

Week 7 – The Fellowship Will Protect and Propel You

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTES

THE FELLOWSHIP

truth



The Trinity

2 Corinthians 13:14, **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.** WITH. God's plan from the beginning, to be WITH his people. Creation Adam and Eve experienced life WITH God. Their fall into sin broke that fellowship. No surprise to God, he had already planned before the foundation of the world he would send Jesus, the second person of the trinity, to be our Immanuel, "God WITH us!" One of the most beautiful promises of God to the OT people, you messed it up, you broke fellowship, you chose sin and rebellion and independence, but I promise I will walk among you again. The trinity is a protection from lies and a motivator for living a life of faith and strength and love.

The Bible

Psalms 119:9, **9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.** 2 Tim. 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 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**"

The Church

Hebrews 10:24-25, **24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.** The smaller gatherings have a power that the larger does not have – we are known and cared for and we know and care for others. The larger gatherings have a power that the smaller does not have – we are members of something historic, powerful, lasting, transcendent.

The Cloud of Witnesses

Hebrews 12:1-2, **Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.** Hebrews 11:4, **4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.**

DEEP DESIRES

desires

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- **For purpose, to be part of something big, transcendent**
- **For relationship, to love and be loved, to pursue and be pursued, for community, family**
- **For impact, significance**
- **For honor, respect, to be understood, valued**
- **To protect and provide, to be protected and provided for, security**
- **To come through, to hear "well done"**
- **For beauty and creativity**
- **For peace and freedom**
- **For peace, wholeness, completion, for shalom**

EXERCISES – COVERING OTHERS WITH A 3-POINT RESPONSE

choices

CASE STUDY. You are in a small group with some folks who are really shut down. Sharing never gets much below the surface and you've noticed no one seems to notice. Nancy however surprises everyone one day and finally shares a serious struggle she's been facing. Like the others, she's only ever shared surface level thoughts and observations. This time a deep emotion has been stirred – anger, joy, grief, confidence – and perhaps a deep desire has surfaced – desires for peace, safety, significance, or to hear “well done.” What would be the most common approach? Most groups are full of well-meaning members who will be tempted to “fix” whatever the struggle is and to begin telling them what they need to do. WHAT WOULD BE WRONG WITH THIS APPROACH?

- THEY fear of **rejection**
- THEY feel **alone**
- DON'T take the place of **God's patient work in their lives**

SKILL TO DEVELOP. “Covering with Identifying, Affirming and Sharing”.

WHAT IF, WHAT IF you could learn to respond to those you love in ways that gives them courage, removes their fears of rejection, communicates acceptance, and demonstrates they are not alone?

IDENTIFY

PURPOSE: Cover his fear and belief that something is wrong with him or that he is the only one who has ever experienced what he is describing.

“I can relate.”

“My heart is breaking as I hear your story.”

“I am moved to tears by what you've gone through.”

DON'T start telling your story. Take 2-3 sentences to mention how you can relate.

AFFIRM

PURPOSE: Cover her fear of being rejected and alone.

“Thank you for sharing. That took a lot of courage.”

“We are here with you.”

“Your sharing helps me know that I'm not alone; others struggle just like I do.”

DO share an authentic affirmation.

SHARE

PURPOSE: Sharing your own feelings, desires and choices builds him up and gives him courage.

“You give me courage to face my own pain.”

“I admire you. I am drawn to you.”

“I have hope that I can change.”

“I am sad, broken hearted over what happened to you.”

“I'm angry at what that person did or what happened to you.”

DO share from your feelings or desires how you are affected by them and their sharing.



Winning the BATTLE

CHECKLIST FOR PREPARING OURSELVES FOR THE BATTLE

Using this checklist – on your first reading, check every item that is true for you. Next, look at each one you did not check and ask yourself, “Does the Lord Jesus want me to devote some more time to this area? If so, how and when?” Finally, drawing from everything you’ve experienced in this series, describe your 2 biggest takeaways you will want to carry with you.

GOD HAS CHOSEN ME FOR HIS LARGER STORY

- I have received Jesus forgiveness for my sins, I have committed/devoted/surrendered my life to him, and I have assurance of eternal life with God.
- I can personalize the Four Realities – [1] how God graciously chose me, [2] my unique part to play, [3] the evil that hunts me, and [4] the fellowship that has/is protecting me:

I HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN GOD’S STORY

- I have discovered my SHAPE as part of playing my part in God’s story:

- I have engaged 7 or more Bible passages from my whole heart as part of choosing the way of surrender (Examples include: Proverbs 14:3; Genesis 3:1-7; Luke 6:45; Luke 15:17-24; Revelation 21:1-4; Luke 15:25-32; 1 Peter 2:9-12; John 10:7-10; Ephesians 6:10-13; 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 3:14-21; Matthew 25:14-30).
- I can identify the deep desires that most capture my heart:

- I can effectively respond from the heart in one word how I am experiencing something or someone as part of choosing to live from my whole heart.

THE ENEMY IS HUNTING ME

- I have engaged a tough issue from the whole heart as part of choosing the way of humility.
- I have identified the fig leaf protective strategies that I most struggle with:

- I have entered into repentance from my protective strategies as part of choosing the way of humility.
- I have selected 4-5 scriptures that I can use to do battle against the enemy's lies:

THE FELLOWSHIP WILL PROTECT AND PROPEL ME

- I have practiced the 3-point response when responding to another's vulnerable sharing as part of choosing intimacy.
- I have opened myself to 1 or more fellow believers as protection for me and given them the voice to propel me to play my part in God's story (as described above).
- I have committed myself to regularly engaging the living and active, powerful and penetrating Word of God as part of pursuing resurrection, life, and glory.

I HAVE GROWN STRONGER IN THE BATTLE FOR MY OWN HEART AND THE HEARTS OF THOSE IN MY DOMAIN

- I have assessed my growth this fall and scored myself along the goals for this Battle series. (On a scale of 1-10 – where “10” is the highest and best – how would you score yourself when you began this series and where you are now):

	THEN	NOW
<input type="checkbox"/> I have overcome confusion and aimless feelings in my Christian life	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am able to live from my whole hearts in God's great love story	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I hear and receive God's validation and affirmation that frees me from living for the validation and affirmation of others	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am empowered to live faithfully the part of God's story He has uniquely positioned for me to play	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am equipped for battle against the fear and pride that can shut us down and cut us off from living from our whole hearts	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am connected intimately and authentically with God and those around me, in my domain	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am equipped to protect others from the enemy and propel them to play the part God has called them to play	_____	_____

BIGGEST TAKEAWAYS
