



2022 3Q In the Crucible with Christ—Lesson 6 Struggling With All Energy

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dear Come and Reason family,

Since the founding of our ministry in 2010, we have been actively praying that God would not only lead us in advancing the truth, but also open new avenues for us to share this life-changing message with ever-increasing numbers of people.

Our ministry has steadily grown over the past twelve years, and we have just purchased and are completing renovations on our broadcast studio, classroom, and office facility. As we are being positioned to create more materials to share, God has now opened an entirely new avenue for advancing the healing principles of His kingdom. Dr. Jennings has been nominated for and accepted the position of Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Lynchburg, Virginia.

The vision for this new position is for Dr. Jennings to lead the medical university in creating a world-class psychiatric residency training program that fully integrates Bible-based Christian principles with modern neuroscience and behavioral medicine. This training program will be a state-of-the-art, comprehensive, and holistic treatment program founded on a Christian worldview. It will not only train new physicians, but it will also become a template program to be replicated across the country and globe in like-minded Christian facilities, practices, and programs.

As you can see, this is an incredible opportunity to advance the gospel—pairing it perfectly with not just the healing arts, but specifically with mental healing in a biblically sound lifestyle program that leads people to harmonize with God’s design laws for life and health.

Being at Liberty University will also provide Dr. Jennings with the opportunity to network with other like-minded Christians, increasing the speed at which new platforms to share the gospel and advance the principles of God’s kingdom can be built.

Dr. Jennings will be closing his private practice in Chattanooga, and he and his wife, Christie, will be moving to Lynchburg to begin his new duties starting in mid-September. Dr. Jennings will continue to serve as president of Come and Reason Ministries and contribute weekly blogs, new sharing materials, and new lecture series. He will also continue to be involved in the Saturday morning livestream Bible studies and Q&A.

If you want to interact directly with Dr. Jennings, come to our new facility once it is complete; his livestream will be interactive in the studio. If you live outside the area, you will still be able to get the live broadcast as usual. Additionally, we will have a monthly potluck in our new



facility, and Dr. Jennings plans on attending in person on those dates.

We hope you share our vision to advance God's healing truth that this opportunity presents, because we absolutely need your continued prayers and support as Come and Reason Ministries moves through this transition. We value you as a vital part of our team, so we ask that you continue to lift us up in prayer, join us each week for our live class, and share our resources with your family and friends.

Sincerely,

Come and Reason Ministries Board and Team

Building update: The HVAC has been installed and we are back on schedule, hopefully for early September move in date. Keep us in your prayers.

August 13, 2022: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Sligo by the Sea, sponsored by Sligo SDA church at the First Presbyterian Church — 1301 Philadelphia Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842. Dr. Jennings will lead SS at 10 a.m., sermon at 11 a.m. and have Q&A session in the afternoon.

September 8-10, 2022: Dr. Jennings and Dr. Curt Thompson will be presenting an Intensive together at the American Association of Christian Counselors National Conference in Dallas, TX. You can find more details about the event at <https://nationalaacc.com/>

SABBATH

Read first two paragraphs, "A man and woman..." Does being a Christian help cope with trauma and loss?

Does prayer help?

What if one writes a computer program that has their computer pray for them each day would that help? Why or why not?

What if one has prayer beads they rub would that help?

What if one has a prayer wheel, with the prayer written on the wheel and they spin the wheel thinking every time the wheel turns a prayer ascends to heaven, would that help? Why or why not?

What is prayer and its purpose?

Does it matter to whom one prays?



Does it matter for what one prays?

Does it matter with what attitude one prays?

- After 9/11/2001 Univ. MI examined prayer and coping, those who prayed regularly had better psychological adjustment 1 year later than those who did not
- Univ MI different Study Muslim refugees of Kosovo and Bosnia
 - 60% of whom had PTSD
 - 77% of them had “negative” forms of prayer, such as praying their enemies “would pay for what they have done.” In other words, prayers of vengeance.
- Muslims with positive prayers - high levels of optimism, hope and healthy adjustment
- Vengeance and anger-related prayer - reduced levels of optimism, hope and healthy adjustment (Journal of Personality Volume 73, Issue 3, p 763-792, June 2005)

So what makes the difference in a person’s response to trauma and loss?

Does the view a person has about what is happening matter?

Does the view one holds about who God is, what sin is, God’s response to the sin problem, the future, and God’s trustworthiness have any impact?

