

7 Session Facilitator's Discussion Guide

Bloom

*Reproducing disciples who experience
God's love and transforming power*



P.O.D. COMMUNITIES
Bloom where you're planted

7 Session Facilitator's Discussion Guide

(Specific guidance for each of the seven teaching topics modules A, B, and C)

[Session 1](#) [Session 2](#) [Session 3](#) [Session 4](#) [Session 5](#) [Session 6](#) [Session 7](#) [APPENDIX](#)

Please remember you DONOT have to be a Biblical scholar, theologian, or gifted teacher to facilitate this disciple-making course. All that is required is a soul willing to answer our Lord's call to "Go and make disciples" and a few basic skills. Literally, it is as simple as ABC.

Remember to:

- A. **Use the pause button** on the video when a question is asked either in the video, from the viewing audience, or when you as facilitator want to emphasize or clarify a point. We call this the "Power of the Pause".
- B. **Ask good questions.** This skill can be easily learned. There is more detailed in the [Facilitator's Manual](#).
- C. **Pray**, before, during and after the meeting. This serves to keep you in a humble dependent state. It helps to clear the way in the spiritual realm as you partner with the Lord in bringing liberating truth to His children.

Helpful up-front tips:

- It would be helpful to explain right up-front that each of the seven teaching topics are taught in four Modules A, B, C, and D. The first three, A, B, and C, are video driven. Module D is intended for review, testimonies, and the Personal Exercise Applications.
- This "7 Session Facilitator's Discussion Guide" is an extension of the [Facilitator's Manual](#). Please refer to the manual to get many more tips for facilitating and other supplemental resources.
- Each participant will need to have a **participant's listening guide** for each of the teaching modules. Those can be printed from the [eBloom.tv website](#) under the Discipleship Training Tab/Curriculum/Session. Note: in order to gain access for viewing the videos for each session they will need to register just once.
- It would be a good idea during the first meeting to familiarize the group with the **construction of the notebook** they will be building throughout the course: Table of contents, 10 divider tabs (1 through 7 for each of the session's listening and resource guides, divider 8 for miscellaneous articles, divider 9 for Bloom/POD promotional flyers, and divider 10 for paper for extra notes or journaling). More detail on how to build the notebook is located on the eBloom.tv website/Facilitator's/[Facilitator's Manual](#)/Table of contents/How to create the participant notebooks.
- You should highlight the [Resource Guide](#) for each session. It contains several pieces: Discussion Questions, Supplemental Learning Articles (Handouts), Website links, and

Recommended Books. They are an important part of the learning process and should be viewed as homework. As participants take time to read and reflect on each resource it will take them into an ever-deeper encounter with our Lord.

- There is also a [Facilitators Listening Guide](#) for each session. You will want to have one of these for each session. This guide has the entire fill in the blanks filled in as well as additional commentary to help assist in answering some of the questions.
- **Promoting healthy group discussion** is one of the most effective things a facilitator can accomplish. This can be done numerous ways. Look for the key symbol, which highlights a key thought. You may want to discuss these further. 
- It's a good idea to have a very **brief review** of the prior modules key take-a-ways at the beginning of each module (5 minutes or so). If anyone has a brief testimony of how the lesson has impacted them please allow time for this type of valuable input.
- **Be time sensitive.** We have indicated the video run time for each module. Some of the videos run a little over an hour. You will want to allow plenty of time for discussion as you pause the video. Realize, however, the discussions can become quite engaging. Therefore, you will need to be careful to not spend too much time on discussion if you want to end up on time. However, you may choose to cover a module in more than one setting, which is totally up to the group and other scheduling restraints.
- Encourage each participant to go through each module's listening guide after the meeting because not all that is contained in guides is communicated in the video. As they **review the teaching, again** in their own quiet time they will get much more out of it. They should begin to memorize key scriptures and make journal notes; this will only enhance the Holy Spirit's ability to transform their life.
- Be sure they are filling in the blanks when the video so indicates.
- The three modules A, B, and C were all filmed in one long three-hour session. Don't let that confuse the participants as some of the dialogue sounds as if we are going to cover all three modules in one meeting.
- A laser pointer was used a few times during some of the presentations (especially in Session's 3, 4, 6, and 7). The use of that pointer, however, does not always show up on the video. You can use the mouse pointer (cursor) on your computer to highlight those areas pointed to by the laser pointer. You can enhance the pointer by giving it a different size and color (see your computer operating instructions).
- At the last slide on each module, the one that says "REMEMBER Cor. 8:1". Pause the video and have someone **read that slide**. Keep reemphasizing the need to move the teaching from head knowledge to personal application. Rotate who reads it each time.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each module: Read over the Listening Guide another time, In the Resource guide; answer the Discussion Questions, Read the highlighted articles or web links, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.

Session 1: The Call to Holy Living (Is love a decision?)

Module 1A: The Call/ The Crux/ The Challenge

[Run time 35:18 min.]

This module clearly proclaims the call of God on each believer's life.

- The first two modules, A and B, have a shorter run time. This will give more time for the participants to meet one another and have time to get settled in. Take time to have participants introduce themselves. In addition, have them share their expectations by going through the training.
- Going forward the Module A, video of each session always contains an opening prayer unlike module B and C.
- Beware that this first module 1A contains two introductions. The first introduces the entire course and the second is a specific introduction to module 1A. This takes up 12 minutes, which is not typical, before it dives into the teaching and discussion time. Note: Make the participants aware that these introduction comments are not in the participant listening guides.
- **Remember the Power of the Pause.** There are several questions posed to the audience. Many times, it is good to pause the video before they hear the filmed audience response. This will allow the new group to respond first. We have found when the video is resumed and the group hears the filmed responses that the learning experience is greatly enhanced as “iron sharpens iron”.
- At times, it is mentioned that your POD group should get together outside of the meeting, to go over the teaching, digesting what has been conveyed. That is because the filming occurred in one long three-hour session. Therefore, the groups needed more time to digest the information. It would be good if you could, however it might not be practical due to time constraints. The extra discussion time you provide during each module and Module D's review, and personal quiet time should help satisfy this requirement.
- Pause the video and have someone **read the last slide** either from his or her listening guide or from the paused video. That slide says, “REMEMBER Cor. 8:1”. Keep reemphasizing the need to move the teaching from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPAHISE FOR 1A:**
 - God has called us to “Go and Make Disciples” it is an act of obedience to His Great Commission commandment and to the greatest commandment, which is to love.

- None of God’s commands are suggestions. They are commands to be obeyed.
- The remainder of the entire course, all seven sessions, is aimed at equipping the believer to live a victorious Christian life by learning how to overcome all the obstacles that are arrayed against them. These obstacles prevent us from living an obedient holy life that is pleasing to God.
- After this teaching, some participants may experience **feelings of guilt, shame, or condemnation** because of their disobedience to God’s commands. That is not from our Lord and is all too often given rise by our flesh or the enemy of our souls, evil spirits. We will address this in much more detail in subsequent sessions. For now, remind them that God loves them and has forgiven them in spite of all their shortcomings. This is the message of the cross. A strong conviction on the other hand is healthy. It should serve to motivate them to press on through the rest of the course. **Please refer to the article titled [“Guilt, Shame, and Condemnation”](#)** located in the Appendix. They should have a copy of this in their resource guide. Be sure they read the article.

Module 1B: P.O.D. Unpacked

[Run time 40 min.]

This module begins the process of revealing all the things God has given us for life and godliness.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that module’s teaching has impacted them. (Try to keep this under 5 minutes). This would be a good time to point them to the discussion questions in the Resource Guide. You might want to ask them one or two of those questions in order to get them accustomed to answering those questions in their quiet time.
- Be sure to encourage them to fill in the chart on page one of the listening guide during their personal quiet time.
- Have them **honestly** respond to the question posed at the top of page 4.
- After viewing The Force video clip point out the boy’s reaction. It is one of amazement, which should be ours as well to God’s amazing grace.
- It’s important that they understand that God’s dunamis power usually flows from within us after we have taken exousia power over the spiritual realm.
- At **37:43 pause the video** and read that slide. It helps set the stage for the viewing of the Matrix video clip. If you have time have them discuss what analogies are portrayed to our walk as Christians.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide**, which is the same as page 6 in the guide. Ultimately, it is all about personal application.

- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPHAISE FOR 1B:**
 - The [Blue Letter Bible](#) is an awesome way to help believers dive deeper into God's Word.
 - Knowing what God has given us for life and godliness is a critical and essential step in the disciple making process. This cannot be emphasized enough.
 - Applying the P.O.D. acronym is foundational to disciple making. As a believer opens him or herself to the Holy Spirit's guidance, counseling, comfort, and empowerment (**P.**), by seeking ever-growing intimate encounters with God (**O.**), will the miracle working power of God come forth from the believer's life (**D.**).

Module 1C: Is Growth (love) a Decision, an Act of the Will? [Run time 1 hour12 min.]

God's love required Him to create us as free will beings. Our role is to learn how to grow in our union with God so the life we live is consistent with His will. To will or not to will that is the question. When we learn to live in sensitive response to the will of another great love is the result.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- This is the longest module of all. Discussion time will be somewhat limited but valuable.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that modules teaching has impacted them. (try to keep this under 5 minutes)
- This module contains profound insights. Encourage the participants to read and reread Eugene Peterson's article in the Resource Guide.
- Tom misstates the use of the middle voice in three locations (29:03 and 37:53 min.: sec.) Here he describes God moving on us in a "passive" way. He should have said God is moving on us in an "active" way. We are the passive recipients of God acting upon us.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. Ultimately, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.

