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## Becoming Christlike – New Testament Application of Old Testament Lessons

### NT1 - Applications of the Old Testament

We've looked at I Samuel 1-23 in some detail and have seen the hearts of David, Jonathan, and Saul revealed in their words, actions and behavior. We've seen the stark contrast between the hearts of David and Saul. This provides a good foundation to begin considering New Testament lessons gleaned from our study.

We are going to return to the rest of I Samuel and finish that book in which Saul continues to pursue David. David has two opportunities to kill Saul but refrains because Saul was once the Lord's anointed. Saul actually consults a medium at Endor in the continuation of his downward spiral. At the end of I Samuel both Saul and Samuel die. Then we will get to II Samuel where all 24 chapters are about David and David's leadership.

### God's Word Gives Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding – Three Topics For Discussion

- 1. How & Why Does The Word "Come Alive" to Some People?*
- 2. What Makes Me Competent to Counsel Someone on a Particular Topic?*
- 3. How Does God Work in Teachers within The Body of Christ?*

In the past week these three topics have come to Michael's attention about how God's Word gives understanding.

#### How & Why Does The Word "Come Alive" to Some People?

Someone complimented Michael that his Old Testament Teachings have made the Word "come alive" for him. At first appreciative, upon further reflection he reasoned that he could not take credit for causing God's Word to come alive!

God's Word IS ALIVE.

God's Words are SPIRIT, and they are LIFE. Psalm 19 talks about the Word in nearly every verse.

Unlike man's word, God's word is alive.

If and when the Word "comes alive" for a person this is how and why:

The events of the Old Testament ACTUALLY HAPPENED. God was present. By means of holy spirit upon Old Testament believers, He inspired and instructed people to record the events. He put his spirit upon them to enable them to receive revelation and write them down.

Then a teacher or any believing believer with the same spirit of God in them sits down to read and study what is written, that same spirit of God works in the reader to enlighten his understanding.

Then as that teacher or believer shares his understanding with the spirit working in him, the listener who also has that same spirit of God in him, **if he is hungry, meek, and humble** will gain enlightened understanding from God as he listens with that proper heart to receive.

So if and when the Word “comes alive” in a person that is why!

It is such an amazing blessing and enormous privilege we have to read what happened 3,000 years ago and have the words come alive as though we are watching a movie of the events and also realizing the internal motives of the “characters” in that “movie”.

Some people hear the Word and it has no impact upon them. It may be that they are not born again, or they are hard-hearted, or they have no hunger or desire to really know the truth about life.

### **What Makes Me Competent to Counsel Someone on a Particular Topic?**

Michael was approached to counsel someone in another city on an issue that he had overcome in his own life with God’s help through His Word. After phone, email, and text interactions the person said, “Thank you, that really helped me!”

How and why can we help other people?

First we are all human. No temptation has taken us, but such as is “common to man”. Our humanness makes us able to relate to other humans with compassion and understanding.

Once we go to the Word, apply it and receive deliverance we have the ability to help others **because we have experienced God’s help in that particular area of our life.**

#### **Surgery Example**

If you are scheduled for a certain surgery it is often recommended that you speak with someone who has had the same surgery to ask what pre-op and post-op were like. Then once you have had the surgery **you know experientially** what it was like.

That is what God wants us to do with His Word. Go to it, apply and prove it so we know experientially that it is true.

#### **Morocco Example**

If you are planning a trip to Morocco it is helpful to read travel books and to speak to others who have gone. They can share their experiences and photos with you and make suggestions. Then when you go to Morocco you know, **you know experientially** what it is like there.

There is a Greek word for “know” in the New Testament. It is “ginosko” and it means to know by experience. If we want to help ourselves and others we need to believe, apply, and live the Word and to prove it.

### **How Does God Work in Teachers within The Body of Christ?**

Michael acknowledges that when he teaches God’s Word, no matter where he starts he inevitably comes back to discipleship, growth to maturity, and how to live a Christlike life.

Various teachers in the body of Christ have expertise in a certain area because they have lived it, applied it or are especially interested in that area. When they teach each of them continually

comes back to that area. Here are some examples of teachers with whom Michael has been in contact.

**Ken Petty** – Tucson Arizona, Emmaus Road Ministry (passed recently) – area of expertise was “Identification With Christ” and Romans 6-8. We died with Christ. We were buried with Christ. We were raised with Christ. We ascended with Christ. That is our identity. That is who we are. And we need to learn to live according to our new identity. He even said no matter where I start I eventually get back to that because that was the lens through which he saw life and the Word.

**Tom Burke** – Columbus Ohio, Scriptural Study Groups, [ssg.church](http://ssg.church) - area of expertise is “Ephesians and the Local Church”. He sees things through the lens of living out the Word with a group of believers in the local church. He does not strive to build a mega-church or a world-wide ministry. That always shines through.

