

# Intercepting Impulsiveness

"Fulfilled", Part 10  
Pastor Vince DiPaola

"But the fruit of the Spirit is...self-control." (Galatians 5:23b)

\*Self-control intercepts IMPULSIVE behavior.

## I) OUR IMPULSIVE TEMPTATIONS

*The Deadly "P's"*

- 1) Passion for PLEASURE.
- 2) Piling up POSSESSIONS.
- 3) People-pleasing POPULARITY.
- 4) Personal PRESTIGE.
- 5) Professional POWER.
- 6) Perusing PORNOGRAPHY.

## II) HOW IMPULSIVE TEMPTATION WORKS

- 1) It starts with our own EVIL DESIRES.

"God tempts no one. But a person is tempted when he is drawn away and trapped by his own evil desire." (James 1:14, TEV)

- 2) It continues with our INAPPROPRIATE ACTIONS.

"Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin..." (James 1:15a, NIV)

"These evil desires lead to evil actions...." (James 1:15a, NLT)

- 3) It ends with our LIVES DESTROYED.

"...and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." (James 1:15b, NIV)

## III) PREPARING FOR IMPULSIVE TEMPTATION

*"The A-B-C-D's" Of Intercepting Impulsive Temptation*

"So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters..." (James 1:16, NLT)

**"A"** Don't be ALARMED, expect it!

"Be glad about this, even though it may now be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many kinds of trials you suffer. Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold... is tested by fire." (1 Peter 1:6-7, TEV)

**"B"** Don't be BLIND, detect it!

"So be careful. If you are thinking, 'Oh, I would never behave like that'—let this be a warning to you. For you too may fall..." (1 Corinthians 10:12, LB)

**"C"** Don't be CLEVER, reject it!

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear... He will also provide a way out." (1 Corinthians 10:13, NIV)

**"D"** Don't be DETACHED, accept Him!

"And now He [Jesus] can help those who are tempted, because He Himself was tempted and suffered." (Hebrews 2:18, TEV)

"But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives He will produce this kind of fruit in us: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control**. Here there is no conflict with the law." (Galatians 5:22-23, NLT)

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# The Power Of Gentleness

"Fulfilled", Part 9

Pastor Brent Carl

"But the fruit of the Spirit is...gentleness..." (Galatians 5:23a)

## **GENTLENESS: Our Power Under God's Control**

### **Five areas that we need God's Control in our lives**

#### **P – PERSONALITY** (I've been wired by God to plug in to His Power)

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful apart from me."

(John 15:4 NLT)

#### **YOU CAN'T HAVE THE FRUIT WITHOUT THE ROOTS**

#### **O – OUTLOOK** (My actions can be controlled by my attitude)

"Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing. Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had"

(Philip. 2:4-5 NLT)

#### **GENTLE PEOPLE ARE: UNDERSTANDING OF OTHERS**

"Godliness leads to love for other Christians, and finally you will grow to have genuine love for everyone."

(2 Peter 1:7 NLT)

#### **GENTLE PEOPLE ARE NOT: DEMANDING OF OTHERS**

"What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Isn't it the whole army of evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous for what others have, and you can't possess it, so you fight and quarrel to take it away from them. And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it."

(James 4:1-2 NLT)

#### **W – WORDS** (When God controls my heart, He controls my words)

"And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness that can ruin your whole life. It can turn the entire course of your life into a blazing flame of destruction, for it is set on fire by hell itself. People can tame all kinds of animals and birds and reptiles and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is an uncontrollable evil, full of deadly poison".

(James 3:6-8 NLT)

#### **E – EXPECTATIONS** (Do my best, let God control the rest)

"Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love."

(Ephes. 4:2 NLT)

#### **R – RESPONSES** (When my choices are directed by God I become proactive not reactive)

"It is better to be patient than powerful; it is better to have self-control than to conquer a city."