If one is angry with God because of some trauma or loss, is it okay to yell at God and tell Him how angry you are, or would that be a sin?

If your child was angry at you for anything, the reason isn’t important, but you love your child and you want to resolve the reason for the anger, what would you want your child to do? Would you want them to talk to you? What if they were really angry and too immature to control it and they either yell for a while or don’t talk to you at all, what would you want them to do? Would you want them to come to you with their anger, their accusations, their attitude and tell you, even if they do it immaturely, as long as at some point they are willing to listen?

What does God want from us?

Why does God allow such terrible things to happen in this world? What is the alternative?

SUNDAY

Read the first two paragraphs, “Have you ever prayed...” What will God do for us and what will God not do for us?

Tell me who is responsible for the following, God, us, or both?

- Changing a sinner’s heart from disloyalty to God to loyalty to God?
 - Can a sinner change their own heart?



- Can God change a sinner's heart without the cooperation of the sinner?
- Does God have the power to force a change of heart?
- What happens to the individuality of the sinner if God forced a change of heart upon an unwilling person?
- If we had the ability to brainwash someone, to force a change of mind or attitude through some form of technology, manipulation, chemicals, programming that would cause a person who was rebellious, had hostility toward us to become passive and compliant, should we? Why or why not? What would happen to that person if we forced such a change upon them? Will God do this?
- Whose is the source of truth?
- Are we the source of truth? Can we comprehend godly truth without the aid of the Holy Spirit?
- Do we have a responsibility to search for truth, honestly, with a desire to know it?
- Do we have a responsibility to share the truth as we understand it with others?
- Who is responsible to wrestle with conflicting ideas, to think, reason and ultimately comprehend the truth, and be persuaded by it and choose it?
- Who is responsible to act upon the truth once they have chosen what they believe to be the truth?
- Who is responsible for the power to carry out the actions of healthy living based upon the truth?

From where does the truth originate?

From where does the power to be victorious come?

From where does the choice to be victorious come?

When do we get the divine power to be victorious?

God reveals truth to us in ways we can understand and then leaves us free to decide to say yes and act upon the truth or not. It is when we choose the truth and act upon that we receive the power to succeed. But we don't get the power until we choose to apply the truth by action.

Any Bible examples?

“Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away...” (Joshua 3:15-16 NIV84).

The waters in this story are real physical obstacles to achieving what God was directing them to accomplish and represent all the obstacles that interfere with fulfilling what God has called us to do. When we understand God's will, and step out in faith to be obedient in fulfilling what God has called us to do, it is then that God provides the power to succeed and parts the waters for our success.

Many people know God is calling them to some action, but misunderstanding this point they wait until a bridge has been built over the water in order to step out in faith. They know God wants them to cross the waters, so they get an engineering consult, start a construction company, begin a fund raiser, and



get a building project going that in fourteen years will result in a bridge to cross the waters that God would have parted had they stepped out in faith and allowed God to work.

Now, this is a metaphor, Solomon built a real temple that took over forty years with much preparation to build it, so of course there are times and places in which we do build real physical objects, but are there times when we need to be moving forward because God has called us to do so and instead we get derailed into planning out the human way forward?

Read third paragraph, “While the Holy Spirit...” This is a great point, the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, brings us the truth about ourselves and our need for Jesus, but who decides whether we repent and respond to the truth or harden the heart and reject it?

But is the only truth the Holy Spirit brings about our own sin condition, or is there another truth that is linked to it that is integral to our repentance, and in fact, without this other truth, just bring the truth about our sin condition might cause us to harden our heart in rebellion?

What is the central issue in the war between Christ and Satan? Is the central issue in the great controversy the sin condition of human hearts, or is the sin condition of human hearts the result of that central issue?

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against **the knowledge of God**, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV84).

What caused Adam and Eve to sin in the first place? Lies told about God that broke their trust in Him and resulted in their condition changing from loyal love to fear and selfishness. This is the terminal sin condition with which we are all born (Psalms 51:5).

