in a spiritual person in a physical realm, and when you take it to the physical realm of a fruit, the outcome is not going to be good in the spiritual realm. Therefore, the outcome in the physical realm that you're going to manifest is not going to be good.

Yeah, enduring your temper patiently. Yeah, that's another way of putting it. What I'm trying to say in all of this, everything we've talked about begins with the attitude.

You can have the best attitude and walk into to the worst conversation, and your attitude goes from zero to 60 in less than six seconds. Well, that's long-suffering, guys, and you can't have a mindset of meekness if you allowed your attitude to go from zero to ballistic in six seconds. I mean, you just can't do it.

So, you have to start governing yourself from the spiritual side. That's what we're leading up to, okay. You have to govern yourself from the spiritual side, and how do you do that? That's in the relationship to the Holy Spirit.

That is in your conversation with the Holy Spirit. That is in your reading of the scriptures and understanding what the fruits are that the Holy Spirit is giving you, and how you should operate within those fruits. So, we call all of this, basically, in the movement of this, because meekness is what you're after as far as your actions go.

If we walk worthy as an exalted son of Christ the King, if we're going to walk worthy as children of God, as heirs to his kingdom, as inheritors to all of the spiritual blessings that we're told in Ephesians 1-3, we're told to do that in meekness. And you can't get there if the attitude's not straight, loneliness, humble, and you can't do it unless you have long-suffering, because your mindset is the meekness that's going to drive your actions. The dictionary doesn't do justice to this, because the dictionary defines it as a deficiency of courage, which is total opposite than what its true meaning is from the scripture.

So, let's apply the law of duality. Let's have another educational point here. The spirit side says that meekness is strength and power.

The physical side, it's a deficiency in courage. So, look at how the world and the spiritual side have just defined the law of duality. In everything you're going to have this law of duality.

And it even goes on in the dictionary to say it's a deficiency of the spirit. And if it's a deficiency of the spirit, how can the Bible say that the spirit is what produces it? Okay. So, this goes back to education.

In the education process, we need to focus on the spiritual side and not the physical side, because we have truth in the spiritual side and not truth in the physical side. And that's just evident looking at the dictionary defining of words. So, what does that tell you? When you study the Bible and you're looking at words, you better get a biblical dictionary, not a man's dictionary, because it'll give you the wrong definition when you look for the definition of the word.

So, meekness refers to basically something that is mild and gentle. It means to be gentle-hearted. It means to be opposite of vengeful, not one who seeks revenge or retaliation or vindication or any of that stuff.

All right. And we need to, again, when we're doing self-assessment, you need to look at all of what you do and compare to what the Scripture says to determine where you're at. You might need to work on that.

So, when you look at all of this, then you take it back to the characteristics of what's called a natural man. Now, the Scripture talks about natural and unnatural. I bring this up because of only Scripture and words.

All right. Natural man in Scripture is defined by your spiritual nature, and unnatural is your physical nature. So, when you look at Scripture and you're looking at words, and it talks about a specific trait or fruit or an action or a condition of something in the past that is an example for us in the future, and it's talking about the natural man, then you know that it's talking about the spirit son.

Unnatural, it's talking about your real self. So, in all of this stuff, these characteristics are all characteristics of Jesus Christ. And it goes back to 2 Corinthians 10.1, where Paul spoke of the meekness of Christ.

And in Matthew 11.29, Jesus said, I am meek and lowly in heart. He's telling you, okay, this is how I operate. And if you're supposed to put on Christ, then you need to operate as he operates.

He came riding on a colt, the foal of an ass, not a giant white steed with a fanfare, but meekly, quietly riding on a colt, an ass, the dumbest beast of burden. Okay, he came humble, but with all power. With all power.

In Timothy, in 1 Timothy, we find a wonderful insight. Be thou a man of God, if you're to be a real man of God. Okay, guys, listen to this.

And here again, it's almost like the worthy walk. If you're really to live the life, it says, follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. Because that's the action side.