(Proverbs 16:32 NLT)

#### **Gentleness won't \_\_\_\_\_ but it will...**

- Give you power to live your life God's Way
- Bring Fulfillment like nothing else can
- Make you more like Jesus

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-----NOT USED BY BRENT SEE ABOVE-----

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## I) THE MISCONCEPTION OF "MEEKNESS"

### A) Meek is not WEAK.

"Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men who were upon the face of the earth." (Numbers 12:3, KJV) (cf. Deuteronomy 9:12-17)

### B) Meek is not WISHY WASHY.

"By meekness and gentleness, I appeal to you—I Paul..." (2 Corinthians 10:1a, NIV) (cf. 2 Cor.10:1b-2)

### C) Meek is not WIMPY.

Jesus said: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am meek..." (Matthew 11:29, KJV) (cf. John 2:13-17)

## II) THE MEANING OF TRUE MEEKNESS

### A) Meekness is our POWER kept under God's CONTROL.

### B) Meekness brings REWARD that lasts forever.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5)

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds... The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground." (Psalm 147:3,6)

## III) THE METHODS OF TRUE MEEKNESS

"Show a gentle attitude toward everyone." (Philippians 4:5, TEV)

## How To Gently Undermine Explosive Situations

### Landmine #1) ANGRY PEOPLE: GENTLE REACTIONS

"When they hurled insults at [Christ], He did not retaliate; When He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly." (1 Peter 2:23)

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." (Prov. 15:1)

\*The Benefit: REDUCED TENSIONS

### Landmine #2) MISGUIDED PEOPLE: GENTLE RE-DIRECTION

"God's people must not be quarrelsome; they must be gentle, patient teachers of those who are wrong. Be humble when you are trying to teach those who are mixed up concerning the truth... they are more likely, with God's help, to turn away from their wrong ideas and believe what is true." (2 Timothy 2:24-25, LB)

\*The Benefit: UNDERSTOOD TRUTH

### Landmine #3) FALLEN PEOPLE: GENTLE RESTORATION

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you may also be tempted." (Galatians 6:1-2)

"He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city." (Proverbs 16:32, NKJV)

\*The Benefit: CHANGED LIVES

### Landmine #4) OUR OWN PERSON: GENTLE RECOMMITMENT

"All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'" (1 Peter 5:5-6)

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:11)

\*The Benefit: GOD'S POWER UNLEASHED

## The Trust Test

"Fulfilled", Part 8  
Pastor Vince DiPaola

"But the fruit of the Spirit is... faithfulness..." (Galatians 5:22g)

**\*"Faithfulness": Being \_\_TRUSTWORTHY\_\_ in all my dealings with God and with other people so they can \_\_COUNT ON ME\_\_.**

*"Trust in the Lord with **all your heart** and do not lean on your own understanding; acknowledge Him in all your ways, and He will direct your path."*  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

### Three Important Trust Tests With God

#### Test #1) CAN GOD TRUST ME WITH MY \_\_TIME\_\_?

*"But I **trust** in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands."*  
(Psalm 31:14-15a)

**\*The Routine: A daily \_\_QUITE TIME\_\_ with God.**

**\*The Reason: \_\_DIRECTION\_\_ for living.**

*"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right."*  
(2 Timothy 3:16, LB)

**\*The Result: \_\_SPIRITUAL STRENGTH\_\_!**

*Jesus said: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5)

#### Test #2) CAN GOD TRUST ME WITH MY \_\_TREASURE\_\_?

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and... thieves... steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... You cannot **serve [trust]** both God and money."*  
(Matthew 6:19-21,24b)

**\*The Routine: A weekly \_\_TITHE\_\_ for God.**

*"On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn."*  
(1 Corinthians 16:2, LB)

**\*The Reason: \_\_PRIORITIES\_\_ for living.**

*"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your life."*  
(Deuteronomy 14:23, LB)

**\*The Result: \_\_FINANCIAL STABILITY\_\_!**

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."* (Malachi 3:10)

#### Test #3) CAN GOD TRUST ME WITH MY \_\_TALENTS\_\_?

*"[Through faith] we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance that we should do."* (Ephesians 2:10)

**\*The Routine: A fulfilling \_\_MISSION\_\_ with God.**

**\*The Reason: \_\_CONFIDENCE\_\_ for living beyond myself.**

*"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to... [let us use it]."* (Romans 12:6, LB)

**\*The Result: \_\_UNBELIEVABLE REWARD\_\_!**

*Jesus: "Let me assure you that no one has ever given up anything—home, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children or property—for love of me and to tell others the Good News, who won't be given back, a hundred times over..."* (Mark 10:29-30, LB)

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# Coloring Inside The Lines

"Fulfilled", Part 7  
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"But the fruit of the Spirit is... goodness..." (Galatians 5:22f)

## I) UNDERSTANDING "THE LINES" WE DRAW

*The meaning of "goodness" and "integrity"*

\*"Integrity": Identically aligning our WORDS, ACTIONS,  
and VALUES with each other and with God's will.

