



OCTOBER CHALLENGE

## *The Art of Awareness: Tuning Into Your Real Life*

### DAY 1: *The Art of Awareness: Tuning Into Your Real Life*

*God lives in us and is at work in life around us. So how do we cultivate a lifestyle of sensitivity and awareness to Him in our daily lives?*

*Discover what it means to be alive to God and develop a greater sensitivity to God's presence.*

#### *Message*

Today, we are continuing our exploration of our freedom in Christ.

In last month's challenge, we learned that freedom is not confined to just what we are freed from. Freedom must be seen in light of who we are now free to become.

And we discovered that everything about the nature of freedom is learning how to live with a constant and consistent awareness of the life of Christ in us.

Colossians 2:9-10 says...

#### *Notes*

*“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.*

*Are you aware of just how full a life of fullness in Christ really is?”*

Colossians 3:1-3 says...

*“Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, **and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.**”*

You died... and your *real life* is hidden with Christ in God. It's not hidden in a place you can't find it. This scripture tells us right where it is! “with Christ.” Christ lives in you. He's always with you. He never leaves nor forsakes you.

You and I can never lose our real life in Christ... We can only lose our awareness of it.

This often happens when we become more astonished or overwhelmed by what is happening around us than by the One who is living within us.

When the nature of God is our greatest reality, any negatives in our lives serve only as signposts that point to who God wants to be for us and who we are becoming because of our encounters with Him.

What God is offering us is His unchanging self, so that we too can become unchanging in our own nature and character, no matter what is occurring.

We can become as constant and consistent as He is.

As we talked about last month, you win in battle when the enemy knows that no matter what he does, you're going to use it to discover something new in the nature of God. His goodness...His kindness...His faithfulness...His peace...

That's when you begin to move from being a victor to an overcomer.

Eventually, the enemy won't want to challenge you because you know how to use everything to your advantage. That's when you become more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37).

The life that we choose to tune into every day determines whether we will live as more than conquerors or whether we will live conquered by negative circumstances, failures, and hurts.

What we choose to live aware of is a very big deal.

So, during this challenge we are going to explore 3 key beliefs that will cultivate a lifestyle of sensitivity and awareness to

the Three (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in our daily lives.

### **#1 - Tune into "AM" (Abiding Mode), not "FM" (Failure Mode)**

Before the digital music revolution that brought us apps like iTunes and Spotify, and podcasts galore, I remember always listening to the radio for music, and news, and talk shows. While the radio is still around, I don't use it very much anymore.

But one thing I do remember about the radio is you could never listen to two radio stations at once. Now, you could be tuning in between stations and maybe pick up a little of this station or that station, but it was never clear...always lots of confusing noise and static.

That's how a lot of Christians choose to live their lives...tuning in between stations. Bouncing in and out between tuning into their real lives in Christ and back to their old selves (the self that Colossians 3 tells us is now dead).

It's double-mindedness and according to James 1, being double-minded causes a lot of static...instability... in our lives. When your perceptions and thinking are tuned into your old man mindset, such as failure or fear, it's hard to hear God when He's speaking to your new man.

FM - "failure mode" is a mindset that keeps you tuned in to all you are not. But,

remember, the old you, the failure mode died on the cross.

God is not double-minded about you... and we're learning not to be double-minded about Him.

And the good news is that you have a Helper in your learning -- the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit is your guide into all truth.

Holy Spirit is always tuned into who Jesus is in you... the life that you're now living in Christ.

Listen to what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit in John 16:13-15...

*"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. He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is Mine; therefore I said that He will take what is Mine and declare it to you."*

Whatever He hears, He will speak and tell you things to come.

The Holy Spirit is only tuned into Abiding Mode. He doesn't even receive Failure Mode, because He's completely and absolutely tuned into the new creation you are in Christ.

When we are turned into AM - "abiding mode," we join God's focus and we are free to have the same conversation with

Him that He is having with us... and we become aware of who He is (His nature, His perspective, His plans) and who we are becoming in Him.

FM...'failure mode' is nothing more than an echo from a previous life that died on the cross with Christ.

