DESTINY TRAINING LEVEL 1
MODULE 2
CLASS 09

READY TO CONSOLIDATE

Biblical Reference: We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me" (Colossians 1:28-29).

I. CLASS OBJECTIVES

1. To learn some principles of leadership through the example of the Apostle Paul.
2. To understand what Consolidation is.
3. To learn to apply the fundamentals of the process of Consolidation.
4. To see the principle of Consolidation through the ministry of the Apostles.

II. INTRODUCTION

Consolidation is the constant care and attention new believers receive until the character of Christ is formed in them. This is done to such an extent that the purpose of God, of "bearing fruit that lasts," is fulfilled in their lives.

The consolidation process allows Life Group Leaders to discover the potential in each member, awakening their ability to reproduce themselves in others while sharing and reinforcing the message of Jesus Christ.

III. LESSON: PRINCIPLES OF CONSOLIDATION

A. Paul the Apostle's Example

1. Paul proclaimed, trained and taught. "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily" (Colossians 1:28-29 NKJV).

2. Paul knew the calling on his life from the moment of his conversion. "But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness, both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me" (Acts 26:16-18 NKJV).

3. He was faithful to the vision God gave him. “Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance” (Acts 26:19-20).

4. He preached a message of repentance. “In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).

5. It was his goal to become their father through the gospel. “For in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel” (1 Corinthians 4:15).

B. The Purpose of Consolidation

1. Consolidation does away with the floating mass that moves from church to church. When we motivate new believers to join a small group, they are strengthened in their faith and become true disciples of Jesus.

2. In this way we teach them how to first strengthen themselves in the Lord, and then how to get involved in the ministry, becoming a channel of blessing to others.

C. Effective Consolidation

1. Consolidation relates to and follows after the act of winning. After a person accepts Jesus into his heart, effective consolidation requires dedication, attention and patience.

2. Just as a mother is responsible for taking care of her baby, the person who wins a new believer for the Lord should be responsible for taking care of the new believer.

3. For nine months, a mother fills her heart with dreams about her baby. Similarly, before we win someone to Jesus, we dream and visualize that person’s new life taking shape in the spiritual world, through our prayers and patience. When a child in the natural is finally born, a much closer relationship is formed between the mother and her child. That’s the same thing that should happen after a person is born again—effective consolidation forms a closer relationship between the consolidator and the new believer, as well as between the new believer and Jesus.

D. Becoming Spiritual Parents

1. “Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel” (1 Corinthians 4:15). The work of a consolidator is like being a father and a guardian who is responsible to take care of babies and young children.

2. When someone becomes a Christian that person needs to be contacted immediately by a consolidator. As the new believer begins to open his heart and express himself, the consolidator will have the opportunity to guide that person just as a parent would guide a child. It is a process that requires time and concentration.

3. It is important that early on, every new believer understands that Jesus has provided a new way of life. It is the consolidator who will help to remove arguments, disarm prejudices and assist the new believer is walking out this new, abundant life Jesus has provided.

E. Principles of Consolidation

1. "Those who accepted His message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:41-42).

2. Verify their decision. Consolidation in the early church was effective because they first helped people to understand their spiritual condition and to receive Jesus as their Savior. They were then instructed, baptized, and accounted for. We know the church collected details about the new believers because the Bible refers to the number of people added to the Church, implying that they kept a record of the new believers.

3. Devote to the apostles' teaching. The apostles' teaching forms the foundation for the believer's spiritual growth. It consists of three ingredients:

   - Spiritual milk. "Like newborn babied, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).

   - The Bread of the Word of God. "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4). A baby cannot swallow bread because they are not ready; they an only drink milk. However, when they reach a certain level of growth in their natural development, you can add bread to their diet.

   - Solid food. The Word says that this is for those who have reached a certain level of maturity and are able to distinguish good from evil (Hebrews 5:14). People get to this level through various ways: 1) Understanding certain topics and principles in God's Word; 2) Being able to get the most out of what is read in Scripture; and 3) Meeting with others who have a deep knowledge of the Word—to gain insights into its truths, its wise content, and its rhema word on both an individual and group basis.

4. Fellowship. God created us as social beings, so He rejoices when we have correct relationships with others. A consolidator's success depends on the relationship between them and the person being consolidated. It is an ongoing relationship that must be developed, similar to that between a parent and a child. The early church developed this practice, resulting in true companionship, mainly established in small groups, such as our Life Groups. Without Life Groups, a person can come to a large church and leave without anyone even noticing. However, through Life Groups closer relationships are formed, and everyone can be recognized and cared for.

5. Share in the breaking of bread. The early church met in small group meetings, which we call Life Groups. These meetings took place in homes where they shared spiritual bread as well as read bread. “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke break in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:46-47).

6. Persevere in prayer. Prayer is communication with God and must be a lifestyle for every believer. Prayer helps us to stay on the correct path. When we do not pray, we hinder our communication with God. Jesus said that we should watch and pray. The apostles made every effort to ensure that the whole church maintained a constant life of prayer.

7. Applying these principles of consolidation, which were practiced by the early church, brought incredible success to them. They retained the multitudes by verifying their decisions, instructed them in the apostles’ teaching, invested in fellowship and led them into a life of holiness and prayer.

G. Good Habits For New Believers to Put Into Practice

1. Consolidation is more than a method or a training program; the heart of consolidation is closely connected to the heart of God. When we keep God’s heart at the center of our consolidation, the ongoing care of the new believer will be effective, helping them to stand firm, even in the midst of trials. The following good habits will help new believers grow in their Christian life.

2. Become a Disciple, not just a Church-attendee. Being a disciple means being willing to follow Christ, obeying His word everyday.

3. Set time aside everyday for the Word of God. Every believer must make time to read the Bible and reflect on what is read. These three questions can be used to guide their time of reflection:

    - What is God saying to me? This is something personal.
    - What is God commanding me? This is what He wants me to do.
    - What is God promising me? This is a promise I am going to claim.

4. Pray as if having a conversation with God. Be spontaneous and sincere when praying. Introduce the new believer to the concept and practice of prayer as: worship, praise, thanks, petition, confession and intercession.

V. CONCLUSION

A consolidator’s responsibility does not end once we have taken a person to church. The moment a person accepts Jesus into his heart is when the real work of consolidation begins. Our success in implementing the vision is directly linked to the quality of our prayer life and how we look after and care for the new believer. God who sees what is done in secret will reward the consolidator in public.