"I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity."  
(1Chronicles 29:17)

"It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong... Oh what a miserable person I am!" (Romans 7:21, NLT)

## II) APPRECIATING "THE LINES" WE DRAW

*Why integrity is important*

1) Outside, integrity provides PROTECTION from fear.

"May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in You." (Psalm 25:21)

2) Inside, integrity determines DECISIONS that last.

"The integrity of the upright guides them." (Proverbs 11:3)

3) Upside, integrity cultivates CONFIDENCE in life.

"The man of integrity walks securely." (Proverbs 10:9)

## III) MAINTAINING "THE LINES" WE DRAW

*Drawing lines of integrity you can color in everyday*  
(from Daniel 1, NLT)

1) Resolve to establish values that ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE.

"The king assigned them a daily ration of the best food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for a three year period, and then some of them would be made His advisers in the royal court... But Daniel made up his mind not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king." (Daniel 1:5, 8a)

2) React with words that EXPLORE REASONABLE OPTIONS.

"[Daniel] asked the chief official for permission to eat other things instead." (Daniel 1:8b)

"Now God had given the chief official great respect for Daniel. But he was alarmed... 'the king has ordered that you eat this food and wine... If you become pale and thin compared to the others.. he will have me beheaded for neglecting my duties.'" (Daniel 1:9-10)

3) Reply with actions that REVEAL TRUE CONVICTIONS.

"Test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water,' Daniel said. 'At the end of ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's rich food. Then you can decide whether or not to let us continue eating our diet.'" (Daniel 1:12-14)

4) Remember to acknowledge integrity COMES FROM GOD.

"At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king... When the three year training period..completed..none of them impressed [the king] as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they were appointed to his regular staff of advisors." (Daniel 1:15, 18-19)

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# Non-Random Acts Of Kindness

"Fulfilled", Part 6  
Pastor Frank De Luccio

*But the fruit of the Spirit is... kindness... (Galatians 5:22e)*

## 1. It's A Cold, Cold World.

- a. Our world is more often \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. We've allowed coldness to enter our \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. The Kindness Of God Warms A Cold Heart.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ are naturally cold.

*At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. Titus 3:3*

*...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...  
Romans 3:23-24*

- b. Jesus warms our heart through \_\_\_\_\_.

*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior... Titus 3:4-6*

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*

- c. \_\_\_\_\_ maintains the warmth in our hearts.

*...so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:7*

*If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. John 14:15-17*

## 3. Kindness - A Lifestyle, Not A Random Act.

- a. Offer an \_\_\_\_\_ for God to enter your life.

*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:9-10*

- b. Be an \_\_\_\_\_ of God in all you do.

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children... Ephesians 4:32 – 5:2*

- c. Be \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to kindness.

*This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. Titus 3:8b*

*...and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2*

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- b. We've allowed coldness to enter our CHURCHES.

## 2. The Kindness Of God Warms A Cold Heart.

- a. OUR HEARTS are naturally cold.

*At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. Titus 3:3*

*...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...  
Romans 3:23-24*

- b. Jesus warms our heart through SALVATION.

*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior... Titus 3:4-6*

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*

- c. THE HOLY SPIRIT maintains the warmth in our hearts.

*...so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:7*

*If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. John 14:15-17*

## 3. Kindness - A Lifestyle, Not A Random Act.

- a. Offer an INVITATION for God to enter your life.

*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:9-10*

- b. Be an IMITATOR of God in all you do.

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children... Ephesians 4:32 – 5:2*

- c. Be INTENTIONAL when it comes to kindness.

*This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. Titus 3:8b*

*...and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2*

# Patience... Now!

"Fulfilled", Part 5  
Pastor Vince DiPaola

"But the fruit of the Spirit is...patience..." (Galatians 5:22d)

## I) THE PRACTICAL MEANING OF PATIENCE

\*"Patience": The attitude that \_\_\_WAITS\_\_\_ on God's timing for a result by \_\_\_WORKING\_\_\_ on whatever can be done in the mean time.

