IN CHRIST’S IMAGE TRAINING CENTER

LEVEL II:
GROWING IN CHRIST

SESSION NINE:

VARIETY OF MINISTRIES (cont)
SESSION NINE AUDIO MESSAGE:

Breaking the Grip of Sin
by Francis Frangipane

Lessons are to be distributed from the Training Center only, please.

ANSWER KEY TO LAST SESSION'S SELF TEST QUESTIONS:

CHAPTER THIRTEEN. Introduction to the Prophetic Ministry.
1.c, 2.d, 3.c, 4.b, 5.c, 6.b, 7.d, 8.c.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN. Interpreting Dreams and Visions.
1.b, 2.d, 3.c, 4.c, 5.b, 6.b, 7.d, 8.c.
Spiritual Authority and the Things We Love

by Francis Frangipane

While the doctrines of Christianity can be taught, Christlikeness can only be inspired. By their humble and holy lives, this next generation of leaders will inspire multitudes. They will truly walk in Christ’s love; they will be granted great authority.

The church has many administrators, but few examples of Christ; many who can explain the doctrines of Christianity, but few who walk as Jesus walked. Indeed, while many stand in leadership today, not many function in the higher realms of authority which Christ purchased for His church. However, a new seal of authority is coming to the church. It will bring healing and deliverance on a scale unprecedented since the first century; in some cases entire cities will taste salvation.

What is spiritual authority? It is nothing less than God Himself confirming with power the word of His servant. Moses exemplified his spiritual authority when he warned an unrepentant Pharaoh. The Spirit of God confirmed Moses’ judgments with power that broke the pride of Egypt. Jesus manifested spiritual authority when He confronted demonic powers, healed diseases and then fulfilled redemption in resurrection power. The Father let none of Christ’s words go unfulfilled.

The Bible provides us with many examples of those with spiritual authority. Every example tells us the same underlying principle: Those who are raised up by God are backed up by God. They will “decreed a thing, and it will be established” (Job 22:28). Such is the nature of spiritual authority.

The Source of Authority

Obviously, as pastors, leaders and intercessors, we need to operate in greater authority. Yet, while we enjoy a variety of graces which add to our personal edification, God gives us authority for one specific purpose: to fulfill His purposes on earth. What are God’s purposes? One main unveiling of the divine purpose is seen in the Great Commission.
Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” (Matt 28:18–19).

Christ gave the church authority to make disciples. We have been much more successful in making converts than disciples. In our day, many are believers in Jesus, but few are followers of Christ. If the goal is discipleship, how do we accomplish this? We are to take our converts and teach “them to observe all that I commanded” (Matt 28:19–20). When the church returns to teaching all that Jesus taught, our disciples will have authority to do all that Jesus did.

Yet, spiritual authority is not something we possess merely because we strive for it. We cannot buy it as Simon the magician attempted to do (see Acts 8:18). The power of authority will not function simply because we copy the methods of another, as the sons of Sceva realized (see Acts 19:14). Nor can it be attained automatically because we read books about building the church. We cannot pretend to have spiritual authority. As we focus upon obeying the words of Christ, there are divinely ordained ways for Christ’s authority to unfold in our lives.

From the beginning of our salvation we have enjoyed the Father’s unconditional love. As we mature, however, there comes a time when the Father’s love toward us seems conditional. As it was for Christ, so it is for those who follow Him. He said, “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life” (John 10:17).

Jesus lived in the deepest intimacies of the Father’s love not because He was a non-responsive object of God’s love, but because He laid down His life for the sheep. If we will grow in true authority, we will do so by laying down our lives for His sheep.

Have you felt the drawing, the divine working of the Father bringing you into Christlike surrender? Be encouraged: He is equipping you for this next outpouring of His Spirit. But also be advised: Your authority will be an outgrowth of your life laid down in love.

As leaders, we do indeed have administrative authority due to our positions in church government; however, spiritual authority transcends administrative authority. Here is the path to true spiritual authority: in full possession of our souls, without fear or intimidation by any outside source, we choose to lay down our lives for Christ’s sheep. Yes, in full freedom, with avenues of escape plainly within view, we fearlessly surrender our souls to the Almighty. No one controls us but God, yet our lives are laid down, like Christ’s, for the sins of men. When we could easily fight and win, yet turn the other cheek; when we are unjustly opposed, yet quietly endure—at those moments spiritual authority is entering our lives.