- **KEY POINTS TO EMPHATISE FOR 1C:**

- Our free will gives us the capacity to do great things. It also can lead to our downfall.
- Learning submission to the will of God and others is the essence of true humility. Our tendency is “to do it our way”. The rest of the training sessions are intended to reveal the keys to unlocking God given motivations for humble holy living.
- Learning to live in the “Middle Voice” is probably one of the most important aspects of our life in Christ but perhaps the most difficult to grasp. Encourage the participants to study and ponder this truth until they get it.

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Module 1D: Review, clarifications, testimonies and Personal Exercise Applications (PEA's)

Please refer to the guide entitled “[Module D Specifics](#)” located on the [eBloom.tv](#) website under the Facilitators Tab.

Session Number 2: Fear of the Lord (The Joy of Fearing God Correctly)

Module 2A: Why Should We Fear the Lord?

[Run time 40:29 min.]

The Fear of the Lord is a great treasure and given by grace. It is foundational to holy and obedient living. It will give us refuge from coming under His judgment and will cause us to walk closely with God.

- Psalm 25:14 (top of page 2) is discussed. Point out it is always a good idea to look at what other Bible versions are saying in order to come to a more complete understanding. (NLT, NIV, KJV, etc.).
- Isaiah 11:1-3 (top of page 4) is proclaimed. Delighting in the fear of the Lord should be the goal of every believer. It will come to those who seek out this great treasure. It will be given to those who seek, ask, and knock (Mt. 7:7).
- In conclusion, stress that the fruit of our love for God is obedience to His commands. A healthy delightful fear of Him is one of the key motivators to obedient living.
- Finally, point them to the Resource Guide article “Key scriptures on fearing God” as part of their homework.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. In the end, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.

- **KEY POINTS TO EMPAHISE FOR 2A:**

- Understanding that the fear of God is a great treasure should motivate believers to seek out the gift. It is given by grace but it must be received.
- The fear of the Lord is in the New Testament as well. The difference between the Old and New Testaments centers on the promise of the gift of a “new heart”. It was an Old Testament prophecy, which was fulfilled in the New Testament. It is given to those who believed in Jesus. Believers now have the promise of the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Old Testament believers lacked the “new heart”. They did not have the permanent indwelling power to fear God completely.
- The fear of the Lord is foundational to living the Christ life.

Module 2B: What is Fear of the Lord?

[Run time 53:09 min.]

It is either the fear of God or the fear of man that will possess your heart. Our fears will literally master and rule over us. Fear of the Lord is better describe than defined.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that modules teaching has impacted them. (try to keep this under 5 minutes)
- Part of their homework would be to start crafting their personal “fear of the Lord” statement. You will ask some of them to share what they have written next time.
- Hosea 13:4-8 is read (page 7). This is a hard verse! It is important to point out the literary style that is used here. The style is hyperbole, which involves an exaggeration of ideas for the sake of emphasis. It helps get the point across doesn’t it!
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. Ultimately, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.

- **KEY POINTS TO EMPAHISE FOR 2B:**

- One way to come to an understanding of the fear of the Lord is to examine what it is not.
- The fear of the Lord is much more than awe, respect, and reverence.
- We will be tempted every day for the rest of our lives to fear man and the things of this world.
- Begin the process of creating a personal “Fear of the Lord Statement”. This is a major step towards appropriating this precious gift. Prayer and time in His Word will open the doors to God’s revelation in this area.

Module 2C: How to gain the Holy Fear of the Lord.

[Run time 57:56 min.]

We must learn how to conquer our fears and gaining the fear of the Lord is the key. Experiencing the Fear of God is life changing. Fearing God is the fruit of God revealing Himself to us. It will produce delight in our hearts and cause us to draw near to Him.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that modules teaching has impacted them. (try to keep this under 5 minutes)
- From the last session, they were to begin working on crafting a fear of the Lord statement. Pick one or two and have them share what they have written.
- There is not much interaction with the audience in this video. So, please pause the video as you see fit to clarify, amplify, and simulate group conversation.
- You can pause the video on page one to discuss humility. Read Proverbs 22:4 it is a very rich verse also Romans 12:3 and Phil.2:3 are good.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. Ultimately, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- They have now been given the teaching and resources on the fear of the Lord. Have them continue to complete their description of the fear of the Lord and be prepared to start sharing it with others.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPAISE FOR 2C:**
 - For the fear of the Lord to be caught, it must be taught.
 - Humility is key to fearing God. You cannot manufacture it on your own. It is childlike dependence and trust in God. It is achieved by learning to live in the middle voice as portrayed in Session 1C.
 - As you seek, God He will reveal more and more of His holiness. In His presence, you will be transformed. The fruit of which is a healthy delightful fear of Him.
 - Fear of the Lord is a choice we must make daily.

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Module 2D: Review, clarifications, testimonies and Personal Exercise Applications (PEA's)

Please refer to the guide entitled "[Module D Specifics](#)" located on the eBloom.tv website under the Facilitators Tab.

Session Number 3: The Gospel of God's Grace (Know Your True Identity)

Module 3A: Grace and the New Covenant

[Run time 1 hr. 3 min.]

To more fully understand and appreciate God's grace we need to gain a correct view of our "tri-unity" design. God by his grace has, is, and will work on each part of us in order to transform us into the image of His son, Jesus Christ.

- At 36:43 (min:sec), Col. 1:28-29 (page 4) is discussed. It describes Paul's God given mission. Share with the group that the POD/Bloom ministry has the same mission. The result is a disciple, a "Bloom" so to speak who is found complete in Christ!
- It's very important they understand **God's three-stage plan for our "salvation"**. This will become clearer as they more fully understand **our three part design, a "tri-unity"** of being. The 3Ps covered on pages 4 and 5 are a great way to remember God's three stage plan for our salvation. Encourage them to remember this because it is another essential. Pause frequently for discussion to bring clarity to this foundational doctrine.
- Page 7 discusses the role man plays in God's three-stage plan of salvation. Be sure they understand that they cannot earn their salvation ("justification/be saved") by good works. Good works are the fruit of a growing, thriving, and abiding relationship with God. In session 6, we will reveal the blessings and rewards God will bestow on us for your good works. We are saved by grace but will be rewarded for our good works.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. Ultimately, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPHASE FOR 3A:**
 - Grace is huge. It always points back to Jesus Christ. We must learn the fullness of this doctrine in order to be thankful for the fact that God has truly "..... given us everything for life and godliness." (2 Peter 1:3)
 - Seeing how God's grace is active in all aspects of our "salvation" is very important. Remember the 3P's of "salvation": delivered from the **Penalty** of Sin (Past), being delivered from the **Power** of Sin (Present), and finally, will be delivered from the **Presence** of Sin (Future).
 - Embrace your three part design, the tri-unity (Body, Soul, and Spirit)
 - Remember how God is restoring each part of our three-part design. Past, Present and Future

- Grasp the role man has in the three stages of salvation? It is our free will, our choice, which plays a key role. We must submit to Him, i.e. choose Him who is “life”, in order for His grace to perform its transforming work in our lives.
- Understand what an unsaved vs. a saved person looks like (body, soul, and spirit).

Module 3B: Our Struggle with Getting Our Needs Met

[Run time 53:40 min.]

We all have needs both physical and psychological but if we attempt to get those needs met apart from God it is sin. Three agents war against us. They try to prevent us from getting or needs met from God; Sin (the power of Sin), Satan (his emissaries infesting the world), and Self (our flesh). It is foundational and essential to know how to effectively deal with these three agents.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that module's teaching has impacted them. Re-emphasizing the 3 P's delivered from the Penalty of Sin (Past), being delivered from the Power of Sin (Present), and finally, we will be delivered from the Presence of Sin (Future). (try to keep this under 5 minutes)
- The unholy trinity must be exposed. If you don't know what you are up against how can you possibly prevail? Knowing their tactics is key to learning how to war against them.
- On the top of page 5, we address the flesh and some Biblical translation issues. Some translations (NIV) substitute sinful nature for what other versions call flesh. The expression “sinful nature” could trip you up into thinking that is who you are, which could produce a false identity. We have a new identity a new nature we are a new creation. Yes, we have something in our members that is not of the new nature and we must learn how to war against it. It is our flesh.
- Be sure to remind them that the video does not cover all the content in the listening guides. It would be good for them to go through the guide after the meeting.
- On the bottom of page 5, at 33:14, beware of the law or legalism was not covered. There is a fill in the blank. Make sure they put PBA in the blank by briefly pausing the video. If you have time, you might want to read that portion, with the video on pause.
- Two types of flesh are discussed. This may need more discussion. They can read the comments on page 8, which will help their understanding. Have some of them share what type of flesh they think they have. Some could have a combination of both.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. Ultimately, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.

- **KEY POINTS TO EMPHASE FOR 3B:**

- We all have God given needs. The question is, who or what are you using to get your needs met.
- Sin, Satan, and Self lure us persistently, tempting us to get our needs met in some other ways than by God.
- Knowing that sin is often used as a noun is very important. Knowing this will help detect what we are up against so we can see the way out from under its influence. You can use the [Blue Letter Bible](#) to learn if a word is a noun.
- Identifying your brand of flesh and reflecting on how it was learned (USDA or YUCKY) is most helpful. We by God's grace can then begin the process of being delivered from its destructive effects.

Module 3C: Living the Victorious Christian Life

[Run time 57:11 min.]

