



JOYCE MEYER
MINISTRIES®

THE FLESH

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

Joyce Meyer Ministries

Nanakramguda

Hyderabad - 500 008

Andhra Pradesh

INDIA

91-40-2300 6777

www.jmmindia.org

TN43

THE FLESH

Teaching by Joyce Meyer

Joyce Meyer Ministries
P.O. Box 655 • Fenton, MO 63026
636-349-0303 • 1-800-727-WORD (9673)
www.joycemeyer.org

THE FLESH

Finish What You Start!

I. The Flesh Is Flimsy And Fickle.

A. Consecration and dedication

1. **Romans 12:1-2** – Consecration, dedication, and the **good will of God**

Jeremiah 29:11 – God has a good plan – but we will not enjoy it without consecration.

2. Surrendered servants

- a. **II Chronicles 16:9** – A perfect heart is a surrendered heart.

- b. Consecrated (defined/Greek) – **Perfect**, dedicated. When we dedicate something, we set it aside for God's use; or we give it over to Him to use at His disposal.

Example: Our tithes are dedicated money. We cannot touch it; it belongs to Him.

- c. The heart – The seat of intellect, emotion, and will; it is me – the sum of what I desire.

- d. We cannot surrender the heart without surrendering the life.

God says, "If I am not the Lord OF all, I am not Lord at all!"

3. **Luke 11:39-41** – Dedicate the inner self.

II. Hold Nothing Back.

- A. **I Samuel: Chapter 1** – Hannah dedicated Samuel, but did not **draw back** when her heart began to hurt from losing him.
1. It is easy to begin, but who will finish?
- B. **Acts 5:1-8** – Ananias and Sapphira dedicated their money, but **held some back** as they thought about the loss.
1. Keep your eyes on the promise you made – not on the sacrifice you are making.
- C. **Psalm 51:10** – **Renew a right spirit within me.**
1. A persevering, steadfast spirit
- D. Joseph was a powerful man, but spent his life **dedicated and consecrated**. He did not **draw back** from godly integrity during thirteen years of unjust imprisonment.
1. He **experienced** God's **GOOD PLAN** for his life.
- E. **Daniel 1:8; 6:10** – Daniel had spiritual and natural power and authority, but he was **dedicated and consecrated**.
- F. **Esther 4:8-16** – Esther had her own plans, but Mordecai (who represents the Holy Spirit) interrupted them.
1. Her will was **dedicated**; therefore, she **submitted** and saved her people.
 2. There will be no submission to authority – earthly or divine – unless the will is dedicated to God.
 3. Without a **dedicated will**, there is only rebellion and stubbornness.
- G. Noah surely had to **dedicate** his **reputation** in order to submit to God in building the ark.

III. Reputation

- A. Reputation (defined) – **Opinion**. It is what others think of us.
- B. Philippians 2:7 – Jesus made Himself of no reputation.
- C. Galatians 2:11-13 – Peter’s reputation was not dedicated; he was still trying to protect it.

IV. Fully Accomplish The Will Of God.

- A. Hebrews 10:36-39 – Don’t **draw back** when:
 - 1. It hurts
 - 2. Is costly
 - 3. It changes our plans (like Esther, Daniel, and Joseph)
 - 4. John 21:15-18 – Peter, do you love Me enough to submit to a change in plans?
- B. A big change in **MY PLANS** – I had to give up my job, and I was very independent and self-reliant.
 - 1. A young woman just quit at Life In The Word. She finally realized she had not been truly happy for years because God had been telling her to quit working and stay home with her children. **SHE WAS INDEPENDENT!** In God’s economy, we cannot be happy and independent.
- C. Hebrews 6:10-11 – Show the same diligence **ALL THE WAY THROUGH**.
- D. **The flesh starts with a bang and ends with a fizzle!**
 - 1. Like a Fourth of July sparkler

- E. **Mark 4:14-20** –Four kinds of soil – three draw back during challenge; one is patient and persevering.

V. **Come Out In The Deep.**

- A. **Luke 5:1-11** – Get ready for a haul – but you must lay aside emotions.
- B. **John 21:1-6** – They caught nothing on their own plan.
- C. We must live **deeper** than the flesh.
- D. Shallow Christians are **fleshly** and carnal.
 - 1. **I Corinthians 3:1-3** – Carnal Christians live by ordinary impulses.

