

Hello my name is Charles Gordon and let me welcome you to the Spoken Word for the last full week in the month of February 2010.

This week we are going to conclude our talk on The Victim Mindset. The intent of the broadcast is to help you make choices and interpret life events from God's perspective. We all bring a way of looking at or interpreting life's events. Our culture, family and peers affect how we interpret life events. I want you to think of the act of interpreting life's events like the act of putting on a pair of glasses.

Each major event and even some seemingly minor ones that we experience has some significance. If we put on the wrong pair of glasses we will have a distorted or incorrect interpretation. An incorrect interpretation can lead to unforgiveness; the desire for revenge and significant bouts with negative drift.

Stay tuned for more. I'll be right back to continue the program right after this.

Welcome back. My name is Charles Gordon and you're listening to the Spoken Word on Joy 1250. Consider subscribing to our free podcast on iTunes. You can subscribe by going to the iTunes Store. You can find us in the podcast section under Religion and Spirituality or by using the search term The Spoken Word. You can also subscribe using an email program such as Microsoft Outlook or any other software capable of accessing RSS Feeds. Please visit our website for more information on subscribing to the program.

On Saturday June 12th the ministry will be hosting a ½ day workshop called "The Issues of Life". The event will begin at 1PM at the International Plaza Hotel located at 655 Dixon Road on Saturday June 12th. You will need to register to attend. As we come closer to the event, I will provide you with more information on speakers and the like.

At the close of last week's program I promised to deal with the issue of uncertainty as we seek to set goals by taking a close look at James 4:13-16. I think we will only need to go to verse 15. I'm reading from the English Majority Text Version

(James 4:13 EMTV) Come now, you who say, "Today and tomorrow let us travel to this city, and let us spend a year there, and let us trade and make a profit"--

(James 4:14 EMTV) *you* who do not know *what will* happen tomorrow. For what is your life? For it will be a vapor that appears for a little *time*, but then also disappears.

(James 4:15 EMTV) Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

A quick read of the passage would seem to suggest that we should never plan because we don't know what will happen tomorrow. There is a whole lot of uncertainty and the biggest uncertainty is knowing what God wants.

A second more intimate read of James 4:13-15 suggest that all of our planning and goal setting should be prefaced with the statement "If the Lord wills". In spite of not knowing if we will live

or die tomorrow, we should plan, we should set goals with a deep understanding that at the end of the day God sets the tone and tenor of our lives.

The three goal setting categories I like to use is: 1) What God will do in me; 2) What he will do through me for my church and last 3) What god will do through me for my community.

The intent of the broadcast is to help you make intentional choices about your life direction from God's perspective. As long as you are alive, you have a right and even an obligation to hope. You have a right to be exuberant and to pursue goals with excitement.

Even if you have experienced a loss, you can still move forward.

In North America, It's not possible to live life without experiencing some form of loss. There are major and some minor events that have profound significance. These events are turning points, directional change events or a change to stand firm and pursue the hope of your calling. However, your way of thinking can distort your interpretation or understanding of the significance of an event. Instead of an event being a turning point for greatness, a directional change for greatness or a change to stand firm and pursue your calling, it can become a point of failure. The will of God is not automatic. There are many historical figures in the bible that failed to attain their full place in God because they failed to understand life events. They came away with the wrong interpretation.

Why is it important to view life's events with a proper understanding, the right glasses?

Let's look at a simple event recorded in the book of Mark chapter 6 verse 51 -52. Before we step into the verses, let's set the context for verse 51-52. When we read the bible, we set our interpretation in the context of the whole book and many times in the events leading up to a passage.

The context of Mark 6:51-52 consists of 1 statement about the messiah and 2 events. Lets deal with the events that frame the context.

The first event is the miracle of the loaves, in which Christ with a little bit of food, five loaves and two fishes, feeds a whole lot of people. That's event number 1.

Event number 2: In Mark 6:45 the King James Version of that passage states "he [speaking of Jesus] constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. [the people that he had fed with a little bit of food]" Jesus compels his disciples, we are told, to step into a ship and travel to the other side of the lake. After compelling his disciple to travel by boat to the other side of the lake and sending the crowd away, he steps into a secret place to pray. Mark records that by evening the disciples are only halfway across the lake because the wind was strong and driving in the opposite direction of their travel. Jesus sees them in the middle of the lake and walks on the water toward them. The disciples seeing the figure walking on water assume that it was a ghost and began to panic. Lets pick up this event from verse 50.

(Mark 6:50 KJVR) For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, **Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.**

(Mark 6:51 KJVR) And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

(Mark 6:52 KJVR) For they considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

Verse 52 is very interesting in that it gives us cause effect chain. The bible tells us that the disciples response in event 2 was a result of their failure to understand event 1.

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Part of the context of Mark 6:51-52 is built on this statement. Jesus teaches or taught his disciples by show-n-tell. He would show the Kingdom of Heaven or the Father, whom he came to reveal, through acts of power and then explain the show. The Holy Spirit has been given to the body of Christ not only to bring about power events but also with a mandate to teach believers. He, the Spirit, uses or follows the same lesson plan, and that lesson plan is show-n-tell. Whatever we see or experience requires an explanation.

The show-n-tell nature of the teachings of the spirit can be hindered by a hard heart. Now, whenever you read or hear the word hard heart think ideas, concepts. Our view of how life should unfold is part of the concept of a hard heart. We never need be victims of circumstances. Christ works through impossible events. Our messiah is able to overcome every obstacle.

Events that come after a loss often set us in impossible situations and circumstances. I need to let the fact that the God, the great "I Am" who took a little and fed many can turn my loss, our loss, into great gain.

The intent of the program is to help you make intentional choices, the choice to forgive and move on because God's perspective has ignited your heart. I'm Charles Gordon and until next time Live Big in Christ.