

**Spiritual Bootcamp & More Lesson 10— CAUTION: PEOPLE & PLACES**  
Don't give the enemy a foothold.

\*Watch Lesson 10 video(s) on [spiritualbootcampandmore.com](http://spiritualbootcampandmore.com).

Welcome to Lesson 10! Trusting that your faith muscles are getting stronger each week, and that you've learned more about and are actively kicking out many "THINGS" the enemy has been using to steal, kill, and destroy the abundant life Jesus died to give you. This lesson of Bootcamp can be equally, if not more challenging, but with the power of the Holy Spirit, there can be great life-changing advances. Never lose sight of this truth: "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in this world" (1 John 4:4). Your RIGHT hand crushes the left every time, but you must learn to promptly exercise it. Faith must be more active than many realize. You must co-labor. You must not sit silently and allow the enemy footholds through any of the "Big 6." God's Sovereignty is not a license for passivity. Faith must be active for you to be an overcomer and to please the Lord. "And without faith, it is impossible to please God..." (Hebrews 11:6).

The enemy has gained footholds into many lives through "PEOPLE & PLACES." You will learn even more about how the enemy uses "PEOPLE & PLACES" you might never suspect. This lesson is extremely important and it can be a painful one for many. No one is ever exempt from the enemy's schemes using these two footholds. Take a long look at the photo below and in your own words ask God to speak to you very specifically as you work through this lesson and its accompanying scriptures. The Holy Spirit in you is "The Great Revelator" and the main way He will speak to you is through His Word. Dive deeply into His Word and let Him reveal what you need for this season. He is clearing the paths before you to walk in faith for all that He has ahead for you. There will likely be some "PEOPLE & PLACES" that He will ask you to avoid. On the other hand, there may be some with which you'll be asked to reconnect or revisit. Be open and expectant and above all, be promptly obedient. "If you [really] love me you will obey me" (John 14:21, AMPC).



**CAUTION: “Stay away from them. Leave them alone.”**

2 Corinthians 11:14 “...for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”

Titus 3:10 “Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.”

Matthew 10:34-36 “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— a man’s enemies will be members of his own household.”

Proverbs 14:7 “Stay away from a fool.”

Proverbs 13:20 “Walk with the wise and become wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.”

2 Corinthians 6:17 “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing and I will receive you.”

Proverbs 22:24 “Do not make friends with a hot tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered.”

1 Corinthians 5:11-13 “But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy or an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge inside? God will judge those outside. ‘Expel the wicked man from among you.’”

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 “Do not be misled. ‘Bad company corrupts good character’. Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.”

Psalms 1:1 “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.”

Prov. 3:7-8 “Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring healing to your body and nourishment to your bones.”

*Use the scriptures above to answer the questions and fill-in-the-blanks on pp. 61-62.*

1) List the types of people the Bible warns us to “stay away from & leave alone.” Why?

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2) Romans 12:18 “\_\_\_\_\_ it is possible, as far as it depends upon you, live at peace with everybody.” Circle and put three big asterisks by your answer.

As you know, ***it is not possible to live at peace with everyone***. One of the enemy’s favorite schemes in working through people, is the continual attempt to cause you to lose your peace. *Losing your peace short-circuits the ability to move in His power*. The Holy Spirit becomes grieved. Ephesians 2:14 says “He (Jesus) is our peace” and Psalm 16:8 says “He is at my right hand; I will not be shaken.” *Peace is a most powerful weapon* and because of the indwelling Holy Spirit in you, you have the ability to walk in peace 24/7 no matter who you are around. It is not easy; it is humanly impossible. Only by the continuous control of the Holy Spirit in you can you do this. There is probably no more effective training ground for learning to walk in peace than being around people who, or whose emotions, are controlled by the enemy. There is a clash of two kingdoms. It probably “feels” like a war because it is a spiritual battle. You must learn to hold your peace and walk in the Light to dispel darkness on the inside and the outside. Always remember that the battleground is your mind. The enemy will use people to go after your peace. You must “take every thought captive” (2 Corinthians 10:5) thus making no agreement with the enemy. Remember, there can be no sympathetic base of operation.

Some of you may need to hear that you cannot “fix” the person you are trying to help or get along with. Some of you may need to hear that the enemy can work through those closest to you. Some of you may need to hear that the hardest people to minister to are those closest to you. Jesus was not even able to minister as effectively to his own family or hometown (Mark 6:5). The problem of course was not Jesus! Maybe it is time to let go of unrealistic expectations and ask the Holy Spirit to totally take over and “update” any and all relationships. The Holy Spirit will guide you with absolute precision. His seal is always peace, because He is our peace. Now, let’s see what else He says about peace.

3) Matthew 10:34-36 “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— a man’s enemies will be \_\_\_\_\_.”

