**“WOW” Class 8**

**“Going Deeper into the KINGDOM of GOD”**

**Friday, October 12, 2018**

**Nancy Bowser**

**CHALLENGE:** *Go deeper into the Kingdom of God. Allow the Holy Spirit to go deeper in you.*

 -Read the “Go Deeper” invitation for WOW from 2012

 -Hopefully tonight we will be able to clarify and build upon some of the things we have discussing over the last weeks.

**KINGDOMS:**

**The Beginning in the Garden of Eden:** God created the earth and planted a special garden in it as a place that was an extension of heaven, a place where God’s glory took on physical form so that He could interact in love and fellowship with His people. The Bible doesn’t specifically explain what this looked like, but what we know is that God manifested Himself in a physical way. The serpent could talk and this did not appear surprising to Eve. I believe that the spiritual realities of heaven were manifested in the Garden of Eden! I believe that as God walked and talked with Adam and Eve, angels were also visible and interacted physically as one family together in His Kingdom on earth. To have an accurate picture of what this may have looked like, we have to understand that God created angels with different types of bodies. The Bible does describe some of these beings. The seraphim are serpent-like in appearance. Others appear as wheels covered with eyes. And there are some that appear as we usually think of them.

The one requirement God had was that the people in the Garden would love and worship Him. Because love is a choice, He planted a tree called the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and told them not to eat of it. Their decision to disobey God in this one aspect changed everything.

 Lucifer, the anointed Cherub, had been banned from heaven because he had rebelled against God. Why did God allow him into the Garden, His Kingdom? Maybe for the same reason He planted the tree that they were not to eat.

 We need to talk about Lucifer/Satan, for he became the opposer of God and the ruler of his own kingdom. He was seraph, a fiery serpent in his appearance, for that is the body that his classification of angel was created with. The Bible does not say that Adam and Eve were used to seeing angelic beings in the Garden, but if this is the case, it helps us understand why Eve would have stopped and spoken with this serpent.

 Satan is crafty. He came to steal, kill and destroy. But he knew that his power was limited by God, and so his only recourse was deception. What Eve lacked was discernment. She didn’t recognize this serpent as evil. And what did he do? He appealed to her flesh, her soul. That has continued to be Satan’s line of attack in us today.

**Why were we created?** This is very important for us to know because Satan will always try to stop us from functioning according God’s purpose and plan. He wants to steal us away from God, to pervert our worship and steal it for himself. But if we know this, we can be alert, watchful and discerning so that we don’t fall into the trap that Eve fell into. We were created:

To be His own special people, His most valuable possession, His inheritance (1 Peter 2:9, Psalm 78:71)

To be His first love, to receive Him as our inheritance (Ephesians 1:11)

To live for the praise of His glory (Ephesians 1:12)

To be His light bearers in the world, sharing the gospel of the Kingdom of God as we preach, teach and live the Kingdom of God, baptizing others and making disciples who will share it…(Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:16-20)

**Why did Jesus come?**

To bridge gap as mediator between God and us (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

Because of God’s great love for us (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:4-5)

So that we can be justified (be made right) by our faith in Him (Gal. 3:24) reconciling and restoring our relationship that was broken through sin, so that we can have an intimate relationship with Him (2 Corinthians 5:18)

To reveal the Father to us and to lead us into His love (1 John 4)

To redeem us, to transfer us out of the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of Light. We are not our own. We were bought with a price, the blood of Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

To forgive sins through our repentance (Acts 5:31)

To destroy the works of the devil, which are always to steal, kill and destroy (1 John 3:8; John 10:10)

To bind up the brokenhearted; to proclaim freedom for the captives of sin; to set prisoners free from the darkness of bondage; to comfort all who mourn and give them gladness; to give beauty instead of ashes, and praise instead of despair; to rebuild places (lives) that have been devastated (Isaiah 61:1-4)

To give abundant life (John 10:10)

To heal the sick, the wounded, and all who are oppressed by the devil or troubled with unclean spirits (Matt. 4:23-24; Acts 10:38; Luke 6:17-19)

To preach and teach the good news of the kingdom of God (Luke 4:43), to break the power of evil, to reverse the curse, to redeem us, to turn those things around and use them for His honor and glory (Romans 8:28)