Okay? The Holy Spirit is the attitude side. So you're going to see the action side as a result of the spiritual side, because the attitude drives the thoughts, which drives the mindset, which drives your actions. But I think it's important to add meekness doesn't mean you're a coward.

Okay? For heaven's sakes, I'm not asking you to put yourself in a backseat in every situation. That's just not what you're supposed to do. Yes, Sam, great quote.

So a meek person is anything but coward. A meek person will fight at the drop of a hat over the right cause. Somebody's attacking your family, I wouldn't wait for anything.

There's no reason to be meek. You're to be a terror, because your duty is to protect your family. So this is not an all-in-all condition of life.

It is an all-condition of how you operate, unless you need to operate differently. I hope you get that, because you should not go to the backseat on this at all. This should give you boldness and power, because you can defuse anything by being meek, except when you need to be bold.

So the word is also used in James chapter 3 verse 13. Who is a wise man and endure with knowledge among you? In other words, who's really wise? Is it the man that's got all the degrees? Is it the man that studies all the books? Is it the man that is just street smart? No. A wise man, this is what the scriptures is.

A wise man is a man with real knowledge. Where do you get real knowledge? Only from scripture. So right there it tells you a wise man is someone who studies the scripture.

Let him show it out of a good life, his words with meekness. You've got knowledge and wisdom. You get revelation from reading, and God reveals himself.

It all turns into the Holy Spirit's attitude, actions against your attitudes, and then you are meek. He's the wise one, the one who is meek. The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, meek, easy to be treated.

So what it says is, basically, if you allow the Holy Spirit to do its job, and you give right away to the Holy Spirit taking over your mind, not just changing your attitude, but taking over your mind, the end result is you're going to be meek just from the process. You don't have to work on it. You just do what you were told to do.

Just be sanctified, and you got it. So meekness is a virtue that is talked about over and over and over and over and in the New Testament. It is not the absence of anger, because he says in one time, meekness, and turns around the next phrase and says, fight the good fight of faith.

Meekness fights, but watch this. Meekness, we could say, is power under control. Sam, you put it out.

Great. It's basically what you put out. When you have humility, humility is self-emptying.

Humility divests yourself of issues. So if you have the fruit of the Spirit called humility, and that is the baseline of your attitude, you're going to obtain meekness, and in that meekness, it frees yourself. You're no longer a slavery to your mind.

That's what we're getting. You are no longer a slave to your mind. You have finally reached the ego self-eliminator humility.

Now, one should not be interested in their own successes, okay, or fame, or any gain, or reputation, because if you divest yourself inside of humility, none of that matters. Meekness is a byproduct then. It's a byproduct of a broken will, of brokenness before God.

So what has happened here? What does this say? The fruit of the Spirit called humility, if you give over to that, will divest yourself of all of your ego positions of life that pulls you back into this world. And because of that, you live a meek life. It creates it for you.

So what do you need to work on? You don't need to work on being meek. You need to work on being humility. That's what you got to work on.

This process is not about deconstructing who you are, okay? This process is about taming the lion inside of you, okay? You should not lose who you are, but you should gain what you become. You get that? Don't lose who you are, because you're not losing anything. You're gaining what you're becoming, and what you're becoming is going to overlay that who you are, and together that creates the connection with the Holy Spirit to drive the humility home in your life.

So the lion's got all of its strength. You've lost nothing in this. All of your lioness, lionel power is still there.

This is all, we're all talking about energy, guys. That's all we're talking about. The energy is inside of you.

You've not lost that connection, but there's now a master in control, not you, and that's quite a different thing to visualize, to understand that at your core you've not lost any of your energy power. You've not lost any of your creative power. Matter of fact, put whatever adjective behind the word power, you've not lost any of that, but what you gained is the master control.

You got the same lion with the same veracity, the same energy, the same will, the same power, the same strength, but you always are under control of the master to create the humility to allow you to live through meekness, which is the requirement by scripture to be like Christ. Got it? All right, a couple more points. So when your power is under control, okay, let me rephrase this.

