



Lesson 117 Practice Makes Perfect

This week the Lord has led me to review past lessons learned whether it be from notes I have written to myself in the margins of my bible, from a weekly lesson, from THH, just from wherever. Simply put He has been having me review lessons I have been taught. As we are at the close of a calendar year, a review seems to be in order; but instead of reviewing past mistakes or past sins for confession purposes currently He is having us review what we have learned thus far. He further emphasized the importance of these actions through these words.

12/26/12 CT - Implement change, be the person I created. Study, review and grow. Reflect on the past. Use it to learn for the future. Secure holiness in yourself through time spent with Me. That is all for now, go in peace, pulling the pieces together.

12/21/12 BN - Sit down before Me, Pay attention to My teachings, Keep reading...you are doing well with this, Discussions can then be had and things can be revealed...I will guide, Boldness...truth...deliverance...hand in hand.

We began 2012 with Lesson 71. Here is a brief excerpt from that lesson that I think is a good starting place for review:

Your Tapestry

This week the Lord used the imagery of a tapestry to create a picture of our life in Him. The image of an intricately woven tapestry came into my mind. He explained that, **All the threads which run through your life come together to create your unique tapestry.** We can gather from this that we are all made uniquely. We serve different purposes and we have different life experiences. This is what makes our tapestry unique. The bible confirms this in several verses:

Ephesians 4:11 *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors, and teachers,....*

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 *There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

1 Corinthians 7:7b *... each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.*

We gather from these verses that the Lord has blessed each individual with varying talents and experiences. This is what makes us unique. He then asked us a couple of questions regarding our tapestry; namely, What is the image seen on your tapestry? Is it a reflection of Me? We can see that the Lord is asking us to think about our lives and the choices we have made. Are we a reflection of Him? The bible reminds us of this in verses like:

1 John 2:6 *He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*

1 Peter 2:21-22 *For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth."*

Matthew 5:16 *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

As we follow these verses and abide in Him then we shall have a holy tapestry just as He urged when He said, **make the tapestry of your life a holy tapestry.**

I decided, however, to look up the definition of holy in Webster's dictionary to make sure I had the correct understanding of this word in my mind. It says, **exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness; divine; devoted entirely to the deity or the work of the deity.**

He, therefore, is asking us to be good, to follow after righteousness, and to be devoted to the Lord our God. He is reminding us to be holy just as it was said in **1 Peter 1:16** *"Be holy, for I am holy."* This verse goes along with the words we received when The Lord said, Weave your tapestry into a representation of Me. This is why we are seeking to perfect ourselves.

We, however, cannot perfect ourselves without removing that which is not of Him. In other words we learned that we have to clean ourselves up:

Rebuke Temptation

I think the first step we need to take in cleaning ourselves up is to recognize that we all have sin in our lives. We are tempted and we fall. So we need to address temptation.

Temptation is the act of enticing to do wrong by the promise of pleasure or gain; or the state of being strongly tempted especially to evil: enticement.

As I was reading verses from the Bible relating to temptation I realized, as stated previously, that we are all tempted. We tempt ourselves. Other people tempt us. And we're even tempted by the devil and his cohorts. We are tempted by desires and pleasure. Often times' temptation itself is so enticing that we end up joining in and we tempt others as well. And we can't forget that in the bible Satan himself is referred to as the tempter.

Matthew 4:1-3 *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*

Satan tempted the Lord and he (Satan) will tempt you as well. However, Jesus encouraged us to pray that we would not enter into temptation.

Luke 22:40 *When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."*

So you can see that temptation is a serious issue that needs to be dealt with. In fact the Lord has spoken to us regarding temptation previously when He said:

12/27/09 BT - "To discipline your mind read the Bible. If you want control of your mind don't let the enemy in. To rebuke temptation, first know that it is temptation. Whatever takes you away from ME is the work of the enemy."

11/01/11 DP - Overcome every trial and temptation. Watch and pray you do not be taken in temptation.

You can see from these words that it takes both discipline and knowledge to rid yourself of temptation. The Lord said, "Whatever takes you away from ME is the work of the enemy." Therefore realize that the work of temptation comes from the enemy. At this point I think it would also be good for each one of us to realize that no work is being done on your spiritual "tapestry" when you are away from the Lord.

