

Zion's River—Discipleship

Course: Spiritual DNA

Session 4—The Path of Spirit, Part 1

June 6th, 2023

1 Our Focus

- The Importance of Spiritual DNA
 - **1 Corinthians 4:15–16 (ESV)** — ¹⁵ For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶ I urge you, then, be imitators of me.
- The Core DNA of Zion's River
 - The "Gospel of the Kingdom" is always the message.
 - God's love is always the answer.
 - God's Spirit is always the path.
 - Heaven is always a *now* reality.

2 The Path

- **Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV)** — **5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

3 The Multi-Dimensional Nature of God's Presence

- SOVEREIGN PRESENCE
 - **Psalms 139:7–12 (ESV)** — **7** Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? **8** If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! **9** If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, **10** even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. **11** If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," **12** even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.
- PROMISED PRESENCE
 - **John 14:15–17 (ESV)** — **15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, **17** even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

➤ **MANIFEST PRESENCE**

- **Matthew 3:13–17 (ESV) — 13** Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. **14** John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" **15** But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. **16** And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; **17** and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

- The Holy Spirit's presence in our life translates all the goodness of God for our lives. This is His MISSION. The Holy Spirit is the manifestation of everything the Gospel promises.

4 **The Spirit of God is on Mission**

➤ The Spirit's Mission: HE ALWAYS GLORIFIES JESUS!

- **John 16:12–15 (ESV) — 12** "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14** He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **15** All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

➤ THE SPIRIT'S GOALS:

- Restoration
- Transformation
- Power

5 **The first goal of the Spirit's Presence is to bring RESTORATION.**

- In the Garden of Eden, humanity lost not only the perfect earth, but more importantly, the Presence of God. (**Genesis 2-3**)

➤ Jesus restores the Edenic Promise of His presence.

- **Matthew 1:21–23 (ESV) — ²¹** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).
- God rescues us for His Presence.
- You are a sign in the earth of the Presence of God.

- Jesus promises a presence and flow of the Holy Spirit in every believer.
 - **John 7:37–39 (ESV)** — ³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
 - Jesus promises a powerful flow of His presence from within that overcomes all negative forces from without.
 - Jesus promises to restore the fellowship that we had at the beginning...and take it one step further!
 - **John 3:5–8 (ESV)** — **5** Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
 - Spirit = breath, wind, or spirit
 - Spirit restores the *wind to our sails* that was lost.
 - Important Sidenote: at the end of time, God restores the Edenic Promise in fullness.
 - God recreates a New Earth—a new Eden—under a new heaven/universe. (**Revelation 21-22**)
- 6 The second goal of the Spirit's Presence is TRANSFORMATION.**
- In Jesus, you are born-again with a brand-new sensitivity!
 - **John 3:3 (ESV)** — ³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
 - See again, **John 3:6–8 (ESV)**.
 - As a believer, a war rages within you—it's purpose is to bring transformation.
 - **Romans 8:12–17 (ESV)** — ¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
 - “Flesh” is bound to death and fear. The Spirit of God binds us to life and hope.
 - The Spirit leads us into our inheritance.

- Holy Spirit is God's fire of transformation.
 - **Luke 3:16–17 (ESV)** — **16** John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **17** His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."
 - When you come in contact with the fire of God you cannot remain the same.
 - "Immersion" is the key Word!

- When I choose the Holy Spirit, I'm always CHOOSING transformation.
 - **Galatians 5:16–17 (ESV)** — **16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17** For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.
 - The nature of the Spirit is spiritual warfare.

- 7 **The third goal of the Spirit's Presence is to manifest the POWER OF GOD.**
 - Jesus does not want us operating in life and ministry without His power!
 - **Luke 24:46–49 (ESV)** — ⁴⁶ and (Jesus) said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."
 - Being in the Spirit means that I don't look like anything else in this world.

 - Our witness flows from the power of God.
 - **Acts 1:4–8 (ESV)** — ⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
 - Note: the kingdom has not yet fully come — times and seasons are fixed by the Father's hand.
 - The primary purpose of the power of God is being a witness.
 - See **Acts 2:1-4; 17-18**.

- The Church is meant to be an offensive force against the protected places of the enemy.
 - **Matthew 16:13–19 (ESV)** — ¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
 - The enemy cannot hold life from us—we’ve been given the keys to release what has already been stored up in heaven!
 - Keys are applied to locked places!

- Jesus has empowered us to deliver people from the grip of the evil one!
 - **Luke 10:1–2 (ESV)** — ¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.
 - **Luke 10:9 (ESV)** — ⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’
 - **Luke 10:17–20 (ESV)** — ¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸ And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”
 - By our actions of faith, we are disrupting demonic strategies:
 - In the heavenlies
 - In people’s lives.

- We are a demonstration and conduit of God’s power in the earth.
 - **John 14:12–14 (ESV)** — ¹² “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.
 - Remember, God is in charge of His own reputation.
 - See also **John 5:19**.