Wow. The above verse could not be more clear. It appears that the enemy often plants the lie that we must remain in close relationship with those in our family as if separating from them would be an unpardonable sin. That lie has taken deep roots in many and the enemy could not be happier. He continues to gain footholds through toxic family relationships. There is much freedom in understanding the real truth about relationships, family and non-family. The goal is always reconciliation and restoration, as we are called as disciples of Christ to be ambassadors and ministers of reconciliation. But remember, only “if” possible. Jesus always provides a way of escape from the enemy, even from the enemy working through those closest to you. *You must learn to separate the person from the spirit working through them*. “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12, NLT).

Look at the words of Jesus from Matthew 10:34-37 in the Passion translation (TPT). “Perhaps you think I’ve come to spread peace and calm over the earth— but my coming will bring conflict and division, not peace. Because of me, a son will turn against his father, a daughter against her

mother and against her mother-in-law. Within your own families, you will find enemies. Whoever loves father or mother or son or daughter more than me is not fit to be my disciple.”

The commentary from *Dake’s Annotated Reference Bible* reads as follows: “Christ is not the actual cause of division, but the occasion of it. Division is caused by rebellion of men against the gospel (2 Corinthians 2:14-17). This shows abnormal and satanic opposition to the gospel.”<sup>1</sup>

4) Let’s move on from the above mentioned “toxic” people to the ones we’ll refer to as the “masqueraders.” Of course they are toxic as well but are disguising themselves as “angels of light.”

Write 2 Corinthians 11:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Write James 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Write 2 Thessalonians 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Can Satan work “counterfeit signs, wonders, and miracles”? \_\_\_\_\_

What were Pharaoh’s magicians able to do in Exodus 7:11 and Exodus 8:7?  
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It is extremely important never to focus on supernatural signs, wonders, and miracles, because the enemy has power in the supernatural realm as well. If you focus on the supernatural, the enemy will be able to tempt you to follow “masqueraders” or “unbalanced” people. Focus on Jesus, and get the supernatural. Focus on the supernatural, and in time you will more than likely encounter the enemy. The Gospel must always be central, always. The Gospel is of course “The Good News.” When people center their preaching on the “Good News of Jesus”— His power to save, heal and deliver; signs, wonders, miracles and spiritual gifts will follow (Hebrews 2:4). That is His divine order. He is a God of order and not confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33).

An effective analogy to help you understand this very important principle of discerning what is real and what is not involves bank tellers. To avoid deception you must know the truth— the whole counsel of God. So how do you think bank tellers are trained to recognize counterfeit money? Are they trained by studying what is fake and false? Do they spend countless hours looking at the counterfeit money? *No. They spend countless hours studying what is real.* They look at the real. They handle the real. Over and over and over...then when the fake shows up they recognize it because they have been trained by studying the real. Oh, how many sincere Christians are led astray by someone masquerading as an “angel of light.” If you are a “hearer” of the Word and not a “doer,” you could easily fall into deception. “Do not merely listen to the

<sup>1</sup> Finis Jennings Dake, *Dake’s Annotated Reference Bible*, NT 129 (commentary on Luke 12:51, 53).

word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says” (James 1:22). Focusing on Jesus, and staying in His Word and His Secret Place, will protect you from those sent on assignment by the enemy to lead you astray. If you have ever faced “deception” through people, tell us how God provided a way of escape. What did you learn from your experience?

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**Time for transparency concerning “PEOPLE” (after a time of prayer):**

What are your “next steps” as it relates to relationships? Is it time for a disconnect or a reconnect? Is He training you to “stay in” and “hold your peace” or “step out of the line of fire”? Ask Him and simply obey. He is the Lord of all of your relationships. It is not your choice. Remember, He will never speak something contrary to the whole counsel of His Word.

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5) There are many different directions in which to go as it relates to the enemy using “PLACES” to gain footholds into your life. A dark geographical place is too obvious so your enemy often strategizes using non-geographical places to lure you. There is a place he loves to lure people to, especially women, and it is called “the palace of hurt emotions.” The section below with accompanying scriptures will shed light on this dark place in the unrenewed mind.

**CAUTION: Do not visit “the palace of hurt emotions.”**

Of all the “dark places” in this world you can visit, no place is more readily available to you than “the palace of your own hurt emotions.” This is where the enemy tempts you to go. The battlefield is your mind. Flesh never gets enough attention—good or bad. It wants to be stroked — it loves to lick wounds over and over and over. This morbid wound licking will slow down and in many cases prevent healing that Jesus died to give you. For healing to occur, you must submit to God, and resist the enemy’s temptation to open the door of that dark palace. “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). You definitely have a choice where you allow your body (physically) and your mind (emotionally) to go. Jesus has paid the price already. The blood of Jesus is more than enough to heal every hurt emotion past, present, and future. Healing is available 24/7/365. The scriptures below can be LIFE

CHANGING if you will “just do them” and believe. Hang a “CLOSED” sign on the front door of that stinkin' thinkin' palace!

