

VVM- Cyclical Lesson 11

Cultivate Good Relationships! “Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don’t see things the way you do. And don’t jump all over them every time they do or say something you don’t agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.” (Rom 14.1 MSG)

1. New Creation – (Eph 1:3-5)

- a. (KJV) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ;** according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and without blame before him** in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will
- b. (TPT) **Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm has already been lavished upon us as a love gift from our wonderful heavenly Father,** the Father of our Lord Jesus—all because he sees us wrapped into Christ. This is why we celebrate him with all our hearts! And in love he chose us before he laid the foundation of the universe! Because of his great love, he ordained us, so that we would be seen as holy in his eyes with an unstained innocence. For **it was always in his perfect plan** to adopt us as his delightful children, through our union with Jesus, the Anointed One, so that his tremendous love that cascades over us would glorify his grace
- c. (AMPC) May blessing (praise, laudation, and eulogy) be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) Who has blessed us *in Christ* with every spiritual (given by the Holy Spirit) blessing in the heavenly realm! Even as [in His love] **He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world,** that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, *even* above reproach, before Him in love. For He foreordained us (destined us, planned in love for us) to be adopted (revealed) as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will [because it pleased Him and was His kind intent]
- d. (MSG) How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He’s the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to **the high places of blessing in him.** Long before he laid down earth’s foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!)

Commented [BC1]: Past tense: All THE BLESSING is available in Christ. The supernatural empowerment to prosper!

Commented [BC2]: In Jesus you are NO LONGER A SINNER, but a son

Commented [BC3]: Everything in the eternal realm that you need has ALREADY BEEN LAVISHED on you. Access it!

Commented [BC4]: Translated: “**He marked out our horizon destiny beforehand**” Your life books are written and reviewed in heaven by the angels!

Commented [BC5]: Our original state of perfection in the garden has ALWAYS BEEN HIS DESIGN for us. Jesus’ restoration plan was in place from the beginning

Commented [BC6]: You are a joint-owner of the Kingdom of God with Jesus !

2. Soul Renewal /Discipline the Flesh– (2 Cor 10:3-5)

- a. (KJV) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of **strong holds**;) casting down imaginations, and every **high thing** that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ
- b. (TPT) For although we live in the natural realm, we don't wage a military campaign employing human weapons, *using manipulation to achieve our aims*. Instead, our *spiritual* weapons are energized with divine power to effectively dismantle the defenses *behind which people hide*. **We can demolish every deceptive fantasy that opposes God and break through every arrogant attitude that is raised up in defiance of the true knowledge of God. We capture, like prisoners of war, every thought and insist that it bow in obedience to the Anointed One.**
- c. (AMPC) For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh *and* using mere human weapons. For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for **the overthrow and destruction of strongholds**. [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments *and* theories *and* reasonings and every proud *and* lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought *and* purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)
- d. (MSG) The world is unprincipled. It's dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn't fight fair. But we don't live or fight our battles that way—never have and never will. The tools of our trade aren't for marketing or manipulation, but they are for **demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture**. We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.

Commented [BC7]: Self- imposed "rebellious castles" that we hide behind. Without renewal people can *become a prisoner* to the walls of defense they put up.

Commented [BC8]: WE WIN THE WAR with philosophies & ideas that do not align with God's revealed Word

Commented [BC9]: Translated: "Citadels of argument and fantasy"

Commented [BC10]: Christians capture thoughts and force them to bow to LOVE. Fighting foolish ideas gently

Commented [BC11]: Strongholds are not demonic locations on earth or in heaven. They are FAULTY THOUGHT PATTERNS that misalign with the Bible

Commented [BC12]: A culture of DECEIVED THINKING, emotional outbursts and impulsive behavior

3. Love Character – (1 Peter 3:4)

- a. (KJV) *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament of* a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.
- b. (TPT) Let your true beauty come from your inner personality, not a focus on the external. For lasting beauty comes from a gentle and peaceful spirit, which is precious in God's sight *and is much more important* than the outward adornment of elaborate hair, jewelry, and fine clothes.
- c. (AMPC) Let it be the inward adorning *and* beauty of the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *and* unfading charm of a gentle and peaceful spirit, which [is not anxious or wrought up, but] is very precious in the sight of God.
- d. (MSG) What matters is not your outer appearance—the styling of your hair, the jewelry you wear, the cut of your clothes—but your inner disposition. Cultivate inner beauty, the gentle, gracious kind that God delights in.

Commented [BC13]: There is no male or femaleness in the spirit. Same inner-man character

Commented [BC14]: *A meek & quiet Spirit is Jesus' nature!*

This quality is for everyone, not just women, as is often incorrectly taught

Commented [BC15]: Jesus was Meek= quiet, reserved, soft, hushed, reticent, still (very precious to The Father)

Commented [BC16]: Do you want to be precious to God? Be gentle and peaceful in your demeanor

Commented [BC17]: Cultivation implies WORK, EFFORT and ACTIONS. Invest in your inner man of Love

Commented [BC18]: A docile spirit. A humble disposition. A mild temperament. A reserved character. A passive display. Gentle, agreeable, considerate, easy, laidback, lenient, pliable, tender, polite & sweet

Kingdom Stewardship

(Psalms 103:1-5)

- a. (KJV) Bless the LORD, O my soul: And all that is within me, *bless* his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, And **forget not all his benefits**; Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; Who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; **Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things**; *So that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.*
- b. (TPT) With **my whole heart, with my whole life, and with my innermost being**, I bow in wonder and love before you, the holy God! Yahweh, you are my soul's celebration. How could I ever forget the miracles of kindness you've done for me? You kissed my heart with forgiveness, in spite of all I've done. You've healed me inside and out from every disease. You've rescued me from hell and saved my life. You've crowned me with love and mercy. **You satisfy my every desire with good things**. You've supercharged my life so that I soar again like a flying eagle in the sky!
- c. (MSG) O my soul, bless GOD. From head to toe, I'll bless his holy name! O my soul, bless GOD, don't forget a single blessing! He forgives your sins—every one. He heals your diseases—every one. He redeems you from hell—saves your life! He crowns you with love and mercy—a paradise crown. **He wraps you in goodness—beauty eternal**. He renews your youth—you're always young in his presence.

Commented [BC19]: It is important to remind yourself of the BENEFITS of being in covenant with God

Commented [BC20]: Translated: "who satisfies with GOOD ORNAMENTS"

Commented [BC21]: True sincerity does not mean perfection. God approves commitment over performance

Commented [BC22]: God BLESSES spiritually, emotionally, mentally, physically, socially and financially.

Commented [BC23]: An eternal realm citizen has ready access to enter heaven, to bring back to earth all the goodness that is needed and wanted