No one has taken [My life] away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. —John 10:18
Jesus was not forced to accept crucifixion; He chose crucifixion. Christ’s Gethsemane prayer was not an entreaty to escape the cross, for while Jesus was still in the garden, He told Peter, “Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matt 26:53) Jesus had a choice: legions of warring angels and immediate personal deliverance or death on the cross and deliverance for the world. He chose to die for us. The willful decision to lay down our lives as Jesus did is the very path upon which true authority develops. Jesus said, “I have authority to lay [My life] down” (John 10:18). His authority came in the laying down of His life. Our authority comes from the same source: picking up our cross and laying down our lives for others.

**Authority, Not Control**

Spiritual authority is the provision of God to invade and transform the temporal with the power of the eternal. It is not something our flesh can imitate, nor is it found in the tone of our words or the gaze of our eyes. Divine authority requires divine sanction. This sanction comes from passing the tests of love.

When authority is administered without love, it degenerates into control. God does not call us to control His people, but to inspire and guard them. The outcome of control is oppression, witchcraft and strife. But the result of love is liberty and the power to build up and protect God’s people.

True spiritual authority exists above the realm of fleshly control. Our lives, and the lives of those who follow us, are laid down on our own initiative. It is a choice we make because of love. Since true authority itself is born in freedom, freedom is what it breeds.

We will walk in either the true authority of love, the false authority of control or no authority at all. Both false authority and no authority are rooted in fear, and we react to fear in either of two ways. The first reaction, which produces false authority, is to seek to control those around us, thus making the circumstances around us more predictable and less threatening. The other response to fear is to refuse to accept and exercise any authority at all. Many relationships are simply the pairing of these symbiotic needs: the desire to control and the willingness to be controlled. Both are fueled by overreactions to fear.

Scripture tells us, however, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18). Since true authority is built upon love, its goal is to liberate, not dominate. Therefore, before one can truly move in spiritual authority he must be delivered from fear and its desire to control; he must be rooted and grounded in love.
When our teaching about God and our obedience to Him are one, spiritual authority accompanies our lives. Jesus astounded the multitudes, for He spoke “as one having authority” (Matt 7:28–29). What He taught was consistent with how He lived. Therefore, we also must live and display the virtue we seek to teach.

Dear pastor, if we seek to train our church to pray, we ourselves must first be intercessors. You may say, “But, out of a congregation of several hundred, only three people join me for prayer.” Then with those three, develop your intercessor base. Do not be discouraged, for you will win others. But the measure of our success is not the numbers in attendance on Sunday mornings. God has given us people so we may train them, not merely count them. Of this group, those whom we inspire to live like Christ are actually the measure of our success, the test of our effectiveness in the ministry.

You may say, “But I’ve never been a leader.” When anyone lays down his or her life in Christ’s love, others will see and follow. Whether you are a business owner, a housewife or a teen, such a one can speak with confidence and authority, for you are following Christ, others are following you. You are, indeed, a leader.

This next generation will not just teach the people; they will inspire the body of Christ to live like Jesus. Their example in all things will awaken godliness in those around them. From true virtue shall the leaders of tomorrow draw true authority, for when the nature of Christ is revealed, the authority of Christ soon follows.

As wide as our sphere of love, to that extent we have spiritual authority. We see this in the mother who loves her child. Such a woman has authority to protect, train and nurture her offspring. She has authority to protect what she loves. The same is true of the husband over his family. His authority is not merely to rule but to establish his home in the life of Christ. True spiritual authority is born of love.

The individuals who love their local church have authority to build up that church. Their authority is not extended, however, beyond the boundaries of their love. If we love the entire body of Christ in a locale, our authority touches the lives of those in our city or region, either through the burden of prayer or through teaching or service.

The testing ground of all spiritual things is love, for love alone purifies our motives and delivers us from the deceitfulness of self. Even authority in spiritual warfare must be rooted in love. David gained the skills to slay Goliath, not on a battlefield, but by defending his father’s sheep from vicious predators. He loved the sheep so much that he would
even risk his life for them. So also we grow in authority as we protect
our Father’s sheep, the flock He has given us to love.

Authority is muscle in the arm of love. The more one loves, the
more authority is granted to him. If we love our cities and are willing to
lay down our lives for them, God will enlarge our hearts, granting us
authority to confront principalities and powers.