<b>"Just waiting"</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>"Patience"</b>
<b>Meaning:</b> ___SIT___ around for results.		___DO___ all we can regardless.
<b>Focus:</b> On the ___PROBLEM___.		On the ___PROCESS___.
<b>Attitude:</b> We are ___CRITICAL___.		We stay ___CONTROLLED___.
<b>During It:</b> We ___COMPLAIN___.		We ___CONTEMPLATE___.
<b>Result:</b> "I got what I ___WANTED___."		"I got what I ___NEEDED___."

"We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised." (Hebrews 6:12, NIV)

## II) THE POTENTIAL POWER OF PATIENCE

*Why patience pays*

### 1) Patience builds our \_\_\_SPIRITUAL STRENGTH\_\_\_.

"Being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience..." (Colossians 1:11, NIV)

### 2) Patience builds our \_\_\_SELF CONTROL\_\_\_.

"It is better to be patient than powerful. It is better to win control over yourself than over whole cities." (Proverbs 16:32, TEV)

### 3) Patience builds our \_\_\_SENSE OF FAITH\_\_\_.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

## III) THE PRACTICE OF PATIENCE... NOW!

*Becoming a more patient person*

(from James 5:7-11)

### 1) Develop \_\_\_A NEW PERSPECTIVE\_\_\_ on patience.

"Be patient then brothers until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too be patient because the Lord's coming is near." (James 5:7-8)

"A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly." (Proverbs 14:29)

### 2) Discover \_\_\_OPPORTUNITIES TO LOVE\_\_\_ in patience.

"Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The judge is standing at the door!" (James 5:9)

"Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." (Ephesians 4:2, LB)

### 3) Depend \_\_\_ON THE LORD'S TIMING\_\_\_ for patience.

"For examples of patience in suffering, look at the Lord's prophets. We know how happy they are now because they stayed true to Him then, even though they suffered greatly for it. Job is an example of a man who continued to trust in the Lord in sorrow. From his experiences we can see how God's plan finally ended in good, for He is full of tenderness and mercy." (James 5:10-11)

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# Finding The Missing Peace

"Fulfilled", Part 4

Pastor Dave Singleton, Ark of Jesus Ministries

"But the fruit of the Spirit is...peace..." (Galatians 5:22c)

## I) THE WRONG PEACE FOR THE PUZZLE

### Peace Never Comes From...

#### A) ... Avoiding \_\_\_ PROBLEMS \_\_\_.

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."  
(Hebrews 12:11)

#### B) ... Avoiding \_\_\_ PEOPLE \_\_\_.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God."  
(Matthew 5:8)

#### C) ... Avoiding \_\_\_ GOD \_\_\_.

[Jesus said]: "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid."  
(John 14:27, LB)

**\*Peace never comes from \_\_\_ AVOIDING \_\_\_ adversity,  
but from \_\_\_ ADAPTING \_\_\_ to adversity.**

## II) THE RIGHT PEACE FOR THE PUZZLE

### The 3 Kinds Of Peace We All Need ...And How To Find It!

#### 1st peace) We need \_\_\_ SPIRITUAL \_\_\_ peace with God.

"Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."  
(Romans 5:1, TEV)

#### Yes, But How?

"May the God of hope fill you with great joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

**\*Commit your life to Christ by \_\_\_ FAITH ALONE \_\_\_.**

#### 2nd peace) We need \_\_\_ EMOTIONAL \_\_\_ peace from God.

"And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you were called to live in peace."  
(Colossians 3:15, NLT)

#### Yes, But How?

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."  
(Philippians 4:6-7)

i) Refuse to be anxious about \_\_\_ ANYTHING \_\_\_.

ii) Raise your requests to God about \_\_\_ EVERYTHING \_\_\_.

iii) Receive peace from God that \_SURPASSES UNDERSTANDING\_.

