

Lesson 12: **It's Not About Us**

- I. Back to the beginning:
 - A. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Misconceptions about God the Father have prevented us from turning to Him for the love and comfort we desperately need.
 - B. Believing that God the Father is angry with us will cause us to keep our emotional distance from Him, rather than enjoying an intimate relationship with Him. We will live self-reliant lives, rather than God-dependent lives.
 - C. Romans 4:23-25 Believing that the Father cannot be pleased with us because of our sin and failures reveals that we have not embraced the truth that we have been placed “into” Christ, and credited with His righteousness.

As believers, all of God's anger over our sins has been poured out on Christ at the cross and we are free to enjoy our relationship with God the Father. Romans 5:9-11

- II. Believers Are Receivers.
 - A. 2 Peter 1:3-9 Christ's work is finished. We receive everything by faith, which comes through our knowledge of HIM.
 - B. Ephesians 2:10 Even the good works we are to do have already been prepared. We are to receive them and allow the Holy Spirit to accomplish them through us. They are not done through human effort, therefore the pressure is not on us to “perform,” but simply to “trust and obey.”

We can and must move from a performance-based to a love-based relationship with God the Father. Our obedience flows out of the love relationship.

- C. Scripture tells us we are to “see” what God is doing.
 - 1. “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Prov. 29:18).

Scofield Notes: “The Hebrew word rendered ‘vision’ is not the ordinary word for something seen. Rather, it indicates a revelation from God.”¹

- 2. John 5:19 “Seeing” (revelation) comes from intimacy with God. Even Jesus said that He could only do what He saw the Father doing.

- D. Do you recall the definition of “the anointing”? John Wesley has called it “capacitating gifts and commissioning authority.”² We are all anointed (I John 2:20) to do the good works that “God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).
 - 1. These works are not of our choosing, they are God’s.
 - 2. Because the Spirit of God never contradicts the Word of God, we can be assured that ministry begins at home! I Tim. 3:5; Titus 2:3-5

III. Ministry Begins at Home But Does Not End There!

- A. Isaiah 61:1 ***“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon YOU, for He has anointed YOU . . . As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are all anointed to preach good news to the poor, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom to the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.***

¹ C.I. Scofield (Ed)., The New Scofield Reference Bible: Holy Bible, Authorized King James Version (New York: Oxford University Press, 1967), 693.

² Wesley, *Isaiah 61*.

- B. 2 Cor. 5:14-19 We are “ministers of reconciliation.” As we recognize the full extent of what Christ has accomplished on our behalf, “the love of Christ compels us” to share the glory of the gospel with others.

The Lord is raising up an army of women who will embrace Biblical submission, so that the anointing power of the Holy Spirit will flow over their lives and families.

Will you join us?

Renewed Dedication Of Our Lives:

“Lord God, I confess that I have gone my own way and leaned upon my own understanding. I have allowed the world to lure me away from obedience and surrender to You, and I have allowed Satan to deceive me in many ways. But I trust in your mercy and Your power to enable me to live the life You’ve called me to live “in Christ.” I ask You, Father, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the power of His Blood, to ‘turn my eyes from worthless things; renew my life according to Your Word.’ Amen”

This Week’s Memorization Verse: Psalm 119:37

*“Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
renew my life according to your word.”³*

³ New York International Bible Society, *The Holy Bible, New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978), 789.

“It’s Not About Us!”

Small Group Discussion Questions

Note to Discussion Leaders: It is helpful to begin by asking the women if there was some point in the lesson that they identified with, or that was new to them, before turning to the following discussion questions.

- 1) Have you been a “performer” in your Christian life? Are you ready to step back, and wait for the Lord to reveal to you the good works He has prepared in advance for you to do (Ephesians 2:10)? Keep in mind that there may be a period of time where you aren’t “doing” anything. Why do you think you would be uncomfortable with that?

- 2) Have you become aware that you don’t spend a lot of conscious thought about God throughout your day? We become so busy that our thoughts become caught up with the details of life. In order to improve in this area, honestly discuss what your thoughts focus on for much of the day.

- 3) What have you learned from God’s Word that has most changed your perception of how God sees you, and the purpose He has for your life?