Remove Sin, Remove Self, Removing the Leaven

In many of our lessons we have talked about getting rid of self. Getting rid of self is vital. It is a vital part, of the weaving of our tapestry. But what exactly is "self"? Well, "self" is seeking after your will, your wants, your desires. It is putting you first before the Lord or others. I believe this ties in well to one of the notes I have written to myself in my bible that states: "**Sin is loving self more than others. This is because loving self is the motivation behind sinful acts.**" Remember when "self" is the motivating factor you will be seeking after what you believe will make you happy. Ultimately you will be putting your wants, your desires, your will before all others. This philosophy of life may seem like a good idea initially but over time you will find that it does not produce positive results.

There are several verses from the book of Proverbs that I think can shed some light on the correlation between sin and self. And these verses are:

Proverbs 6:16-19 *There are six things Adonai hates, seven which he detests: a haughty look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet swift in running to do evil, a false witness who lies with every breath, and him who sows strife among brothers.*

These seven things that the Lord hates are sins that are motivated by self. We are haughty because we think we are better. We lie because we want the truth to be different. We shed innocent blood. We plot wicked schemes. We do evil. We make false statements and sow strife. We do all this because we want "it" (the object of our desire) to be different. We are not happy or satisfied with "it" as it is. We have determined that our wants, our desires, our will, must come first. Consequently, self gets in the way of obedience.

Do you remember in previous lessons we have talked about the commandment that Jesus declared to be the greatest commandment of all? It is from,

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your GOD with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*

And we also talked about how this commandment ties into **Exodus 20:3** “*You shall have no other gods before Me.*” Thus when we put these passages together with what we have learned about self then we must ask, “How can we be fulfilling these commandments if we are full of self”? It is at this point we realize that we can’t!

Hence we come to understand that when we are motivated by “self”, when we allow “self” to be in control, then we are putting our will before the will of the Father. We are in effect breaking these two commandments because we actually do not love Him with all our Heart, soul and strength. No, we realize we are loving ourselves first. Thus, you can see the importance of removing self, removing sin, and removing the leaven.

After review of these pieces you can see that the Lord is perfecting us. He put the image of a beautiful tapestry in our mind for a purpose. It is the picture of a tapestry without flaw or imperfection. It is the image we are to work towards. It is the image of the person God created.

Keep God at the Center

Another important lesson, another thread of this year’s tapestry, came through the Lord teaching us to keep Him at the center (**point of focus**) of our lives. He made mention of this on several different occasions:

01/15/12 DP - **Keep Me centered I must be at the center of your life.**

03/13/12 CT – **The enemy is crafty. He will try to fool you but you know my voice. He will use distractions to try and make you lose your focus. Keep me at the center, at the center of your attention, at the center of your focus.**

03/21/12 CT – **Container, vessel, be an honorable vessel. Be a vessel of purpose. Serve the Lord with your whole heart. Don’t divide your attention. Keep Me at the center of your purpose - your heart. Keep Me at the center of your heart.**

05/07/12 BN - **Keep the things of the world in their place and keep Me front and center.**

07/19/12 CT - **Keep Him at the center of your life.**

What we learned is that we keep the Lord at the center by keeping our **focus** on Him and His commandments. The bible says it like this:

1 John 2:3-6 *Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His words, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*

1 John 2:15,28 *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. ...And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.*

The Lord said it like this in God Calling:

April 14th - Dwell with Me as the center of your lives. Fix your whole being with Me as its center. That gives you the true balance as is the case with some delicate instrument.

What we came to realize is that keeping Him at the center of our focus is the way we obey, in other words, it is the evidence of our obedience to the commandments below.

Exodus 20:3 *“You shall have no other gods before Me.”*

Matthew 22:37-40 *Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

Consequently, we began to understand the purpose of His instruction through the Lord’s careful presentation of His messages. He began by encouraging us with the imagery of a flawless tapestry. A tapestry, you see, is intricately woven over time until it ultimately presents the picture, the design of its creator. We, like the tapestry, are being intricately woven. We are becoming the person of the Lord’s design. The lessons are the threads the design is built upon. This is the reason why the Lord encouraged us through the various threads of this year. This is the reason why we are to rebuke temptation, remove sin, self and the leavening that corrupts. This is the reason for keeping the Lord at the center of our heart, at the center of our lives. Ultimately, what we must come to understand is that there is purpose in His design. He explained that, *All the threads which run through your life come together to create your unique tapestry.*

My Love

A tapestry is made for viewing. We will also be seen. This is part of why keeping Him at the center of our hearts is so important. The Lord would like for others to see Him through us. He said it like this, *Let them see Me in you.* He would like for them to see His love. The Lord taught us that the love that we have at the center of our heart, the love we hold for Him, should be given to others in service to Him. He will then be seen through us because we have been identified as His. As humans we express our love to others in various ways. We speak of our love but we also give demonstrations of our love.