However, no man should ever engage in confrontational warfare who
does not love what he has been called to protect. If you do not love
your city, do not pray against the ruling forces of darkness. Satan knows
the genuineness of our love by the brightness of the glory which sur-
rounds us. A man without Christlike love will soon shrink back and fail
in spiritual warfare.

Therefore, in His mercy God restrains most Christians from under-
standing the doctrines of our authority in spiritual warfare. For there
are many things He has to say which we are not able to hear until the
base of our love is expanded. In His love He protects us from presump-
tuously attacking the strongholds of hell and suffering loss. Yet, if we
are truly anointed in God’s love, the price to see our cities saved is not
too great, for it is the price love always pays: the willingness to die for
what we care for.

**Authority to Build Up the Body of Christ**

“For even if I should boast somewhat further about our authority,
which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you” (2
Cor 10:8). Many so-called “prophets” today think they are called, like
Jeremiah, to “pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow”
(Jer 1:10). Jeremiah’s message was to a people who were destined to be
carried off into Babylon. He spoke to a people who did not have the
Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus, a nation of whom God Himself
said was destined for captivity (see Jer 12:7).

The whole commission of Jeremiah, though, was more than con-
fronting sin. It also included promises of restoration and deliverance,
“to build and to plant” (Jer 1:10). To represent the heart of the Lord,
which is the true prophetic role, the servant of God must know if the
Holy Spirit is preparing to destroy or seeking to rebuild.

Today we are a people coming out of captivity, a people whom God
is encouraging to build, as they did in the days of Nehemiah, Ezra,
Haggai and Zechariah. We have been in exile from the promises of God,
but we are returning to rebuild the Lord’s house. It is not a time to tear
down the body of Christ; it is time to establish and to build up.

The authority coming to the church in this next outpouring will be
an authority to restore the local, citywide church. Like Paul’s authority,
ours will be given for building and encouraging and not for destroying.
God has this new leadership constantly before His eyes. Pastors from many denominations, along with their congregations, are meeting together in prayer, seeking to draw the very fire and heart of God into their souls. Emerging from this foundation of humility and prayer is a new authority to make disciples of Christ. Because their love encompasses the entire city, their authority reaches even into the heavenly places. They are beginning to impact the spiritual atmosphere of their cities; in many cases, they are becoming effective against the principalities and powers ruling there. These are the leaders whom God is raising up, whom He will back up with His power.

Dear Lord, make me a willing sacrifice. I desire Your authority, Lord. Give me courage to surrender in obedience, even when I do not see the outcome and when all I see is loss. Help me to trust as I walk through the narrow gate. Establish in me Your love that I might defend Your people with authority. In Jesus’ name.
Amen.

—FROM THE BOOK, The House of the Lord, Francis Frangipane

SELF TEST, CHAPTER FIFTEEN

(Remember, we are looking for answers that correspond with THIS training. A list of answers will be available.)

1. The church has many administrators, but few examples of ________.
   a. teachers
   b. encouragers
   c. motivational speakers
   d. Christ

2. Those who are raised up by God are ________ by God.
   a. pushed down
   b. backed up
   c. lined up
   d. marked up

3. “Go therefore and make ________ of all the nations...” (Matt 28:19)
   a. converts
   b. Christians
   c. disciples
   d. believers

4. Spiritual authority ________ administrative authority.
   a. transcends
   b. supercedes
   c. submits to
   d. overrides

5. When we could easily fight and win, yet turn the other cheek; when we are unjustly opposed, yet quietly endure—at those moments spiritual ________ is entering our lives.
   a. lukewarmness
   b. dreaming
   c. weakness
   d. authority

6. Divine authority requires divine sanction. His sanction comes from passing the tests of ________.
   a. time
   b. love
   c. endurance
   d. administrating

7. We walk in either the ________.
   a. true authority of love
   b. false authority of control
   c. no authority at all
   d. all the above

8. God has given pastors people so they can ________ them.
   a. count
   b. train
   c. use
   d. preach to
A new awakening is coming to the church. It will be birthed by prayer and sheltered by humility, but its power will emerge through compassion. The strength of this fresh move is the deep yearning of the Lord Himself. Yes, even in the midst of hellish conditions on earth He has promised, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion” (Rom 9:15).

Common people, flooded and compelled by the burning compassions of God, shall be used mightily in the coming years: they shall transform multitudes. Christ's compassions shall be especially revealed where human suffering is unrelenting. Let us remember, the Lord is not aloof from the human condition; mankind’s suffering exists in the thought-life of God. The book of Judges reveals an amazing quality about the relationship of God's heart to human sorrow. Scripture says, “He could bear the misery of Israel no longer” (Judges 10:16). As a result, He rescued His people from their enemies.