So, when you realize that you're tuning into the FM stations of failure and fear... change the channel to AM.. to Abiding Mode.

And you turn up the volume of Abiding Mode through your thanksgiving, your worship and your rejoicing.

**Key #2 - Your real life is in Christ, not your circumstances**

Romans 6:8-11 says...

*"Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."*

Being "alive to God" means that all of your focus is towards Him in every circumstance of life.

It's having an awareness that the Three (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) are with you always. You are never alone.

God is constantly faithful to His primary purpose (Genesis 1:26)... to make us in His image and likeness.

You and I were created to think the way God thinks; to see ourselves and the world around us as He sees it... and to respond as Jesus would in any life situation.

And that process of being made into His image and likeness is a relational one.

All of our learning takes place within the context of our relationship with God - through both knowledge and experience. This is what we call in the Brilliant TV community "Relational Learning."

Within the Brilliant TV community, we believe that the essence of all good relational learning is asking brilliant questions that allow us to explore our relationship with God in a deeper way.

So instead of asking..."Lord, why is this happening to me?"

Ask, "Lord, who do You want to be for me in this circumstance?"

Ask, "Lord, how can I partner with You as You develop me into more than a conqueror?"

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus gives us an invitation...

*"Put down that heavy weight of trying harder to please me and take my*

*partnership instead. When we are yoked together, you learn My ways... you experience My pace... and you live aware of My rest... no matter what is occurring. So, turn away from your old ways of trying harder to do better... and turn towards Me and partner with Me. It's Me with you and you with Me."*

When we are unaware of Christ's empowering grace, we strike out on our own ... and miss a glorious partnership with the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. All of them want to experience this life WITH you... even more than you want Them too.

Remember the story of the 12 spies in Numbers 13?

Every one of the 12 spies saw EXACTLY the same things when they spied on the land God had promised them... but only Caleb and Joshua saw the obstacles from God's perspective.

10 spies allowed the obstacles they saw in the land (like giants) limit their own perspective of who they were and what God was able to do through them.

They said, "We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

Meanwhile, Joshua and Caleb saw only through the lens of what God had promised, and they said, "We are well able to overcome the obstacles and take the land!"

Same circumstance. Same promise. Two totally different perspectives and outcomes.

Your circumstances aren't the real problem. Your perception of your circumstances becomes a real problem when you are unaware of your real life in Christ.

If you are in Christ, then so are your circumstances.

**Key #3 - Redemption and restoration are continuing parts of your story**

Your real life in Christ is not a static one.

Redemption is meant to be a constant in your life, not a one-time event at salvation. We're continually being redeemed into the image of God.

Here are some more brilliant questions to ask:

"What's being redeemed in me?"

"What's being restored around me?"

God doesn't "restore" our lives, because restoration means putting something back to its original form... and you are a NEW creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

God is continually redeeming your life from your old ways of thinking... from those old habits of behavior and transforming you into the new, true you in Christ.

Any place where redemption has occurred, you now have the authority to restore.

This is the treasure of Isaiah 61. Where God has redeemed our ashes and given us beauty, we can be that for other people. When He has given us the healing oil of joy instead of mourning, we have it to give it away.

So what gets redeemed in you allows you to restore people and places around you. It's how we get to experience "*As He is ... so are we in this world.*" (1 John 4:17)

Every circumstance you face is a catalyst for redemption in you and restoration around you.

This is your REAL life! This is the nature of freedom.

What God has given you is His unchanging self, so that you can become unchanging in your own nature and character, no matter what is occurring.

God is permanently passionate about you becoming as consistent as He is. And the wonderful thing is... He's unchanging while you're learning consistency.

He's always delighted to be with you in that process of being made in His image... He always enjoys being with you while you're discovering "*Christ in you, your hope of glory.*" (Colossians 1:27)

You too can enjoy discovering the places where redemption is occurring in your life. You can delight in the process of becoming more than a conqueror. No matter how life spins around you, you can always discover who you are in Him, and stay tuned in to your real life in Christ.