

Life Groups

TOUCHING YOUR WORLD

June 2010 Lesson

Grace to See Our Future

Hello, my name is Sammy Peña and welcome to this month's Life Group. This month we're going to be teaching under the theme: Grace to See Our Future.

Before we go into today's lesson we have a short worship clip and a worship song that we want you to listen to and engage into worship and then we'll be right back.

The book of Jeremiah chapter one verse twelve, the word reads, "The Lord said to me you have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled." You know, we are in the midst of much shaking and change and chaos in our world, in our society. God has a divine plan for your future.

Allow me to encourage you in the midst of this time and change: in order to leave the past there must be a shift. We are leaving an old season and shifting into a new season. God desires to give us insight to see our new season; He wants us to be able to see beyond the present circumstances and the present changes that are going on and He wants to enable us to be able to see into the divine future and the divine season that He has already all ready for us.

When the Lord revealed to Jeremiah his future and his time to shift into a new season, Jeremiah could not see it at first. God was calling him forth as a prophet, and Jeremiah could only focus on his weaknesses. Isn't that like us, especially, whenever we can't see? I love God's perspective or persistence with Jeremiah. No matter what excuses Jeremiah gave God, concerning his calling and His new season God continued to speak to Jeremiah's potential.

Maybe you can relate. You may have thoughts and desires for advancement, for achievement and for promotion and moving forward, but you've been very consumed with excuses like, "It's too hard; I can't move forward; my past season was too difficult. How can I possibly move forward into a new season? Sure, I want a new season but promise me first that it will be easier." Does that sound familiar? I know I've said those things.

But unfortunately the Lord will not answer us with, "The next season will be a breeze. You'll see: it will be easy this time." Instead we get the same word that Israel did when they complained. Deuteronomy chapter 30, verse 11, the amplified version. It says, "For this commandment, which I command you this day, is not too difficult for you." And then in verse 14 of that same chapter it says: "But the word is very near you: in your mouth and in your mind and in your heart, so that you can do it."

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The Lord is saying the same thing to you and to me. He is saying, the word of breakthrough for our new season is in our mouth; – in your own mouth, – in your mind – in your heart, so that you can do it. You can do it! Do what? ...all that he is commanding you to do.

And wow, isn't that so encouraging for us. That we can, and that we are able to tell ourselves, that we can do it. It's the word of God in our mouth, – that Word, not the words of what we see or hear in the natural, or we see or hear in the media, or from others, but the word of God. He encourages us to speak His Word.

The Lord had to touch Jeremiah's mouth so that he had a good confession concerning his future. You know, we can say different things about our future, our own self, and we can look to our past and say, "Well my past was this and that," and determine our future according to our past. But God had to touch Jeremiah's mouth so that his confession would be that of what God's potential and what God had determined his future was going to be like.

So it says in Jeremiah chapter one, verse nine it says: "Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said unto me, 'Behold I have put my words in thy mouth.'" The Lord is stretching forth His hand and touching our mouths and putting His word in our mouths. He is not going to open up doors to our future without His supernatural empowerment. The word "touch" in this passage implies a supernatural empowerment of divine grace and help.

The Lord desires that we have the God kind of faith. In other words, he desires that our faith will be just like His, God's faith. And how is God's faith? He speaks things into existence. Since the beginning, when He said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Everything in the universe and in this world is sustained by the word of His mouth.

So for us to be able to move forward into our new season it will require that we develop faith for more of His grace. God is imparting grace to whatever weakness we believe that we have, and which can keep us from moving forward. I know that many times we all want to appear that we're strong, or even play the role of strength, but the Bible says, "His strength is made perfect in our weakness." In other words, His grace is sufficient, His power for us and His strength will become even more evident when we recognize our weakness and we allow God to then bestow on us that empowerment, that supernatural empowerment, so that we can move forward in our season.