The only time your powerful power is useful is when it's under control, and there is within the heart of the believer a lion, and that lion has a right to roar, and that lion has every right to react, and that lion has every right to pounce and have its own discretion, but only under the direction of the one who rules its will. Okay, what is it saying? You've turned your master key over to God, to Christ. You're living Christ now.

You've put on Christ. All right, you're doing exactly what the scripture told you to do, and he wasn't cowardly, but Jesus was me. So you have the ability to allow the Holy Spirit to build your attitude with all of the fruits of the spirit, getting you to that meekness point that the scripture commands us to be, but maintain all of the energy power that exists in Christ for the time that you need to use it, but when you use it, you don't throw the switch on.

Christ does. That's a complete life of a sanctified person right there. When you do that, in the situation of being angry, it's not you that is angry.

It's Christ through you. So you shifted all of the earthly components that drive you towards sin to the master key holder that will use those to drive sin away. You see how this operates, the opposites of this, you know? And that's why it's important to allow the relationship of the Holy Spirit to develop and to allow that key, that switch to start your engine to be held by Christ and not you.

That's the only way you're going to run on eight cylinders. The Bible doesn't tell you that you can't be angry. The Bible tells you you have to be angry for the right reasons.

And who's best to know the right reasons? Not you. Christ is. So if you give that key to him and you allow the Holy Spirit to continue to migrate your attitude, what are you doing? You're working towards sanctification, which is exactly what the scripture tells you.

This is so all interrelated. All these scriptures is like a puzzle that's interrelated everywhere you go. But it all comes down, and that's what I want to say, when you get your arms around the scripture in the right way, it's simple.

It's very simple. So you being out of control creates a vulnerability, which is the door, which falls into every pit, every temptation. It creates the sin that you're after.

Okay, so let's back up at this and do a recircle on this. If you allow the Holy Spirit to provide the humility, attitude change. Now humility goes with long suffering and all this stuff, but it's rooted in the word humility.

If you allow the Holy Spirit to provide the fruit of the Spirit called humility into your life, you have basically shut the door to sin. As long as you allow the master keyholder to drive the start, that's another way of looking at it. You can shift all of your vulnerability, all of your sinful nature, all of the doors that you open by just handing over the key.

Now that's anger under control or out of control, depending upon how you want to look at it from what perspective. Power is in control or out of control. Now if you go to Proverbs to the 16th chapter in the 32nd verse, it says, he who rules his spirit, that is the inner man inside of you, he who rules his spirit is better than he that takes a city.

So Proverbs 16 is a person who rules his spirit. In other words, the spirit is there, the power is there, the line is there, the energy is there, the potential is there, but it's under control by the master keyholder. Now you can take the same, on the other hand, let's take the law of duality.

So I take the same thing on the other hand. The same power, the same energy, the same strength, it's out of control. Creates nothing but chaos and sinfulness.

It opens up your vulnerability to every sinful nature that's out in the world. So at the basis of this, goes back, is your relationship with the Holy Spirit. We're coming full circle on all of this stuff.

All right, I'm trying to pound home the understanding that in all of this application, starting in chapter four, it's based upon your walk, your conduct with the Holy Spirit. And if you're not focused there, you're focused on the wrong thing. Who's the first person you should go to to ask before you do anything? The Holy Spirit.

Where should your thoughts be before your thoughts are? It's the Holy Spirit. Everything goes back to that relationship to the Holy Spirit. So you can, okay, so now let's put this in terms of Christianity, because we're doing this application process.

If in your application of yourself, your review of yourself, you have all of these open issues out there, you might want to think differently than how do you undo what you've done and look at the relationship that can take it all away with the Holy Spirit. Don't struggle with it. Give it up.