To train us up as warriors in His Kingdom (Ephesians 6:10-18) so that we can continue His work of bringing His Kingdom to earth (Matthew 6:10)

To give us the keys to His Kingdom (Matthew 16:19)

To restore, support, strengthen, and establish us after we have suffered through Satan's attacks (1 John 3:8; 1 Peter 5:8-10)

To give eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:16)

**Kingdom Locations: *Three Heavens***

-There are three heavens. The earth, the sky with stars and sun, and the throne of God above that. Genesis 1:1….”*In the beginning God created the* ***heaven* (H8064:** **heavens; atmosphere, visible sky, abode of God)** *and the earth.”* God gave dominion of the earth to man and intended for the earth to be a place where the physical and spiritual realms worked together so that He could interact with us physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. But when sin entered, the realms and fellowship with God was split apart, Satan stole not only the hearts of men, but the right to rule on the earth.

-***First heaven***: Satan is the god of this world and he rules the immediate atmosphere around the earth. 2 Corinthians 4:4 *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

-***Second heaven***: The sky is where principalities and powers rule. The Bible describes fallen angels as luminaries or stars. Whether or not this is literal, the truth is that these beings set themselves up in pride from this high place. Ephesians 6:12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

-***Third heaven*** is the highest place from which Yahweh rules over all things, even Satan’s kingdom. Ephesians 4:10 *He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.*

-Jesus came and redeemed us through His blood, and He brought the Kingdom of God to earth to live in His people, to work through His people! So even though Satan is still god of the earth, we can enter the highest heaven, the throne room of God! Hebrews 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

**The Kingdom of God is now in us! Luke 17:20-21** *Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation;****21****nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”*

**More Scriptures about the Kingdom of God:**

[**Matthew 6:33**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+6:33&version=KJV)

*But seek ye first the****kingdom******of******God****, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

[**Matthew 12:28**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12:28&version=KJV)

*But if I cast out devils by the Spirit****of******God****, then the****kingdom******of******God****is come unto you.*

**Mark 1:14-15**

***14****Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,* ***15****And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

**Mark 4:11**

*And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery****of****the****kingdom******of******God****: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:*

**Mark 9:1**

*And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with* ***power.***

**Power is G1411, dynamis:**  Strength power, ability: power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth; power for performing miracles; moral power and excellence of soul; the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth; power and resources arising from numbers; power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts.

 **The Kingdom of God’s power is always given to us so that we can effectively do what He says to do…To obey Him.**

**Kingdom Touch:**

***1. When Jesus Touches Us*** He is binding and attaching Himself onto us and kindling a spiritual fire in us, readying us for the fire of the Holy Spirit to set us ablaze with passion for God and His Kingdom! But we must receive Him and allow Him to touch us, to set us ablaze with His fire, His passion in order to live within His Kingdom.

**Mark 10:13-16** *And they brought young children to him, that he should* ***touch*** *them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.* ***14****But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.* ***15****Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not* ***receive*** *the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.* ***16****And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.*

***God’s Part:* Touch is haptomai (G680) (hä'p-to-mī)** To attach oneself to:

1. to fasten to, make adhere to, specifically to fasten fire to a thing, to kindle, set on fire

 2. to attach or fasten oneself to, adhere to, cling to

-Interesting! The definition of **believe** in the Amplified Bible is to **“adhere to, trust in, and rely on”**

***Our Part:* Receive: (G1209 dechomai, de'-kho-mī)** accept, take up, take hold of, to make one’s own, to take upon oneself, sustain, bear, endure.

**John 1:12** But to as many as did *receive and welcome Him*, He gave the right [the authority, the privilege] to become children of God, *that is*, to those who **believe** in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name— (AMP)

***2. When Satan touches us,*** it is to bind us to him, to gain a stronghold and begin to rule in us. He will try to distract us, to steal us away from God’s Kingdom, to hinder and stop us from being effective in God’s Kingdom, and ultimately to bring destruction to God’s Kingdom.

**Handout: SATAN’S KINGDOM VS GOD’S KINGDOM** (from Biblical Foundations of Freedom by Art Mathias, Wellspring Ministries, pg. 3)

-This is a tool. What on this list do you struggle with? This can help us identify the strongman and his strongholds. You may think of more to add to this list, like Rebellion/Disobedience, Pain….

