

The Warrior Class for Graham Cooke

# Training Journal

*For the Equipping & Development of Kingdom Warriors*

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## The Voice of the Lord

Warriors have ears that hear and hearts that lean towards the Voice that we love above all others.

### The Window of Opportunity

I remember the first time I heard Graham say, **"When the opportunity of a lifetime comes, you need to respond within the lifetime of the opportunity."**

A Window of Opportunity can be the amount of time your life will fit with a possibility or the way in which it is available. We embrace the responsibility to stay positioned under an open window of heaven for as long as it is ours. We value our permissions and provisions by using them.

**Windows of Opportunity are treasures of the Kingdom and Warriors jump through them with abandon and joy.**

You are Opportunity Takers in The Warrior Class. You grab the invitations, run with the learning and accept the challenges. You regularly express your gratitude and understanding of being on a remarkable Kingdom journey.

Like much around us, the Training Journal is expanding, full of new possibilities, voices and invitations for growth. Enjoy taking them. With 12 pages now and 3 months until the next issue, that's one new page each week to devour.

Most of us realize we are standing in a unique moment in time, with a wide open landscape before us... fellow travelers on a well-provisioned adventure.

**This first year has been a prologue.  
The book is about to begin.**

What part of the story do you want to write?  
The opportunity is open. ~ Allison

Will God always talk to us about His will and tell us what to do?

*God is silent a lot of the time in regard to His will. He knows that if He is too vocal, we will not make the slightest move without His permission. It is His way of teaching us sensitivity and maturity. He wants us to make right choices.*

*As a young child, He may hold our hand to keep us from stumbling. As we grow older, He develops maturity in us through counsel, dialogue & wise advice. As mature sons & daughters, He empowers us by permission to "do whatever is on our hearts to do" We have a green light until it turns red. At this stage, God mostly intervenes if we get off course. "You will hear a voice behind you saying "This is the way, walk in it, when you turn to the left or to the right". Is. 30:21. It is not until we turn off track that we hear the Lord speak.*

*His silence is not his disapproval. He is letting us learn how to walk & flow with Him. It also does not imply His approval. He trusts us to become accustomed to holiness, grow in sensitivity and be God-conscious. ~ Graham*

### Evidence of Transformation

#### FAITH – Evidence of moving from believing to knowing

I am demonstrating increasing trust and conviction of who God is for me.

**Evidence:** I have moved from just being “hopeful” in petitioning prayer to boldly declaring His truths revealed in Scripture. I catch a problem like a receiver in football, but instead of standing midfield scratching my head and asking God what to do about it, or looking around for others to pass it off to, now I have my sight on the goal.

I take off running in that direction, confident that if He wants me to change something in the game plan, He will let me know.

~ Kristy Lindvall

### Evidences of Transformation

#### WORKS – Evidence of doing what we are learning

My actions demonstrate intentionality – I am practicing on purpose.

**Evidence:**

"When I venture into new ground, I know that I am not just trying my luck, nor just being hopeful that things might go well;

**I know** that this is God's intention for me to receive an upgrade and I have the permission to overcome, seeing each obstacle as God's opportunity to show me He is strong and mighty and He is with me.

~ Terry Khor

### **When God speaks, something happens!**

~ by Elaine Liston

Many years ago, I heard God saying, "*Elaine, Listen to Me!*  
*I Am changing your name from Elaine (Liston) to Elaine Listen-to-Me*"

It was one of those defining moments when time seems to stand still - somehow I knew that those three words "Listen to Me" would change the way I live forever! There was something more in the way He spoke the words than the words themselves and I wanted to know what they held for me. Since then I have become a 'captive' to His Voice and now I listen and I listen to live!

I am captivated by the Sound of Who He is and I 'lean into the Sound'. I listen with a lean! Words are embedded in the tone and color of His Voice and draw me, at once, closer into His Presence - wherever I am or whatever I am doing I turn my attention towards Him.