#### 3rd peace) We need \_\_\_ RELATIONAL \_\_\_ peace with others.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."  
(Romans 12:18)

#### Yes, But How?

"Don't condemn each other anymore. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not put an obstacle in another Christian's path... If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God. And other people will approve of you too... therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." (Rom.14:13,18-19, NLT)

**\*Place other people's needs \_\_\_ ALONGSIDE \_\_\_ your own.**

"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace of heart and mind. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world." (John 16:33, NIV & LB)

# Don't Settle For Happiness

"Fulfilled", Part 3  
Turan Erdogan

"But the fruit of the Spirit is...joy..." (Galatians 5:22b)

## I) ON THE HUNT FOR HAPPINESS....

*Why Happiness Isn't All It's Cracked Up To Be*

A) It's determined by \_\_\_HAPPENINGS\_\_\_ we can't control.

B) It's dependant on \_\_\_OUR NEEDS\_\_\_ not other's needs.

C) It's destined to \_\_\_FAIL\_\_\_ the more we try to find it.

*"I got whatever I wanted and did whatever made me happy... then I thought about everything I had done, including the hard work, and it was simply chasing the wind. Nothing on earth is worth the trouble." (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11)*

## II) ON THE JOURNEY FOR JOY.....

*Why Joy Always Beats Happiness*

A) Joy comes by \_\_\_CHOICE\_\_\_ not \_\_\_CHANCE\_\_\_.

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)*

B) Joy comes from \_\_\_INSIDE\_\_\_ not \_\_\_OUTSIDE\_\_\_.

*"Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to everlasting life.'" (John 4:13-14)*

C) Joy comes through \_\_\_FAITH\_\_\_ not \_\_\_FAKING IT\_\_\_.

*"We are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard, so that you may share the fellowship and the joys we have with the Father and with Jesus Christ his Son. And if you do as I say in this letter, then you too will be full of joy, and so will we." (1 John 1:3-4, LB)*

## III) HOW TO BUILD A LIFE OF JOY

*How To Maintain Joy In Any Situation*

(from Romans 5:1-11)

\*The basis for lasting joy is a \_\_\_LONG-RANGE PERSPECTIVE\_\_\_.

**Attitude #1) Reflect on your \_\_\_PROMISED HOPE\_\_\_ in God.**

*"Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. He has brought us, by faith, into this experience of God's grace in which we now live. We rejoice, then, in the hope we have in sharing God's glory!" (Romans 5:1-2, TEV)*

**Attitude #2) Remember your PROBLEMS HAVE A PURPOSE from God.**

*"And we also rejoice in our troubles, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance brings God's approval, and His approval creates hope. This hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us." (Romans 5:3-5, TEV)*

**Attitude #3) Realize your YOUR POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP w/ God.**

*"But that is not all; we rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has now made us God's friends." (Romans 5:11, TEV)*

*"When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us. Now... someone might be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."*

(Romans 5:6-8, NLT)

# The Lost Art Of Loving

"Fulfilled", Part 2  
Pastor Matt Eisenhower

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love..."* (Galatians 5:22a)

## I) The Bible has a great deal to say about *love*

**Fact #1) The NIV Bible uses the root word of love nearly 700 times**

**Fact #2) We know that God is love**

*"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."* (1 John 4:8)

**Fact #3) The Greatest Commandment is to Love God.**

*"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment."* (Matthew 22:37-38)

**Fact #4) In the original language of the New Testament, there are three Greek words in which Bibles translate into "love"**

1. **agape- unconditional**
2. **phileo- friendship**
3. **eros- intimate**

*"When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love (agape) me more than these?"*

*"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love (phileo) you."*

*Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."*

*Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love (agape) me?"*

*He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love (phileo) you."*

*Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."*

*The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love (phileo) me?"*

*Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love (phileo) you."*

*Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."*

(John 21:15-17)

## II) Become a "CAT" Lover

### **Choice) Love is a choice**

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."* (Ephesians 5:25-28)

### **Action) Love is expressed in action**

*"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."* (1 John 3:17-18)

### **Take time) Love takes time to develop (Quantity=Quality)**

*"I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles."* (Romans 1:11-13)

## III) True agape love

True Christian love is only present when the supernatural power of God flows through us to others.

### **The Source of unconditional love is Holy Spirit/God**

*"So I say live by the Spirit..."* (Galatians 5:16a)

### **This kind of love is not in our human nature**

*"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious..."* (Galatians 5:19a)

### **This kind of love can be in our renewed nature)**

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love (Agape)..."* (Galatians 5:22)

# The Lost Art Of Loving (NOT USED)

"Fulfilled", Part 2  
Pastor Vince DiPaola

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love..." (Galatians 5:22a)

## I) THE POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS OF LOVE

Fallacy #1) Love is a \_\_\_ FEELING \_\_\_.

