

“Increasing Your Capacity to Receive from God”

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Bishop Edward A. Smith

WEEK #1

When you think about the reason why God’s goodness and blessings are not more evident in the lives of good, faithful, and diligent Christians, compared to years ago, it is oftentimes **not** an issue of sin or disobedience, but it is a **lack of capacity to receive from God**.

Our **challenge** is **not** trying to figure out how we can get more **from** and more **of** God in our lives, but how to **receive** more of what Gods has already given us.

“Do you want **more and more** of God’s kindness and peace? Then learn to **know him better and better**. For as you know him better, he will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly **good life**: he even shares his own glory and his own goodness with us! *2 Peter 1:2-3* (Living Bible)

Note the key phrase in the above passage ... “(God) will give you everything you need for living a truly good life as you know him better and better.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

- What does it look like to receive from God?
- What are difficulties you experience in receiving from God?

Meditation Thought:

The key issue is not getting God to **give** but **learning how** to receive.

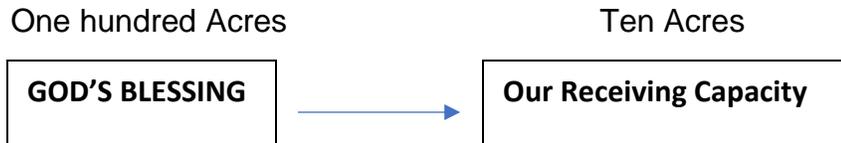
Action Step:

INCREASE YOUR THINKING CAPACITY

- 3 John 2

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Are you a “**possibility thinker**” or a “**scarcity thinker**”?



- Proverbs 23:7

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION:

What percentage of your thoughts per week would be “possibility” or “scarcity”?

- Romans 12:1-2

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Are you willing to change some of your thoughts about God? If so, how will you go about it?

What about God’s warning not to think too **highly** of yourself?

- Romans 12:3
- 1 Corinthians 4:6

God is not against you thinking highly about yourself. Because he thinks highly of you. God just doesn’t want us to think higher **than we should think**.

THINK AND SAY WHAT GOD THINKS AND SAYS ABOUT YOU

Ephesians Chapter One	
I’m Chosen – vs 4	I’m Accepted – vs 6
I’m Holy – vs 4	I’m Redeemed – vs 7
I’m Blameless – vs 4	I’m Forgiveness – vs 7
I’m Adopted – vs 5	

WEEK #2

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. St. John 1: 10-12 (KJV)

“Do you want **more and more** of God’s kindness and peace? Then learn to **know him better and better**. For as you know him better, he will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly **good life**: he even shares his own glory and his own goodness with us! *2 Peter 1:2-3* (Living Bible)

INCREASE YOUR THINKING CAPACITY

- 3 John 2
- Proverbs 23:7
- Romans 12:3

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Are you aware of when you are thinking limitation thoughts?

INCREASE YOUR VISION CAPACITY

- Genesis 13:14-15
- Genesis 11:1-6
- Numbers 13:26-33
- Hebrews 11:1

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Can you recall a time in your life when you limited seeing a possibility in your life and later regretted it?

Do you have a vision or dream in your heart you are willing to believe and receive in your heart, moving forward?

WEEK #3

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. St. John 1: 10-12 (KJV)

YOU CAN LIMIT YOUR CAPACITY TO RECEIVE

- Psalms 78:41

The children of Israel limited God, the Holy One of Israel

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Dialogue about a time when you limited God doing something special in your life.

INCREASE YOUR THINKING CAPACITY

- Romans 12:3

INCREASE YOUR VISION CAPACITY

- Genesis 13:14-15 – God can give us as far as we can see
- Genesis 11:1-6 – God can give us what we can imagine
- Numbers 13:26-33 – They did not see themselves as God saw them

GIVE EXAMPLE OF HOW YOU CAN INCREASE YOUR VISION CAPACITY

- 2 Kings 6:8-17 – Pray that God open your eyes
- Ephesians – Paul prayed for others' eyes to be opened to greater possibilities.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Dialogue on ways you can increase the possibilities of what you see.

WEEK #4

"...The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Luke 18:27 (KJV)

Jesus said unto him, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

Mark 9:23 (KJV)

INCREASE YOUR VISION CAPACITY

Your capacity will increase when your **prayer** life has illuminated the **Word** of God to open your eyes to see the provision of God that is already provided.

When you finally realize that for you to **expand** your capacity to do more in your life does not depend upon your resources, then it becomes easy to get **bold** and stretch and reach ... in other words expand your capacity.

- Philippians 2:13

"May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers ..." Ephesians 1:18-19 (Jerusalem Bible)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Are you willing to take the limits off to see God do something boldly?

UNLOCK THE POWER OF YOUR IMAGINATION

- Genesis 11:1-6

God has given every one of us an incredible **gift** – the ability to picture within our mind, something we want to happen, knowing we will ultimately **move** toward its fulfillment. It's the way God created mankind, to envision or imagine in our mind.

YOUR VISION CAPACITY WILL INCREASE IF YOU PURSUE YOUR DESIRES

- Mark 11:24

Men rarely reach for what they need; but they will **always** reach for what they really **desire**.

Desires are like people, they are **born**, they **grow**, and they can **die**.

- Acts 2:17

Heavenly **desires** and visions are birthed by the Holy Spirit. They grow and develop by regular **exposure** to the living word of God, and they can die if they go **unprotected** and **uncultivated**.

DON'T LET YOUR VISION DIE BY EXPOSING YOUR 16X20 VISION TO 5X7 MENTALITIES AROUND YOU.

Always remember those who have not suffered your darkness cannot truly understand your craving for **light**.

- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Don't let Satan use people or circumstances to blind your mind to the potential of God and limit your capacity to receive from Him.

Believe the Gospel, receive the Gospel, and your capacity will increase to experience the Gospel.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Dialogue about ways to guard your vision and keep it alive.