

MATTER TO THE MISSION
DEEPER DIVE STUDY GUIDE #6
MISSION MINDSET!

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Deeper Dive Study #6 of Matter to the Mission! The purpose of this exercise is to help you go deeper into our Man2Man: Gatekeeper Edition study series. While this study guide is designed to be used in our Deeper Dive study groups, you can also easily use it for your own, independent study.

So far in this study we have learned that we can Matter to the Mission because we have been set free to do God's good in our gates. We've seen that the Worlds are at War but God will win when we Gatekeepers wield the right weapons against the right warriors in our gates. Then we learned that Gatekeepers are immovable objects, because the only way we lose is if we quit! Finally, our last study reminded us that God's Gatekeepers can be an unstoppable force that occupies ground that is bigger than they are on their own...just so that they can experience God. The lesson? If a thing is not bigger than me, it is not worthy of He. And finally, last month we dug into the reality that, due to the power of God that resides in us...the same power that raised Jesus from the dead...when God tells us to do the impossible, the fact that it is impossible is irrelevant!

There are typically two basic reactions to the teachings so far. For many, lives are changed as gates are claimed, war is waged and God's power is experienced. But for many others, these lessons may come across as some church version of a motivational speech. Inspiring, yes. But, does it really make sense?

To one, this lesson series has been your coach. To another, your cheerleader. Why is that? Why can two honest and sincere people have such a different reaction to the same thing? The answer? Perspective

This month we're getting back to a basic that, if missed, will poison our perspective of all things Jesus. We're going to look at our Mission Mindset, how we think. And in the process we're going to learn that if we're ever going to connect to the power of God, we need to connect to the mind of God. We need to think like he does.

Think like God?! You bet. This month, we're going to learn how...and it will change your life.

Settle in and prepare. Take advantage of the online video of this month's message, "Mission Mindset" if you need reminding of the principles we discussed. You can find it at <http://www.thebridgechurch.tv/get-connected/man2man.html>. Then begin to prayerfully dive deeper into this awesome truth that it is time for us to Advance!

God bless you as you take the time to be inconvenienced in order to gain ground for God in your gates.

Best,

Doug

DEEPER DIVE
MATTER TO THE MISSION
CHAPTER SIX: MISSION MINDSET!

Paul told the Roman church that if we wanted to think like God thinks in order to connect with his power, then we needed to stop on one thing and start another. In this first section, we'll dive into the thing we need to stop doing.

WEEK ONE SECTION: REVIEW

We've discussed a lot of power truths so far in this study series. Listed below, review them and then list any questions, confusion or downright disagreement you might have with any. Feel free to include those areas where, in theory, you agree but in practice you're in the dark.

We are set free to do God's good in our gates. (Gatekeepers)

God will win when we wield the right weapons against the right warriors in our gates. (Spiritual Warfare!)

The only way God's Gatekeepers can lose is if we quit. (Stay in the game...)

Gatekeepers know that if a thing is not bigger than me, it is not worthy of He. (Bigger...experience God!)

When Jesus tells us to do the impossible, the fact that it is impossible is irrelevant! (Power of the Spirit)

Here's a weird question: If "Coached" means you 'get it' and are able to implement what you've learned and "Hyped" means you feel encouraged or motivated, but you can't really say you 'get

it' or know how to implement what you've heard, then which best describes your response to the Man2Man teachings so far? One or the other? A little of both? Why?

How does your reaction to the teachings so far line up with 2 Peter 1:2 and Peter's contention about what is needed to access a life the lessons we've studied so far say we can have?

Read Matthew 17:1-8. Any hints as to how this might have inspired Peter to write 2 Peter 1:2?

We've discussed some very powerful lessons so far in this study. As you review them this week, ask yourself: Do you believe them to be true? If so, then are you experiencing their truth, their power? Whatever your answers to those questions, consider them in prayer. Hopefully, but the time we're done with this month's studies, not only will the truth of the lessons dawn, but also their power!

WEEK TWO SECTION: DON'T!

In this section, we'll unpack Romans 12:2 on the way to discovering in each of our lives God's good, acceptable and perfect will. Paul starts out by first telling us to not do something...