Now, what does that put us? That says at the center of Christianity, which is exactly what Scripture tells us, at the center of Christianity called your redemption, which is Christ, Christ that he paid for us, which gives us the salvation, the salvation gives us his Spirit inside of us automatically with nothing that we have to do with that. We have to then understand that at the center of all application in chapters 4, 5, and 6 deals with the fact that you're in conversation and obedience to the Holy Spirit. And if you're not there, if you're not there, according to John, you better re-examine your spiritual walk, because why? I tell you this, guys, this full circle, around, around, around, around, because why? You now have the knowledge of what it takes to be an obedient follower of Christ, and if you don't do it, you're going to be held to a higher standard in accountability, okay? So in your self-evaluation, all of these little pieces need to go into that.

All right, I think we've covered this part of it sufficient enough that we'll talk about it. If you guys got some questions, you guys had a lot of good comments in the chat. Yeah, you guys are spot on with where you're coming from.

So anybody want to talk about this? I would just say that's our aspiration as a child of God. That's what we should aspire to. Strive to be like Christ, like Luke says.

Yes, and me. Rafi? That was so good and so deep. I'm just going to say something that probably everyone knows by now, but I thought I'd just say it anyways, and that is, because this is what I'm going to do.

As soon as you stopped, I thought, you know, and I try to share this with people all the time, with guys, that I don't, and this goes with humility, that whole, I want to make sure that I don't ever think I know. I'm going to take this, and in my time, to ask, Lord, where do I stand? Where am I at with this? And so I'm going to take some of the things that I know. It was great reminder.

It was encouraging, but I still don't ever think that I'm ripe, and I've arrived. So I want to go and ask, where do I stand with this, if there is any place for Him to show me? So I just wanted to add that. No, but that's exactly what Paul did when he said, I got to die daily.

That's the same process. We have to do that. We have to ask God every day that, am I on track with you? Yes.

What do you want me to do today? You know, where's my mind at today? You know, are you working with my attitude? I mean, ask Him what He's working with you on, okay? Be bold and ask Him. He's going to tell you. He's not going to, you know, hide it in the closet from you.

No. He's going to be transparent. So yeah, I mean, you're right on.

Every day, we have to do that. Every single day. Yeah, Suzanne.

Yeah, I just wanted to say, as often happens, this discussion and teaching is right in par with things that happened earlier in today. And just briefly, I was driving when I got a response from somebody that really kind of kind of shocked me in a way, because they sent me a text message. And listening to the words, I probably wouldn't have read the message, but because I was listening to the words in the car, I heard it in a very centered way.

And when you said, you know, to listen to what is really the situation. And I didn't react, but I did have an opportunity to say something in a different way than I have before to this person. And I won't go into all the details, but I think I left it in a good way with few words.

But the opportunity came because they were so triggered by seeing someone's face. And the language that came was so, I don't know, you know, this person thinks they're very loving and kind, and the language was very angry and just, I don't know, just way off. It really shocked me.

I mean, I'm like, what? This makes no sense to me, but I listened. And so it's really a good exercise. And I have some more things now that you gave us that I can apply here.

So it was just very timely for me. Thank you. Jim, this is something which actually happened at the wedding two weekends ago.

And my eldest nephew is divorced and his ex-partner gives him grief all the time, all the time. And I started to speak to Tom, and I found the aggression that came across from me was it really wasn't me. And I had to stop myself.

And I started to say to Tom how he should get retribution against his ex-wife. And all of a sudden, this thought, all I can think of is it was God speaking to me, and he said, you need to stop. Vengeance is mine, not yours.

And there is always a chance that she will come around, and I need to give her the chance. Not me. God needs to have the chance to be able to save another soul.

And it's not up to me, and it's not up to Tom to be angry or aggressive towards her. And I'm interested in what's going on there. Maybe you can talk to me about it.

But I felt as though I really stopped myself and heard that my anger was getting the better of me. I won't not try to get into details of this, but I will give you stuff on the outside that we've already talked about, about things that we should be doing, and go back to Tuesday night. When we talked about wives that have husbands, Yvette brought it up.