I position myself intentionally to wait and listen - I'm alert to hearing the Sound of His Presence - to the Sound of His Words if He chooses to speak or to enjoy the Sound of Silence that is found in our just being together.

His Sound is a prelude to Intimacy - I am stilled and yet at the same time I'm actively listening, ready to participate in what He is saying. My growing into Listening to Him, in this way, has dispelled all former fear of the intimacy of being close to someone. His words touch me and something happens! I am fully alive!

On New Year's Day of this year, He said:

"*This year is 'our time'. I will take hold of you to bring you further into My Presence so that you will see Me and hear My Love for you like you haven't done before....I Am changing your shape to 'fit' your name! **When I speak, something happens!***"



I always expect the Lord to speak but I never dictate to Him how He should. I'm always listening, watching, waiting and always expectant. I approach it as a much-loved child. I believe He loves me enough to talk to me. If He doesn't speak initially, He'll always speak eventually and I trust Him.

**It's not about trusting myself to hear. It's about trusting *His* responsibility to speak and make His voice known.**

He adores me, so why wouldn't He want to talk to me? I will hear Him because of the grace of God that surrounds my life - and that's no different than for anyone else.

**When you have a high degree of expectancy,  
it translates into a real degree of probability that God will speak.**

Once you know He takes responsibility for speaking, then you'll be free to hear. If you feel the responsibility is on you for hearing, you won't hear. Just make yourself available. You'll hear Him.

God talks to people in a variety of ways and there isn't a hierarchy in those ways. It's not like an impression is the low end and the audible voice of God is the high end. God can certainly speak audibly but He also speaks through scripture, through friends, through prophetic ministries and to your inner man. For me, God mostly speaks to my inner man because I spend a lot of time listening and waiting. I'm always available and always checking. It's no different than coming out of a meeting and checking your phone to see if there is a message. I'm always listening.

Some people may see pictures. Our first question is, "In light of this Father, what do you want to say?"

**Pictures need interpretation, not explanation.**

Someone once said to me, "I see a picture of a boat leaving a harbor and going out into the sea. I really feel like the Lord is sending you on a journey." Not that helpful.

I want to know what kind of boat it is. Is it a big boat, a rowing boat, an aircraft carrier, a yacht of a multimillionaire with gold taps? Is there food on this boat? Is it a sailboat or a nuclear boat? What harbor am I leaving? Is the sun shining? Is it a nice day and are the waves really small? (Because I get seasick, it's important to me!) Is it a transatlantic voyage? Am I alone? What am I sailing into? What direction am I going? I want to know!





When you get a picture, you're the one that needs to be asking questions.

### What is the Father saying about what you are seeing?



*The first thing you see is usually not it.* You need to look at that same picture several times and each time you look at it, something will grow. And each time something grows, an interpretation will start to form.

Most words can wait 24 hours, if not a week. Each time you see something more, ask Him, "**Lord, is there anything else?**" Then see the next thing and then the next thing. Let Him *build* the picture up - or maybe the picture is all there but you've only focused on one part of it. Keep looking until you see all of it. Then *listen* to what He's *saying* about it.

### Revelation comes in bits and pieces.

We may receive part four, then part two, followed by one and three. Our minds can't understand revelation but it is brilliant at putting those pieces into order so that they come out correctly. We must always let our faith loose on a prophetic word *first* so that it can move from our spirits to our minds.

Most people think a word comes from "somewhere out there" into our minds. In fact, we can't receive prophecy in our minds. The mind only receives information. Our spirit, however, receives revelation. Prophecy comes from within, through our spirit's communication with the Holy Spirit. It then moves from our spirit into our mind through the link of faith.

### Faith is the vehicle that takes a word from our spirit into our conscious mind.

Your soul will always be louder than your spirit, so moving in faith is essential. The voice of the Lord is like a whisper at times; it can be so soft that we strain to hear it. That's why being still and quiet is so important in prophecy. There have been times when I have been so at rest that I've heard the whisper of God, turned to a person near me and said, "Can you hear that?" It's like He spoke out loud. If we have stillness on the inside, even the whisper of God sounds loud to us.

