

SERMON NOTES SERIES
PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES

How To Get Ahead
In Life



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Hi,

Over the years I have had numerous people ask me for a copy of my sermon notes for their own personal Bible studies. I am glad to be able to present them to you. You have in your hands an exact copy of my sermon notes for your very own personal studies. I pray that as you study the Word, that the Holy Spirit will add even more than what you have before you. Put yourself there in what you are studying. What were they feeling, what were they facing...make the Word come alive by placing yourself there.

I am also including a list of the resources that I use to obtain my information, but I will say this, without the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you under the anointing all you have is just a bunch of books. I always pray before, during, and upon deliverance of each message I receive. I pray that...***you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9).*** I am both honored and blessed that you have selected a Sermon Notes Series and I pray that it will be a blessing to you!

With Much Love,
Pastor John

RESOURCES USED

- * The Companion Bible
- * Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
- * Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible
- * A Dictionary Of Bible Types
- * Vine's Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words
- * The American College Dictionary
- * World's Bible Handbook
- * The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- * Nelson's Three- in- One Bible Reference Companion
- * The Word -The Bible In 26 Translations
- * God's Plan For Man
- * Harper's Encyclopedia Of Bible Life
- * Nelson's Expository Dictionary Of The Old Testament
- * Manners And Customs From the Bible
- * What The Bible Is All About
- * Halley's Bible Handbook

These are just a small listing of the study aides that I use. The greatest study aide available is letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher. May you get to know Him!

Words translated from the Gk = Greek and Hb=Hebrew.

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OUR VISION

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge;”

Hosea 4:6

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:”

Proverbs 23:7

“...and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

Colossians 1:9

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”

Proverbs 24:3-5

“And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.”

Mark 13:10

As the Scriptures speak for themselves, our vision is to empower Believers everywhere to live a victorious abundant lifestyle that can be obtained through wisdom and understanding. If you are willing to change the way you think, you can change the way you live. A renewed mind towards the Word of God established you firmly in the faith and opens the door for the blessings and benefits of God to become evident in your life.

Because We Believe In You,
John and Karen Pelizzari

HOW TO GET AHEAD IN LIFE

Romans 12:1-2 [1] I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1. Christianity is a lifelong process of changes. These changes are designed to take you into different levels of abundant living.
2. Abundant living is the God kind of life (*zoe*) that Jesus desires for us to have. Notice in verse 2, we are told the secret to having a better style of life than that the world offers...**but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.**

Romans 12:2 (NLT) ...Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

3. So the barrier that is before us is our thinking process, or how we take on life's challenges.

4. As your brain is retrained (renewing the mind) then you begin to prove different levels of God's will.

Prove - Gk - *dokimazo* - to test, meaning instead of God having to prove to you, you're taking His Word and proving to yourself that it works; to approve; allow, discern.

5. What are you proving? God's will for your life.
6. This can also be explained in another scripture.

Mark 4:20 **And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.**

7. What does that mean?

Mark 4:20 (NLT) **But the good soil represents those who hear and accept God's message and produce a huge harvest—thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted."**

8. This explains what is required for you to renew your mind:
 - a. You (your heart) is the good soil.
 1. Your heart is the seat of where everything you believe sits.

- b. You have to hear and accept God's message.
 1. As you hear your Pastor preaching, it is usually at that time whether you choose to believe it can happen for you or not.
 - c. You are required to act / follow through by planting.
 1. Planting means first and foremost the words that you speak.
 2. Then what did God personally tell you to do:
 - Give something away as evidence of your faith.
 - Plant a financial seed as evidence that you have heard and accepted the message.
 - Be a blessing to someone by doing something for them.
 - d. You then experience a harvest of 30, 60, 100 times as much in return on what you planted.
 1. That's proving the will of God for your life.
9. The problem is "*How do I convert this head knowledge into heart knowledge and how do I tell the difference between head faith and genuine heart faith?*"

10. As believers mature, some still struggle in certain areas.
 - a. They say, “I don’t have any trouble with healing but I struggle with finances.”
 1. I know what the Word says, so the question is “Why?”
 - b. Some have no problems with finances but wrestle with oppression.
 - c. Some have no problems with oppression but can’t walk in forgiveness.
11. Not everyone is a hundred-folder. Everyone is at a different degree of what is the good (30), acceptable (60) and perfect (100) will of God for their lives.
12. Everyone has certain areas that they can latch on to easily, but may have problems with other areas. The devil doesn’t hit you with problems in the area in which you are strong in, he always attacks the areas where you are weak.
 - a. Weak areas are the places where you still have more doubts and questions than faith and peace.
 - b. The good news is that God can use the areas the devil attacks you in to reveal your weaknesses.
 - c. What gets you bent, makes you lose your cool, rant and rave and still struggle to believe...that’s an area of weakness.

- d. And truth be known, most church folks can believe it for others but find it difficult to believe for themselves.
13. See, the key to understanding yourself is: If there is an area where you have obsessive thoughts screaming or challenging the integrity of God’s Word inside you, that is a stronghold; your weak spot, satan’s foothold where he can steal your peace and joy.
14. The devil always shows you your weak spots and those should be the areas you work the most on.
15. You become strong in those areas by doing the opposite of what you feel like doing. You don’t react, you respond.
 - a. If you have financial troubles, you tithe.
 - b. If you tithe but are seeing very little increase, you give offerings.
 - c. If you are constantly sick, you speak God’s Word concerning healing over your body and stop telling everyone what the doctor said.
16. By the renewing of your mind you move from the good to the acceptable and then into the perfect will of God. From the thirty to the sixty to the hundredfold.
17. The renewing of your mind is a growing process.

- a. Think about this, most of us have no trouble in the area of salvation.
 - b. If someone asked you if you were saved, you would know if you were.
 - c. You would have no trouble in that area because you have transferred the reality of your salvation from your head to your heart.
18. The key is transferring (proving the will of God) from head faith to heart faith.
19. Many people say they know that the Bible says:
- a. That they are healed, but they are still sick.
 - b. That they know all their needs are met, but they are still in a financial bind.
20. Wherein lies the problem? The problem is that a person may know God's promises in their head, but it has not traveled from their head to their heart.
21. When a person is truly in faith, they know the promise of God is real regardless of circumstances, whether financial, physical, or relational.
22. Allow me to explain the difference between head faith and heart faith.
23. Let's look at head faith.

John 20:24-28 [24] But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. [25] The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. [26] And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. [27] Then saith he to Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. [28] And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

24. Head faith:
- a. Demands to see and feel it before it chooses to believe.
 - b. Usually sets conditions to believing (*lest I touch it myself*).
 - c. Head faith usually has an inner struggle or argument that hinders (*Thomas said I will not believe unless...*).

25. Head faith is conditional. If all the conditions are met, then they might believe. The truth is that one is still skeptical until the next time.

a. Then, new conditions, new requirements are needing to be met.

26. So Jesus called Thomas faithless. That's head faith. You allow the circumstances, your check book, what "*they*" said determine what you choose to believe.

John 20:28-29 [28] And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. [29] Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

27. Jesus said "**blessed are they**." So here we see that you can receive a blessing if you will believe it before you see it.

a. You are not blessed if you say, "I won't believe until I see."

b. That is faith in the head--faith in the mind.

28. You need to understand that your mind is the central computer from which your senses feed.

a. You don't feel with your fingers, you feel with your mind because your mind tells you that are

feeling...that's why you can feel with your eyes closed.

b. You don't see with your eyes, you see with your mind...your eyes are the lenses that project an image to your brain and your brain then tells you what it saw.

c. You don't hear with your ears, you hear with your mind...that's why you can hear things you can't see in both the natural and spiritual world.

29. Head faith says "I have to evaluate it in my mind before I will believe it."

30. Jesus said blessed are they that will believe and have not seen. That takes heart faith.

31. You must believe it before you receive it. You must believe you receive it before you get it.

a. Head faith says "when I get it, then I'll believe it."

b. Heart faith says "I already have it and the evidence to show that I already have is that Jesus said so...and that is all the proof I need."

32. So why is there such a struggle still?

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit,

and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

33. Notice that the Word of God has to **dividing asunder of soul and spirit.**

Dividing asunder - Gk - *merismos* - to separate; to stop living together as a couple. (The soul and the spirit are not the same.); to distinguish, to tell the difference between the two.

- a. Soul = mind, will and emotions.
- b. Spirit = the real you.
- c. You live in a body and possess a soul.

34. Most people make decisions based on emotions or passed experiences.

35. Our decisions should be made by the leading of the Holy Ghost.

36. The Word of God will show you whether you have faith in your soul (head faith) or you have faith in your spirit (heart faith). It cuts and separates the two.

37. Heart faith is based because the Word of God says so.

- a. It has to be the same with healing...you must believe you are healed despite what your mind tells you.
- b. You must believe you are prospering and all your bills are paid on time despite what present circumstances say.

Romans 4:17 ...and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Romans 4:17 (MSG) ...with a word make something out of nothing.

38. Heart faith lets the Word of God set the conditions.

- a. You simply say, "I believe it because the Word says so."

39. Some people think "I can't say I am healed until I feel like it." Some can't believe that they are healed until the symptoms disappear. That is head faith and not heart faith.

- a. You are blessed if you believe without receiving the manifestation yet.

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Salvation - Gk - *soteria* - health, deliverance, rescue, safety.

40. The word “salvation” covers everything. So you could say it like this: **For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto...***healing, prosperity, deliverance, victory, 30, 60, 100 fold lifestyle.*

Romans 10:10 (NLT) For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

41. **And it is by confessing with your mouth that you are** *healed, prosperous, delivered, victorious, and living the 30, 60, 100 fold lifestyle.*

Romans 10:10 (MSG) ...With your whole being you embrace God setting things right, and then you say it, right out loud:

42. Some of us have remained thirty-folders and stopped at salvation.

a. We don't dare press on to sixty-fold and a hundred-fold.

b. We don't apply everything else.

43. The Word of God is consistent. It revolves around the same principle whether it be healing, finances, salvation or anything else we receive from God.

44. Your eyes are made to see with, not to believe with. Your ears are made to hear with, not to believe with. Your hands are made to feel with, not to believe with. Your mind is made to think with, not to believe with.

45. The easiest way to determine if the Word is in your head or your heart is whether you believe what the Word says.

a. If you believe it, then are you doing it.

b. If you are stressing over it, then it's head faith.

c. If you are at peace despite the circumstances, then that's heart faith.

46. This is the way to see if faith is in your head or in your heart. If the Word says it and you believe it, are you doing it and do you have peace?

47. Some will defend themselves and say “If I say it when I don't feel it, then isn't it a lie?”

a. Is it a lie to say you are saved when you don't feel it?

48. Just because it is beyond the realm of the five senses doesn't mean agreeing with the Word of God is a lie. The Word is truth.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

49. To agree with the Word of God is not telling a lie. To agree with the Word of God even though your body hurts is not a lie anymore than believing you are saved when you don't feel like it.
50. What happens to darkness when light comes?
- It gets consumed by the light and leaves because light always overrides darkness.
 - NEVER vice-versa.
51. The same thing is true for a lie and the truth. Truth will always change a lie, but a lie will never change the truth.
52. What happens to the symptoms in your body when you begin to agree and confess what the Word says about your healing? Eventually, the symptoms go away.
53. Understand that your circumstances / symptoms are the lie and the Word is the truth. To say you are healed when you don't feel like it is to say the truth.
- So your feelings will have to change because they are a lie.
 - So your feelings (soul) has to stop living so close to the spirit...it's time for a divorce between the soul and the spirit.
54. You may say you have a disease in your body. That is the lie satan wants you to receive. The Word says

with His stripes, you are healed. That is the truth. The truth will change the lie.

- If you confess that you are sick, you have not changed the Word.
- A lie can only exist and do its damage if it can find a believer in what it has to say.
- But you cannot change the truth...and the truth over every matter is God's Word.

Luke 21:33 (NLT) Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will remain forever.

55. What about finances?

2 Kings 12:4 And Jehoash said to the priests, All the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the Lord, even the money of every one that passeth the account, the money that every man is set at, and all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the Lord,

56. Money has to come into your heart (heart faith) before it comes into your hands.
- All the money that cometh into any man's heart.

57. Then you're told what to do with it first...**bring into the house of the Lord** (that's tithes and offerings).
58. The next time you get down to a quarter in your checkbook, pull it out, set it on the table and laugh at it.
- a. You may want to do it in private because your family may not understand.
59. When you first start to speak it, it is not going to sound right because your mind has not been renewed. It will go contrary to everything your mind has been taught.
60. Your mind has been conformed to this world all your life, and now you have to transform it by God's Word.
- a. If you spent as much time in the Bible as you do your TV, you'd be good to go.
 - b. Are you ready to step up to the next level?