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Jeremiah told God that his own weakness was not being a person of eloquent speech. Yours could be something different. Jeremiah did not believe he was mature enough or eloquent enough to speak for God. Therefore, by touching Jeremiah's weak area God imparted a divine grace which overrode Jeremiah's weakness. God is doing the same for you and for me so that we can fully shift into our next season.

God believes in you; he believes in us. And He is promising that if we have faith in His divine empowerment He will provide what is needed for us to fulfill our future. We are not alone in our walk. God promises to go before us and defeat our enemies, yet all the while He walks beside us, constantly encouraging us each day. Each new day is fresh, and we can receive fresh grace.

When Satan lies to us and says that we are neither equipped, nor anointed, nor strong enough – we can believe God for grace to touch the area in which we feel weak. Each day we can become overshadowed by the holy spirit and conceive our potential. Just as Mary – when she was overshadowed – she also conceived. When Gabriel announced that she was to give birth to the son of God she said, "Be it unto me according to Thy will" Luke 1:38, God touched any doubt and unbelief she had, and then imparted a supernatural grace to empower her for her future.

As we shift into every new season, the Holy Spirit is teaching us. He is promising to equip us for our future, plus, just as He promised to be watching over His promises to Jeremiah, He will be watching over our promises also, and we must believe that. We must be encouraged by that.

In Jeremiah 1: 12, it continues, saying, "The Lord said to me, 'You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that My Word is fulfilled'." Isn't that awesome that it is not our responsibility to fulfill God's word; He is watching over His word. He is watching to see that His word is fulfilled in your life and in my life.

When the Lord says that He will watch over what He has promised, He is explaining His faithfulness. It's like God is going "BACK TO THE FUTURE". In other words, He's already gone to your future; He's already gone to where your future is and He has gone into your future, witnessed the fulfillment of our promise and then comes back to the now, to encourage us with a present-day word. Now that sometimes may seem or look or that may sound a little mystical, it may sound a little bit like sci-fi (science fiction), but the reality is that God's existence – he doesn't live in the present time as we do, which that is controlled and ordained by hours and minutes. He lives in eternity.

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So He has the ability to go forth. What He has spoken about your future, your potential; He's already laid it out but now He comes back to our present time because He wants to ensure us and be there with us. He is an ever-present help, as the Bible says, in the time of need. He is, right there, close to us. He doesn't leave us or forsake us but He is there to encourage us. But His word has to be constantly in our mouths. We have to continue with that confession; what He is saying, about the circumstance. We are not relying on or looking at our own potential or our own weaknesses but looking at the potential of God in order to really bring forth His desired plan; and His desired future, which He has for us.

The word "watch" in this verse that we read, in Jeremiah 1: 12, is the Hebrew word *shaked*, which means "to be alert; keep watch of and be wakeful over". The same Hebrew word for watch is the same Hebrew word used for almond blossoms. We're going to discuss a little bit later on in the scripture.

After the Lord put His words in Jeremiah's mouth He asked him once more: "What do you see?" Finally Jeremiah did not answer with another excuse or infer to God that, "It's too difficult," but this time he said, "I see an almond branch budding." We will see that in Jeremiah 1: 12, there's tremendous significance in this passage.

Let's read it more thoroughly together, and please pay attention to how Jeremiah now shifts into an ability to see his future. Remember that before this passage Jeremiah could only focus on his weaknesses. Watch his transition, and see the shift that takes place in him. I believe that you're listening. And as you apply the word in your life, you will see transition and shift take place in your life.

It says in Jeremiah 1: 9 through 12, "Then the Lord reached out His hand and touched my mouth and said to me: 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant'. The word of the Lord came to me: 'what do you see, Jeremiah?' 'I see the branch of an almond tree,' I replied. The Lord said to me: 'You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled.'"

Finally, Jeremiah saw what God saw. And that's the place where God is trying to get us to. He wants us to be able to see what He sees. But you may ask yourself: how can I do that? How can I see what God sees? We see what God sees when we allow Him to impart to us and to bestow grace on us, ...grace - that supernatural empowerment, so that we are able. That's what faith is really all about. As I said before, God wants us to have His kind of faith. His kind of faith! The kind that when we see something in the natural; like a situation that is pressing, and that looks impossible, we have to look at it through God's perspective, and God's eyes, and with the God kind of faith..