We had a long conversation, and I used Billy Reese's example, and she chatted in. But the only thing that the Scripture tells us to do is, if your heart is in the Lord, that's the key. If your heart is in the Lord, means that you're a Christian, you need to follow Scripture.

Now, what does Scripture say to do? Pray for them. Love them. Don't chastise them.

Give them mercy and grace, just like Christ gave you mercy and grace. That doesn't mean it's not going to be a reconciliation, but that means there's going to be forgiveness. At the center of what you just told me, I don't think that either you nor your nephew have ever done that, forgiven her for whatever she did.

No. Because of that, you have... that is a sinful nature that's going to cause the anger build up that's going to cause exactly what you ended up happening at the wedding. Because you didn't come from... David, I'll tell you, I'm just teaching.

You didn't come from a forgiveness of heart. You came from an anger position of unforgiveness. And I needed to hear that from you because, yeah, I'm still... So does your nephew.

Your nephew needs to find a way in his heart to forgive her, whatever that might be, and to pray for her. If he wants the marriage to be a holy, sovereign marriage, and he doesn't do anything stupid during this time to open up other avenues of spiritual influence, if he truly seeks that as an outcome of his position, then he needs to do what the Bible tells him to do. He needs to forgive her.

He needs to pray for her. He needs to love her. He needs to give her grace and mercy and not beat her up because that's not what grace and mercy does.

And your nephew needs to do one more thing if you're going to talk to him about it. He needs to forgive himself. Do you know I actually said that to him? Because in all cases, he's responsible.

As the leader of the family. As the leader of the family. So the biggest issue he has is forgiveness of himself.

Thank you. Thank you, Jim. You're welcome.

Yeah. Anything else, guys? Jennifer? What I notice, and I mean, I'm just, you know, as we're going through all this, the structure of the home is, I mean, so important. And I just see so many young couples failing.

You know, I mean, I failed myself years ago, but now, but I'm just seeing more and more people that the husband doesn't know where he's supposed to be. I mean, I don't know how to, you know, express that. Well, that's the reason why, well, that's where the church has failed.

And, you know, I want to give a shout out to Bill and his wife in Houston, because they have a couple's ministry that basically teaches the man and the woman their roles. And they've got a, from what I can tell, they've got a great ministry going. And that's what everybody, I mean, that's what we should be doing.

We should be focusing on those life-centered things that would cause a great fruit to be born in communities, and it needs to start in the home. Yeah, I agree. I mean, it's just, but wow.

I mean, the ministry in our area just does not do that. You know, and to be honest, I wrote the man's ministry, but after I read it, it's for couples. So I need to go back and I need to deal with just, so the whole thing about this is the home is the center.

It is the most important thing in the world to success in anything, in anything. And definitely. And I'm, you know, God's laid a whole lot of stuff on my heart to get done.

And the home ministry is one of those things that I think would be a tremendous success in doing. And working on it, I want to be talking to Bill and his wife here about how their ministry is going and stuff and see if we can piggyback off of what they've already got established or whatnot. But I see that as a big thing for us.

Yeah. I just see it so much now. I mean, once we've gone through that, it's unbelievable to watch.

It goes back to how women minister as well. I mean, women have a ministry in this. They're not to sit back on the laurels or whatnot, but it's very difficult for a single woman to go minister to a couple.

Oh yeah. Okay. They just slap at you.

Yeah. And so we got to figure a way around to do this. Let's just leave it there.

We got to figure a way to do that. That is something that's got to get done. It's the crust of everything.

I'm hitting it from the man because I can't even get in the home if the man's not right. Doesn't matter what I say, the barrier's there. And until I can separate, see, that's the thing with men's ministry.

I go back to said this on Tuesday night, you can't fix something that needs to be fixed in the environment by which it was created. Just doesn't work. Okay.

So if you got a broken home, you can't go in and fix that in that broken home. You got to bring them out. You got to bring them out into a safe environment that you can show them their brokenness.

If you go into the home and show them their brokenness, it stays in the home and it just grows the problem. It doesn't work. So all kinds of things are going on in my discussions with God.