**THE WAR OF THE KINGDOMS:** What does this look like for us?

 **-**Are we accurately and adequately representing God’s Kingdom in what we think, say and do?

**Triangle Lady Drawing**

-The spirit is what we want to address right now, for this is where the Kingdom of God lives. This is where the Kingdom of God lives in us. It is where Tameion Chamber is located that Connie describes in her book.

 -If we want an intimate relationship with God that allows us to walk in His Spirit and power, we must go to this deeper place and honestly take a look at the things that are living there. Are they of God’s Kingdom or Satan’s? There is no other option.

-Satan doesn’t want us to go into this place or see it in truth, so he has blinded our eyes, bound our minds and deceived our hearts. He has stationed his guards at the door to our spirit chamber.

-How did this happen? It usually begins when a demon plants thoughts in our mind and we listen to it. As we begin to believe the lie or deception, the strongman begins to move into God’s territory. We don’t recognize it as a bad thing because it feels right to our flesh nature, our soul (mind, will, emotions). And then the strongman builds a stronghold, a movable fort onto that area of our lives and he takes up residence in it. He stations other demons as his guards, to keep us from recognizing him. He plugs our spiritual ears, blinds our spiritual eyes, binds our minds, and then he sinks his restraining, constricting hand into our hearts one claw at a time. He hopes to keep us from hearing God’s voice, from seeing truth, from recognizing his function of bondage and destruction, from disconnecting us from our heavenly Father while he constricts the flow of abundant life in Christ.

 -If we want to go deeper, we must bind this enemy, break the power of the stronghold and reclaim the ground Satan stole. But first we must deal with our soul, for if our soul does not agree, the enemy will continue to have rights to maintain his stronghold.

 -*The goal is for the Holy Spirit to be so alive and active in our spirit that is connected with God, that our spirit pours the things of God over into our soul; instead of our soul pouring over the things of the flesh, of Satan’s kingdom, into our spirit!*

**The Strongman of the Soul: Rebellion**

Ezekiel 12:2 *“Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a* ***rebellious house****, which has eyes to see but does not see, and ears to hear but does not hear; for they are a rebellious house.”*

-Strong’s for **“rebellious”** is Meriy (H4805): bitter, bitterness

 -It is from H4784, Marah: to be (causatively, make) bitter (or unpleasant); (figuratively) to rebel (or resist; causatively, to provoke):—bitter, change, be disobedient, disobey, grievously, provocation, provoke(-ing), (be) rebel (against, -rebellious).

 -God gave us freewill, the ability to choose who we want to serve. It is not freewill to do whatever we want, for there are only two kingdoms. God’s and Satan’s. **There is no kingdom of self. That is one of Satan’s most effective lies.**

-We were created to live in God’s glory and to bring glory to Him. To be His children, to walk, talk and be intimately close to Him. To worship Him in every aspect of our lives.

-That is why Satan will always try to steal God’s glory, and he does it by appealing to our soul. He whispers his deception that tempts our sense of “self” to take control, power, which manipulates our will so that we choose to engage “self” desires, and then we become emotionally attached to “self.” We build ourselves a castle and proclaim ourselves as king.

-**But it is not self who is in control! We have just given the strongman of “self” a stronghold in our soul!**

**Rebellion** *is the foundation for**most if not all sin, and it is* ***fueled by pride, the false sense of self****.* We’ll be going into these more later, but I just want you to be preparing yourselves to deal with these root issues.

 -Step 4 deal with Submission vs. Rebellion

 -Step 5 takes it to a deeper level, Humility vs. Pride

**Fear of the Lord is the key to overcoming “The sickness,”** or bondage. Read pg. 297-299 “Snatched from the flames.”

 ***Fear of the Lord precedes true repentance.*** When we truly fear the Lord, we will truly hate the sin. From this place of repentance, we are in a right relationship with Jesus, then we have His power and authority to deal with the enemy and his strongholds.

**STRONGHOLD/STRONGMAN** (Illustrate on white board next to triangle lady…)

**Stronghold:** *A place where the strongman resides.*

**Strongman:**  *It may be a demon or it may be our own thoughts or mindset like pride or fear.* This is why we must take our thoughts captive like 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 describes. However, there are usually demons attached to ungodly thoughts that will open the door for a strongman who will set up a stronghold and begin to take that part of our soul captive.

