



Men's Discipleship Class – Week 3  
Objective Direction - September 20, 2017

**Verses:**

*Ephesians 6:10-13*

*Matthew 3:13-4:4*

*Hebrews 11:1-3, 6*

*Hebrews 12:2*

*Romans 10:17*

*Psalms 119:15, 18, 27, 45, 62, 94, 97, 99, 130, 174*

We are going to look today at Ephesians 6. Now, we looked last week at the fact that you are under one authority in your life. God the Father. He is going to teach you through two methods. The subjective method and an objective method. The subjective method is the personal direction of the Holy Spirit in your life. The objective method is what we have written here in the scriptures. Now, objective method when you read the scripture that applies to every one of us in this room. We are all bound by the scripture. None of us can escape that. Whatever the scripture says to me also applies to Frank, also applies to James. Every one of us are under the authority of the scripture. When it comes to the subjectivity of the Holy Spirit, what he says to me has no bearing on you. What he says to you has no bearing on me. This is why you do not ever take what the Spirit says to you and try to put it in someone else's life. The way the Spirit tells you to raise your children that is not written in here, you do not put on someone else's life. Because he has given you your children with your particular deficiencies so you know best how to lead them. So, what the Spirit says to you is totally between you and him. It is not binding on someone else. Now, here is why you have to have both. Go with me again. We are going to look at Ephesians 6.

<sup>10</sup>Finally be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God,

If you are strong in the Lord, how do you do that? You are controlled by the Holy Spirit. You know what this says.

<sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so you can stand against the schemes of the devil.

Now we will take one section, and we will look at all the schemes that Satan has against you. We will also have another section where we look at demons.

<sup>12</sup>Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil spiritual forces in this heaven. <sup>13</sup>For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

If I am going to take up the whole armor of God, I am going to have to have both subjective and objective. You need to understand what the battle is about. Christianity is not checkers. We are not all the same. Every one of us is different. Every one of us has particular skills and particular gifting. It is a chess match. The chess match is not between God and Satan. If it were between God and Satan and when that day comes and Satan gathers everybody in the valley of Jezreel and faces God, the battle is going to be when God says, "Bye". That is going to be the whole battle. There is no real battle between God and Satan. The battle and the fight you face is the influence God exerts in this world through you versus the influence Satan exerts through his people in this world. So, obviously Satan is going to work to prevent you from being effective in your home, at your work, with people you run into. The battle is between God's influence in you. That is why it is absolutely critical. He is going to move you on that chessboard. You need to understand something including particularly what I am about to say. As a pastor, I do not work with lost people. Most of our staff is saved. We are pretty sure. Randy is a little iffy. We are working on Randy. For the most part, we think our staff is secure. I do not deal with lost people. That is where you live. I think when you and I die we are going to be stunned at the number of people he sovereignly put in our life to impact. You are here. The only reason you are still here is because there are people for your life to impact. The enemy is going to come against you.

Now, let me just say this, and then we will move on to a couple of other scriptures. It is spiritual fight. It is not a political fight. I do not care if Kavanaugh gets in the Supreme Court. It is not going to make any difference in this world. You have got to quit thinking that if we get the right Supreme Court Justices in that will solve everything. The Republicans have never fixed a single thing they said they are going to fix. If you are aligning with them, you are foolish. They have always said smaller government. We don't have a smaller government. They have always said they will fix abortion. We are still killing babies. They have said we will not have same sex marriage. We still and now have same sex marriage. You are actually at a point now because of the Republicans and their lack of duty, you are going to have 50-year-old men arguing that they should be able to sleep with 16-year-old boys and that it should be legal if it is consensual. Quit looking at political victory as your victory. There is nothing political in these verses. It is the influence through you of the Holy Spirit in the Bible, God's influence through you, impacting the influence of the enemy. It is a spiritual fight. Now, you have to have both. Let me show you what I am talking about. Go to Matthew chapter 3. We will work through some of what I am going to talk to you about today in another session. I want you to listen. Matthew 3:13 – 4:4. Listen to what it says.

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the

Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””