So, yes, we need to know the truth of our terminal sin condition, but that truth must be presented in conjunction with another truth or we don't come to repentance, we instead slide deeper into rebellion by denying God, or by various forms of self-soothing or self-medicating away the conviction of sin and guilt, or by creating false theologies that give us a false legal security but function to undermine trust in God by setting up various barriers to protect us and hide us from Him, and what is that other truth? The truth about God Himself—as Paul wrote in Romans 2:4:

“Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?” (Romans 2:4 NIV84)

Genuine repentance is more than conviction of sin, it is also being restored to trust in God. If we don't come to the truth about God, but instead are convicted of our sinful state while also believing in an untrustworthy, punishing, arbitrary, unfair god who is the source of inflicted pain, suffering and death then we undermine trust in God and lead people to deny God exists, or worship a false god.



What wins us to repentance is the truth about God that Jesus has revealed.

The lesson makes another excellent point about God not forcing the will. While God has the power to do so, He won't do so, why? Is it merely because of what Satan will say about Him? Is God held hostage by Satan's allegations? Or is it because there is a reality involved that would destroy what God is trying to save if God were to do this?

If God were to use power to force people to obey, then He would destroy their individuality and erase their identity and they would become programmed robots and only be imitations or simulations of who they were. The true individual would be destroyed and so would their ability to love.

Love only exists in an atmosphere of freedom, therefore God will never use power to force people, either directly by entering their heart and mind and making choices for them or by coercion and force externally applied.

God, like a loving parent, disciplines those He loves for the purpose of teaching, but God does not coerce. Just like loving parents who discipline their children, if the children insist on growing up into rebellion, the parents eventually let them go, and sadly, so does God, why?

Does the truth that God will not coerce people into obedience have any impact upon the theologies we teach? Are there any ideas taught in Christianity that could sound like God is coercing?

What about the 3 angels' messages, could they be presented in such a way that it could misrepresent God and cause people to wrongly conclude that God is the type of being who says, you better worship me and in the legally right way I have commanded or else I will torment you with fire and brimstone to punish you for refusing to obey me?

How can we present the 3 angels' messages in way that doesn't misrepresent God? We have a magazine [*The Final Message of Mercy to the World: The Three Angels*](#) that does just that. You can get a copy here, read it online, and if you want some to share and have a US postal address we will ship it free. These are also available in Australia and South Africa.

Do we find God thundering and sounding threatening throughout Scripture, not just in Revelation 14?

How do you understand such language? Can we explain it in a way that doesn't misrepresent God? What is the key? Design law!

Is there another being who, if given the opportunity, will take liberty from people, will coerce consciences, will compel obedience?

Does the Bible predict this will happen on a global scale before Christ returns? Yes, it is the beastly system of Revelation which is ultimately led by Satan.



And have we seen a recent warning presented to the entire world that the beast is rising? Have we recently seen the worldly system of justifying the coercion of consciences as a good and righteous thing to do? And have we seen many churches and church officials join with the state in coercing consciences? Where and when have we seen this warning to the world?

Before Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70, Jesus foretold there would be a warning sign, which was the armies of Rome surrounded the city, but then they briefly backed away. The Christians recognized that sign and fled the city and were not caught up in its destruction.

This is an object lesson for us. Jerusalem represents the beautiful land, the people of God, the righteous, who are caught up in the war and Satan uses his forces to try and destroy the people of God.

God worked through the Jewish nation to bring saving truths to the world, the inspired writers, the retaining and spreading of the Scriptures, the sanctuary message, a health message, the Sabbath, the looking forward to the advent of the Messiah. And from that group, that organization, came those people who accepted Jesus and took the gospel to the world. Yet, that organization rebelled against Jesus, rejected Him, did not see the warning signs in AD 70 and when Jerusalem was attacked its leaders and loyal adherents to that system were destroyed. The people of God did not side with the leadership of Jerusalem or Rome but left both.

We stand in a similar position, the King of the South (liberalism, godlessness) is attacking and the King of the North (religious imperialism) is rising up, a warning to the people of God went forth when the enemies of God, the enemies of liberty of conscience, circled the globe and then pulled back. What was that warning?

COVID mandates which have coerced the consciences of millions if not billions and were justified under the lie that they were necessary to save lives. Billions have believed these lies and as a result families and communities have been divided, millions, if not billions, have been harmed, deaths increased and did not decrease because of these mandates. Not only were the mandates morally and ethically wrong, they violated the medical and scientific laws of health.