Here we learn how to war, in part, against the unholy trinity. Grasping the significance of our true identity in Christ and knowing how it is appropriated is life changing. It directly and powerfully influences our behavior. Knowing our true identity is one of the major foundational truths a disciple of Christ must possess. Our new identity is given by grace in a great exchange. God offers us His life in exchange for ours.

Heads up: You will need to provide for each participant a small envelope, approximately 3.5" x 6.5", for an exercise that will be conducted during this module.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that module's teaching has impacted them. (try to keep this under 5 minutes)
- Ask them again to complete their "flesh inventory" worksheet mentioned in the last module. This will be needed in the next session 4.
- **On page 3, at video location 10:00 min., there is a wonderful exercise, the "Christ in you and You in Christ" envelope illustration. You need to be prepared to help them with this. There is a page in the APPENDIX with the same title. Pause the video and have them remove that page. Then have them strongly crease the page on the two dotted lines and then tear along the creases. Hand them the envelope you acquired for them prior to this module. Proceed with the video. For convenience sake, it would nice if you would print off, in advance, that same page and do the cutting for them.**
- In the video at 16:39 Tom says, "appreciate" he should have said, "appropriate" just as it is written in the middle of page 3 in the listen guide.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. Ultimately, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- All the books in the Resource Guide are marvelous reading and will do more to set a believer free than about any other resource, except the Bible of course. Encourage them to pick up one of the books and begin reading it.

- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPHASE FOR 3C:**
 - One’s behavior is strongly influenced by what they believe about the world (worldview) and what they believe about who they are (their identity).
 - Christ in us and us in Christ is key to understanding our new identity.
 - Faith has three levels; knowledge, assent, and trust.
 - Understanding Exchanged Life Spiritually is foundational to knowing who we are in Christ and one of the greatest keys to living a victorious Christian life. All the books referenced in the Resource Guide build on this truth.

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Module 3D: Review, clarifications, testimonies and Personal Exercise Applications (PEA’s)

Please refer to the guide entitled “[Module D Specifics](#)” located on the eBloom.tv website under the Facilitators Tab.

Session Number 4: Mind Renewal (Solomon’s Temple)

Module 4A: What is the Mind?

[Run time 56:26 min.]

The Bible commands that we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. It is essential, therefore, that we understand first what our mind is and then learn how to accomplish mind renewal. By using Solomon’s temple as the blueprint for our design, body, soul, and spirit, a beautiful imagery comes forth, which will vividly show believers the path to mind renewal.

- This video does not have much group interaction. This is great video to practice the art of asking good questions. Watch the audience and listen to the Holy Spirit to get a sense if it is a good time to pause the video. Ask clarifying or probing questions to see if they understand.
- Prior to starting the video, they will need two pieces from the resources guide; the 14 page Chart Pack and The Mind of Christ/The Spirit of the Lord graphic. They will not need the third piece, mentioned in the video, the Temple Furnishings, until module C.
- At the bottom of page 2 you might want to discuss the statement; “If you give me your thinking, I will give you My life”. The statement emphasizes the critical nature of mind renewal.
- At 26:30 pause the video and clarify once again the difference between our spirit and our soul. This was discussed at the beginning of Module 3B from: 50 to 3:53.

- At 27:19, Tom is moving his body and says it is being driven by what His soul is telling it to do. Point out, for clarification sake, that the soul is communicating directly to the brain, which is part of his body. The brain, in turn, is signaling the body to respond. We will cover this in detail in Session 5A on How to hear God's voice.
- At 29:10, Chart 2 is shown. Pause the video there and go over the three parts of the unbelievers mind, Human spirit, self-centered thoughts, and self-centered actions. This was not discussed in the video even though the slide was put up.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. Ultimately, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPAHISE FOR 4A:**
 - Mind renewal is the key to spiritual transformation.
 - The mind is a whole conceptual process (from spirit to thoughts to actions).
 - Believers have the mind of Christ. It is our choice whether we operate out of His mind or revert to our old double-minded ways of thinking.
 - Isaiah 11:1-2 is one the most important verses in the Bible, It should be committed to memory, as it describes the seven fold Spirit of the Lord or the mind of Christ.

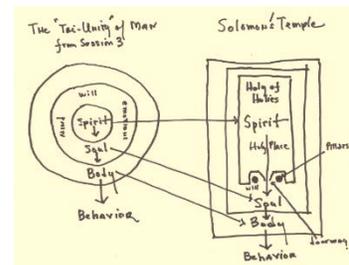
Module 4B: Solomon's Temple the blueprint of the believer. [Run time 1 hr. 2 min.]

Scripture says we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. By using the actual design of Solomon's temple, where the Spirit of God dwelt, we can start to visually see how we are indwelt by the Spirit. We will begin to see how God's Spirit comes forth into our souls. This produces bodily action, which is an expression of Him in union with us. It's a vivid portrait of how the Mind of Christ works as a process within us. This session will take the first of two sweeps through that temple. This first sweep will describe the significance of each portion of the temple.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that modules teaching has impacted them. (try to keep this under 5 minutes)
- They will need two pieces from the resources guide; the 14 page Chart Pack and the colored 3D rendering of Solomon's' Temple. Have them get that out prior to starting the video.
- Again, there is not much group interaction on the video. Look for places to pause and seek group discussion.
- Please point them often to the colored 3D rendering of the temple. It is a beautiful portrayal of the temple's layout.

- This will be a new teaching for most believers. It will be difficult for them to grasp the significance of this teaching during the first go around. Please encourage them to view this video again during their own quiet time and to ponder its teaching.

- For review, before you start the video, if you have a white board or isle; it would be a great illustration if you could draw two pictures representing the body soul and spirit. One representing the Tri-Unity of Man, portrayed as concentric circles, from Session 3 and the other using the temple floor plan from this session. See the APPENDIX [FOR A LARGE VIEW OF THIS.](#)



- In the video at 56:30 Tom should have said 700 wives and 300 concubines not the other way around.
- The laser pointer is used frequently and is often not picked up in the video. Feel free to use the mouse pointer on your computer to highlight where the laser is pointing.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. Ultimately, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPHASE FOR 4B:**
 - Solomon's temple architecture is a wonderful way to see our design body, soul, and spirit and how they progressively work together.
 - The porch of the temple/our temple is a very important (social) place. It is where God's will; His counsel and strength, and our will can intersect. If they do, by our free choice/will, our life actions will be consistent with His will with the empowering of His Spirit. To God be the glory! The two bronze pillars, Jachin and Boaz, represent our free will choice to live by His counsel (Jachin) and strength (Boaz).
 - The Hidden Chambers is another profound aspect of the temple blueprint. This is where the power of Sin/Mr. Sin has access to our soul. It is where deeply rooted, often traumatic, past experiences, and past programming based on lies dwells. It is part of our flesh and must be dealt with for victorious living. We will address this in the next module 4C.
 - We must learn how to allow God's Spirit to usher forth from the Holy of Holies and Holy Place into our souls and then ultimately our bodies. This is how we can offer our bodies as a "living sacrifice".

- Read the book “Be Yea Transformed” by Nancy Missler. It is really the best way to be transformed by this teaching. It contains many personal testimonies.

Module 4C: The Keys to Mind Renewal.

[Run time 1 hr.6 min.]

This session will take the second sweep through the temple, this time by looking at the temple furnishings. By doing so we can begin to get a grasp on how mind renewal actually takes place. We can begin to see how Christ’s mind works in us. There is a glorious parallel between what the temple priest did to present themselves to God and atone for the sins of the people and what we are instructed to do in the New Testament.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- They will need three pieces from the resources guide; the 14 page Chart Pack, the colored 3D rendering of Solomon’s Temple and the four page piece titled “Temple Furnishings”. Have them get that out prior to starting the video.
- Again, there is not much group interaction on the video. Look for places to pause and seek group discussion.
- Please point them often to the colored 3D rendering of the temple where another image of the furnishings is also visible.
- The laser pointer is used frequently and is often not picked up in the video. Feel free to use the mouse pointer on your computer to highlight where the laser is pointing.
- Again, this will be a new teaching for most believers. It will be difficult for them to grasp the significance of this teaching the first go around. Please encourage them to view this video again during their own quiet time and to ponder its teaching.
- The priestly rituals are discussed on pages 6 and 7. The rituals portray how we can examine ourselves and bring anything that is not of God to Him, that includes our thought life. There has been much discussion about our thought life. It is important to learn how to monitor our thoughts and to realize if we do not properly deal with them it can lead to all kinds of trouble. There is a nice article in the APPENDIX entitled [“Speaking to yourself vs. listening to yourself vs. taking with God”](#). It deals with the gestation of sin. It goes a long way in helping believers get set free from the trap of the enemy and an unholy thought life. Please consider giving them a copy of this article.
- Tom goes over his “Flesh Inventory” and gives a testimony at 48:08-55:12, page 7. Everyone was asked to complete that inventory in Session 3. Remind everyone to complete it if not done so already. Then do what Tom did, as an example. He brought his hurts and pains and the things God revealed to him as the source of his dysfunction (his flesh) to God. If you do, God will heal you and set you free from their heavy burden.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. Ultimately, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the

articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.