So wait, listen and continue to ask questions when you have an intercession assignment. Cultivate a greater level of rest and stillness in your life. If you see a picture, don't describe it - ask the Spirit for the interpretation. That's why our assignments are posted weeks before they are due. Allow time to listen, pray and let the word build.

Enjoy the partnership with the Holy Spirit as you explore a new level of prophetic maturity.

~ Graham



**Example of a Description**

I see you as a happy little girl, full of joy. It's like you show up in someone's mailbox and they are getting a great gift of flowers from God when you are in their life.

**Example of an Interpretation**

Questions & Answers

- Why a mailbox? 1. **It's a play on words: "Male" box**
- 2. **A mailbox delivers messages/love letters = prophetic**
- 3. **The flag is up that indicates there's something ready**
- What's up with the flowers? **Infused with fragrance = changes atmospheres**
- They are fresh flowers from the Beloved. The box is full = Abundance**
- Why flowers not letters? **Atmosphere will empower words**
- What is her posture in the box? **Restful, happy, confident**
- How long has she been in there? **She's been growing up**
- Where is the box? **Another word play: in a pasture / pastor**

**Interpretation:** *You're entering a new level of prophetic ministry you've been exquisitely prepared for. You've learned to live refreshed, even in confinement. You've been hidden, but you've matured. The door is wide open. Good News infuses the words He's releasing you to deliver. An intimate atmosphere with the Beloved opens up the hearts of many, especially the pastorally gifted, to receive His love. You'll go places defined as a "man's world" but you'll enter as a beloved daughter. You'll navigate it with grace and ease. Be confident. You won't be what they expected, but you'll be exactly what they need.*

**Making Our Intel More Specific**

*Consider these examples of how we can apply our learning to our prophetic intel.*

**Key Questions to Ask**

What is the #1 way God wants to do what you're seeing? **HOW** will He do it?

Words like "mindsets", "upgrades", "things" & "breakthrough" should be either avoided or used only with specifics.

Concepts like "joy" or "love" need greater detail. What aspect of joy, love, peace...? Is there an obstacle & what is its opposite?

Pictures or descriptions are a beginning. **What do they mean?**

Use words like: "through" - "with" - "by" to tell us **how**.

<u>General</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Specific</u>
"New levels of worship"	How?	"A new level of worship <b>through</b> an encounter with the spirit of adoption displacing abandonment.
"Graham releases a call"	What kind of call? Released from what?	Passivity shattered <b>with</b> wake up call for warriors to be alive to Christ
"New things ahead"	New what? What's needed?	"Equipping needed <b>to</b> identify their new battle and which tools match it."
"Restrictions broken off"	What restrictions? What displaces them?	"Unrestricted vision that sees fullness <b>by</b> displacing reluctance to move until provision is evident."

Your intel doesn't have to be longer. Just more targeted. Write it like a telegram, **as if you were paying for every word**. Use phrases, not sentences. Find a Key Word for every statement to help keep it concise.

**Use your Processing Questions & upgraded interpretation skills to refine your Intel and take this challenge:**

**Next Assignment? Write a 100 word telegram as your Intel that includes:**

The **one word** Jesus is coming through the door with, key words, breakthroughs, assignments & promises. Write it and then look at it for **several days**, condense... refine... make sure every word has purpose & meaning.



I adore hearing what God is saying, but very often, He doesn't start with words. He draws me into conversation by using the world around me to draw my attention to His Truth.

