

**DISCIPLESHIP 3
GOD'S PLAN
SERIES**

**UNIT III - LESSON 9, 10
PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN
TAKING A SPIRITUAL BATH**

for

**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

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UNIT III - SPIRITUAL MATURITY**LESSON 9 - GOD'S WAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY - JERICHO**
- EPHESIANS 5:24, "PUT ON THE NEW MAN"

This lesson on **LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN** brings us to **JERICHO**

Jericho = a fragrance. When a person is born-again the stink of death is still on him (see, John, chapter 11, Lazarus).

Jericho is the process of getting rid of the stink of death and taking the sweet swelling fragrance of Jesus, it is growing up into Christ.

It is the **HOW TO** of the maturing process. The **HOW TO** of the maturing process of the believer is simple stated in Ephesians 4:24,

"...put on the new man..."

PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN is a three fold process:

- 1. Putting on the new man has its beginning in getting an **ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT**. That is adjusting our attitude **FROM** one of independence, of I am going to do my own thinking, be my own person and do my own thing, my way; **TO**, I am going to watch and see the way my Father thinks and acts and that is the way I am going to think and act. What He thinks, I am going to think; what He does, I am going to do and what He would not do, I will not do.

I am going to adjust my attitude to one of knowing I can do it because the ways of God are my ways, for I am a son/daughter of God. I have the nature and character of God because He is my Father. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13). Amen!

It is my prayer for you that you have decided to make that **ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT**; or if you have not, that you do so right now. If you have the desire to make that attitude adjustment, Philippians 2:13 says,

"God...worketh in you...both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

- 2. Now having made the proper attitude adjustment of submission and obedience to the will of the Father, the **NEXT STEP** in the putting on of the new man is **DEVELOPING GOOD, GODLY THINKING HABITS, THINKING PATTERNS**. The Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:8 says,

"..think on these things."

2 Corinthians 10:5 says,

"...bringing into captivity every THOUGHT to the obedience of Christ."

Simply this means that every thought which comes into our mind which would not be a thought Jesus would think on we are to get rid of it. If Jesus would not think

on it then we are not to think on it.

Therefore we are to REPLACE all bad thoughts (thoughts Jesus would not think on) with GOOD THOUGHTS. In this way you are developing godly thought habits and patterns. This is putting on the new man.

- 3. The **THIRD STEP** in the putting on of the new man is that of developing good habits of **DOING**.

Paul in Ephesians, chapter 5, equates this developing, putting on of Godly habits of doing as **WALKING...**

- walking in love (verse 2)
- walking as children of light (verse 8)
- walking circumspectly (verse 15)

LESSON 10 - GOD'S WAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY - JERICHO - EPHESIANS 5:25-27 - TAKING A SPIRITUAL BATH

In this lesson we want to continue talking about our Father God's plan (His way) for the **PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS**.

We, now, come once again to Jericho, which means a fragrance. Jericho is the process of getting rid of the stink of death which a believer brings into his new life as a child of God. It is placing yourself under the microscope of the Word of God, letting God's Word reveal to you, expose the the ungodly attitudes in your life; expose your bad, ungodly, sinful, **HABITS OF DOING**.

These bad attitudes, stinking thought patterns and sinful (ungodly) habits of doing are the ways of the flesh, the world and satan that a believer brings with him into his walk with Christ. It is death, having the "stink of death" all over it. The stink which attaches itself to the person who has been living (or is living) in the "pigpen" of the world.

It is a "stink of death" that is quite noticeable to everyone EXCEPT the one who is covered by the smell.

Let us understand that our individual faults and weaknesses are seen and noted by those around us. That's why it is so important for us to love one another, to see the Jesus in one another, to accept our brothers and sisters as they are, stink and all without being critical and judgmental. Amen?

It is easy to find fault with one another because our bad attitudes, our stinking thinking, and our ungodly ways stick out like a sore thumb.

Thus part of our growing-up process is learning to accept each other, love each other faults and all.

However, as we have stated, Jericho speaks of us getting rid of the stink of death which is on us. Therefore, even though we are to accept our brothers and sister and love them, faults and all, **THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE TO ACCEPT OURSELVES AND THE STINK OF DEATH IN OUR LIVES.**

There are many believers who have through the mirror of the Word seen themselves, their faults, weakness, sinful habits and who under the deception and lies of satan have said, *"that's just who I am, I am a sinner, saved by grace, so you have to accept me like I am, what you see is what you get."*

Their attitude is such that regardless of how much they stink of the world, that, that is just the way they are, they can't, or really they don't want to change, they like their life and have no intention of doing anything about it.

Let us see, YES, we are to accept our brothers and sisters and love them in spite of their faults and weaknesses. BUT, that acceptance of others does not apply to our accepting the sin and stink of the world in our own lives.

You see, we are not to be satisfied and accept the way we are. We have a **RESPONSIBILITY** (as one's who have been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb, who are born again children of God) to our Father God, to our Lord Jesus Christ, to the Holy Spirit, to our brothers and sisters in Jesus, to our husbands and wives, to our children to our parents, to our friends and neighbors, to those with who we work, to the world, and to ourselves **TO GET OUR ACT TOGETHER** and begin getting rid of the stink of sin and death in our lives. Romans 12:1,2 says...

"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Ephesians 5:8-14, "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is ACCEPTABLE unto the Lord. And having no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. WHEREFORE HE SAITH, AWAKE THOU THAT SLEEPEST, AND ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST SHALL GIVE THEE LIGHT."

We are children of the LIGHT, those who are asleep in the deception of the enemy are **TO WAKE UP AND ARISE FROM THE DEAD, PUT OFF THE OLD MAN AND PUT ON THE NEW MAN WHICH IS AFTER THE IMAGE OF GOD CREATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUE HOLINESS.**

This is our **"REASONABLE SERVICE"**. It is an obligation which we have to God, to ourselves and to those around us. You see our spiritual maturity depends on getting rid of

the stink of death, the smell of the pigpen of the world (this is, the world's attitudes, thinking patterns and habits of doing) and taking on the sweet fragrance of Jesus.

We are called by our Father God to be "imitators of Jesus." Jesus is to be our pattern for living.

Jericho, therefore, speaks of the process of taking on the sweet fragrance of Jesus, becoming a sweet smelling savor to God and those around us.

Jericho speaks of denying oneself, taking up your cross and following Jesus.

Jericho is the next step in the Christian walk. It is becoming a disciple, a learner, a follower of Jesus.

The process begins when we, like the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) "*come to ourselves*". That is when we see the reality of who we are in Jesus Christ and see the reality of the situation in which we find ourselves (that we are to a great extent living in the pigpen of the world and that our "stink" is an offense to God and those around us).

Secondly, the process continues, when we make the determination and commitment to do something about the situation in which we find ourselves..

Let me lay this on you - until you see the reality of the situation and make that commitment to do something about it - you are a "PRODIGAL SON" playing and living in the pigpen of the world of self-delusion.

Now having made the determination and commitment to do something about our situation, we are in a place where our Father God, through the working of the Holy Spirit, through the Word, can begin to clean us up.

Ephesians 5:25-27 (26).

We need to be BATHED in the Word of God.

Therefore, Jericho speaks of sitting under, and submitting to the teaching ministry in the local church, letting the Word bath us and cleanse us of all our unrighteousness.

END of Series

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