<https://bookstore.ssg.church/classes#Ephesians%20and%20the%20Local%20Church>

God has placed all of us in the body of Christ with particular enablements to minister to others in particular ways because of God’s working within each member.

**Bob Lindfelt** – San Deigo, CA – Acts Now Church - area of expertise is Speaking in Tongues and manifestations of holy spirit. <https://actsnowfellowship.net/bookstore>

**Ken Schleimer** – Incline Village NV (also manages the Life Indeed website). Ken has been studying the topic of “Our Human Nature and Sin” for the last several years and has a working manuscript or reference tool on sin that is upwards of 250 pages.

When a believer invests himself deeply in a topic and writes or teaches on that topic God is able to work within that person to enlighten him so that he can enlighten others.

**The Apostle Paul** – wrote about this process in Ephesians.

**Ephesians 3:3,4**

**3** how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. **4** **When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,**

Paul was writing what had been revealed to him about the sacred secret, the mystery. Oh my goodness he really understood the mystery of Christ In You. His desire and God’s desire was that the one reading would be able to perceive his insight into the mystery of Christ.

Because I have the very same spirit of God at work within me, the spirit within can teach me to the same level as what Paul understood.

We can do that with every teacher. Then we can benefit from all the work of others. God can teach us as we read and study their works. Think deeply of how God has orchestrated the body of Christ, and we get to benefit from all of that.

**Peter** – consider Peter for example and how God worked in him.

**John 21:15-17**

**15** When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you

love me more than these [referencing the fish]?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “**Feed my lambs.**”

**16** He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “**Tend my sheep.**”

**17** He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter is probably thinking, okay I denied him three times, does he really have to ask me the same thing a third time, I get the point, I am already grieved over what I did!

Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “**Feed my sheep.**”

Christ ascends, Day of Pentecost comes we know that Peter remained faithful and lived that out for the rest of his life. He ministered the word, he raised someone from the dead. Thirty-seven years later (@65AD) he wrote:

#### **I Peter 5:1-4**

**1** So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: **2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you**, exercising oversight,<sup>a</sup> not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;<sup>b</sup> not for shameful gain, but eagerly; **3** not domineering over those in your charge, **but being examples to the flock.** **4** And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Do you see the connection? Because of Peter’s life of faithfulness God works within him to pass on his experience to other elders encouraging them to do the same.

He was a witness of the sufferings of Christ...he was there! He knows he is going to partake in the glory that is going to be revealed.

He knows Christ is coming back. He knows in the very depth of his being that Christ will return. No question about it. Why, he witnessed the death, resurrection, Day of Pentecost, ascension then lived it out for 37 years. He can bear witness. He can testify to it. He knows he will be rewarded for carrying out what Christ has told him to do. He is exhorting them to tend, feed, take care of other people.

This is all written so that we can all grow to maturity. That is the goal, the end.

#### **Ephesians 4:4**

**4** There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

#### **Ephesians 4:11,12**

**11** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds<sup>c</sup> and teachers,<sup>d</sup>  
**12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

God gave these ministries to particular people as a gift to the body of Christ, not so they could be singled out as special but so they can equip the saints, help them each and all to grow up in Christ and perform their individual callings. On the receiving end it is not to sit at home content to have taken a class, but to live out and help others with what is learned.

#### **Ephesians 4 (continued)**

**13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,<sup>e</sup> to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. **15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, **we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,**

“speaking the truth in love” is actually a grammatical construction best translated as “**truthing it**” ie living truthfully in every way, being examples, being living epistles.

**16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, **when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

That is our goal, our vision, the desire in our hearts. Imagine every member of the body of Christ fulfilling his calling and living in this level of love toward every other!

#### **Colossians 1:27**

**27** To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.** **28** Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, **that we may present everyone mature in Christ.** **29** For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

I wanted to make those points as observations of things that have transpired for me in the last few weeks as it relates to the scriptures our growth and what we can learn from the Old Testament.

### **Two Teaching Tracks Moving Forward:**

#### **1. Continue the Old Testament Prophets and Kings**

#### **2. The Application for Us Today in the Body of Christ**

Let’s think about what we saw in Saul, his actions and his motives. Then when we read in the New Testament lists of behaviour we can see how Saul measured up.

#### **Colossians 3:5-8**

**5** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:<sup>b</sup> sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **6** On account of these the wrath of God is coming.<sup>c</sup> **7** In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. **8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.** **9** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self<sup>d</sup> with its practices

Think about Saul...was he  
angry?  
wrathful?  
malicious?  
slandrous?  
was there obscene talk from his mouth?

The answer to every question is "YES". Saul exhibited all of these. It did not appear that he even tried to overcome these things. He continued to try to kill David and reestablish himself as king.