We can never avoid the truth we can only delay the day we deal with it. The truth always comes out in the end, for those who couldn't see the medical, physiological truth about COVID for a variety of reasons, because the data wasn't uncovered yet, or it was obscured by lies and propaganda, the methods employed by those enforcing mandates revealed they were not working for the kingdom of God. They used lies, distortion, coercion, censoring, deplatforming, threats, intimidation, and refused open and honest discussion and exploration of evidence.

And millions have accepted and engaged in practices that are satanic in origin, including many in church leadership, just like the Jews 2000 years ago. Choosing to practice such methods under the justification of saving lives is conditioning people to betray God's principles and preparing hearts and minds for participating in the next big worldwide coercion of consciences.



The people of God are to recognize this warning and flee, not physically like the Christians fled Jerusalem 2000 years ago, but we are to cut out of our hearts, affections, loyalties and devotion the ties to the organizations and systems that practice such ungodly methods and establish our hearts and minds into loyalty to God and God's kingdom of truth, love, and liberty.

If you haven't watched my lecture on [COVID and the Manipulation of Your Mind](#), I encourage you to do so. You will see how millions were duped by the employment of Satan's methods of lies and fear to incite selfishness and silence the truth which would have set minds free. Sadly, many Christian groups and organizations failed to discern the deadly methods employed and joined with the governments of the world to deceive their members and practice methods of coercions, all the while accusing those who practiced God's methods of truth, love, and liberty of not loving others. It has been quite evil.

MONDAY

The lesson points out that Paul in Colossians describes struggling to share the gospel despite being empowered with the power of God, that despite receiving God's power it was exhausting. The lesson notes that it isn't an easy thing to be successful in this world even with God's empowerment.

The lesson then goes on to say, "This is important to remember, because we live in a world in which we want more and more with less and less effort."

First question—is it a godly principle that we are to apply ourselves, that we are to work, including working for God and be workers in our own salvation?

“work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” (Philippians 2:12-13 NIV84).

Do we do this work by ourselves? Does God work out our individual salvation by Himself? No, it is a cooperative effort, why? To retain our individuality. What God wants requires our active work, effort, engagement in a living trust or faith relationship with Him in which we choose and He leads and empowers.

Is this work, which God calls us to do, restricted to emotional mental work or does it include actual physical activity as well, not necessarily for a paycheck, but useful labor to achieve things in the real world?

What happens to people who do not apply themselves to achieve usefulness in this world? What happens to their abilities, talents, and character?

What method would Satan employ, if he could, that would claim to be helping people but would actually be violating God's design, laws, and purposes and result in destroying people?



What about replacing actions that relieve burdens from others purporting to be loving support but which function to relieve burdens and responsibilities from others that they, with diligent effort and real struggle, could accomplish?

What happens to a person if we give to people what they could accomplish for themselves? Will they develop, grow, mature, overcome or get weaker, more enfeebled, and less capable, ultimately becoming more dependent upon others? Is this what God wants for us?

Satan's lie is that love gives to people things without thought, just to give, but what is given interferes with their application of their own God-given abilities and results in their failure to develop themselves to the fullest. Can we think of any practices, policies, and philosophies that do this today?

Why would human beings go along with this? Some people do this purposely, strategically, why? They want to create a dependency class that relies on them and thereby create a predictable voting block for their own political power.

Let me give you an example of this manipulation of people to create an emotional issue that results in creating a reliable voting block to support a particular political faction. Yet, those garnering the support of the voters never actually resolve the issue because if it is resolved they lose the motivation to get people to vote for them.

Consider the recent Supreme Court ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade*. We are not talking in here about the morality of abortion, what we are talking about is the legal and political landscape and why this issue has never been resolved in our country and how it is used to manipulate people.

In the USA all legal authority for all government institutions comes from the Constitution. The Constitution establishes the legal framework for the legislative, judicial, and administrative branches of the government.

One of the Supreme Court's jobs in this regard is to monitor and enforce what is inside the legal framework or bounds of what the Constitution authorizes. They act like referees in a football game, ruling whether the player is in bounds or out of bounds. The referee doesn't set the boundary lines, they only rule whether a player has stepped out of bounds or remained in bounds. Likewise, the Supreme Court doesn't set the boundaries, the Constitution does. The Supreme Court rules whether the other players in government, Congress, the President etc. are acting within the bounds of the Constitution or have stepped out of bounds. If they step out of bounds then the Supreme Court rules—unconstitutional, outside the bounds of what the Constitution authorizes and strikes down the action.