VI. **Persevere**

- A. **Luke 18:1-8** – Will He find faith when He comes?
- B. **Luke 14:26-30** – What man starts a building without first checking to see if he has what it takes to finish?
- C. **John 17:4** – I have finished the work You have given Me to do.
- D. **Acts 20:24** – *But none of these things move me; neither do I esteem my life dear to myself, if only I may **finish** my course with joy . . .*

VII. **Jesus, The Author And Finisher**

- A. We cannot finish in the flesh; we must lean on Him.
- B. We must begin because He places it in us, and we will only finish because of Him.
- C. **I Chronicles 28:20** – Fear not, God will not fail you until you have **FINISHED** all that He has given you to do.

Are We There Yet?

I. The Flesh Is Impatient And Hasty.

A. The impatient and hasty spirit

1. **Proverbs 21:5** – *The thoughts of the [steadily] diligent tend only to plenteousness, but everyone who is impatient and hasty hastens only to want.*
2. **Proverbs 29:20** – *Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a [self-confident] fool than for him.*

He speaks out of his emotions, using no wisdom.

3. **Proverbs 20:21** – *An inheritance hastily gotten [by greedy, unjust means] at the beginning, in the end it will not be blessed.*

The Prodigal Son (**Luke 15:11-24**) – His father forgave him and welcomed him back with open arms, but the fact remains that he **had spent** his inheritance.

THE HASTY, IMPATIENT PERSON ALWAYS LOSES OUT IN THE END.

4. **I Corinthians 4:5** – *So do not make any hasty or premature judgments . . .*
 - a. Many relationships that had great possibilities have been totally ruined due to hasty judgments.
 - b. (Show the rock that is ugly outside and beautiful inside.)

II. The Spirit Is Not Impatient – The Soul Is.

A. Immaturity and impatience (**I Corinthians 13:11**)

1. **I Corinthians 14:20** – Children are immature in thought.
- B. Children do not enjoy the trip – they ask every five minutes, “ARE WE THERE YET?”
- C. Our answer to our children is, “We will get there when we get there”; and so is God’s answer to us.
- D. **Galatians 5:22** – Patience is a Fruit of the Spirit and is seen in the **Spirit-controlled life.**

1. **THE FLESH IS IMPATIENT.**

- E. **II Thessalonians 3:5** – *May the Lord direct your hearts into [realizing and showing] the love of God and into the steadfastness and patience of Christ and in waiting for His return.*
- F. **Hebrews 10:36** – We have need of patience because we inherit by faith and patience.
 1. **Galatians 4:23** – *But whereas the child of the slave woman was born according to the flesh and had an ordinary birth, the son of the free woman was born in fulfillment of the promise.*
 2. Two ways to live – **The arm of the flesh or the arm of the Lord**
 3. Briefly describe the mess Abraham and Sarah made due to impatience.
- G. The Spirit takes time to lay a foundation before He builds a building. **THIS TAKES TIME!**
- H. A tree must be rooted, grounded, and established **BEFORE** we see any fruit. **THIS TAKES TIME!**

III. No Anointing Placed On The Flesh

- A. **Exodus 30:22-33**
 - 1. **Verse 32** – Upon man’s flesh, the anointing oil shall not be poured.
- B. The priests were being anointed to minister to the Lord.
 - 1. We may minister to people somewhat in the flesh, but **NEVER** to the Lord.
- C. **John 6:63** – The Spirit gives life; the flesh conveys no benefit.
- D. **John 3:6** – What is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- E. The nature of the flesh:
 - 1. **Matthew 26:41** – . . . *The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*
 - 2. **Romans 7:18** – No good thing dwells in my flesh.
 - 3. **Galatians 5:17** – The flesh is continually in opposition to the Spirit.
- F. Flesh can never be anointed – it must be crucified.
 - 1. Not sanctified, but mortified
 - 2. **Colossians 3:5** says we are to **kill it**.

IV. What Kind Of Fleshly Things Does He Refuse To Anoint?

- A. Fleshly plans
 - 1. **II Corinthians 1:17** – Paul said he did not plan in the flesh.

2. The flesh says yes, yes in the beginning – then changes to no, no!

B. **Proverbs 16:1-3** – Roll your works on the Lord; then if they are not right, He has an open door to change your mind. He will cause your thoughts to be agreeable to His will if you genuinely desire His will.

C. **Proverbs 16:9** – *A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps and makes them sure.*

1. Elaborate on how man's mind plans and plans.

D. **Proverbs 20:24** – God is directing our lives – we often do not understand.

1. Why, God, why?

Exodus 13:17-18 – He led the Israelites the long, hard way.