So, you see both aspects here. You see the subjective and the objective in the life of Jesus Christ. Again, we are going to work through this in another section. Jesus is baptized. Baptism is not a picture of your sin being washed away. That is not what it means. How do we know that? Jesus has no sin. There is no sin to be washed away. It is a picture though of drowning. It is a picture of death. Jesus has died to something. Now, you are going to have to walk with me through this. Again, we are going to walk through it a little deeper in another section. Jesus has not quit being God. He has not quit. He is always God. As God, he makes decisions on his own, because he is God. However, when he came here he took on flesh because God cannot do two things. He cannot be tempted, and he cannot die. Jesus took on flesh so that he could be tempted and so that he could die. In taking on flesh, he now instead of making decisions on his own out of who he is, he has now settled into being led under the direction of the Holy Spirit and being controlled by the objective word of God. The Holy Spirit moved him into the wilderness right after the baptism. There is nothing he can read in the Old Testament that tells him he needs to go to the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. There is nothing in the scripture in the Old Testament that says that. So, he cannot read the Old Testament and know that. He has got to be responsive to the direction of the Holy Spirit in his life. Once he gets in here and this is exactly what is going to happen with you, he follows the direction of the Holy Spirit. The enemy then comes. He will not bother you if you are not under the direction of the Holy Spirit because he is not moving you on the board. You just stay in one spot on the chessboard. You are never used by God. The enemy is not going to bother you. Jesus allows the direction of the Holy Spirit in his life. When he faces Satan what is his response? It is written. So, the Holy Spirit subjectively directs him and then objectively he stands on the scripture in his battle against the enemy. If you are going to be used by God just like Jesus, you have got to live under both these. That is exactly what he did here. So, he is going to spend his life under the subjective direction of the Holy Spirit living out of the objective truths of the word of God. That is how God is going to use him. That is what it means when he drowned. He did not cease being God. He did cease living on his own direction as God and now lives. What are the two things we have to live under? The very same two things he lives under. He is not just our model. He is our complete example. So, Jesus does exactly that and he begins to impact.

Here is what you have to do. You have to trust in what God has done. Go to Hebrews 11. We are going to read the first part of it. Hang a right if you are in Matthew. Slide over to Hebrews. If you get to Revelation, take a left. Listen to what it says.

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen. <sup>2</sup>For by it our ancestors won God’s approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God,

Now drop down to verse 6.

<sup>6</sup>Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near Him must believe; one, that He exists and two, that He rewards those who seek Him.

So, I have this responsibility here to trust in God's word. Now, today we are going to look only at the objective. I am going to teach you today how to read the scripture and pull it down into your life. We are going to look at the subjective over the next three to four sections because this is the hardest. We are going to look at the objective today. Now, the first thing you have to understand when you come and find a truth in that book, you have to trust it and believe it. You have to lock it down in your life by what you believe. That is absolutely critical. You can say you don't have faith. No. No. Go to Romans 10 verse 17. Hang a left. I told you we are going to fly in this class. We are going to move fast. Go to Romans 10:17. Now the old version particularly the King James says:

<sup>17</sup>Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Now, I am reading the English Standard, and it is correct from the Greek. It says:

<sup>17</sup>Faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ.

Now, when you translate it 'faith through the word of God' you then grow up thinking if you read it enough, you will get faith. No. No. No. When the Holy Spirit spoke to you about Jesus when he spoke to you about Christ, at that instant he imparted to you the faith you need to believe in him and be saved. You still possess that faith. You have it. It is just whether or not you utilize it. It is whether or not you put it into what God has written and what God says to you. That faith is utilized. You already possess it. It is whether or not you use it. That is the absolutely key point. Now. For example, again go back to the book of Hebrews chapter 12. I want to show you why Jesus went to the cross. Hebrews 12:2. He again lives out his faith in the objective and the subjective work of the father in his life on the cross. Now. Look at this.

<sup>2</sup>Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

How did he know there would be joy as a result of his pain. What in the scripture told him that? Anybody know? What is the Old Testament verse, which is what he has because the New Testament has not been written yet, could he believe in that would tell him objectively that if he stays on that cross there will be a benefit and a joy that will come? Anybody have any idea? The Abraham covenant is correct, but that is not a statement about the cross. That statement is really an old covenant based on blood of bulls and goats. What in the Old Testament? Nobody? Isaiah? Clear statement in Isaiah. What chapter? 53. Okay, good. What is the clear statement? You are dead on. By his stripes we are healed. He has got in Isaiah 53 an objective statement that he puts his faith in that if he striped we, the purpose of him coming, will be healed. He has an objective statement that he is capable of believing in. Then he has the subjective direction of his father now is the moment because he says to his disciples, now the prince of this world is judged. So, when Jesus goes to the cross it is both. He has an objective truth he put his faith in that kept him on the cross when everybody mocked him.

Now. So, if I am going to understand the Bible, what do I have to do? There is only one answer to that. Real simple. Go to Psalm 119. This is the longest Psalm in the Bible. We are going to read it real fast just a couple of them. It is like a hundred and something verses. We are not going to read all of those today. We do not quite have the time. 176 verses. I think we will pass them all. Let me read you just a few. Psalm 119 is a Psalm about the greatness of the word of God. It is a Psalm basically about how great the objective truth of God is in your life. Now,

listen to just a few verse. Look at verse 15.

<sup>15</sup>I will meditate on Your precepts and think about Your ways.

Look at verse 18.