- **KEY POINTS TO EMPAISE FOR 4C:**

- The temple furnishings vividly portray how the mind of Christ works in and through believers.
- The porch is where God’s will and our will meet. Choose life by letting him into your soul (your life). Porches used to be a part of every home. It was a place where family, friends and neighbors fellowshiped. Oh how God longs for this to occur in your inner man.
- It is highly important to monitor your thought life and take anything that is unholy and distressful to the Lord. We are to take every thought captive according to scripture.
- Remember the last two capabilities of the Mind of Christ, experiential intimate knowledge of God and walking in the fear of the Lord. These two are our own responsibility to achieve daily. This is our role in the process of “salvation” = Sanctification which leads to transformation.
- The inner court rituals give us a visual example of what the New Testament says we should do in order to not quench the Spirit of God. 1) Recognize i.e. examine yourself, 2. Confess, Repent, and Forgive, 3. Give to God (all our hurts and ungodly thinking) and finally, 4. Wash yourself in the water of God’s Word. This is where the “Flesh Inventory”, which is one way to examine yourself, plays a key role. The behaviors that inventory reveal all have a root cause. God will show you the cause(s) if you ask. Then you know what to do (take it to Him).
- The POD transformation process as referred to on page 8 is critical to embrace. Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ is a lifelong commitment. The cost is high but the rewards are much greater. Encourage them to stay engaged.

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Module 4D: Review, clarifications, testimonies and Personal Exercise Applications (PEA’s)

Please refer to the guide entitled “[Module D Specifics](#)” located on the eBloom.tv website under the Facilitators Tab.

Session Number 5: HOW TO HEAR GOD’S VOICE (Know God’s Will)

Module 5A: Learning about your worldview, brain, and mind functions [Run time 37:54 min.]

Learning to communicate well is an art. At the heart of hearing God’s voice is one’s worldview and learning what we have been given to hear. The Christian worldview reveals the keys to hearing God. Key #1, covered in this module, explores the five spiritual senses believers have that work in conjunction with their physical senses which are operated by the brain. How they work together lays the foundation for learning how to clearly hear His voice.

- This is a shorter module so there should be plenty of time for good discussion.
- On page 8, there is a discussion about the brain and our mind. There is much confusion in this area. The brain is essentially a bio-computer that processes data. Data coming into the brain from our five senses is instantaneously sent to the inner man.

For the believer our inner man is made up of our soul and God’s Spirit in union with our spirit. Remember from session 3 and 4, the soul has three parts, mind, will, and emotions. These three working in conjunction with the “spirit” process the information coming in from the brain. Once a decision has been made, the inner man sends signals to the brain, which in turn causes our physical body to behave in a certain way. This usually occurs very quickly.

You can see if we are believing lies in our mind, have quenched God’s Spirit in our inner man, and are allowing our emotions to rule then the decisions we make will most likely be poor. Therefore, it is imperative if you want to hear God’s voice that your mind be renewed with truth by God’s Spirit and Word, that your emotions are brought under the control of the Holy Spirit, and that you are striving to be obedient. This is why we first taught all the prior sessions. They laid the groundwork to Hearing God’s Voice.

You should share this with the group. You can print a copy of this, which is included in the appendix under the title, [“The Brain and Mind working together”](#).

- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPHASE FOR 5A:**
 - One’s worldview strongly influences their ability to hear God’s voice.
 - A believer has both five physical and five spiritual senses.
 - Being aware of those spiritual senses is the first step in learning to hear His voice.
 - The brain is a glorious bio-computer, which merely processes and stores the input it receives from both our five physical and spiritual senses.
 - There is a battle for the mind. It is essential that we allow the Holy Spirit to renew our mind so the path to hearing His voice will be clear.

Module 5B: Key # 1 Learning to recognize God’s voice as spontaneous thoughts which light upon your mind.

[Run time 1 hr. 7 min.]

At the heart of any healthy relationship is great communication. Clear communication is a two way street, not only speaking but learning to listen as well. In this module, the first key to learning the art of hearing God’s voice will be addressed. Learning to recognize the various ways God communicates with us is an essential milestone in discerning whose voice you are hearing.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that modules teaching has impacted them. (try to keep this under 5 minutes)
- Be sensitive to time as this is a longer module.
- The discussion on pages 2, 3 and 4 covers two ways God communicates His word to us by either Logos or Rhema. An easy way to remember the difference is to think of Logos as God’s written Word or **content** while Rhema is God’s Word **spoken** to us. However, as we read scripture (logos/content) can become Rhema (spoken) when the Spirit quickens it to us. The reverse is true as well, i.e., when God speaks to us (Rhema/spoken) and we ponder His words the revelation becomes Logos (content) to us.
- As we have taught in the prior sessions, learning how to monitor your though life is essential. Are the thoughts I’m experiencing coming from 1) Myself 2) from evil (usually they are cleverly disguised) or 3) from the Lord? The rest of the module is aimed at revealing the various ways God speaks to us and highlighting many of the qualities that characterize God’s thoughts as He interjects them into our minds. In John 10 Jesus says, “my sheep hear my voice”. Learning how to recognize His voice from all the others is another essential and foundational step towards hearing and receiving God’s counsel.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. Ultimately, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPAHISE FOR 5B:**
 - Key#1, we must learn how to recognize God’s voice as spontaneous thoughts which light upon our mind.
 - God will communicate to us directly through His written word (logos) or by speaking to us directly (Rhema).
 - Learning to test our thoughts is a critical step in discerning from whom are we hearing.

Module 5C: Key # 2; How to quiet yourself so that you can hear God’s voice. Key # 3; How to look for a vision as you pray. Key # 4; Writing down the flow of thoughts and pictures that come to you in the form of journaling Run time 52:33 min.

There are some spiritual disciplines, which if practiced will put you in a better position to more clearly hear His voice. Scripture says, “discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness” 1 Tim.4:7. The disciplines will help cut through the fog and distractions the world throws at us. God wants us to pursue Him as He is pursuing us. It is the relational thing to do. These disciplines discussed are a wonderful way to pursue God.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that modules teaching has impacted them. (try to keep this under 5 minutes)
- Pages 1-8 discuss Key #2, finding a quiet place and a consistent time to be with Lord. This cannot be emphasized enough. It’s probably the most important thing you can do to hear from Him. **This is the Key**. You may ask the group to comment on their quiet times and how they go about doing it.
- Pages 9–14 discuss Key #3, cultivating an openness to receiving dreams and visions. This may be quite foreign to some participants. Encourage them to keep an open mind and to test everything to see if it is from the Lord. Here is yet another discipline to cultivate. It is a way to opening the “eyes to your heart” as Paul prayed in Eph. 1:18.
- Key#4, journaling, is covered briefly on pages 14-15. This is an often-overlooked discipline. It is another powerful way of hearing from the Lord. It would be great if they could see someone’s journal, as an example. It would serve as an encouragement to the others to follow suit.
- In the video at 50:01, it sounds like Phil is making the prayer request as if from the person praying while in reality this is God praying (points 1 thru 4).
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. Ultimately, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPAISE FOR 5C:**
 - Being still before the Lord is a must in order to hear His voice.
 - Seeing is believing. Cultivating an attitude with expectation that the Lord wants to speak to you through dreams and visions will open the door.
 - The Bible was written by direct revelation from God. Having a willingness to write down your thoughts and conversations with God (journaling) is well pleasing to our Lord. Expect to profoundly hear from Him when you practice this discipline.

Module 5D: Review, clarifications, testimonies and Personal Exercise Applications (PEA's)

Please refer to the guide entitled "[Module D Specifics](#)" located on the eBloom.tv website under the Facilitators Tab.

Session Number 6: Hope/Blessings (God's Reward Standards)

Module 6A: Learn the Basis of Human and Christian Motivation. [Run time 57:52 min.]

Why do we do what we do and don't do what we should be doing? This module will get to the roots of human motivation. One of the roots is a matter of perspective; temporal vs. eternal. A believer must learn how to cultivate an eternal perspective believing "what I do today will matter for all eternity". This is when the doctrine of hope/blessings/rewards plays an essential and foundational role. This must be embraced in order to live the victorious life especially when the going gets tough.

- Prior to starting the video, they will need one piece from the resources guide. Have them pull out the piece entitled "The Motivation Matrix".
- The laser pointer is used frequently and is often not picked up in the video. Feel free to use the mouse pointer on your computer to highlight where the laser is pointing.
- When the Motivation Matrix is introduced, it is to be viewed by starting from the far left column, reading top to the bottom of that column, then moving to the middle column, and reading down, and finally to the right hand column, reading down. The key to understanding how we are motivated is to read the chart from left to right, top down, column by column. Also, below the horizontal dotted line in each column are some suggestions of focus for a Christian. Above the line are areas that the non-believer will typically focus on and become consumed with or even worse, become addicted. This must be emphasized and reemphasized.
- Remind them to read through the listening guide on their own, as the video did not cover all that the guide contains.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPHASE FOR 6A:**
 - Cultivating an attitude of expectation of blessings in heaven is a critical doctrine in scripture. It is the doctrine of Hope. It is an essential foundational element which if embraced will bring about our transformation.
 - What we do now will have a significant impact on our life in heaven.

- How Jesus began His ministry and the steps he took can serve as a vivid example of what each believer will go through. He concluded with a promise of blessings for the faithful.
- The foundation of human motivation is what we “hope in”.
- What we “hope in” will determine what we value and end up “hoping for”.
- We behave in ways to achieve what we “hope for”. This is why we do what we do.
- If we have our “hope in” focused on the wrong things it will result in sin.

Module 6B: The Biblical Doctrine of Eternal Rewards and Clearing up Misconceptions.

[Run time 56:32 min.]