I'm asking a whole lot of people to give me information. Rafi sent me information. I'm going to talk to Bill and his wife.

I mean, on and on and on. I'm talking to another pastor in the morning at 10 o'clock. I'm trying to get somewhat of a mental clarity.

I guess that's it. I think I'm into the forest. I can't see the trees right now.

That's where I think I'm at. But then it might be just me. Okay.

I just need to have some mental clarity to get me to unattach things, to get things unattached, so that basically you can look at it from all perspectives. Right now, everything is sort of like glue. Billy Ruth.

I was just going to say, a wife can have a lot to do with that also, because a man cannot assume his rightful role in the home if it's already occupied. By the woman. Agreed.

Even though the man may not have the knowledge yet, and the wife does, the wife has a big part to play in that also. That's all I'm saying. I think you kind of mentioned that a while ago.

Yeah. You see, couples ministry is difficult sometimes. And I'm just being honest with you guys.

All right. I'm being just straight out honest and transparent with you is what's going on in my head. Couples ministries can be really tough.

And in some ways, you need to separate the couple into a women's group, and a man in a men's group, and then bring them together as well. Because the guy is not going to tell anything if the wife has the pants. It's not going to do it in a couple setting.

But you'll know always, because the woman will take that lead. That's the condition that you'll know right up front. But then you got to figure out how do you create the environment that can heal them individually, and then bring them together and heal them as a couple.

But Jim, didn't you say that if you're equally yoked, you know, from the beginning, that most of the time in the end, it really is the man that makes the final decision. Yeah. But the problem about it is you're not equally yoked.

I can almost say this. Statistically, statistically, because of the way that the divorce rate is in the church, I would bet that less than 15 to 20% of the marriages that are happening today ever go through any marriage counseling to determine whether or not they're equally yoked. I agree.

I agree. Yeah. And therefore, you can't take that as a basis.

It's much easier to counsel somebody that's already gone through that type of training prior to marriage, because you have something to fall back on. Yeah. If you don't have that training, and you have the situation where you need that training, it's very difficult to do that in a couple setting, because they're already married.

It's not helping them. So, I would, you know, if I were, I think, early on, Tux can ask me, would I do counseling or something on some marriage, if he ever wanted to get married, way back when. I don't forget anything you guys ask, guys, so just remember that.

So, and I said, yeah, but I said, you might not like it, because I will be very, very tough to the point where I get down into the financial history of both players, because, you know, the Bible says that if the woman has credit issues, the man assumes that right off the bat, and it's his responsibility. And the question is, does the man want to do that? You know, and if the woman hasn't disclosed that to her potential husband, then that's typically the nightmare of the marriage. Okay.

It's what did you talk about? And what didn't you talk about? That's really the nightmare of the marriage. It's not, oh, you know what, I didn't know all of this stuff about her. Well, you're not going to know everything about, I could tell stories about that with my friends.

It's really weird, you know, you got one toilet and one shower and one bathtub, and you try to get ready both at the same time. It's like the nightmare, the funniness of the conversation that goes on with all kinds of, it's just weird. Okay, you can marry somebody, and you think you know all of their habits, but their habits are different.

But if you don't know their roots, then there's issues. And those most likely are unsolvable together. They both got to have a brokenness mindset to be able to solve that in a couple setting.

And I know Bill's on here, he could probably chime in and tell me whether I'm right or wrong and what they're seeing, but I can only relate to what I've been involved with. But it's very, very difficult to have a couple turn their lives around when they didn't go through the training up front. And I don't care how old you are, okay, it makes no difference.

Mindsets are mindsets, you know, older couples get married and unmarried as often as young couples do now. It's unbelievable, statistics are the same, it doesn't matter what age group you're at. Okay, one guy was married only for three hours, because he didn't want, just, you know, I've heard all kinds of stories.