The New Testament COMMAND is to put off all of these. Then we think of ourselves and other Christians.

Do you know Christians who slander others?

Do you know Christians who are angry towards others? Or want to carry out vengeance?

Yes we all do... so how do we not end up like Saul? How do we end up more like David?

That is what the New Testament will teach us. So much we can learn from the Old Testament.

Consider also, why is there so much ink giving to Saul and David in the Old Testament?

The name "Saul" occurs more than 300 times.

The name "David" occurs more than 1000 times.

God by his grace, mercy, and love had these things written for our learning. (Read all of I Corinthians 10!)

#### **I Corinthians 10:11**

**11** Now these things happened to them as an example, **but they were written down for our instruction**, on whom the end of the ages has come.

"the end of the ages" in scripture refers to the period after the Day of Pentecost and up till the tribulation described in Revelation. Because that is the purpose of the ages that Christ would accomplish redemption and salvation. The day of Pentecost and holy spirit would come so that people could actually be like Christ and not be slaves to their old nature.

These things, referring to the Old Testament are ours to read and learn from it. You see why God continually brings us back to the Word. Why Christ even in his resurrected body on the road to Emmaus in Luke 25 as he talked to the two men who walked with him.

Christ did not say, "Here I am, I am not dead anymore!" No! He pointed them to the scriptures.

It is God's Word. We have it as a gift to read and study!

Why so much ink on Saul and David.

God is pointing out that in all of life there are only TWO CHOICES.

There is God's Way and any other million false ways of man and the devil, your professors way, your politicians way.

Here we have the first two kings:

King Saul	King David
Went bad	Hung in there and stuck with God... though not perfect was quick to admit wrong and ask for forgiveness
Called and born into great circumstances, ordained by Samuel, spirit of God rushed upon him, prophesied with the prophets had great future possibility	In the worst possible circumstances, being pursued at least 18 months
Due to his nature and sinfulness he failed miserably	Ended up successful

We are living in dark times in this fallen world, but we can still be successful in terms of walking for God, reaping fruit and laying up eternal rewards.

**It all comes down to free will choices. Now we realize the great opportunity God has given us with all the details in the Old Testament of these two men.**

Think of two other men: The First Adam & the Last Adam, Christ  
Two Choices Folks!

We can either walk according to the old man Adam or we can walk in the new man nature.

People will say they have their own philosophy that they follow. There are not all kinds of philosophies. There are ultimately only two choices: God's Way or error. Christ, the first Adam or the last Adam!

Think back to Deuteronomy – Blessings or Curses, blessings if you followed God's Way, curses if you did not. They had the law. They had the sacrifices. This was their doctrine. Then God gives us in living color the examples of these two men:

Saul lived contrary to all th was in the Law.

David did his best to obey and live the Law.

We have the doctrine and the practice in living color!

God had all this recorded so that the jews who followed after could read the records of Saul and David and make their choice of which to follow and emulate. We know the choice that was made, and many ended up in exile.

Isaiah, Daniel Ezekiel and others read and chose God's way.

Christ laid out doctrine in John 13-17, giving detailed instructions for the eleven to follow after he left.

In the Book of Acts 28 AD or so there was nothing written yet but the first century believers lived by the example of Christ. Acts is not doctrine, it's a record of their application of Christ's example. We get to read how they applied what he had told them.

## **The Best of Times, The Worst of Times**

The times in which we live remind us of the opening of Charles Dicken's novel, *The Tale of Two Cities*. It opens with the statement that "It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." There is a whole series of contrasting pairs. England at Peace, France at Revolution, Charles Darney was contrasted with Sidney Cartan.

Spiritually we are in the same situation today  
Today is the best & the worst in terms of technology.

### **The Worst**

With the internet and cell phones, we can get news on every category of life instantly or in real time: Politics, Sports, Celebrity Happenings. 40 or 50 years ago you had to wait for the evening paper to come out to find out what had happened or at least wait for the nightly news. You had to actually do something with yourself and have a life. Today, people are able to sit around and satiate themselves with information without any self-control. 24/7 they are fed the WORLD. (Of course people found other ways not to exercise self-control.)

What has it led to?

- Obesity
- Illness
- Suicide
- Depression
- Despair
- STDs
- Drug Abuse
- Divorce

### **The Best**

On the other hand, these are the best of times in terms of what technology has made available to believers on a daily basis for the input of the Word into our minds. We can have Biblical input as much as we want, as often as we want, wherever we are. We can listen to teachings while driving, walking, running, working out. We have access to the greatest Bible research that has been done and commentaries at our fingertips. We are in better control of our input than ever before. It all comes down to individual choice of what we do with our time, mind, and life.

Am I going to live for today, or am I going to live for eternity?

Next we will explore the topics of the fruit of the spirit, self-control, reflexives in the Word, and The Parable of the Sower.