**Recognizing the many ways God communicates is part of the joy in our relationship with Him.**

Movies are one of His favorites, especially comedies about me. At the beginning of "Men in Black", Will Smith takes a test with a lot of military, police types that he seriously doesn't fit in with. It's hysterical and awkward and God just roared when we saw it, **"That is so you!"** It's actually me throughout most of the movie (something He kept pointing out frequently and with a smile):

*Not your average recruit  
Wonderfully out-of-the-box gifted  
Full of go-get-'em*

*(which needs some refining - but there's provision for that),  
Loads to learn, but made for this fight & loving in every minute*

His delight and laughter left me feeling so loved for how He made me and so confident in His ability to take me through my training - however unorthodox it might be. Cool glasses too.

He's hidden truth with Bruce Willis when he stills himself in chaos and asks, "But what's *really* going on here?" In George Clooney's sly smile in "Oceans 13" as Pacino watches his corrupt empire collapse. And when I needed to understand my role in the truly significant battles of the Kingdom, we watched Eowyn kill the Witch King in "Lord of the Rings" about 20 times.

Sometimes He communicates through the places we've explored:

The revelation of establishing your gains, first came to me from an inscription on a Gold Rush tombstone.

The truth of enduring joy was written in graffiti on the Berlin Wall.

I understood that prayer was the business of heaven on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and that training grounds are where victories are won at Valley Forge.

He has spoken about my identity:

on a bottle of wine from a friend,  
a pair of worn dancing shoes  
and a compass from my father's combat plane.

A basket from Boston reminds me that whatever He calls me to, He will pay for.

I learned more about intercession from flying a WW2 fighter plane than in any class I've ever been in.

God taught me how to follow the threads of revelation and the rewards of going deep from exploring old gold mines.

And the connection between majesty and longevity continues to unfold in a beloved sequoia grove.

On every occasion, God was initiating a conversation - not with words, but with truth. He knows I am a thinker, which is both positive and challenging. I love the learning and live to process, but I can be given to logic and reason too easily on days. So He has cultivated my hearing heart by encounters that root me in His world of wonder and intuition. I often have much more of a *sense* of what God is doing at first, than hearing words that I can put my mind to quickly.

**It sets my heart towards His perspective for the conversation that inevitably follows.**

I can walk around my office, pick up an item & spend the next hour in thanksgiving & meditation because of the God experience I connect with it. A photograph or a movie poster can transport me into the encounter that it represents and often provokes a deeper conversation that builds on a previous revelation.

**God knows just how to talk to each of us in a way that is perfect for cultivating a more brilliant relationship with Him.**

Which is His primary reason for communicating in the first place, right? To build relationship. It's what God wants more than anything else: To talk you, the friend He adores. And because of His nature, He'll make it fun and surprising and do it in exactly the best way that brings you up higher into *His* ways.

**Which makes it rather ridiculous to compare how you hear with how others hear, since He's tailored His style just for you.**

*(and as we've been taught - if you're doing this? "Stop it" ☺)*

At the end of the day, we all get to relax and simply enjoy learning the many languages of the Kingdom.



~ Think of a great day in your life.

Revisit it together and ask Him to show you where He was in it. *Enjoy seeing that day from His perspective.* What is he saying?

~ Plan some time to do something new together & listen.

~ What objects do you have that might initiate a conversation? Consider taking pictures of them and create a notebook with sections for each to journal thoughts, questions and answers.



## Warriors Respond:

*Crafted Prayer gives me a precise focus in knowing God's heart for a person or situation regardless of changes in circumstances or emotions.*

~ Enid Choong

I see Crafted Prayer as a grid that is laid on top of the ocean. At each bullet point, I dive in and the current of the Spirit carries me to a slightly different place each time! Each prayer time built on the same bullet points looks vastly different! The grid ( structure ) that the Crafted Prayer provides helps me stay on task and focused!