**YOUR GIFT CAN TAKE YOU
WHERE YOUR CHARACTER CANNOT KEEP YOU!**

2. **Isaiah 55:8-9** – His ways are above ours.

**THE FLESH CHOOSES THE EASY WAY –
WHATEVER FEEDS IT AND KEEPS IT IN THE LEAD!!!**

E. **Acts 13:22** – Minister to Him by carrying out His program fully.

1. God will not anoint my fleshly agenda.

V. How Can I Determine What Is God And What Is Me?

A. Flesh produces:

1. Frustration

I Peter 5:5 – He frustrates and opposes us until we humble ourselves.

2. Labor
 - a. **Matthew 11:28** (KJV) – *Come unto me, all ye that labour . . .*
 - b. Labor (defined/Vine's) – A striking, beating; then toil resulting in weariness, laborious toil, trouble. To distract attention or disturb a person's rest.
3. Struggle, weariness, and burden
4. No good fruit

John 15:4 – We cannot bear fruit apart from Him.

5. Very little progress compared to what happens when He is in the lead – for example:
 - a. David – When we tried to change him, we had no results. Then one church service radically changed him.
 - b. Laura with housecleaning
6. Lack of provision: money, people, strength, wisdom, ideas, equipment, etc.

LEARN TO JUDGE FRUIT.

**When we are operating under His Anointing,
there is GOOD FRUIT – A HOLY GHOST EASE.**

VI. He Won't Anoint Fleshly Ways.

- A. **Exodus 33:13** – Moses prayed for God to show him His ways.

B. **Psalm 103:7** – To Moses, He revealed His ways – to Israel, His acts.

**It says something about character when
we want HIS WAYS more than HIS ACTS.**

C. **Isaiah 55:8-9** – Remember, His ways are not our ways.

D. Christianity was called “**THE WAY.**”

E. **John 14:6** – Jesus said, “**I AM THE WAY.**”

1. The way He acted compared to us
2. His patience compared to ours – He was and is longsuffering.
3. The way He handled situations
4. The way He treated people

VII. Premature Equals Immature.

A. **James 5:7-8** – A mature person can plant a seed; and like the farmer, **WAIT** for the harvest.

B. Get out of the flesh, settle down, and **ENJOY THE TRIP.**

C. We plant, we water, **BUT ONLY GOD GIVES THE INCREASE.**

1. Our impatience does not hurry Him along – **faith and patience move God.**

D. **Psalm 31:15** – **MY TIMES ARE IN YOUR HANDS!**

Payday Is Coming!!!

I. Do Unto Others As You Wish It Done Unto You!

- A. The flesh is a gambler – the Spirit is an investor. The flesh says, “I will do wrong and get by with it!” It says, “I won’t get caught.”
- B. **Matthew 7:12** – *So then, whatever you desire that others would do to and for you, even so do also to and for them, for this is (sums up) the Law and the Prophets.*

II. Jacob The Trickster

- A. **Genesis 27:1-36** – Jacob took advantage of Esau and stole the birthright of the firstborn.
 - 1. A double portion of the inheritance
 - 2. He also deceived his father and stole the blessing that belonged to Esau.
- B. **Genesis 29:15-30** – Laban deceives Jacob concerning Rachel and Leah.
 - 1. Jacob worked seven years for Rachel’s hand in marriage, and Laban made sure Jacob was drunk on his wedding night and gave him Leah instead.
- C. Jacob’s own sons deceive him concerning Joseph.
 - 1. They said he was dead when he was not – this was very emotionally painful to Jacob.
- D. Forgiveness does not always totally eliminate the law of “sowing and reaping.”
 - 1. God forgave Jacob; Esau forgave him also – but we see that “what went around came around.”