Fallacy #2) Love is a \_\_\_ FALLING \_\_\_.

Fallacy #3) Love is a \_\_\_ FANTASY \_\_\_.

## II) THE PROPER CONCEPTION OF LOVE

Fact #1) Love is a matter of \_\_\_ CHOICE \_\_\_.

"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." (Colossians 3:14)

Fact #2) Love is a matter of \_\_\_ CONDUCT \_\_\_.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:17-18)

Fact #3) Love is a matter of \_\_\_ COMMITMENT \_\_\_.

"Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:7-8, 13)

## III) THE POWER OF A LIVING LOVE

### How To Maintain A Vibrant "Love Life"

**\*To Key To Keeping Your Love Alive Is  
To Maintain \_A WELL ROUNDED ATTITUDE\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Attitude #1) Love Must Be \_\_\_ TAUGHT TO US \_\_\_\_\_.**

"And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of His marvelous love; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high His love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves." (Ephesians 3:17-18, LB)

**Attitude #2) Love Must Be \_\_\_ TENDER THROUGH US \_\_\_\_.**

"Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." (Ephesians 4:2, LB)

"And now this word to all of you: You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds." (1 Peter 3:8, LB)

**Attitude #3) Love Must Be \_\_\_ TOUGH IN US \_\_\_\_\_.**

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are living according to the truth... [people] have told the church about your love....I wrote to the church, but Diotrefes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us. So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us." (3 John 4,6,9-10)

**Attitude #4) Love Must Be \_\_\_ TENACIOUS FROM US \_\_\_\_.**

"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you... if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them... But love your enemies, do good to them..then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of [God]." (Luke 6:27-28, 32, 35)

"We love because God first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

# Living With An Attitude

"Fulfilled", Part 1  
Pastor Vince DiPaola

## I) WHAT'S AN "ATTITUDE"?

"What I say is this: let the [Holy] Spirit direct your lives, and do not satisfy the desires of the human nature. For what our human nature wants is opposed to what the Spirit wants, and what the Spirit wants is opposed to what human nature wants. The two are enemies..." (Galatians 5:16-17, TEV)

\*An attitude is the way we CHOOSE TO VIEW LIFE that influences how we ACT, THINK, or FEEL.

## II) WHY OUR ATTITUDE IS IMPORTANT

"But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives He will produce this kind of fruit in us: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...**" (Galatians 5:22-23, LB)

\*Understanding "The Fruit of the Spirit":

- 1) They're not the same as the GIFT OF THE SPIRIT.
- 2) They're not the same as the GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT.
- 3) They're attitudes that come from DEPENDANCE on God.

\*Attitudes are important because they always reveal who we're CONTROLLED by and what we're TRUSTING in.

## III) INCREASING YOUR "ATTITUDE ALTITUDE"

### God's Flight Schedule

**Flight #1) Choose to value PEOPLE AS PRECIOUS.**

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests but to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:4-5)

**Flight #2) Choose to view PROJECTS AS POSSIBILITIES.**

"Of course, brothers, I really do not think that I have already won it; the one thing I do is, however is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight towards the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above. All of us who are spiritually mature should have this same attitude." (Philippians 3:13-15a, TEV)

**Flight #3) Choose to validate the POWER OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE.**

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. **I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation...** I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:12-13)

\*God's attitude promise:

**A CONFIDENCE...**

"I can do all things..." (v.13a)

**...that's ANCHORED IN CHRIST...**

"I can do all things through Christ..." (v.13b)

**...will always bring out GOD'S BEST IN US!**

"I can do all things through Christ that strengthen me." (v.13c)

"The [Holy] Spirit has given us life; He must also control our lives."

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...that's \_\_\_\_\_...  
"I can do all things through Christ..." (v.13b)

...will always bring out \_\_\_\_\_!  
"I can do all things through Christ that strengthen me." (v.13c)

"The [Holy] Spirit has given us life; He must also control our lives." (Galatians 5:25, TEV)