What did Paul tell us not to do? (Romans 12:2a)

From where is the pressure coming to make a snowball?

How does that give us a picture of what it means to "conform?"

How is James 1:6-8's description of someone who doubts a picture of outside pressures/voices conforming us?

What is the result of being conformed? (James 1:8)

Make a list of the voices in your life, past and present?

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Schizophrenia: a mentality or approach characterized by inconsistent or contradictory elements.

How can giving value to all of these voices result in spiritual schizophrenia (double mindedness?)

Are we always aware of which voices are influencing us?

How can we inadvertently give other voices the same authority that we give the Word?

When we do that, what is the result?

Consider/discuss this statement: "If we think like we've always thought we're going to think like we've always thought." Now, tie this to Romans 12:2a and consider/discuss why Paul way say not to think this way.

WEEK THREE SECTION: DO!

Paul said, “Don’t be conformed!” In this section, we’ll discuss what we’re to do, instead. In the process it is hoped that you will begin to learn to think like God thinks...

If we’re not to conform, according to Paul, what are we do to? (Romans 12:2b)

The word “transform” comes from the same word from which we get the word “metamorphosis.” How does this help define what Paul is telling us to do? (Hint: think caterpillar.)

What was the method Paul gave for being transformed?

Review what Paul said not to allow to be done to us (Romans 12:2a) and consider/discuss how being transformed by renewing our mind is different than being conformed.

If the old mind hears all voices more or less equally, how would a renewed mind be different?

To help answer the preceding question, review the following Scriptures:

Text	Observations?
Psalm 119:11	<hr/>
John 16:13	<hr/>
Hebrews 4:12	<hr/>
2 Corinthians 10:5	<hr/>

Based on these Scriptures, which ‘voice’ is the only authority?

Whose voice is it?

What does this voice tell us?

What does this voice clarify?

What are we able to do if we prioritize this voice, alone?

Finally, not prioritizing this voice, suggesting in word or deed that what he says isn't really true for you is like doing what, according to Hebrews 10:29b?

Exercise:

This is an ongoing, lifelong exercise for anyone that seeks to see the world, both physical and spiritual, from God's perspective, learning to think like He thinks. The assignment? Question your assumptions. Ask yourself often, "Why do I believe, or not believe, *that*?" "Where did I get that belief or why do I disagree with it?" "Is that *truth* really just from the Word, or is it being tainted by what he heard from another voice...even if that other voice was my parents, my church, my friends...?" Where to start?

Step 1: Hide His word in your heart and hold all voices captive to that standard.

Step 2: Act with confidence that God is faithful.

Step 3: Repeat...

With those steps in mind, what voices are keeping you from implementing the lessons we've learned so far...and what are you going to do about it? What is holding you back from being...

1. Set free to do God's good in your gates...or trusting that...
2. God will win when we wield the right weapons against the right warriors in our gates...or from being encouraged by the belief that...
3. The only way God's Gatekeepers can lose is if we quit....or stepping into something bigger, because...
4. If a thing is not bigger than me it is not worthy of He...or even speaking power to our mountains, believing that...
5. When Jesus tells us to do the impossible, the fact that it is impossible is irrelevant!

BONUS SECTION

There is more to Romans 12:2. Paul said to not be conformed but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds for a purpose.

“...that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
(Romans 12:2c)

Review the following facts/definitions and then summarize for yourself the purpose for being transformed and why it is important.

Prove: (dokmaccien): to test, examine, prove, scrutinize, as in metals

Good: (agathon): morally honorable, pleasing to God, beneficial

Acceptable: (euareston): well pleasing

Perfect: (telion): having reached its end, finished, complete, nothing else needed to completeness.

And: Used as a parallelism...painting a picture picturing those concepts it is connecting as actually one thing, not a list.

With these in mind:

1. When does a gold coin become a gold coin, when it is made or when it is proven to be gold? Does the proof make it gold or does the proof confirm it has always been gold?
2. Connecting good, acceptable and perfect together makes God's will look like what?
(Hint: proving metals...)

Finally...if thinking like God thinks leads to fully understanding his will, which includes the promises we already have, how might you imagine that could free us up and empower us to take back ground in our gates, doing the impossible, astounding the world?

Ready to start?