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## Becoming Christlike – Learning How from Old Testament Kings and Prophets

### Session 2 – God’s Word is Profitable Be Careful to Live It Out

A second subtitle to this series might be “Overcoming Your Nature” or “Overcoming Your SELF” God wants us to be obedient, holy, pure, sanctified, just – Christlike.

Only you and God truly know how you are. God tells us how to change. There is only one way to change: God’s Way. He wants us to reign in life, to be overcomers. He wants us to manifest power, manifest holy spirit via the manifestations of holy spirit, exhibit fruit of the spirit.

Fifty years ago, a Bible teacher encouraged that if we were to commit to only focus on God’s Word for 30 days, only reading it and putting all else aside, there would be change, transformation, growth; we would not know ourselves. I think it was to focus specifically on the Book of Ephesians. If we put aside all else and read it only transformation would follow.

### Introduction

God tells us that every idle word, every non-working word, we utter, we will give account of these in the day of judgement.

#### **Mathew 12:36 KJV**

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Think of all the words that are written in all the books in the world. Only God’s words are profitable words, spiritual words, life-giving words.

#### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable **for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness**, **17** [SO THAT] that the man of God<sup>b</sup> may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Every word that God has breathed out in the scripture is profitable for these four purposes, making the man or woman of God complete, fully equipped for every good work!

#### **Hebrews 4:1**

**2** For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not **united by faith** with those who listened.

Another important ingredient in transformation is that the Word needs to be united with faith. We must recognize God as the author, and we must BELIEVE IT! We must input the Word and set aside the world.

The third item in the Parable of the Sower explains this clearly! We can’t allow these worldly things to choke the Word out of us.

#### **Mark 4:18**

**18** And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, **19** but

**the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things** enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

My desire must be God-ward. I direct my own desires. I must make a conscious decision to direct myself to God and not to the things of the world.

**Psalm 25:1**

**1** To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. **2** O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. **3** Indeed, none who waits for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**4** Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. **5** Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

Look at the fruit of doing so:

**Psalm 24:3-5**

**3** Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

**4** He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. **5 He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.**

**John 6:63**

**63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

God's Words are different words than those written anywhere else! They are spiritual, life-giving words.

**Hebrews 4:12**

**12** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart

We are living in perilous times. Many think the end times are drawing near. What is there more important to do than seeking God, setting our minds on things above?

**Colossians 3:1-4**

**1** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your<sup>a</sup> life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

As Moses was preparing the Children of Israel (2<sup>nd</sup> Generation) to go into he promised land he declared:

**Deuteronomy 32:44**

**44** Moses came and recited all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he and Joshua<sup>o</sup> the son of Nun. **45** And when Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, **46** he said to them, **“Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the**

**words of this law. 47 For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”**

They had to be careful. We must be careful. It is not just going to happen automatically. It takes focus and diligence. Idolatry angers God. (See [Ezekiel 14](#).) It is not a question of whether we have idols but **what are they and how do I address them?** Idolatry means you put something else in the place of God, to supply for you what only God can supply. Whether it is safety, recognition, prosperity, acceptance, love etc.

The COI needed the Word before going into the physical promised land.  
We need the Word before going into the promised land of becoming Christlike.

Last session we pointed out:

**Deuteronomy 11      [LAW]      Deuteronomy 27**

These two chapters form brackets around the restatement of the law for this second generation that is found in Deuteronomy 12 – 26

## **Psalm 90**

Before we look at Deuteronomy 27 we are going to look at Psalm 90.

[Psalm 90](#) contains many references to time. Man’s life is fleeting. All of mankind will one day appear before the judgement seat of Christ. God’s anger, His wrath is mentioned many times in this Psalm. The ESV notes on this Psalm are very good.

### **Psalm 90:7**

**7** For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed.

God gets angry – 3 Categories

- 1 – Idolatry (Putting anything in place of God for provision, safety, recognition, purpose)
- 2 – Ingratitude (God did so much for the COI and all they did was complain)
- 3 – People not taking advantage of all He’s done for them (for us, not taking advantage of all Christ accomplished for us.)

### **Psalm 90:8**

**8** You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.

### **John 3:19**

**19** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil **20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

People are afraid to let the light of the Word shine into their lives. We must overcome this fear knowing that God loves us, His way **will** be better for us.