Isaiah 43:18-19 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “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 this 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.”

Psalms 147:3 “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”

1 Peter 2:23-25 “When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he trusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

Psalms 107:6,10-12,19-20 “Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress...Some sat in darkness and deepest gloom...for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High. So he subjected them to bitter labor...Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.”

Colossians 3:2 “Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.”

Romans 12:2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is— his good, perfect, and pleasing will.”

Isaiah 26:3 “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.”

6) This section on “places” is probably not what you expected. As Bootcamp is about much repetition, remember that **THE BATTLEFIELD IS YOUR MIND**. You have a choice where you go in your mind. It will be helpful to think back to Lesson 3 and your pointer finger= WHERE YOU ARE. When you are seated in the heavenly realms you are living (thinking) in the Kingdom of Light. Staying seated *there* is the answer, but the enemy will tempt you over and over to get up. It starts with only one wrong thought but can escalate quickly to a dark place. The Bible says that you have “the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16) but you can choose to pervert your thinking by agreeing with the lies and deceptions of the enemy. *You must quickly use truth to crush the lies*. “Paper, Rock, Scissors” isn’t meant to be a cute catchy phrase— *it is meant to be a war cry*. You must learn to resist the enemy’s first advances on the battlefield of your mind. 2 Corinthians 10:5 written above tells you “the way out” every time. You must learn to consistently “\_\_\_\_\_ captive” to the obedience of Christ. The stinkin' thinkin' encompasses way more than what is involved with hurt emotions. There are plenty of other “places” in your mind that the enemy will tempt you to go.

Write Philippians 4:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Now take a look at verse 8 and write down what you are given permission to “think on.”

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If your thoughts don't line up with the above you aren't allowed to go there. You'll be visiting a dark place and the longer you stay, the longer you stay. It can quickly become deadly quicksand. It's just better not to go there at all.

7) There are countless other “places” the enemy tempts you to go which may seem quite harmless at first, but could result in a slippery slope of defeat. He is too crafty and you are too smart to fall for something extreme so he “waits for the opportune time” (Luke 4:13) and then attempts to lure you in little by little.

Ask God for discernment and revelation, then list the “places” where the enemy either has gained or has the greatest potential to gain footholds into your life. You know your weaknesses, but your adversary knows them even more. These “PLACES” could be a stronghold in your mind, or a physical location. Remember that a place doesn't have to be evil— it could be “good” but the enemy of God's best place for you.

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**“Another Evil Place”:**

Before wrapping this section up, let's remember that the enemy will use any “PLACE” in an attempt to “steal, kill, and destroy” intimacy with Jesus. For many women, visiting “the palace of hurt emotions” can be as effective as “internet shopping” or “social media” for hours and hours each day. He sets the bait and lures you in, little by little, and is thrilled when some fall into addictive habits and patterns. Men aren't off the hook in this section by any means. The “palace” discussion may seem more applicable to women but men (and women) have temptations to visit what can become equally if not more deadly. How easily the enemy can lure one for example into a “palace of pornography.” It is a deadly place to visit. It will indeed take you farther than you want to go, you will stay longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you way more than you ever expected. Whatever “PLACE” you find yourself in that is not of the Lord, “GET OUT A.S.A.P.” If you would not be proud to take Jesus there with you, DO NOT GO THERE. Any of those “PLACES” are sinking sand. Let your righteous right hand crush that nasty left hand and get out quickly. You have the weapons. You have the power of the living Christ inside of you. Crucify your flesh and be a real man or woman of God. **It is a choice.** Through Him you can do it because you are more than a conqueror and you have power and authority to overcome all evil. Praise Jesus for the finished work of the Cross!

**Time for transparency concerning “PLACES”:**

Being honest with yourself and others is huge. You’ve probably heard this phrase: “Friends don’t let friends drive drunk.” Well, how about “Friends don’t let friends drive to ‘PLACES’ they should not drive.” We all need accountability.

Will you share what the Holy Spirit has revealed to you concerning avoiding “PLACES” with either your small group or someone else? Remember that the enemy wants to keep things hidden. Allow the Light to dispel darkness. It was never God’s intent for you to navigate this journey of life alone. Use the space below to journal or simply write a prayer of declaration and “seal the deal.” Set up a “stone of remembrance” for what the LORD is doing as you seek Him.

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**Practical Tips:**

The practical tip is just to practice lots of “Paper, Rock, Scissors”— i.e., “The Word, Prayer and Praise.” You have completed a very long and tough lesson as some of the enemy’s schemes using “PEOPLE & PLACES” have been exposed. Your adversary will fight against the decisions you have made or are trying to make. Get into the “Secret Place of His Presence” and let Him work all of this out. You will be amazed at what He does! He is “THE PERSON & THE PLACE” we all need!

CONGRATS on completing Lesson 10. A “Most High Five” for a job well done!