Here the doctrine of Hope or eternal rewards/blessings is clearly proclaimed. There are many reasons why this teaching has not been taught or clearly proclaimed. Here we will clear up many of the misunderstandings and confusion over this most essential foundational motivational aspect of the Christian faith.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that module's teaching has impacted them. (try to keep this under 5 minutes) You might want to have them look at the motivation matrix and then ask them “Based on the information on the matrix, why we do what we do?” It’s a great way to see if they are getting a grasp of what motivates them. Remember it moves from left to right. From: what we “hope in” to what we “hope for”. Those will determine how we behave. We behave in certain ways to get what we value or “hope for”.
- Use the Power of the Pause and the art of asking good questions to foster good discussion.
- For time’s sake, several of the misconceptions were not covered. Have them study the rest in their own quiet time.
- Confusion over this doctrine lies at the heart of a major disconnect within the church. A George Barna survey completed a few years ago asked Christians this question; “If you were to die today, on what basis would God allow you into heaven?” Astonishingly 90% responded by saying it would be because of their good works! Scripture is very clear on this fact: God allows you into heaven based on your faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and has nothing to do with your works. Good works do have a major benefit but that has to do with blessings in heaven and enjoyment of the fruit of the Spirit now. All other religions and cults except “true Christianity” hold to the belief that good works will earn them a place in their heaven.
- Misconception #1 is discussed at the top of page 4. Pause the video and discuss the confusion between salvation and stewardship and how it has distorted a truthful view of God’s reward doctrine

- Pause the video after going over Acts 20:20 at the bottom of page 5. Explain the video clip they are about to view is from a 1993 movie titled “Shindler’s List”. Oskar Schindler is a vainglorious and greedy German businessman who becomes an unlikely humanitarian amid the barbaric Nazi reign when he feels compelled to turn his factory into a refuge for Jews. Based on the true story of Oskar Schindler who managed to save about 1100 Jews from being gassed at the Auschwitz concentration camp. The scene portrays the heart-rending encounter he had with those he had saved. Discuss the heart of God’s grace and mission to the heart and mission He has called us. As of 2014, 8,000 of the dependents of those 1100 saved are alive today!
- Tom mentions the RBC Discovery Series booklets were free for the asking. That is not the case anymore. They cost around 90 cents each now. However, they can be viewed and downloaded on-line free. These are wonderful ways to minister to your friends. A link to any of their booklets can be emailed.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. Ultimately, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPHASE FOR 6B:**
 - All believers will stand before the judgment seat (Bema) of Christ.
 - Rewards will be dispensed at the judgement seat.
 - There will be some loss of reward at the judgement seat because of either our sins of commission or omission.
 - It’s OK to be motivated by self-interest but not selfishness.
 - We are saved by grace not by works. We are rewarded for doing good works that are according to God’s counsel and strength.

Module 6C: Principles for Living to receive your full Inheritance/Blessing.

[Run time 59:21 min.]

Scripture clearly describes many of the blessings or rewards in heaven for faithful service while on earth. It’s important to not only understand what some of those rewards are but also to learn how to cultivate the right attitudes about how we should live our lives in order to gain and not lose what God has stored up for us in heaven. Part of our blessings will be temporary while we live on earth. The most valuable is the “fruit of the Spirit”.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that modules teaching has impacted them. (Try to keep this under 5 minutes). You

might ask to see if they have any questions about the misconceptions and confusion over this doctrine and some of those we did not cover in the last session. In addition, it would be a good time to point them once again to the discussion questions in the Resource Guide. You could choose one or two of those to briefly discuss.

- Three parables are described and then the audience is asked for their observations. You should be prepared to help guide the conversation. There are some good observation comments, which should be helpful that are contained in your [Facilitator's Listening Guide](#).
- On page 5, we relate that the doctrine of eternal rewards is especially motivating when the going gets tough. It would be good if you could make some kind of comment about those of us who live in America, for the most part, do not face what so many other Christians do around the world today and have over the past 2000 years. They have faced extreme persecution and oftentimes death for their faith. This doctrine comes alive to them and they cling to it to gain strength. It is "an anchor of the soul". Heb. 6:19
- The RBC Ministry Discovery Booklet "Just Before Heaven" is no longer free. It can be viewed and downloaded on-line free.
- If you are running short on time, you can let the final 4 minutes, which is the song "I can only imagine" continue to play but drop the volume so people can carry on a conversation as they adjourn.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPHASE FOR 6C:**
 - Based on a close examination of the three parables we can see that reward in the kingdom of heaven is based largely upon faithfulness to opportunity, i.e. being obedient. The results of our obedience we should leave up to God.
 - It's essential that you don't take God's criteria's for rewarding us and turn it into a list of things "I ought to be doing" treating it like a laundry list. That is legalism. It can lead to burnout and a loss of rewards. Most of the items listed are attitudes of heart, which will naturally flow from an ever-growing relationship with God. From a healthy relationship will flow His counsel and strength to do what is good and rewardable.
 - The doctrine of eternal rewards is especially motivating when the going gets tough.
 - If the doctrine of eternal rewards is correctly understood, it will become one of the greatest motivators for holy living. It holds promise not only for this life but also for the one to come.

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Module 6D: Review, clarifications, testimonies and Personal Exercise Applications (PEA's)
Please refer to the guide entitled "Module D Specifics" located on the eBloom.tv website under the Facilitators Tab.

Session Number 7: God's Love and Finding Your Purpose (Mapping Your Future)

Module 7A: God's Love must be viewed in the context of His other attributes.

[Run time 1 hr. 10 min.]

Knowing God intimately is our highest calling and should be the goal of every believer. It is the reason He created us in the first place. Life is all about relationships and knowing the God who created us. God says He will reward those who seek His face. Too often, we view God in a distorted way by elevating one of His characteristics above another. This module helps to restore balance by elevating all of God's perfections to the same level as a unified whole.

- They will need to pull two pieces out of the Resource Guide prior to starting the video; Manifestations of God's Glory and God's Attributes and Eternal Plan.
- This is the longest video clip running 1hr. 10 min. so please be time sensitive. Use the Power of the Pause and the art of asking good questions to stimulate good discussion.
- **Caution:** The message of this module is perhaps the meatiest of all. Here we are dealing with the very nature of God and a lot of what is revealed will challenge their current level of understanding. Encourage them to go over and over this module, reviewing the video and reading the articles in the Resource Guide.
- The laser pointer is used frequently and is often not picked up in the video. Feel free to use the mouse pointer on your computer to highlight where the laser is pointing.
- At 18:15, Chris brings up one of God's attributes as being consistent. That He is. On the chart under God's Sovereignty is a characteristic titled "immutable" which means unchanging over time. This is another way of saying He is consistent and it was mentioned He is persistent as well.
- It should be mentioned that one of the best ways to know our God is to ponder and mediate on each of His revealed characteristics (perfections). The more you pursue God, scripture says, the more of Himself He will reveal to you, Jer. 29:13. As He does, meditate on and possess that which He has shown you about Himself.
- At 23:50 Romans 3:31 is quoted. It ends with the statement "we establish the law". This would be a good statement to discuss at this point. Jesus said He did not come to do away with the law instead, scripture says He fulfilled the law. The law is pure, righteous, and holy. His indwelling Spirit resides in those who believe. They therefore have the opportunity to live by His Counsel and His Strength and thus live a life that is consistent with the law, that is, a holy life. Remember the law defines holiness. Therefore, it is our choice daily to "establish the law".

- At 30:40, Tom makes a statement “the fruit of repentance is changed behavior”. Changed behavior is NOT repentance. True repentance is “a change of mind” in whom you will trust. It is a turning to God for his counsel and strength, and none other.
- From 32:16 to 32:50, Tom is referring to the chart. You might want to use the mouse as a pointer to highlight the areas to which he is referring. He was using a laser pointer when it was filmed but that was not picked up in the video.
- The cliché “Hate the sin but love the sinner” was discussed. After the discussion, which ends at 43:45 (min:sec), ask the audience to draft a better cliché. Some examples are shown on page 5.
- At 49:33 (min:sec) the filling the blank, middle of page 6, which is the word “God” is not mentioned it is only briefly shown.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPHASISE FOR 7A:**
 - God’s love is only one of His glorious perfections.
 - It is essential to learn of and to ponder His other perfections (His nature and character).
 - All His perfections are a unified whole, each co-existent, unchanging (immutable), and working together perfectly.
 - It is essential that all His attributes be elevated to the same level of importance.
 - God’s wrath is consistent with His love, just look at the cross!
 - God’s love is both unconditional and conditional.
 - Our God is a jealous God! He will come against anything that gets between Him and His children. Take this to heart on a personal level. Beware the bear!

Module 7B: Why would a good God allow suffering?

[Run time 1 hr. 2 min.]

This topic stresses one of the most important difficulties that have prevented an accurate understanding of our God. It has been a major stumbling block for both believers and non-believers. It is essential that we gain a clear picture of how God can use and turn evil and suffering for the good. It is imperative for your own walk and as a testimony to others that you become prepared to answer this question as you “make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you”, 1 Peter 3:15.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that module’s teaching has impacted them. (try to keep this under 5 minutes)

- Remind them to read over the listening guides on their own in detail because the video teaching does not cover all the content in the guides. Otherwise, there would be several good points missed.
- Look for places to pause the video in order to stimulate discussion with good questions.
- At 50:35 (min:sec), bottom of page 9, a summary is mentioned but not gone over. If there is time, you might want to have four different people read each of the four perspectives as to why God would allow suffering.
- Have another participant read at least part of the **final slide/page**. In due course, it is all about moving from head knowledge to personal application.
- **Recommend some homework** at the end of each training module. They can read over the Listening Guide another time. They can go over the material that is contained or referenced in the Resource Guide by answering the Discussion Questions, reading the articles or web linked articles, and consider reading one of the recommended books over the next few months.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPHASE FOR 7B:**
 - This is one of most important topics in Christianity in which you must gain a good understand.
 - When evil and suffering come your way, you need to learn how to respond to it in a holy way.
 - God has allowed evil and suffering to: 1) Warn us 2) Draw us to Him 3) Shape us and 4) Unite us.