When we **recognize** the enemy’s intrusion, **bind** the strongman, **demolish the stronghold,** then **cast the strongman out** commanding it to go to Jesus.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ***3****For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:* ***4****(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of* ***strong holds****;)* ***5****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;* ***6****And having in a readiness to* ***revenge*** *all disobedience, when your* ***obedience*** *is* ***fulfilled****.*

-**Strongholds** (G3794): castle (*kings live in castles*!), fortress, anything on which one relies

-**Imaginations** (G3053): thought, reasoning which is hostile to the Christian faith

-**Revenge** (G1556): avenge, vindicate one’s right, do one justice, protect, defend, punish

-**Obedience** (G5218): compliance, submission (from G5219, “of one who on the knock at the door comes to listen who it is, which is the duty of a porter)

-Revelation 3:20 “*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”*

 -Fulfilled (G4137): willing to carry it into effect, to fulfill or perform it.

-This is not about perfection, but about commitment and obedience to the truth.

**What does it look like** to demolish a stronghold and cast out the strongman?

 ***Demolishing strongholds:*  Engage the Holy Spirit’s EMPS** (In the physical, EMPs are electromagnetic pulses that can shut down electronic systems and cause destructive explosions. In the spiritual realm, the Holy Spirit’s EMPS shuts down and destroys the enemy!)

-**E**motional realm: Bind and cast out demons attached to your emotions. Take your pain or feelings to Jesus and ask Him for His perspective and healing. Use a specific scripture from the Word of God to minister truth to your emotions. Ask the Holy Spirit to cleans and anoint Your emotions with His healing oil…

-**M**ental realm: Bind the demons that cause you to replay the event over and over. Take thoughts captive, and every time the thought comes, vocally bind it and cast it to Jesus’ feet. Verbally renounce the thought and replace it with the truth, a specific scripture for the situation.

-**P**hysical realm: Make sure that Yahweh is your first love . Josiah destroyed the idols and high places. We must do the same. Pray Psalm 139:23-24 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any wicked habit, mindset or thing in you, your home, property, etc. Be willing to change habits, like getting up early for time with God, or turning off electronics for a period of time. Get rid of objects that are either ungodly or have strongholds attached to them. Examples: movies; jewelry such as Masonic rings or something from a previous relationship; idols or art such Buddhas, occultic books or religious literature from false religions or cults, and anything New Age…

-**S**piritual realm: Repent. Ask the Holy Spirit to remove the garbage and to fill you up as you prepare a place for Him in your Tameion Chamber. Learn to exercise discernment from your spirit so that it influences your soul, which will influence your words and actions.

 ***Deliverance from the strongman***: Begins with fear of the Lord that leads to repentance. Two types of deliverance.

**-Informal or self deliverance:** This is the starting place. As we walk in obedience to God and His Word, the God of peace crushes Satan under our feet as Romans 16:19-20 says.

**-Formal:** When the Holy Spirit reveals a demon, we need to ask Him to expose the demon’s rights, then repent, tear down the stronghold, and then command it to go in Jesus’ name. Sometimes we need others to help us with this type of deliverance, but sometimes we can do it on our own.

**BINDING AND LOOSINGis the spiritual principle of** **Put Off/Put On**:

Ephesians 4:20-24: ***20****But you did not learn about Christ in this manner,****21****if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:****22****that you* ***put off*** *the former way of life in the old nature, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,****23****and**be renewed in the spirit of your mind;****24****and that you* ***put on*** *the new nature, which was created according to God in righteousness and true holiness.*

**Binding and Loosing *are keys of spiritual warfare that help us destroy the stronghold and remove the strongman. When we bind, we also loose.***

-Binding is the first step. Matthew 12:29 *Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.*

-Binding doesn’t always mean that we cast out the demonic spirit right away. We must wait on God’s timing and direction for that. But even before we cast out, we can loose certain things like:

 -The conviction of the Holy Spirit in their mind and heart

 -Angels to assist in preparing them and circumstances

 -After casting out the demons, then we loose and release God’s Kingdom, His light in place of Satan’s darkness, which is often just the opposite because when Satan recognizes a gift that God creates within a person, he does all he can to steal and pervert it, to use for his glory. Therefore, once a person repents, the demons are bound and cast out, then we **reclaim and reactivate** the true gifting that God created in that person, to be used for His honor and glory.