<sup>18</sup>Open my eyes so that I may contemplate wondrous things from Your instruction.

Look at 27.

<sup>27</sup>Help me understand the meaning of Your precepts so I can meditate on Your wonders.

Look at 45.

<sup>45</sup>I will walk freely in an open place because I study Your precepts.

Look at 62.

<sup>62</sup>I rise at midnight to praise You for Your righteous rules.

Look at 94.

<sup>94</sup>I am Yours. Save me for I have sought Your precepts.

Look at 97.

<sup>97</sup>How I love Your law. It is my meditation all day long.

Look at 99.

<sup>99</sup>I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

Look at 130.

<sup>130</sup>The unfolding of Your words gives light and it imparts understanding to the simple.

And, then look at 174.

<sup>174</sup>I long for Your salvation, Lord, and Your law is my delight.

He says two things in all of these verses. I seek, and I meditate. Now when you see those two words, we will just be honest in here because we are men. If you are providing for your family, you do not have time to do these two things. Now if your wife has children at home under the school age, she has no time to do anything either which is why you don't get sex when you want it. When those kids go to school and she has some free time if she is a stay at home mom, she all of a sudden has time to do this. Which makes it hard for you because you are the spiritual leader. If you are working, nobody works a nine to five job anymore, you do not have time to seek and meditate. Yet, the Bible commands of you as the spiritual leader that you need to do this.

Now, I am going to show you how to do that today. Let me tell you why this is so important. We

want to make sure your theology is correct in this scripture. You can make the Bible say anything you want it to say. For example, I can put two verses together. Judas went out and hung himself. Go ye therefore and do likewise. I have had those thoughts for certain people in my office. You can make the Bible say anything you want it to say. There is baseball in the Bible. In the big inning. There is golf in the Bible. Paul said I have finished the course. Motorcycles in the Bible. The sound of Joshua's triumph was heard throughout the land. There are also Japanese cars in the Bible. They were all in one accord. So, you can make the Bible pretty much say anything you want it to say.

We want to be objective. The other reason we want to be objective and really understand what it says, we want to get away from Baptist theology. I had a lady in my office yesterday. She is a great, sweet lady asking why we are taking Baptist off the name. I said simple because Baptists run the church. Every other denomination if you are Methodist, you have got to do what the top boys in the Methodist church declare to you. That is not true in Baptist life. The problem in Baptist life and the reason we fought so hard for so many years is because Baptists have historically only believed two things. Historically, when I grew up, there were only two things we believed. It was an anti-Catholic statement. We believe in the priesthood of the believer. That I have my own personal walk with the father and that the church was autonomous. There was nothing about the Bible. So, at Central we have five things we believe in. God rules. The Bible is true in both the Old and New Testament. The blood of Jesus is the only way. The church is the only institution Satan cannot defeat which is why if you are going to raise your children, put them in church not little league. He is coming back. So, we are locked into those five things.

We want to know exactly what the scripture says which puts us in a really difficult position. Here is what we are going to do. I had a PhD seminar on all the genres of scripture. Let me tell you. You can academically take the scripture and go nuts with it. There are basically two types of books in the Bible. There are books like we are walking through in Ephesians called didactic literature. Basically, it is just straight teaching. There won't be any stories in the book of Ephesians. There won't be any pictures for some of you. When you read the Old Testament for example, you read the book of Judges. There is no didactic teaching. It is just a ton of stories lined up with each other. So to understand the Bible, you've got to be able to meditate on both.

Whichever one you go into, here is what we are going to do. You are going to ask yourself four questions. Here is what you are going to do. You are going to get up in the morning. For example, we are going to start this tomorrow. We are going to work through the book of Ephesians over the next month. Since we are in that book on Sunday mornings, I am going to make you stay up with me. You are going to get up tomorrow morning early enough to read the first chapter of Ephesians. That is all you are going to read. You are not going to read thirty-seven verses. You are not going to read Psalm 119 and try to memorize it. Okay? You are going to read Ephesians 1 in the morning. You are going to ask four questions. Remember, it is seek and meditate. It is a balance. Every verse in the Bible falls under one of two things. It is either your position in Christ or the condition that you have in response to your position. Every verse falls into one of those two categories. You are going to ask yourself in the morning when you read Ephesians 1, is it position or condition. Which is it? If you do not know this and you have been coming on Sunday mornings, I will shoot you today. What is Ephesians 1? Position or condition? This is pathetic. The women were smarter than you. Position or condition? You are a bunch of cowards. It is position. Condition is going to come verses four through six. Okay. Randy lock the doors because we are staying later than I thought we were. You are going to ask yourself every time is it position or condition. Which is it about?