Module 7C: Review of all Intensive Sessions and Living a Purpose Filled Life.

[Run time 44:32 min.]

The purpose of the Bloom/POD disciple-making ministry is to call, equip, and send believers into the mission field, beginning right in their own home. Disciples are made not born. Much time and energy, on an ongoing basis, is required for the process to accomplish its life transforming work. It is essential for believers to develop their own personalized, unique, purpose statement. Without one, it would be like trying to sail a boat without a rudder.

- Begin with opening **prayer**. It is a good idea to rotate who prays each time.
- Do a very brief review of the last module and ask if there are any testimonies on how that modules teaching has impacted them. (try to keep this under 5 minutes)
- At 5:15 (min:sec), two articles are mentioned that should be located behind Tab 8 in the Participant’s Notebook: “The Transformation Process” and “The Power and Cost of Commitment”. If you have not done so already, please hand out a copy of each of these to all participants. Those articles can be found in the [appendix](#). They can also be found in the [Facilitator’s Manual](#) in the Supplemental Resources section.
- You can do a brief review of each of the Seven Sessions by high lighting key take-a-ways, pages 2-4. Remind them to use their REMEMBER CARDS as a way to learn the key

points, verses to memorize and the key question to answer from each of the seven teaching sessions.

- At 29:50 (min:sec), a link is mentioned in the Resource Guide, which will allow participants to view and download their own copy of the [“Mapping Your Future”](#) workbook. We have supplied a printable PDF version of this on the eBloom.tv website under the [Facilitator’s Tab](#) so you will not have to email it to them. Each participant will need to print a copy unless you want to organize the effort. It is a sixty three-page booklet. We would advise you suggest they only print the pages, which are necessary for them to complete, approximately 29 pages, while reading the others on-line.
- **KEY POINTS TO EMPAHISE FOR 7C:**
 - The overall purpose for the Bloom Ministry is to Call, equip, and send.
 - By reviewing and writing down key “take-a-ways”, frequently reviewing the Remember Cards, and memorizing scripture you should be well on your way to spiritual transformation.
 - Every believer has the same “universal purpose”, that is, “to know Him and to make Him known”.
 - If everyone has the same “universal purpose” then the only question is how does that play out for you? This is where going through the “Mapping Your Future” process will play the most important critical role. The all adage applies here “If you do not know where you are going any road will get you there”.
- **VERY IMPORTANT: completing the Mapping Your Future, exercise is essential. In the weeks and months to follow the completion of the first go thru of the seven sessions you should consider ways to keep each person encouraged and held accountable to completing this exercise. DONOT allow the ball to drop here. This is probably the most important step for any believer to go through. It will serve as a road map to their future and for the fulfillment of the purpose for which God created them.**
- **REMEMEBER that going through the training the first time is just the first step of a multi phased process of making a disciple. Each participant should be encourage to go through the teaching another time only this time with others in their sphere of influence in tow. This is THE KEY to their transformation. God is testing them and wants them to answer His call. If they stay engaged and invite others, He will open up the floodgates of heaven for their spiritual growth and enjoyment of Him and their sojourn while on the planet.**

[TOP](#)

Module 7D: Review, clarifications, testimonies and Personal Exercise Applications (PEA’s)

Please refer to the guide entitled [“Module D Specifics”](#) located on the eBloom.tv website under the Facilitators Tab.

APPENDIX

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1. [Guilt, shame and Condemnation](#)
2. [Speaking to yourself vs. listening to yourself vs. talking with God](#)
3. [The Tri-Unity of Man and Solomon's Temple](#)
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Guilt, Shame and Condemnation

Addressing the issues of “guilt, shame, and condemnation” needs to be done with **compassion and sensitivity**. All three need to be covered with an adequate explanation of the differences between the three.

Introduction: Oftentimes when we focus on areas of sin and failure, feelings of guilt and shame can begin to stir up inside of us. Satan, the accuser never misses an opportunity to move in with his condemning voice. Before we go any further then, we are going to take time to address the issues of guilt, shame, and condemnation. The Lord does not want us feeling unworthy to come to Him because of guilt and shame from our past. He’s here today to cleanse us and free us.

The difference between guilt, condemnation..., and shame:

It is important to bring an understanding of the distinction between each of these three elements, and how they impact our lives.

- **Guilt...** is how we feel about the things we have done that were wrong. Guilt is a normal, honest response of our conscience. Guilt by itself is not a bad thing. It is better to feel guilty when we have done wrong than to have no conscience and no sense of right and wrong.
- **Condemnation...** however, is the accusing voice of the enemy telling us how bad we have been and how unworthy we are. It is very different from conviction. Although conviction, which comes from God, is accompanied by a sense of wrong, it always invites us to forgiveness and reconciliation. On the other hand, condemnation, which comes from Satan, is intended to make us feel unworthy of God’s forgiving love and grace.
- **Shame...** is how we feel about ourselves... or how we see ourselves because of the wrongs we have done... or ...because of things that have happened to us, such as sexual abuse or violation. Shame clouds our countenance and makes us want to hang our head and hide ourselves...from God and from people.

For most of us, guilt and shame were reinforced from early childhood:

“Shame on you... you were naughty and bad”

“You should be ashamed of yourself”

Satan seeks to take advantage of our sensitivity to guilt and shame.

He beats on us continually with the lying voices of condemnation

- He wants us to feel and believe we are evil... and unworthy.
- If we have been abused or violated, he wants to make us feel dirty and damaged.
- He wants to make us feel we need to hide from God (like Adam and Eve hid among the trees because of their guilt and shame.)
- He wants us to feel that we need to hide from people as well... “If they knew what kind of person I really am...”

When guilt, shame, and the weight of condemnation take hold of us, everything we hear and everything that happens to us gets filtered through a “grid of unworthiness”. It affects how we see things and our ability to function in every facet of our lives. God does not want us living under this cloud of condemnation. **Romans 8:1** says: ***“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.”***

God has given us His redeeming grace to free us and to cleanse us from every trace of the guilt and shame of our past. We don’t have to carry it anymore. Let’s come and receive the release and freedom He’s offering today. Amen? Let me lead you in this prayer:

“Father God...I repent of agreeing with the lying voice of the accuser and believing the lies that I am an evil person, that I am dirty, and that I am unworthy to come and receive your love. I repent of trying to hide myself from you and from people. I repent of not believing that the blood of Jesus has cleansed me from all of the sin, all of the guilt, and all of the shame of my past, all of the things that I have done and all the things that have happened to me. Holy God, I repent for not believing your promise of forgiveness and your love for me. And now I renounce condemnation and I renounce guilt and shame from sins of the past as works of the enemy designed to rob me of the joy of my relationship with my God and with other people. I renounce these tactics of the enemy and what they have done to keep me from becoming the person God created me to be. I renounce all the lies of condemnation and of guilt and shame. I choose to receive my cleansing and my full release from all of the guilt and all of the condemnation and all of the shame of my past.

I break all agreements I have made with the lying voice of guilt, shame, and condemnation. I break all soul ties and generational ties that would bind me in any way to past guilt, shame and condemnation. I break every vow and covenant every contract and agreement that would give these spirits any power in my life.

Lord, I receive your full forgiveness and I come now to receive your cleansing touch from all the guilt and shame of my past, everything that I have done and everything that has happened to me in Jesus Name”



[Appendix](#)

Speaking to yourself vs. listening to yourself vs. taking with God

A Teaching Letter of Reflections Ministries

The Temporal and the Eternal (part 27) www.kenboa.org

The Gestation of Sin

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:13-17

In his book, *Not the way it's Supposed to Be*, Cornelius Plantinga discusses the nature of sin itself. Plantinga defines sin as a "culpable disturbance of shalom." What a perceptive insight. Sin disturbs the harmony of who we truly are. "Shalom" is about more than just peace. It's about unity and our rhythm with God. When people are in shalom with one another and with God, there is a convergence of authenticity. Anything that disrupts that is "sin." This fits well with what James says. The Shalom comes from above. In fact, we cannot create this kind of peace; instead, we are called to preserve it ("preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace"). The evil from below is the thing that disturbs it.

Even Christians experience the temptation to live by a bottom-up system. We live in the world, and none of us are perfectly immune to its influences. The danger signs we just looked at all first appear in the mind and make their way to the heart. They'll not likely be noticeable in you until they've been there long enough to start producing their results in your life with others.

Notice the process here. This is the gestation of sin. First of all, it is conceived in your mind; then it grows, and then it finally gives birth. And when it gives birth, it gives birth to action. So the sin is the concretized mind, the outcome of the thoughts that we allowed, though we knew they were opposed to God. In other words, lust, evil desire, whatever is in your mind will eventually (if given freedom to grow) birth sin. What has lived for a time in the mind becomes real in the actions. And when sin is accomplished, when it's lived out its course, it brings forth death. In effect, this is the birth of death, and it all starts in the mind.

This is a problem, as a growing number of Christian Americans are allowing their thoughts to be guided more by culture than by their own faith systems. In a 2003 study, researcher George Barna found that almost half of the American population held a non-biblical moral view on at least half of the core behaviors he surveyed; this while roughly 80 percent of Americans claim to be Christians. How is this possible, that Bible-believing Christians hold non-biblical perspectives on key moral issues?

