

LESSON 26 GRACE THAT TRANSFORMS: LIVING & COUNSELING IN THE SPIRIT

KEY PRINCIPLE: BIBLICAL COUNSELING IS NOT ABOUT FIXING BAD HABITS OR “SELF-HELP” BEHAVIOR TWEAKS. IT’S ABOUT SPIRIT-LED TRANSFORMATION.

“THE GOSPEL IS NOT JUST THE ABCs OF CHRISTIANITY BUT THE A TO Z. IT IS NOT ONLY THE WAY WE BEGIN IN CHRIST; IT IS THE WAY WE GROW IN CHRIST.” - PAUL TRIPP

GALATIANS 3:3

ARE YOU SO FOOLISH? HAVING BEGUN IN THE SPIRIT, ARE YOU NOW BEING MADE PERFECT BY THE FLESH?

THE STRUGGLE WITH SIN — ROMANS 7

ROMANS 7:18–19 FOR I KNOW THAT IN ME (THAT IS, IN MY FLESH) NOTHING GOOD DWELLS; FOR TO WILL IS PRESENT WITH ME, BUT HOW TO PERFORM WHAT IS GOOD I DO NOT FIND. FOR THE GOOD THAT I WILL TO DO, I DO NOT DO; BUT THE EVIL I WILL NOT TO DO, THAT I PRACTICE.

ROMANS 7:24–25 O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM! WHO WILL DELIVER ME FROM THIS BODY OF DEATH? I THANK GOD—THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD!

“THE OLD NATURE DOES NOT IMPROVE; IT MUST BE CRUCIFIED. GRACE DOES NOT REFORM THE OLD MAN, BUT IT CREATES THE NEW MAN.” - SPURGEON

DON'T HAND OUT WILLPOWER STRATEGIES (“TRY HARDER, DO BETTER”). THAT JUST CREATES EXHAUSTED PHARISEES!

THE VICTORY OF THE SPIRIT — ROMANS 8

ROMANS 8:1–2 THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO DO NOT WALK ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, BUT ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT. FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS HAS MADE ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.

ROMANS 8:5–6 FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH SET THEIR MINDS ON THE THINGS OF THE FLESH, BUT THOSE WHO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT, THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT. FOR TO BE CARNALLY MINDED IS DEATH, BUT TO BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED IS LIFE AND PEACE.

ROMANS 8:11 BUT IF THE SPIRIT OF HIM WHO RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD DWELLS IN YOU, HE WHO RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD WILL ALSO GIVE LIFE TO YOUR MORTAL BODIES THROUGH HIS SPIRIT WHO DWELLS IN YOU.

NOTICE: NO CONDEMNATION + NO DOMINATION. THE SPIRIT BREAKS BOTH THE PENALTY AND THE POWER OF SIN.

“THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE IS NOT A SPECIAL, DELUXE EDITION OF CHRISTIANITY. IT IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE TOTAL PLAN OF GOD FOR HIS PEOPLE.” - TOZER

COUNSELING IS NOT ABOUT SELF-IMPROVEMENT; IT’S ABOUT SPIRIT-DEPENDENCE.

JOHN 15:5

“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.”

HOPE IN TRIALS — ROMANS 8:18–28

ROMANS 8:18 FOR I CONSIDER THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME ARE NOT WORTHY TO BE COMPARED WITH THE GLORY WHICH SHALL BE REVEALED IN US.

ROMANS 8:26 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.

ROMANS 8:28 AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, TO THOSE WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

SUFFERING IS NOT WASTED; IT'S WOVEN. GOD WEAVES GLORY THROUGH PAIN.

"GOD WILL TAKE YOU WHERE YOU DID NOT INTEND TO GO IN ORDER TO PRODUCE IN YOU WHAT YOU COULD NOT ACHIEVE ON YOUR OWN." – PAUL TRIPP

**TRIALS DON'T MEAN ABANDONMENT; THEY MEAN REFINEMENT!
YOUR STORY ISN'T DONE!**

**EXAMPLE: JOSEPH DIDN'T SEE THE END OF THE STORY IN THE PIT OR PRISON — BUT GOD WAS AT WORK.
GENESIS 50:20 BUT AS FOR YOU, YOU MEANT EVIL AGAINST ME; BUT GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD, IN ORDER TO BRING IT ABOUT AS IT IS THIS DAY, TO SAVE MANY PEOPLE ALIVE.**

A TRANSFORMED MIND — ROMANS 12:1–2

ROMANS 12:1–2 I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YOU PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE. AND DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD.

"A BIBLE THAT'S FALLING APART USUALLY BELONGS TO SOMEONE WHO ISN'T." - SPURGEON

PRACTICAL TOOLS: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION, JOURNALING LIES VS. TRUTH, PRAYING SCRIPTURE.

EPHESIANS 4:22–24 THAT YOU PUT OFF, CONCERNING YOUR FORMER CONDUCT, THE OLD MAN WHICH GROWS CORRUPT ACCORDING TO THE DECEITFUL LUSTS, AND BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND, AND THAT YOU PUT ON THE NEW MAN WHICH WAS CREATED ACCORDING TO GOD, IN TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS.

LIVING LOVE IN COMMUNITY — ROMANS 12:9–21

ROMANS 12:9–10 LET LOVE BE WITHOUT HYPOCRISY. ABHOR WHAT IS EVIL. CLING TO WHAT IS GOOD. BE KINDLY AFFECTIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER WITH BROTHERLY LOVE, IN HONOR GIVING PREFERENCE TO ONE ANOTHER.

ROMANS 12:18 IF IT IS POSSIBLE, AS MUCH AS DEPENDS ON YOU, LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN.

BONHOEFFER: “HE WHO LOVES HIS DREAM OF COMMUNITY MORE THAN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ITSELF BECOMES A DESTROYER OF THE LATTER.”

CASE STUDY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

WHAT THEOLOGICAL MISTAKE WAS PHIN MAKING IN HOW HE VIEWED HIS STRUGGLE?

HOW DID THE COUNSELOR USE ROMANS 7 AND 8 TO BRING HOPE?

WHAT ROLE DOES COMMUNITY PLAY IN ONGOING CHANGE?

IF YOU WERE THE COUNSELOR, WHAT NEXT STEPS OR SCRIPTURES MIGHT YOU ADD?

CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

BIBLICAL COUNSELING = DISCIPLESHIP.

THE SPIRIT LEADS US FROM:

STRUGGLE (ROMANS 7) →

VICTORY (ROMANS 8) →

HOPE (ROMANS 8:28) →

TRANSFORMATION (ROMANS 12:1–2) →

LOVE (ROMANS 12:9–21).

GALATIANS 5:16 “I SAY THEN: WALK IN THE SPIRIT, AND YOU SHALL NOT FULFILL THE LUST OF THE FLESH.”

TOZER: “THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE IS NOT A SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR THE ELITE FEW; IT IS GOD’S DESIGN FOR EVERY ONE OF HIS CHILDREN.”

LUTHER: “THE SIN UNDERNEATH ALL OUR SINS IS THE LIE WE TELL OURSELVES THAT WE CANNOT TRUST THE LOVE AND GRACE OF JESUS AND THAT WE MUST TAKE MATTERS INTO OUR OWN HANDS.”