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That was the transition that was going on here in Jeremiah's life and we all face those moments. We all face those circumstances, those shifting of seasons. Especially as I said before, at this time when we see things changing; the kind that is shaking and shifting, the kind we are hearing about in the news. We need to be, at this very moment, like Jeremiah where we allow ourselves to see what God see, expecting what God wants to do.

Jeremiah finally saw what God saw, after God imparted grace to his weakness. Jeremiah was able to see his future, Beloved. If we receive His grace, our eyes will also be open to see what God sees concerning our ability. God wants us to be able to see this ability, to see the potential that He has placed inside of us because the answer is not going to come from anything else, as the word says, the word is near us – it's in our mouth, it's in our heart, it's in our mind.

Interestingly, Jeremiah was able to see the branch of an almond tree. Remember, the word used for almond tree is the same Hebrew word, *shaked*, which is also the word used for "watching". *Shaked*, is further translated to imply the awakening one. The almond tree had blossom cups that are shaped like almonds and is the first tree to bud in the new season. One might say that the almond tree awakens to its new season; just like Jeremiah was awakened to his new season. It's what I believe that God is doing to us. He is awakening us to our new season, awakening us to the fact so that we can see. He has given us the grace to be able to see our future, to be able to see past our present and see our future.

Jeremiah received grace to fulfill his divine calling, and subsequently was awakened to his future. To become awakened means to open our eyes and see. And you may say to yourself, "Well my eyes have been opened; I have 20/20 vision. I went to the eye doctor last month and they checked my eyes and my eyes are great." I'm not talking about your natural eyes. I'm talking about your spiritual eyes so that we can see what God sees, so we can see beyond what we're seeing with our own natural eyes. Receive fresh grace and become newly awakened to your new season. That is what God wants us to have and to do at this time.

There is faith being imparted from heaven for you to fulfill your destiny. The Lord promises to watch over your promises, the promises that He has made to you. So perhaps you may say to yourself, "Well I've been invited to this life group but I don't think God has made any promises to me; I don't know exactly if God has promises for me." Well let me tell you that the fact that you're alive today, the fact that you are participating in this life group means that God has promises for you. And when you discover the promises that are in His word then you will have the expectancy, you will have urgency, you will have that hope; to be able to see that there are greater things ahead.

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And that's what He is telling us today. Those promises that God makes for us and that the Lord has promised to watch over, He is also committing to protect, to guard and watch over what He has promised. This means He will go to war for you and guard your potential. He promises to give His angels charge over us to protect us and keep us from harm, just as He provided for Israel in the cloud by day and the fire by night. He will do the same for us as he leads guides and protects us.

You know, as He does that, and as He is committed to watch over His word or shall I say His promise, and perform it and see that it is performed. We must rest in His grace and in His divine and supernatural empowerment that He places on us, in order to be able to see what He sees; to see the fulfillment of the promise in our lives.

It's time to see your future. You can fulfill your divine destiny.

Allow me to pray for you to receive God's grace to see:

Lord, I lift up each person to you and ask that you touch each area in which they feel weak. I declare let the weak say, "I am strong." I thank you for imparting supernatural grace that will overcome fear, doubt, loss of vision, physical infirmity and generational strongholds, as well as lies and seductions of Satan. Lord, empower us as you did Jeremiah. Jeremiah was empowered to see his future and shift into a new season. Lord, I declare the old season is passed and that each person is shifting into a fresh new season. I declare that we are victorious because of the blood of the Lamb. We apply the blood of Jesus to our minds, mouths and our hearts. Thank you for renewed minds, hearts ablaze for you, and a positive confession in Jesus's name, amen. God bless you.

Questions:

1. Why did the Lord have to touch Jeremiah's mouth?

2. What does grace do for us?

3. What does it mean to be awakened?