Inside Out

Your mind holds the key, and Romans 12:2 reminds us that we are transformed by its renewing. Ironically, though, almost every sermon I hear says, "This is what you ought to do" We hear that we ought to live out the faith of Old Testament heroes or we should do the things that Jesus told us to; our churches ought to be organized a certain way, and we ought to adhere to certain practices personally and corporately. But we don't hear very much about how we ought to think, how we manage our own will, about what we allow our minds to focus on, *the life that is lived inside our heads*.

The thought life is critical. As a man thinks, so he is (Proverbs 23:7). If we begin with behavior, we won't necessarily change our thoughts, but rather will just hang new habits on an old nature. If we can get our thought life right, though, good actions are likely to emerge from the divine foundation those good thoughts provide, and the new nature can emerge. The system we're most familiar with works from the outside in, but the other system (the one Jesus advocated in his teaching ministry) works from the inside out. It demands that we start change by considering first what we believe, think, and dwell on. This is critical especially since we rarely hear sermons about how to manage what is floating around in our brains. Without learning and practicing this discipline, we tolerate a great many thoughts that are not worthy of the person we've been called to be.

Living in this backward system as we do (and as we are rarely admonished not to do), we act and then rationalize our actions. We hear sermons filled with what Dallas Willard calls "the Gospels of Sin Management" and we practice it. We maintain our "personal sin profiles" in such a way as not to cause embarrassment to ourselves or others. We keep our sin "low-profile" as best we can and only share "safe" confessions and prayer requests with others. Who's to know what you're *really* thinking, anyhow? Right?

But your thought life will eventually be birthed into action. One way or another, it's inevitable, because the things you think about and allow your mind to dwell on are your "meditations," so to speak. Whether your sin is worry or lust or hatred or envy; what you spend large chunks of time thinking on will eventually change and shape your character. (Psychologists refer to this as the Law of Exposure. What you are most often exposed to is what you will remember.)

Our character will eventually expose some of what we've been thinking. It will demonstrate for a watching world whether we are thinking predominantly about sin, or if we are, rather, making every effort to keep God's Word in the forefront of our minds.

Talking to Yourself

The first step is to recognize the fact that your moods change. The next is to make sure that if you have once accepted Christianity, then some of its main doctrines shall be deliberately held before your mind for some time every day. C.S. Lewis

In his book, *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis argues that once we've decided to believe in something (based on the evidence for it) we must be reminded of that evidence regularly. No belief Lewis says, will "automatically remain alive in the mind" without being fed. This is true, and this is why disciplines like Scripture reading, prayer, and meditation are so important.

But thought life is underplayed in our current American Christian culture. We have so understressed the practice of some spiritual disciplines that our wills have grown flabby and weak. We fail to train our minds toward holiness. Instead, we just allow them to roam where they will without really making any choice about it. However, there is good news. There is a choice to make. You can choose to **listen** to yourself (follow the thoughts where they may lead you), or you can choose to **speak** to yourself (decide where your thoughts are going to go). Listen to yourself, and you hear the whining and complaining of your flesh, still full of the old nature's hatred and bitterness. Your flesh will naturally lead you off into all the wrong things. That's *listening* to yourself. You will meditate on something, whether it is something you've chosen or something you've just stumbled on. Your mind will always be ruminating on something.

The good news is in the other option: Speaking to yourself and choosing what you will think about. While right actions don't always lead to right thoughts, practice can create habits, especially when we practice on our attitude. Attitudes are manifested in actions; but actions, over the course of time, can work toward changing attitudes as well. It can be possible to think yourself into a new a new way of doing, and it's possible to do your way into a new way of thinking. Speaking to yourself gives you an opportunity to make a conscious choice.

End of Article

Additional comments by Tom Umberger

Even speaking to yourself as opposed to listening to yourself can still lead you into a trap if you are not careful. You should learn to listen to and speak with God, speaking God's truth to yourself. Remember Jesus says, "*apart from me you can do nothing*" *John 15:5b*. It is vital that you learn to hear God's voice so you can discern whom you are listening to. When you are hearing from God there is communion with Him and revelation of sin, past wounds, and hurts. If He reveals something in your thought life and a related emotional reaction that is not of Him, which is unholy, remember what you should do. Speak to God in the "middle voice". It's about the two of you working through the issues.

1. **Acknowledge the unholy reaction**, recognize it, confess it, repent of it (turn to God for His counsel and strength), and seek forgiveness (forgive others of their sin, seek their forgiveness when you have sinned against them, and forgive yourself as well). [*Bronze Lavers]
2. **Give the sin and emotions to God**. We want to remove it as far as East is from the West. He will remember it no more i.e. He will not hold it against you. He wants you to not hold it against yourself as well i.e. don't let your flesh or anything else shame you by bringing it up. If that occurs, cast it down and command it to leave in Jesus's name. Jesus died for you for these things. Trust Him. [*Holocaust Alter]
3. **Wash yourself in the Word of God**. [*Molten Sea] "*Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" *Rom. 12:1-2*, and "*The Word of God is sharper than a double edged sword.*" *Hebrews 4:12*

* Remember these are the priestly rituals practiced in Solomon’s temple and repeated in the New Testament under the new covenant in Christ. *“And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that bear witness, the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.” 1John 5:7-8*

1. Spirit [represented by the Bronze Lavers with their mirror like finish, which brings conviction of sin, “the man in the mirror”]
2. Blood [represented by the Holocaust Alter or the blood of Christ]
3. Water [represented by the Molten Sea or the Word of God]

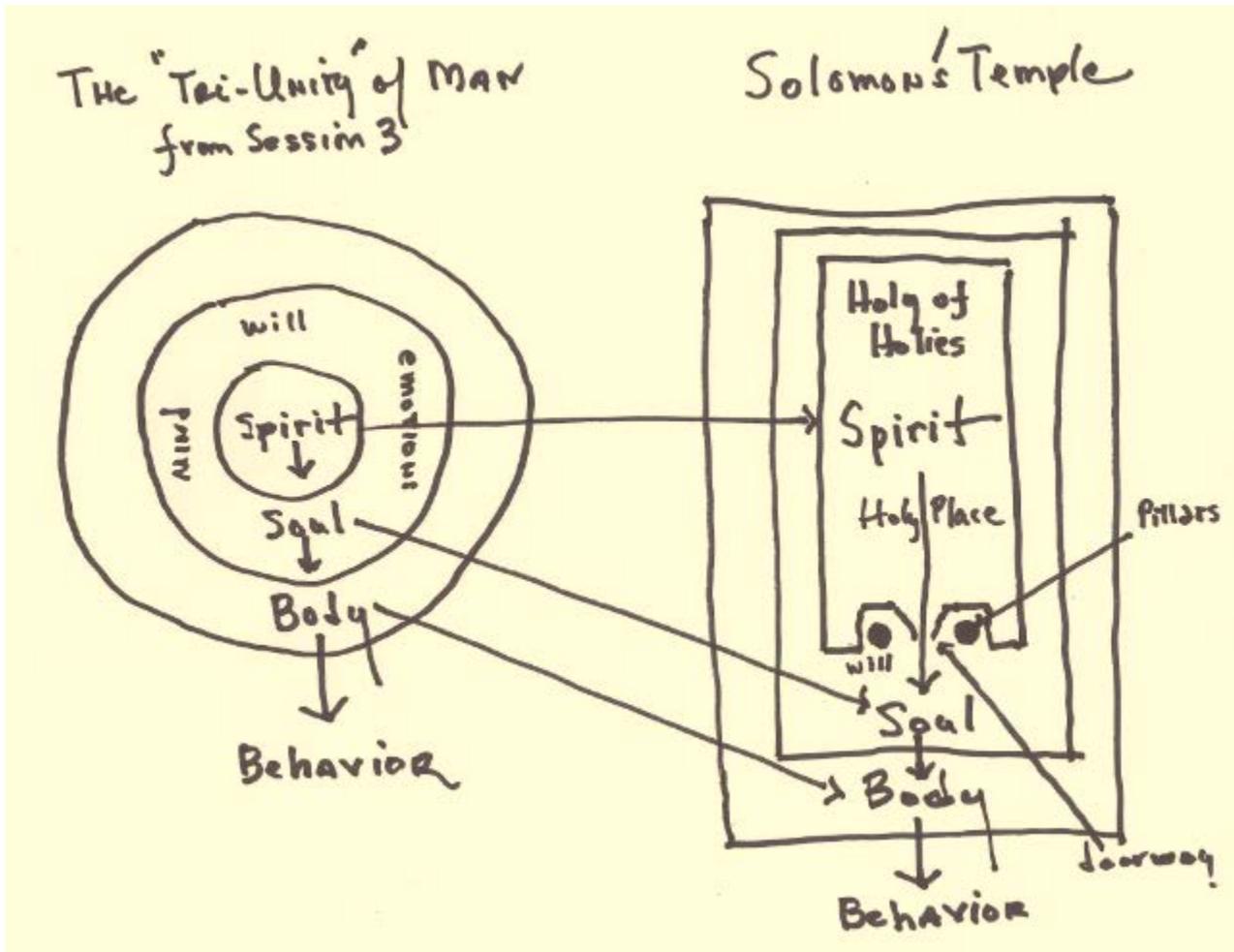
* For more on this please visit



Teaching Topic 4 “Mind Renewal (Solomon’s Temple)”

[Appendix](#)

The Tri-Unity of Man and Solomon's Temple Comparison



[Appendix](#)

The Power and Cost of Commitment

“Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him and He will do it” Psalm 37:5

The fear of commitment is epidemic in the Western world. What is the root? Selfishness and creeping worldliness. Among Christians, non-commitment takes on subtle forms. Activities, church attendance, and right doctrine can easily mask a lack of deep commitment of the whole person. There is another side. Many people make strong commitments to the wrong things (career, success, leisure, a lovely home, a summer cottage, a time consuming hobby, and so on).