Ephesians 5:1-2 *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*

Hebrews 13:1 *Let brotherly love continue.*

1 Peter 1:22b *.. love one another fervently with a pure heart.*

1 Peter 3:8-9 *Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessings, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.*

In Lesson 80 we learned that Jesus taught us that the greatest commandment is this:

Matthew 22:37-40

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Therefore, what Jesus taught us is that our first commandment is to love the Lord with all our heart, mind and soul. But in this same passage He also taught us that loving our neighbor is important as well. And since His message is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow we should not at all be surprised that we are to keep His love at the center of our hearts and we are to share it with others. His love, His warmth, His blessings should be felt through you which in turn gives a demonstration of Him to others.

Others may try to control, tempt and/or conquer you by force. That is their motivation but the Lord's motivation is love. He said, **I AM love, let others feel My love, My warmth, My blessings. Then you truly are My ambassador.** And this leads to one of my favorites threads of the year.

Davening

On 02/27/12 The Lord woke me up and said something to me about me davening. It was something like, **You are davening!** I had to look this up because I had no idea what davening was if it was anything at all. I didn't believe that I had ever heard the word before. I found out that davening is Jewish prayer. In this type of prayer you are completely focused on the Lord trying to eliminate any distractions, you have an intense desire to be pleasing to the Lord sincerely loving him, you yearn to be close to Him and you open your heart to love; having not only an intense love for the Lord but also an intense love for all His children, all people because they have been created in His image. It is an understanding that people are precious to God and that loving and being good to them is the essence of serving God. The essential teaching of davening is that love and worship of God are best expressed through loving humankind because man is made in God's image. This understanding is to be foremost in your mind as you are praying and seeking out a closer more intimate relationship with the Lord.

I couldn't have planned this out any better myself. The definition of davening is basically what the Lord has been teaching us through this year. He is teaching us to keep him at the center of our focus - completely focused on the Lord trying to eliminate any distractions. He also has taught us to demonstrate His love to others - have an intense love for all His children, all people because they have been created in His image.

But we can't forget that He added this,

11/27/12 CT - **Majesty, majestic are His ways. They are good because He is good. Have this said about you by following after His ways. Create your legacy now by being good as He is good, by being Holy as He is Holy, by being pure as He is pure. The light we shine onto the world is so important. Keep you light shining brightly by following after My ways, by remembering the greatest commandment and the second (Love the Lord and Love your neighbor), by bringing together all I have taught you (remember the lesson on davening, we are all God's children, we are all creations of His, therefore we should love them all as He does).**

Bring the lessons together in thought and in deed, act them out in your life. Shine your light for the world to see. Care, care, care – care for the Lord, care for others and even care for yourself (to do right, to follow after His will). Go forward and be all you can be. Remember I love you! Go in peace.

Consequently, I most definitely believe that the Lord wants us to take time to review the lessons learned over this past year, to see the threads, and the evolution of this tapestry we call life. Just this week He said this:

12/20/12 MVA - **Kinks out. Practice makes perfect continue to practice.**

12/20/12 SN - **Take time to notice the truth, Change, Be guided. Focus on one thing before you, Focus on what I AM saying, Walk where I walk, Can you hear Me I AM the gentle sound, Will you walk where I walk.**

12/20/12 DP - Take heed, ways of your God Jesus learn, walk out continually, constantly improve never be satisfied with status quo I am a God of perfection be perfect as I am perfect. Progression towards goal continue forward, momentum/power gaining, snowball effect you are closer than you think. Prepare, the time is at hand for My will to be done. Leading edge focus much is being shown put together correctly take time to assemble.

12/20/12 BN - It is fine to bow down before Me...but rise up and get started for the day is short, I have been focusing you in on the truth.

12/20/12 CT - You must be prepared and knowledgeable, able to hold your own.

12/23/12 BT - Do what is asked of you.

12/21/12 MVA - Keep track of all lose none. Keep clear concise records. Track each, bring to fulfillment completion. Each at different place. Flow chart will reveal location of each. Chart record each progress. Know location of each. Forward momentum key. Once moving keep moving forward in your God Jesus. I have given responsibility to many. I AM guiding and directing each. Listening ears are hearing. Obedient ones are following. Encourage others. Help each other. Good works are of your God Jesus. Be attentive to opportunities for each. Help as needed.

May the Lord Bless and Keep You Through This New Year,
Cindy

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