



Key References:

Jeremiah 1:5 - Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Jeremiah 1:7-9 - But the Lord said to me, Do not say, I am only a youth; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord. Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

Matthew 16:13-16 - Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, Who do people say that the Son of Man is? And they said, Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter replied, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matthew 16:17-18 - 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. 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. From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you. But he turned and said to Peter, Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.

Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Romans 8:5-9 - For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Prayer Topics:

- For wisdom to distinguish between God's voice and human/worldly reasoning in daily decisions
- For courage to follow Jesus' pathway even when it doesn't make sense to our flesh
- For transformation to become mouthpieces of heaven rather than speaking the enemy's words into situations

1 – REVELATION AND RECOGNITION

Read Matthew 16:17-23

Peter received divine revelation about Jesus' identity but then immediately spoke Satan's words. How can we distinguish between God's voice and our own reasoning in daily decisions at work or in relationships?

Follow-up: Can anyone share a time when you thought you were hearing from God but later realized it was your own desires?

Leader Notes:

- Divine revelation comes through the Spirit, not flesh and blood
- We need constant dependence on Scripture and the Holy Spirit

Read Isaiah 55:8-9

Follow-up: Andy mentioned that many Christians know Jesus' position as King but don't know His pathway. What does it look like practically to trust God's ways when they don't make sense to us?

Leader Notes:

- Jesus' path to victory was through suffering and death
- God's kingdom is upside-down compared to worldly thinking
- Discipleship requires following Jesus' methods, not just claiming His benefits

2 – THE BATTLE FOR OUR WORDS AND HEARTS

Jesus called Peter both “blessed” and “Satan” within the same conversation. How do we respond when someone corrects us like Jesus corrected Peter?

What should your role and the role of friends/discipleship group leaders/elders be with respect to calling such things out in one another?

Leader Notes:

- Our words can either build God's kingdom or hinder it
- Even well-intentioned words can be from the enemy
- We need to examine our motivations and align with Scripture
- Correction from God comes from love, not condemnation

3 – SETTING OUR MINDS

Romans 8 teaches about setting our minds on the Spirit versus the flesh. In practical terms, how do you set your mind on God's things during stressful situations at work or in family conflicts? (Reference: Romans 8:5-9)

Follow-up: What specific practices help you stay Spirit-focused rather than flesh-focused?

Leader Notes:

- Worship transforms us into Jesus' likeness
- Being in God's presence changes our perspective

4 – DISCIPLESHIP AND CORRECTION

Jesus said the gates of hell will not prevail against the church built on the revelation of who He is. When facing spiritual battles in your personal life, how do you stand on this promise rather than trying to fight in your own strength? (Reference: Matthew 16:18)

Follow-up: Does anyone have an example of how focusing on Jesus' identity helped you overcome a difficult situation?

Discussion Leader Notes:

- The church is built on the revelation of Jesus Christ
- Gates of hell cannot prevail against true revelation