### **Psalm 90**

**9** For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**10** The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span<sup>c</sup> is

but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

**11** Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

**12** So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom

Take advantage of each day to conform to the image of Christ. Let the light of the Word shed its light on our areas of idolatry so that we can address them with the Word.

### **Deuteronomy 12:1**

**1** “These are the statutes and rules that **you shall be careful to do** in the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth

Why does God repeat so many times “be careful to do”? Because He knows if we are not careful, WE WILL NOT DO.

He warns them repeatedly that they will either get fruit or consequences for their carelessness to Do or their failure to Do.

### **Deuteronomy 29:29**

**29** “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, **that** we may do all the words of this law.

The Word is NOT secret. It is revealed THAT, SO THAT we may DO it!

Returning now to Deuteronomy:

### **Deuteronomy 12:29-32**

**29** “When the Lord your God cuts off before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, **30 take care that you be not ensnared to follow them**, after they have been destroyed before you, and that **you do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do the same.’**

**31** You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the Lord hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods. **32<sup>b</sup>** “Everything that I command you, **you shall be careful to do**. You shall not add to it or take from it.

Take care that you are not ensnared. Take care not to get curious about their Gods and how they worship them!

God is telling them essentially “I know you and I know what will happen! I know your nature. I know your curiosity and what will happen if you start asking questions and thinking about the ways these nations worship their idols. You will get ensnared by them!”

In our time, people see Buddhists and think they look peaceful, Muslims seem good-hearted, Meditation is helping Susie...etc. Curiosity leads to snares.

We are admonished in the New Testament:

### **I John 5:21**

**21** Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

We are not only up against our nature and our curiosity but there are teachers, false prophets, gurus actively teaching and leading people into idolatry.

### **Deuteronomy 13:1-5**

**1** “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, **2** and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’ **3** you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

**4** You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

**5** But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil<sup>a</sup> from your midst.

### **James 4:4**

**4** You adulterous people!<sup>5</sup> Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God

Don’t fellowship with unbelievers. It is popular today for people to say I need to lead a “balanced life.” Mixing the world with the Word is not God’s idea.

### **I John 2:15**

**15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life<sup>6</sup>—is not from the Father but is from the world. **17** And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

I have mentioned this book before and I am still engaged with it.

**Book:** *Biblical Discipleship: Essential Components for Attaining Spiritual Maturity* by Dr. Todd M. Fink

[https://www.amazon.com/Biblical-Discipleship-Essential-Components-Attaining/dp/1944601015/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?qid=16973](https://www.amazon.com/Biblical-Discipleship-Essential-Components-Attaining/dp/1944601015/ref=sr_1_5?qid=16973)

For instance chapter 3 is Defining Biblical Discipleship - all the commands that Jesus gave. Chapter 4 talks about the essential elements of discipleship. This is not for the faint hearted but is excellent.

I want to look at a couple verses in Deuteronomy 13.

### **Deuteronomy 13:17, 18**

**17** None of the devoted things shall stick to your hand, that the Lord may turn from the **fierceness of his anger** and show you mercy and have compassion on you and multiply you, as he swore to your fathers, **18** if you obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping all his commandments that I am commanding you today, and doing what is right in the sight of the Lord your God.

Why did God give them so many laws, so many things to do? God gave them the Law so that they could be righteous according to it. He wanted to keep them occupied with Himself. It took time, energy, effort to prepare for the feasts, travel to them etc. Our minds follow along with what we are doing. **We need to set up our routines, build our relationships, plan our activities to keep ourselves engaged with the things of God and the Word of God.**

**Deuteronomy 27** We will not get into Deuteronomy 27 today, which is the other “bookend” to the restatement of the Law in chapters 12-26. Encourage you to read those chapters and become familiar with the laws that the OT Kings and prophets should have known as the back of their hand.

God made provisions through Christ **to enable us to overcome our nature.**

**Acts 2:42-47**

**42** And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43** And awe<sup>d</sup> came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45** And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**Acts 19:8**

**8** And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. **9** But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, **reasoning daily** in the hall of Tyrannus.<sup>c</sup> **10** This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

It is possible to achieve an Acts Lifestyle

They reasoned daily in the hall of Tyrannus – they continued this for 2 years and signs, miracles, and wonders followed. Are we willing to immerse ourselves in the Word daily?

**Acts 19:20**

**20** So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

Immerse yourself in the Word so it can increase and multiply in our lives.