- Lorri Hernandez

*The crafted prayer process is so valuable to me because it helps me find the bones.*

*What's the bottom line?*

*In addition, it simplifies & brings into focus God's heart & language, which then aids my prayers in any situation. With Crafted Prayer, it's a precise, laser strike rather than a shotgun.*

*What I've come to love is the process. It's like solving a mystery. There are clues everywhere in the intel, but I'm drawn into following the clues until I'm at peace. It takes me into a dialogue with God at an entirely different level.*

- Kathy Johnson

I don't have to figure out what to pray in a whirlwind, but instead, I LISTEN first to what the conversation is in heaven. I can RELAX, center myself in my relationship with God, and let HIM speak. I enjoy the shorter bullet type of crafted prayers that can be memorized quickly, as they can be prayed whenever and wherever. These prayers result in confidence and joy, knowing that I am praying His will, & to this I say: YUM!

~ Lesley Balfour

*I love that the prayers themselves. They shape how I think & feel, renewing my mind so I think more & more the way God does.*

~ Carol Goble

*I love the meditating of it. The ruminating brings greater insights and changes me. I love knowing that the prayer is from the heart of God. It gives me full liberties to proclaim in all confidence. What could you not love about Crafted Prayer?*

- Lisa Hoover

I love the power I feel every time I pray it. Especially for my own prayers. When I pick up a Crafted Prayer, it is living and breathing to me. There are things in it that represent me today and things that have not manifested yet. I stand up and declare who I am and I never walk a crooked mile any day I start out with that prayer. ~ Ted Mather

I deeply appreciate the process of crafting prayer as a learned art of disciplined listening and editing that is stretching because it is different from my usual flow of conversational prayer. - Betty Hutchens

*Crafted Prayer has always captured my heart because it just makes sense. It doesn't get any better than praying with your answer! It speaks into your true identity and rejects any negatives. There is freedom in crafted prayer to see the salvation of the Lord!*

- Madeline Rooney

Crafted Prayer keeps me focused on the Majesty of God. It gives me a focal point to shoot for and keeps me from becoming overwhelmed by the problem or obstacle. I love the pictures Crafted Prayer creates. I can feel the power behind the prayer.

~ Esther Brohner

*I love the confidence and faith I rise to when praying what I know is the will of God; I love sending forth a targeted missile instead of a buckshot spray when I pray; I love the joy of co-creating with God the perfectly honed word phrases that capture His heart.*

- Susan Morningstar

**One of the most exciting things a Christian can do is realize they can hear the voice of God for themselves.**

For the past 18 years, Kathy and I have been conducting seminars which include a section on hearing God's voice. We have seen people's eyes shine when they realize, some for the first time, they can indeed hear God's voice for themselves. Many of these have been a part of the church for years. Even though Scripture is full of references to God speaking to his children, we still have a hard time believing God will talk to us individually.

**I believe one the greatest joys God has is talking to his children.**

As with every relationship, learning to communicate effectively with God takes a lifetime of **patient** work, exercise and development. The process for learning to hear God can be simple.

Here are a few considerations to help us on our journey to hearing God's voice more often and more effectively:

1. We must first believe that **God desires to communicate with us on an intimate level.**
2. We must recognize that **our condition is not a factor on God's ability to speak to us, but it can affect our ability to hear Him.**
3. **We must provide opportunity to "listen" to Him and for Him.** Like the old time gospel song says "turn your radio on and listen", powering up and tuning in to hear His voice is a learned and growing skill. It is a choice or response to an invitation. But since it is His desire, communication is guaranteed if it is our desire as well. It takes two, baby!

~ It is not just quality but quantity time that is required as we obey Paul's command "to pray without ceasing" which implies a process of being continually open to God.

~ God normally will not compete for our attention choosing to speak with a "still small voice". In our media and entertainment filled world, it requires delightful discipline to shut out the world and press into Him.

~ Sometimes hearing God is described as an "art", *because He is so creative in the different ways He communicates.*

What can you expect when you hear His voice speaking directly to you? Often, hearing His voice provokes an emotional, physical and/or mental response.

**It's common for just the sound of His voice to heal, deliver, identify, guide, instruct, value, invest, affirm, comfort, soothe, sustain, strengthen and erase the sense of being "alone". All at the same time!**

After all, it was He who said, "It is not good for man to be alone." To that end, He has placed Himself as the One who will never leave or forsake you, sticking closer than a brother – being your constant help. He is the one True BFF. He speaks to you because He *desires desperately* to connect & communicate intimately.