For instance, the Constitution authorizes as a right to all citizens the free exercise of one's religion. If Congress were to pass a law that mandated all US citizens must be baptized into a Christian church the Supreme Court would rightly rule that that law is outside the boundary of the Constitution and would strike it down.



But, Congress is free to pass almost any law within the framework of the bounds of the US Constitution. For instance, nowhere in the Constitution does that document give citizens a right to government provided healthcare. However, Congress can pass a law to provide it, which it has done and that is Medicare and Medicaid. And the Supreme Court has found this to be constitutional.

Now the question of abortion. Nowhere does the Constitution give or deny this right, but Congress has always had the authority to pass a federal law to make abortions legal or illegal in this country. Now think about it, why haven't they?

Because there are political parties that wants to have reliable emotional issues that will create large loyal voting blocks to keep them in power. So the political parties purposely and strategically decide NOT to use the Constitutional powers they have to pass a federal law to either provide this as a legal right or make it illegal. If Congress did act in this way, then the issue would be decided and the parties would lose a huge voting block of people. If you are a pro-choice person who supports the pro-choice party, you should ask, since the Roe v Wade decision back in the 1970s, has the pro-choice party ever been in simultaneous control of the House, the Senate and the Presidency and at times with super majorities? Yes, multiple times. Has the issue of abortion been under threat before? Yes, multiple times, and yet this party never used its Constitutional power to put this issue to legislative and legal rest, but instead kept it as a perpetual issue for every presidential election—be afraid, if the next president gets elected isn't of our party he may appoint an justice that will overturn Roe v. Wade....

And thus a perfect political tool to manipulate the masses to create a reliable and emotional voting block to keep themselves empowered.

I am not advocating for or against any political party, I am simply exposing manipulation of minds. I recognize all political parties as manipulative and exploitive and God's kingdom is not of this world. So please don't think because I exposed this political intrigue that I am taking political sides, I am not. I am advocating for leaving political parties behind and aligning with the kingdom of God.

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, "One of the greatest..." There are some really good points in this paragraph, in fact many good things in this week's lesson.

God created us to experience emotions, to be feeling beings, but our feelings are not to be in charge of us.

The mature person makes decisions based on truth, on understanding reality as God designed it, in harmony with God's laws, principles, purposes and will despite how it feels.

- Daniel and the lion's den
- Job staying faithful despite his grief
- Jesus in Gethsemane



James 1 tells us that we are tempted by our feelings.

Does that mean we should ignore our feelings? Absolutely not, our feelings are information to be processed through our higher faculties of reason and conscience and we choose what we understand is right despite what we are feeling in the moment.

The immature, the unhealthy, have habituated themselves to make decisions in the moment that feels best even when they know it is not the best. The mature, have grown up in their relationship with God to be able to stand firm for what is right even when it doesn't feel good.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson points to Jesus words:

“If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.” (Matthew 5:29 NIV84).

Then asks, “would you call them radical?”

Is Jesus being literal or using this as an object lesson about the value of the soul over the value of the body, of the value of eternal life over the value of temporal life?

One of Satan's tricks is to get us to value the body and what feels good physically over disciplining the body for the development of the character and the healing of the soul.

Another trick of Satan is to get people to value temporal life, the health of the body over eternal life:

- Daniel and the lion's den
- The three worthies on the plain of Dura
- Job and his physical suffering
- Jesus and His crucifixion
- All the martyrs
- COVID and the trap of valuing temporal life over eternal life, of willingness some to corrupt their characters by using coercive methods on others under the justification that it is to save lives, but at what cost? The cost of eternal life for those who harden their hearts in the methods of God's enemy.

THURSDAY

Why do we need to persevere? Who benefits from our perseverance?



Was Job persevering because He needed to work out some rebellion in his own heart?

What other option did Job have than to persevere?

If any of us are in union with God, like Job, and we are suffering some trial, like Job, what other option is there to perseverance?

If we give in we might get momentary temporal relief, but will we experience more peace, more joy, more happiness, or will we end up more miserable, discouraged, and hopeless? Why or why not?

Our choices in life are always between two options, what is healthy and what is unhealthy, what is true and what is false, what is harmony with God's design laws and what is a violation of God's design laws, what is based on trust in God and what is based on distrust in God. And health only is possible in harmony with the laws of health, which means in harmony with God!

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions