



# Discipleship 2

Reaching Beyond Mediocrity

Lesson #3

## Gaining Strength

Paul J. Bucknell

www.foundationsforfreedom.net

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Faith Hall of Fame Hebrews 12

“And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets” (Hebrews 11:32).



“But the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man”” (Judges 6:16).

TH FAITH FAITH FAITH

TH FAITH FAITH FAITH

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### God’s Special Design 2 Peter 1:3-11

**Awesomely equipped!**  
2 Peter 1:3

“Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness.”

**Magnificent promises**  
2 Peter 1:4a

“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises...”

**Liberating purpose**  
2 Peter 1:4b

“... In order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust”

**Wonderful action plan**  
2 Peter 1:5-8

“Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge”

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Growing Pains

- ◆How does one use God’s Word to grow?
- ◆How can God’s Word help me overcome this certain problem?
- ◆How come God’s Word does not seem to help me?
- ◆Why is it that when I read God’s Word, sometimes I feel so dull?



4

---

---

---

---

---

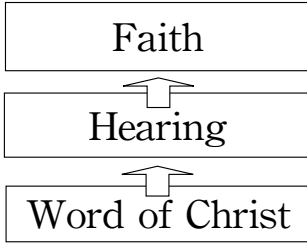
---

---

---

## Faith Builders

Romans 10:17



“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Entrance of Doubt

Without the seed of life, there is no faith.

**Faith**

**Seed of Life**

**DOUBT**

- Doubt Bible’s veracity.
- Doubt Bible’s relevance.
- Doubt Bible’s power.

6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Faith Destroyers

“I don’t need God’s Word.”  
“Bible seems dry.”  
“Boring.”  
“God isn’t speaking.”

**unbelief**

“And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.” (Hebrews 3:19).

**Seed of Life**

**DOUBT**

7

---

---

---

---

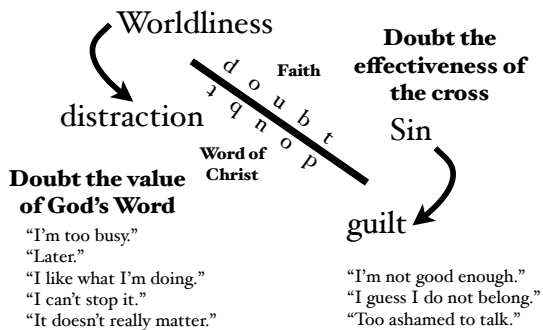
---

---

---

---

## The World of Doubt



8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## God Speaks

◆ Book of Ruth

◆ Judges 7-8 (Gideon)

◆ 2 Peter 3:18      “Grow in the grace  
and knowledge of the  
Lord Jesus”

**Expect that the Lord regularly speaks to you.**

9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Spiritual Growth    Str      g

Establishing  
Hope

*Nike 2*  
***overcomer***

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Spiritual Warfare

**sin**

**lie**

**If you spot sin, you know the person has  
accepted and been affected by one or more lies.**

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

“For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.” (Ephesians 5:8-14).

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Principles of Spiritual Warfare

- ❖ Truth embraced produces righteousness.
- ❖ Lies (temptation, opposite of truth) accepted produce sin.
- ❖ Light and darkness like truth and falsehood cannot coexist.
- ❖ The nature of light exposes the darkness.

13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Catching a lie

**bad**  
**attitude**  
**Lie,**  
**false**  
**thought**  
**sin**

14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Why accept lies?

- \* He has not built up sufficient love for the truth.
- \* He lacks discernment.
- \* He is not a student of God's Word.
- \* He does not understand the power of truth.
- \* He does not carefully confess his sin.
- \* He is prideful (which disguises his lies).
- \* He has adopted one big lie

15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Self-reliance - Identify

**Dullness toward  
God's Word**

**"I don't really desire  
God's Word."**

**"I don't think I need  
God's Word."**

16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Self-reliance - Expose

**“I believe God’s Word is irrelevant to my life today.”**      **True?**  
**No!**

\_\_\_\_\_

**“I believe God’s Word is very relevant to my life today.”**      **True?**  
**Yes!**

17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Self-reliance - Action

- ❖ Expose the lie
- ❖ Confess my wrong attitude, action and heart
- ❖ Affirm the goodness of the truth
- ❖ Ask for strength
- ❖ Seek restoration (with God and others)

**PRAY PRAY**

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Security - identify

**Nag, buy things, look for compliments, allow petting**

**“I get shaken up when things don’t go as expect.”**

**“God doesn’t really love me.”**

19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Insecurity - Expose

**“I believe God’s love changes. Sometimes He does not love me.”**      **True?**  
**No!**

\_\_\_\_\_

**“I believe God’s always loves me even when it doesn’t look like it.”**      **True?**

See the faith definitions?      **Yes!**

20

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Expose with the Truth

**“For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations” (Psalms 100:5).**

**“The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness” (Jeremiah 31:3).**

21

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Insecurity - Action

- ❖ Expose the lie
- ❖ Confess my wrong attitude, action and heart
- ❖ Remember why think that way
- ❖ Affirm the goodness of the truth
- ❖ Ask for strength
- ❖ Seek restoration (with God and others)

22

**PRAY PRAY**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Definitions Again

<b>God says so</b>	<b>Secure</b>	<b>Focus on needs of others</b>
<b>God says so</b>	<b>Insecure - felt unloved</b>	<b>Seek confirmation of love from others (unloving - self-focused)</b>
<b>Don't believe</b>		

23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Summary: Gaining Strength

- \* God's design and plan for our growth is amazing!
- \* Need to work along with God (3-legged)
- \* God builds faith largely through times in His Word
- \* Doubts keep power of God's Word from us - unbelief
- \* Light is greater than darkness
- \* Spiritual warfare involves placing truth next to lies

24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---