Often God speaks to provide direction, confirmation and encouragement for our lives. Other times He remains silent until we take the step closer and ask differently.

**Most, if not all, communication with God inherently requires some kind of response.**

As we learn to recognize His voice, our response to Him will either open the door of dialogue or close it. Our lack of response to His voice can put a distance or a strain on our ability to hear him. Like Adam, in the Garden after sinning, we will cover ourselves and hide. All the while, God seeks to speak and reconnect. A response of gratitude and honor will open the dialogue and enhance the intimacy we experience in being with Him.

**As in every relationship, to become better acquainted - to better hear His voice, you must practice, practice and practice some more.**

As you draw near to Him, He will draw near to you. Soon, the time spent learning to *listen* and being willing to *hear* God will be the most rewarding part of your relationship with the Father. **He designed you to hear His voice speaking your name - TO YOU.** You were not designed to be *alone*.



One night before going to bed, I prayed, "Father, I never remember my dreams. I sleep like a dead person and wake up focused on the day ahead. Please give me a dream for the Bakersfield Intel, help me to remember it, and give me the interpretation." That night, I dreamed, I remembered and sent in the Intel! It was quite unexpected and different for me. Holy Spirit is SO creative! - Ana Cross

*I usually block off a time to spend in deeper dialogue about the prayer focus. Before I get to that point, the Lord has usually given me the major topic...sometimes when I wake up or am doing something that requires little thought...so that when I get to the "blocked off" time, He expands the revelation through additional insights, details and/or pictures.*

~ Christine Casten

First, peace and rest overcome my spirit followed most often by a visual image. Next, I hear the tender voice of God sharing His heart with mine and I listen attentively. When I am physically working out is often when I receive Intel. Getting my heart rate up clears my heart and my spirit to freely receive what He desires to share with me ~ Faith Donaldson

I meditate on the assignment and sort of lay a foundation. Just whatever I feel is sufficient. Then I put it on the shelf and go about my day. Sometime shortly after I will get a word, a sentence, a picture and I will just know this is the place.

Then I walk with it. I meditate on it. It is a process. Before Graham I would just try to spew it out on the spot. Now I have a vehicle with which to mine the word for gold... In the world of kitchen appliances I am a slow cooker

~ Ted Mather

*I hear God's voice over Grahams assignments as I am intentionally quiet and wait. I focus on something of beauty like a sunset or a tree. It might be a picture or the real thing. Then I wait for an image or a word or phrase. At that point I start a conversation with Holy Spirit to bring out the meaning or the deeper meaning of the "word". Often is it just one word or a simple image. Then it expands as I explore. - Bev McCann*

When His love broke through in 1973, It began a passionate desire to know, understand and believe Him. It began a life journey of daily positioning for grace through choosing:

Set aside time to "Garden Walk": Reading the Bible to know and and understand who God really is.

Recording my own history: Starting a conversational prayer journal, writing prayers, needs and other thoughts soon became a two way conversation as the flow of HIs thoughts began connecting and intersecting with comfort, strength and direction.

Pouring out my heart to God, seeing and receiving His promises that over time tested as true has developed to a true rest in His Love. I seek to always be tuned in. Dreams of the night or walking through each day, my ear is open to pick up the sound of His voice in the many ways He comes to me. Ultimately, I know He wants to be known by me. ~ Betty Hutchens

Most of the time I hear from the Lord in the car and in worship. Sometimes I feel I have the "right" to drive in the carpool lane because my car is occupied with Jesus and Holy Spirit.

I find when I "try" really hard to hear and get intel it doesn't work, but as I intentionally choose to worship and just "be" with the Lord I get these revelational words or pictures that begin flooding over me. I'm always asking, "What does that mean?" If He doesn't answer right away, I just keep my ears and eyes open.