The things we reclaim and reactivate happen through the renewing of our mind, through study of God’s Word, allowing Him to retrain our thinking and give us His perspective, His mind so that we can think His thoughts.

Let’s look again at Ephesians 4:22-24. **Being renewed in the spirit of our mind is sandwiched in between putting off and putting on. If we leave that part out, there is no meat to our bread and we will grow weak and eventually find that we are putting those old garments back on.**

***22****that you* ***put off*** *the former way of life in the old nature, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,****23****and* ***be renewed in the spirit of your mind****;****24****and that you* ***put on*** *the new nature, which was created according to God in righteousness and true holiness.*

**Example:**

Connie prayed a prayer of binding the Spirit of Divination over me and casting it out. The opposite of divination is prophecy, so we will pray for a loosing of the Spirit of Prophecy in place of the Spirit of Divination.

 However, I must now spend time retraining my mind through the study of God’s Word to operate in using this gift God’s way. The mind involves the *perspective of my thoughts*, how to *surrender my will for God’s* in this new mindset, how *to bring even my emotions under the discipline of truth* so that I don’t react to my old feelings, but instead respond in obedience to the truth.

**Illustrating Mindsets:** When you bake a cake, there are things you have to do. You can’t just spay the cake pan with Pam, throw it into a hot oven and pull out a cake! There are ingredients that must be combined and put into the pan before it goes in the oven.

 Philippians 4:8 says, *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

This is the *final* mindset. You can’t just think these kinds of thoughts and be free. There is a process of renewing our minds just like baking a cake. This is a whole nother study that we are not going to go into, but if we look carefully, we can identify the progression of Christ’s mindsets, Kingdom mindsets that lead to freedom. Once we put on and practice these instead of the old ones, then we will find that we are able to do exactly as Philippians 4:8 says.

Philippians 1 is a single mind.

Philippians 2 is a submissive mind.

Philippians 3 is a spiritual mind.

Philippians 4 is a secure mind.

**PRAYER:** I am assuming that all of you who are a part of this class are here because you want to go deeper. This is why Connie talked about covenants and vows in The Tameion Chamber. We must ask ourselves if we are willing to be Christ’s Bride and not just His fiancé. So if you want to commit to going deeper and to allowing God to go deeper in you, then pray this prayer with me.

 In Jesus’ name, I bind the spirit of fear and all other hindering spirits.

Father, I come before You choosing to humble myself and to submit to You.

In Jesus’ name, we bind the strongman and his minions that wants to stop us from going deeper in You and from allowing you to go deeper in us. We command them to unplug our spiritual ears, uncover our spiritual eyes, unbind our minds, and remove their claws from our hearts. Go now to wherever Jesus tells you to go!

Lord God, we loose your angels to assist. We loose You, Holy Spirit, and invite You to work in us. We loose our spiritual ears, eyes, minds and hearts, and we dedicate and commit them to You. We choose to be bound to Your Holy Spirit and Your Word. Help us to hear You, see You, understand Your Kingdom, and to know You intimately. We choose to go deeper into You and Your kingdom. We invite You to go deeper in us. We commit to tearing down the strongholds in our minds, wills and emotions, spirits and bodies. Holy Spirit, come. Amen.

**Going deeper** means that we must study harder. 2 Timothy 2:15 *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Study (G4704): diligence; labor; exert oneself

 Show (G3936): to present, to bring near; to stand by to help; to provide (makes me think of preparation in fulfilling the Great Commission)

 Rightly dividing (G3718): to proceed on a straight path and a steady course; to teach correctly

 The word (G3056, logos): the Word, Jesus Christ

**How to Study:** We need to have the right tools. It is more than just reading scripture. Connie will explain why this is important and show us how to use the Strong’s Concordance.

**Homework:** If you want a suggestion for study, do a word study in the Strong’s Concordance on the Kingdom of God or something we have discussed in one of our classes for your further understanding.

Listen to Pastor Greg’s sermon, “Human Desperation that Draws Divine Intervention”