You are then going to ask yourself three other questions. Number one. When you walk through

Ephesians 1, what is it about the passage that you understand? Number two, what is it that you don't understand? Number three. What does this mean in my life, my business, my marriage, as a father, and with my friends? You are going to get up tomorrow morning and read Ephesians 1. Now, you are going to seek throughout the day and think about Ephesians 1. You are going to think about it. What does it say about my position? What does it say I understand? What is it I don't understand? What does this mean for me? You have an iPhone. You have an iPad. I don't care how you do it. You are going to jot those questions down at some point. When you finish and go to bed tomorrow night and you have done Ephesians 1, you are going to get up the next day and do Ephesians 2. The same thing. Is it position or condition? What do I understand? What do I not understand? What does this mean in my life? If you do that, in one month you will have meditated on the book of Ephesians five times because there are six chapters. You can throughout the day think about the passage. You can at lunch think about the passage. You can when you sit down with your wife, matter of fact if you want to really have your wife in your life, you have her do the same thing you are doing. You sit down at supper and ask her position or condition? Which is it? What did you find in the passage? What did you learn? What do you not know? How does this fit in our home? You pull your wife into your personal Bible study, and she will adore you. Most women struggle because we do not share with them what we feel because we have no feelings. I get that. But, you can share with her what you have sought and meditated about. This is what you are going to do. When you come into the Bible, you are going to walk through both of those. When you come to what we have seen in Ephesians 1, you are going to walk through that passage. It should become pretty clear to you as we walk through particularly you have got a statement about the Trinity and its role in your redemption. We are walking through Ephesians 1.

Let me show you what you do with a story. Go to Matthew 2. Now, when you walk through this and one of the reasons you are going to do this is that you are going to stay in context. The reason I start in chapter one and go all the way to chapter six is so that we know the context of a book. Why did Matthew write his gospel? Does anybody know? Context of the whole book. Anybody have any idea? Why did he write his Bible? He wrote it so that the Jews would understand Jesus was the Messiah which makes Matthew 2 an interesting story. Let me show you how we are going to meditate on this. We are going to work through this. You are going to ask yourself not only those questions about how, who, what, when, and why. You are going to work those through as you work through a story. Look at this.

<sup>2</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, wise men came to the east from Jerusalem.

Now, who are the wise men by the way? That is one thing you are going to ask yourself. Who are the wise men? You want to know what is in the passage. Who are the wise men? Anybody know? Who are they? They are not Aggies. They are astrologers. They worship what? The stars. So why would God use astrologers to come visit Jesus? There is your first question. Why would he do that? To get their attention. Why would he get their attention? Huh? The king has their ear. What? Yes. If you are an astrologer, what do you believe? That everything is set in the heavens. He takes a star and moves it out of the set path. Why? He just told them I run the system. It is not set. I run it. I control it. I direct it. So, he is already put them there. Now they are coming set. When Herod the king heard this, they asked where is the King of the Jews? We saw his star.

<sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people

Now were they all dressed the same? No. Think that through. They are not dressed the same. It is like going to the deer lease in Uvalde and you are at the Oasis Resturant and a guy comes in in a three piece suit. It is pretty clear he does not fit there. So they do not fit the culture. Sure enough all Jerusalem is troubled. Which means what? The Jews are worried about the Messiah, right? King of the Jews. He is the Messiah. They are troubled. Now, watch this. They ask him where he is. They said Bethlehem. How far is Bethlehem from Jerusalem? Five miles. Quick walk.

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

What is missing out of that story? No, Jesus has no impact. He has just been born. He has no impact. There is objective in there. You are reading the objective truth. What is missing? If they are all trouble, why don't they go? They just heard the Messiah is five miles away. Some astrologers dressed differently have come from another country. They are running down to Bethlehem. Why doesn't anybody else from Jerusalem go if they are trouble? They don't believe it. That is exactly right. That is Matthew's point. He has written the whole gospel to the Jews and he starts out the book telling you that he is writing it to the Jews because they do not really care even though they talk like they do. You have this great picture in Matthew 2. If you meditate, you think about it.

You are going to spend the next month particularly and the next year actually meditating on a bunch of books. We are going to start in Ephesians 1 tomorrow. We are going to do that entire chapter. We are going to seek. We are going to meditate throughout the day so that you are even going to share with our wife. I know your wives. I am going to ask them. I want you to share with your wife at the end of the day one thing you learned that day from meditation. When we finish Ephesians in a month, we will go to Colossians. There are four chapters in Colossians. You will meditate on that book seven times in the month. We are going to learn to meditate. Okay? The only way to know what this says without knowing the Greek or Hebrew you have to seek and meditate. You have to stay in context. You have to think through what is here which means you cannot read through the Bible like you do Guns and Ammo on the toilet. Okay? Yes, that is right. So, you have got to meditate. Alright.