God usually confirms what I'm hearing through a dream, song, a sermon or something I read or His word. Often I begin seeing that same word or picture over and over again in the next few days. At coffee shops, in the grocery store, on signs, crazy places. I am still fine tuning my hearing. Seeing is easier for me. I think it's a combo of both good ways.

~ Jimetta Mayne

Usually the Worship Ebb time starts with me seeking the Lord in my quiet time. This year was different. I did not go into my prayer room, shut the door and be in stillness, in order to hear His voice. This year, Holy Spirit wanted me to go on an adventure with Him.

The adventure was that I would listen for His voice, not in silence and stillness,  
but in the midst of all the noise and activities of my everyday life.

My times of listening for Him in quiet isolation and with specific focus are my "Easy Listening" times. But to hear Him in the midst of a hectic holiday season was challenging...VERY challenging. I knew one thing only as I began, if He called me to it and as I said "Yes" to Him, He was going to give me an upgrade in hearing Him. He always gives me good stuff, if I'm willing to trust Him!

So, I started practicing listening for His voice.

I would listen while driving, listen as I was getting dressed, while the television was on, while shopping, while wrapping presents, while babysitting my grandchildren, in other words, at ALL times. A "super NATURAL" encounter happened just because I was intentionally listening for His voice during my normal, daily life, and not just behind the closed doors of my prayer room.

I was with my 5 and 2 year old granddaughters when my encounter with the Holy Spirit took place. As we were ending "Ree Ree" church "(Ree Ree is my grandmother name), we took time to sit at the kitchen table with a large piece of paper and crayons and wait for the Lord to speak to us. When He does, we take what he says and we draw a picture of it. Listening with God is a very important lesson which I teach and practice with all of my grandchildren. We use pictures when they are younger and as they get older, they have the option to write, draw, speak or even sing what they hear.

On this particular day, each of the girls had their own paper. My oldest granddaughter told me to get a piece of the paper and draw what I heard God saying to me. I took a paper that had been previously drawn on and said I would use the back of the page. She was very insistent that I use a piece of paper that was brand new.

So, I took a piece that was not used before, although it was torn at the top. Again, she got strong in refusing for me to use that piece of paper. Then she carefully retrieved a brand new, unused, perfect piece of paper and gave it to me. With a bright, ear to ear smile, she handed the page to me.

As she did, I clearly heard Him say, "See, YOU deserve the best."  
The words were simple and yet heart piercing and life changing.

I hesitated to take the paper for a moment, being overwhelmed by His love for me and as if she knew somehow that my heart was being melted, my granddaughter looked at me with delight and a knowing on her face, as if to say, "There. Now this is right."

This recent Worship Ebb has changed me. I now have a greater awareness of listening for the Lord, no matter what the circumstances are around me or how simply He presents the message.

My heart is always saying now, "Speak Lord. Your servant is listening!"

Isn't it just a fabulous mystery that each believer who has received the Holy Spirit has received power? In Acts. 1:8 He instructed His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received this power, He knew they would need God's power to love Him and love people. It is only this *power* that would set Him apart from the gods of the earth.

This power is the person of the Holy Spirit – part of the Godhead – indwelling each believer. This Power of God is realized in a reciprocal intimacy accessed by faith in Him. Without faith, it's impossible.

Faith in Father's desire to give us His provision through Holy Spirit begins by asking in faith, then acting in faith, with Holy Spirit being the resource.

**This is what I call the intersection of faith and grace.**

Let's look at this dynamic in the parable Jesus uses in Luke 11:5-13:

*Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*

*For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if you son asks for fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

This parable illustrates three points to consider as we undertake a more powerful, reciprocal relationship with God:

First, let's note the source of the power. Jesus says *God gives* the Holy Spirit to 'those who ask him.' It seems obvious, but to receive God, we must come to him asking, seeking, and knocking that he might 'give the Holy Spirit'. The heart of God described here is that of a good father who *eagerly desires* to give this gift to His children– if only they will ask. He is the source of the power, but we have the choice to ask – or not. Jesus instructed in John 14 "it is better for you...that Father may send the Holy Spirit." Let's ask Him for that which is better.