If Christians really understand commitment from God’s viewpoint, many will respond with godly fervor. God’s faithfulness is not dependent on our acts of commitment, but we activate His response by our commitment. We must act. We cannot sit back passively and hope for holiness. It comes only with deliberate commitments made through the years in the midst of life. We must commit ourselves to the **lordship** of Jesus Christ. This is a continuing act of the heart, the mind, and will. The fog of worldliness however seems to envelop believers, it detracts, blinds, and deters them from the unsurpassed joy and fulfillment that await the man and woman of commitment.

Emotions alone are never an accurate barometer of spiritual depth or commitment. God captures our attention in two general ways: through the mind and through the emotions. One person absorbs Scripture and Biblical truth, and comes to a decision before God. Another is struck emotionally and cries out to God for help. Neither is sufficient by itself. Both must lead to a decision of the will and ultimately to a combination of mind, heart and will.

Each commitment will exact a price. “Freedom is not free.” Jesus won’t ask for blind commitment, but careful, intelligent, – fully aware of the cost. The costs could include time, promotion, reputation, energy, emotional stamina, or health. There is no greater fable in Christian life than the promise of commitment without a cost. The key to a joyful, victorious Christian life is costly commitment. You want to know Christ? Then your commitment is to know Him as well as to do what is necessary to get to know Him. Our prayer is that you will discover the need of getting together with a **small group** of people who study the Bible together regularly to motivate and keep you accountable.

No commitment to wealth and success alone will have God’s blessing. We simply need a commitment to stewardship of our abilities and resources under God’s sovereign guidance – in the perspective of other more vital spiritual commitments. All the talent and ability in the world are useless without the **discipline** to point you in the right direction. Someone has said discipline is the refining fire by which talent becomes ability. Commitment without discipline is like a luxury car without gasoline: it looks great but goes not where.

“On the other hand discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:7-8

Accountability is foundational to the New Testament concept of **fellowship**, but it rarely exists in the church body today. Biblical fellowship cannot exist without the elements of *“stimulating one another to love and good deeds” Hebrews 10:24*. Accountability puts teeth into commitment. Accountability puts pressure on us to perform, and opens the door to failure. But the rewards fully out-weight the risks. Consider the great sense of accomplishment, as spiritual commitments become reality. For the Christian if/when he fails, he by God’s grace, will learn, grow, and turn it to the good.

Vision is the central driving force of a Christian. Vision gives power. This is a different power than that of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers the Christian to live a holy, godly life. The vision from God, on the other hand, empowers a Christian to live a fruitful, devoted life. Certainly, God wants us to be holy. But a holy life without holy vision ultimately leads to inward spiritual poverty. The central vision for every Christian is the Great Commission. There is no other commission. Only by committing to that vision can our lives have true meaning. Vision needs a vehicle for practical expression. This is our **calling**. It is the specific task to which God calls us as our part in fulfilling the Great Commission. This task relates to our spiritual gifts and abilities. Commitment to a vision requires commitment to a calling. The specific tasks in one’s calling may vary greatly. Some support evangelists, disciplers, or teachers. Some are greatly involved in these tasks. But all believers are still responsible to evangelize where they live and work.

Job was committed to God regardless of his circumstances. He said, *“Though He slay me. I will hope in Him.”* That is the final commitment – the ultimate hope in God alone – *faith*. It seems that Job finally came to a conclusion; *“But He knows the way I take; when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”* That suffering was a trial and would purify him. In his final reflection, Job came to ultimate reality. *“Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; to depart from evil is understanding”*

One word summarizes the mark of the spiritually mature man or woman – **obedience**. Simple obedience extends from the heart and the mind and expresses itself through the will. In all creation, fruit bearing is the preeminent mark of maturity. A mature believer bears fruit of two kinds. The first is that of character and holiness of life. The second is becoming a spiritual parent either by leading others to Christ or by adopting a baby or growing Christian. *“I am the vine you are the branches, he who abides in Me, and I in him be bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5*

Taken from “The Power of Commitment” by Jerry White

Yes, there is a cost to commitment yet it is the way to the Spirit, true intimacy and the power of God!

“The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotion, spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who have never tasted victory or defeat.”

Teddy Roosevelt

[Appendix](#)

The P.O.D Communities Ministry Transformation Process

**You will be transformed as God reveals Himself to you and as you seek Him.
He has conveyed to us the path into His presence:**

Obedience: *John 14:21* “**He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.**”

Renew your mind: *Romans 12:1-2* Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by **the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Community: *Proverbs 27:17* Iron sharpens iron, so **one man sharpens another** (Community, P.O.D.).

Seek Him: *Proverbs 8:17* “I love those who **love me**; And those who **diligently seek me** will find me.

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

Therefore, the P.O.D. ministry will strive to create a community environment where the Holy Spirit and God’s Word will be proclaimed in such a way as to cause spiritual transformation and multiplication.

Special Ingredients:

- Each session will be bathed in prayer (before, during, after)
- Focused on God’s word
- Solid Teaching
- Active Discussion and Q&A
- Small group interaction
- Personal Exercise Applications (PEA’s for the POD)
- P.O.D. leaders (for encouragement, follow-up, accountability and guidance)
- Homework and follow-up discussions required for maximum impact
- Scripture memorization
- REMEMBER CARDS for each session (key take a-ways)
- Journaling (write it out in your own words)
- Listen Guide / Workbook is provided
- Resource guide and handouts for additional reading
- Visual Aids: PowerPoint, video clips, multi-media
- Seven power packed one-hour teaching sessions.
- Each of the seven teaching sessions is comprised of four teaching modules. Three are video driven. The fourth, Module D, is for review, testimonies, and Personal Exercise Applications.
- Participants will be encouraged to go through the entire process once again the following year and to invite others to participate.

Seven Attitudes to Cultivate for Spiritual growth:

- **Approach God and His word with reverence: *Philippians 2:12*** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;
- **Be like the Bereans: *Acts 17:11*** Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so.
- **Strive for correct interpretation: *2 Timothy 2:15*** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.
- **Set yourself apart: *1 Peter 1:15*** But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;
- **Seek truth by keeping an open mind: *John 8:31-32*** , “If you continue in My word, *then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*”
- **Make a Commitment to the process: *Psalms 37:5*** Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. ***1 Timothy 4:7-10*** discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come..... it is for this we labor and strive....
- **Pray: *Matthew 7:7*** “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

[Appendix](#)

The Brain and Mind working together

In module 5A page 8, How to Hear God's Voice, there is a discussion about the brain and our mind. There is much confusion in this area. The brain is essentially a bio-computer that processes data. Data coming in to the brain from our five senses is instantaneously sent to the inner man.

For the believer our inner man is made up of our soul and God's Spirit in union with our spirit. Remember from session 3 and 4, the soul has three parts, mind, will, and emotions. These three working in conjunction with the "spirit" process the information coming in from the brain. Once a decision has been made, the inner man sends signals back to the brain, which in turn causes our physical body to behave in a certain way. This usually occurs very quickly.

You can see if we are believing lies in our mind, have quenched God's Spirit in our inner man, and are allowing our emotions to rule then the decisions we make will most likely be poor. Therefore, it is imperative if you want to hear God's voice that your mind be renewed with truth by God's Spirit and Word, that your emotions are brought under the control of the Holy Spirit, and that you are striving to be obedient. This is why we first taught all the prior sessions. They laid the groundwork to Hearing God's Voice.

Tom Umberger

[Appendix](#)

“Christ in you” and “You in Christ”
Illustration

Colossians 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

1 Corinthians 1:30 But by His doing you are **in Christ Jesus**, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

The Father views us as His Son, Jesus:

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

Romans 8:15-16 ...but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

1John 3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that **we should be call children of God**;

The Father has a Family: The father receives a vast family of sons like the first-born.

1 Corinthians 15:24 then *comes* the end, when He (*Christ*) **hands over the kingdom to the God and Father**, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

Jesus has a body: The son receives a glorious body for His expression.

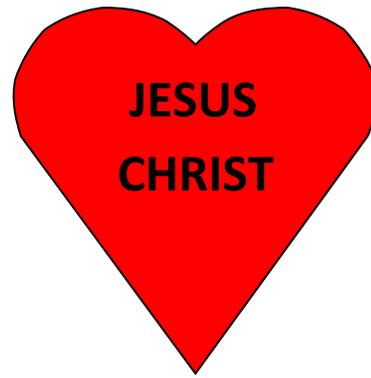
Colossians 1:18 He is **also head of the body**, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

The Holy Spirit has a temple: The Holy Spirit receives a temple of living stones for His eternal abode.

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a **temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

Ephesians 2:22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.



Instructions:

Cut along dotted lines

Write your name above heart

Write “IN ME” below Jesus Christ in heart

Write below the heart “NEW HEART”
(illustrates the “new you”, Christ in you)

On outside of envelope write Jesus Christ

Below Jesus Christ on outside of envelope, write “IN CHRIST”

Place heart into envelope (illustrating the “new you” in Christ)

Fold up verses so it will fit into the envelope

Finally write on outside of envelope “SAINT”

***This is your new identity and the way
God now views you as His beloved
son or daughter!***

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Rev 6