III. You Reap What You Sow!

- A. What goes around, comes around – what you put on the wheel comes back to you.
1. **Galatians 6:7-8** – Do not be deceived into thinking you can do wrong and get by with it – we reap what we sow.
 - a. Sow to the flesh and reap from the flesh: ruin – decay – destruction.
 - b. Sow to the Spirit and reap from the Spirit: Life (eternal life).
- B. What equals **SEED**?
1. Attitudes, actions, thoughts, words, and prayer
 2. The Word of God is called **seed**.
 3. Money is considered **seed sown** when given.
 4. Even what we eat is a **seed** because it produces a harvest of either good or poor health, depending on what we sow into our bodies.
- C. **Matthew 7:1-14** (Amplified, Message, and BCJ paraphrased):
1. We will get back what we dish out.
 2. Who do you think you are to find fault with others? You should take a good look at yourself.
 3. Walk in love or open the door for the devil to trample upon you.
- D. Sow mercy and reap mercy.
1. **Matthew 5:7** (KJV) – *Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*

2. **James 2:12-13** – Mercy triumphs over judgment; and in so doing, the Spirit triumphs over the flesh.
3. It is **Christ like** to show mercy. It is one of the key attributes of God. His mercy endures forever.
4. **Colossians 3:12** – Put on behavior marked by mercy.
5. **Proverbs 11:17** – *The merciful, kind, and generous man benefits himself [for his deeds return to bless him], but he who is cruel and callous [to the wants of others] brings on himself retribution.*

NOTE: God’s instructions are actually for our own benefit. For example, “cover the offenses of others” actually covers me. It is part of the love walk that protects me. THE FLESH says, “Why should you do that? You get nothing out of it.” THE FLESH, which is self-centered and is always trying to get something for itself, loses everything!

IV. Reaping The Harvest

- A. **Genesis 8:22** – While the earth remains, there will be seedtime and harvest.
- B. The flesh loves harvest, but it is not excited about **seedtime**.
 1. **Galatians 6:9** – Continue doing right – you will reap in due season.
 2. **Psalm 126:5** – You may have to sow in tears, but you will reap in joy.
- C. He is a rewarder.
 1. **Hebrews 11:6** – We must believe He is a rewarder of those who **diligently** seek Him.
 2. **Hebrews 10:35** – *Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward.*

3. **Psalm 19:7-11** – The Law of God is perfect, and there is great **REWARD** in keeping it.
 4. **Matthew 5:11-12** – Blessed are those who are persecuted and falsely accused on My account. Be glad and supremely joyful, for your **REWARD** in heaven is great (strong and intense).
 5. **Reward** (defined) – Wages; to give back; back pay, recompense, whatever is due.
- D. **Revelation 22:12** – *Behold, I am coming soon, and I shall bring My wages and rewards with Me, to repay and render to each one just what his own actions and his own work merit.*
- E. **Jeremiah 32:19** – *Great [are You] in counsel and mighty in deeds, Whose eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, to reward or repay each one according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings . . .*

V. **The Flesh Is A Gambler – The Spirit Is An Investor.**

- A. Sowing **bad seed** is easy on the flesh NOW, but we pay the price later.
- B. **Hebrews 11:24-26** – Moses suffered hardship to gain a future reward.
- C. **THE FLESH DOES NOT WANT TO SUFFER.**
 1. It will do anything to avoid discomfort, pain, or suffering.
- D. The flesh chooses “the easy way out,” GAMBLING that it might get by with it. Examples:
 1. I’ll eat this box of candy and hope I won’t gain weight.
 2. The contractor who says, “I will build an inferior house to make more profit for myself – nobody will ever know the difference.”
 3. The homemaker who says, “I’ll let this work go; I may FEEL more like doing it tomorrow.”

But today is a repeat of yesterday, and tomorrow will be a repeat of today.

- E. The flesh is deceitful – it says to do the wrong thing but does not tell you the price you will pay.

VI. A Crisis That Leads To A Process

- A. The current crisis is due to previously **sowing to the flesh**.
- B. The flesh, of course, wants **immediate** deliverance.
- C. The crisis has led us to a place of decision. We can continue as is and get deeper and deeper in trouble; or we can begin today sowing good seeds, which will be a process that will eventually lead us into **REWARDS**.

VII. If I Have Sown Bad Seeds, Will I Get Any Mercy?

- A. I believe how much mercy we are given depends at least partially upon how ignorant we were concerning our actions.
- B. The apostle Paul stated that he was given grace (mercy) because he acted in ignorance.
 - 1. Paul was killing Christians due to religious zeal. He really believed he was doing the church a service.
- C. There is a responsibility to **knowing**.
- D. **Psalm 103:8-14** – God is merciful. He has not dealt with us according to our iniquities. He remembers that we are but dust.
- E. Thank God for mercy – but remember that Jesus also said, “**Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God**” when Satan was trying to get Him to jump from the pinnacle of the temple. (See **Luke: Chapter 4.**)

**DO UNTO OTHERS,
AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU!**