Secondly, the attitude of the believer is illustrated: vs 8 'because of the man's boldness he [God] will get up and give him as much as he needs.' God *expects* his children to recognize his goodness. He *expects* them to come to him. He *expects* them to have needs (vs 6 'I have nothing').

And, he *expects* them to come boldly, confidently, and assuredly before him *expecting* to receive 'good gifts.' We see clearly here that an attitude of expectancy is essential when approaching God, hearing His voice and receiving the gift(s) of Holy Spirit.

Thirdly, the motivation of the believer is shown. It is not for selfish gain the man knocks on his neighbor's door. A friend, on a long journey, has come to call. The man, noting his lack, runs to God in search of bread to feed his friend. It is in service for another that God freely extends His grace. It is remarkable that he is given three loaves of bread. Three is the number of the fullness of God, bread is a metaphor of the Person of Jesus; and, the transaction takes place at midnight which is the hour of surprise. This makes this parable rich for meditation and application.

In conclusion, it's easy to see we individually have a role to play in this exchange. In order for us to receive power (grace) we must ask & keep on asking; knock & keep on knocking; & seek & keep on seeking in *faith* - with an expectation that it is God's greatest desire to provide His Divine Grace to us for successful, joyful fullness as His witnesses.

I like to refer to this simple key when helping others to unlock the mystery of this power: At the intersection where our Faith unlocks God's Grace we see a demonstration of His Power through the Holy Spirit.

**FAITH (ours) + GRACE (God's)**  
**= ACTIVATION (Demonstration of His Power)**

As you process this study, these questions may help you:

**AS THE SOURCE OF POWER:**

*If you were to describe God to a stranger, what attributes or qualities would you give as part of your personal testimony?*

*When and where did you meet him as such?*

*Consider asking Father God for a new fullness of the Holy Spirit, that you might be empowered fresh and new for this wonderful journey!*

**YOUR ATTITUDE:**

*When you reflect on your attitude in conversation with God, what is the level of your level of expectancy that He will answer?*

*What do you experience when you turn your heart toward God?*

*What do you see on His face when you talk to Him?*

*What is His body language?*

*Can you recall an issue or situation that has challenged your level of expectancy, causing you to slip into passivity or to quit asking all together?*

*What has to change for you to believe that God earnestly desires to give you what is needed?*

**YOUR MOTIVATION:**

*Are there certain issues/subjects that you have "faith" for?*

*As you have prayed for others, where have you seen the greatest provision from God?*

*Do you see any situations where your motivation may need alignment?*

## An Opportunity to Practice



Graham has used this image in his prophetic training to facilitate moving from description to prophetic interpretation.

Imagine you have just seen this image in the Spirit:

- Spend time looking at the picture for initial details
- What other details are apparent after looking more closely?
- What might be the **positive** implications of such a picture?

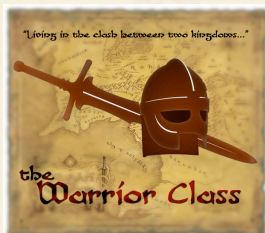
Remember - we never prophesy a negative even if the image or word initially appears that way.

Refer to pages 32-37 in *Approaching the Heart of the Prophetic* & the CD "Seeing in the Spirit" for more on this

- What are the key questions that you would begin to ask the Spirit and *listen* for the answers to?

Now:

- Look at the image a significant period of time.
- Practice listening, not just looking
- Keep notes with the questions you are asking and what His answers are
- Practice by craft a prophetic word based on this image *and* what you have heard.
- What tone and language would you use to express it?



*We would love to hear your feedback, questions, ideas and contributions for possible inclusion in The Warrior Class Training Journal.*

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