So anyway, I'm just being real with you guys, because that's what's going on in my head the last couple of days. I'm trying to sort out some things about, you know, you got to write, you got to write stuff up, you got to do all this stuff and got to make sure it's sound and I'm not there yet. Rafi, you had your hand up, what are we going to say? I think I was going to, again, agree with you when you were talking about why the men first and then kind of spread out from there.

Because my experience in the last 17 years, when we started the influencers and the journey, all the material, the books and all that, obviously, we went after the men, right? Well, the founder did, and that's what we all did. And so we captured the man, right? And then you capture the family, right? So we did that. Now, over the last six, seven years or so, eight years, maybe longer, but we are doing it, the couples, and we have the wives as well.

Like, in fact, this new church that we just opened up with, because that's what we try to go alongside with the church, but we did that with this one church and this finally this year, the pastor after all these years, right? Like all of them, they're like, no, no, no. But they finally opened up, they're like, okay, great, because they're always afraid of us stealing people from them, I don't know, whatever, territorial. But we took it over.

We started our men's journey group this last year. And the women are just dominating it right now. There are just so many.

But my point is, we started with the men. Because when I was involved in some couples ones, just to be on the flying wall and seeing it, yeah, the men were just like the women, they're broken on the inside, but they're not going to open up the same way. And so we had a lot of times that didn't work out.

So we got the guys to kind of do their men's thing and the women be able to do theirs. And God just continued to work on them separately. And now, this year with the men, we're seeing tremendous impact where now their wives are literally the other room doing the women's one journey groups, and then the men are doing theirs.

And I always ask them, how's it going at home? They go, it's on fire. She's like lighting it up. She's journaling now.

She's getting in the word. I say, how's the marriage? Man, incredible. But we did the men for so many years, first and foremost.

And so now it's taken off in the other areas as well. If you read any of the material, if you decided to get any of them, Rocky wrote a book called Orphan No More. It's a small book, easy read.

But I thought about you because we just finished that yesterday. And there's so many nuggets in there that I think you could pick up some huge, huge things. It's a small book, like I read one page kind of chapters.

There's only 10 chapters. So you'll finish it in an hour, but it's easy. It's called Orphan No More.

So just wanted to tell you that. Well, I'm always looking for a good read. Guys, anything else? It's been fun talking to you guys.

So again, Rafi, what's up? Sorry, I thought it was hot up and I lowered it, but yeah, sorry. Can you get that book on Amazon or I mean, where do you get it? Yeah, you can get it on. Let's see, is it on Amazon? It may be on Amazon.

I haven't checked, honestly. But if you go on to influencers.org, materials there, you could buy, I think, individual books, you could buy the different ones. But yeah, you could.

That was one of the books I had with me that I forgot to give you, Jim, sorry. So anything you need, I could just send them to you. So if you don't get them, just let me know.

Okay. All right, guys, anything else? Sure. I just want to say it was a great lesson.

I mean, trying to get it back to the basics. You guys got me to have all application activities associated that you can get. So I'm trying to do that.

I got a lot out of it today, Jim. All right, let's pray. Father, thank you for the time together.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to explore your word once again, and understand the actual underlying truths associated with life, life with you, life with the Holy Spirit, and how that feeds into the life eternal that we're living in the kingdom of heaven on earth as we live in this physical realm, and how it all leads to our glorified body and our full inheritance in heaven. Father, we want to thank you for opening our eyes and our hearts to the truth, to the word, to the revelation that you provide. We always ask for your guidance and revelation on application.

Each one of us have different needs and different conditions that we have to be met from your scripture, and the only one that can be the centerpiece to fully understanding that is you, and we appreciate the fact that you give your time and effort to do that. So, Father, be with us through the remainder of the week. May you continue to provide us peace and joy in a life, and know that all the chaos in this world is controlled by you, and that the outcome will be the outcome that only you see, which is for the total benefit of us.

We want to thank you for that as well. So, as we go, let us go in peace, let us go in love. Give us grace and mercy to offer each one.

Let us be humble. Let us have humility for one another. We ask all these things in your name.