Today, the Holy Spirit says, “The more devastated the region, the greater My compassions shall flow.” Yet, this move of divine compassion will not be limited to poorer nations. In select cities and communities in the West, the compassions of God will also stir. Indeed, even now the Lord is preparing Christians from all backgrounds, including believing Catholics, Presbyterians and Episcopalians. Some whom God will use most mightily will come from denominations that seem past their prime. Yet, like Abraham, they shall believe God, and great promises shall be fulfilled among them.

Many influential but seemingly hardened businessmen and women will be touched and transformed by the compassions of God. Governors, mayors and other civic leaders will experience life changing healings; attorneys, doctors and scientists will testify to undeniable miracles. Transformed gang leaders and criminals, some of whom are currently in jail, will be used by God to start powerful churches. Yes, some who were once known as hopeless criminals will be used by God to bring hope to devastated neighborhoods.
Because the taproot of this revival will be compassion, it is important to isolate it from other virtues and inspired ministry gifts. For one can be a skilled teacher who functions authentically in communication skills, but not have true compassion. A leader might possess effective administrative skills, yet also be void of compassion. Simply because one is a gifted psalmist and leads many in Christian music and arts does not mean he or she is empowered by compassion in their ministry. Yes, even the most stirring of prophets or apostles may himself be stirred by something other than compassion. All of these gifts and ministries can be truly inspired within the parameters of their functionality, but not carry at their core the deep pulse of God's compassion.

Compassion, according to its Greek definition, is “a yearning in the bowels.” It is not a function of the intellect, but a deeper reality of the spirit. Thus, it is important we do not let religious intellectualism rule us. True compassion emerges from the compassions of God; the human channel of His compassions must be united with the yearnings of God. Because most of us have been exhausted by the limits of our compassions, we must submit again to the opening of our hearts. Trust God to help, for we must learn to surrender afresh to the fire of compassion’s quest.

Consider also, beloved, that this “yearning in the bowels,” this “the innermost being,” is the very region from which Jesus said rivers of living water shall flow. This new level of compassion will not exhaust us with impotent sympathy, but will instead align our spirits with the power of Christ to heal, save and redeem.

Compassion is stronger than sympathy and more enduring than empathy, both of which are dimensions of vulnerability and identification—essential escorts that lead us to Christ's compassion. But compassion captures those feelings and transforms them into love-empowered actions.

Consider Christ as He healed the afflicted in the gospels:

“Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I am willing [to heal you]; be cleansed’ ” (Mark 1:41). Again we read, “Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him” (Matt 20:34). And again, “When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick” (Matt 14:14).

Jesus was moved with compassion; He felt it, and He “healed their sick.” Do we feel compassion? Are we aware today of compassion’s inner pushing? Can you list when you too were “moved with compassion”? Too often, instead of compassion, we are moved by ambition, self-interest and pride. We desire to be seen by men, to be admired for
the size and scope of our ministries or talents. In our zeal to fulfill our passion, we miss compassion. May God deliver us! To many, the multitudes are symbols of power and success. Yet, when Jesus saw the crowds, He did not see them as a means to personal fulfillment. Rather, “He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd” (Matt 9:36).

The people had Pharisees, but not shepherds; they endured the influence of doctrinal experts, the “lawyers,” but they had no one who truly cared for them. Christ felt compassion, was moved by compassion and let compassion find its fulfillment in the healing and comfort of the sick and afflicted.

Beloved, let us allow the Lord to speak to us. Have we locked up our compassions? Are we guilty of restraining the deep yearnings of God within us? In this day it is not enough for us merely to be friendly or nice; we must allow the Spirit to unlock the bowels of our compassion. We must be wise; we must follow the Lord. The Lord has promised, not only will He have mercy on many and lead them into forgiveness and salvation, but He will also reveal His great compassion. Let me repeat His promised, irrevocable purpose: “I will have compassion on whom I have compassion” (Rom 9:15).

The Lord is with us to fulfill His great yearning to save and heal. He has set His heart to reveal His compassion in this hour; we must allow His compassions to move us. He promises, “Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding” (Jer 3:15). The grace of God is raising up shepherds after the Lord’s heart who will care for the flock and love them.

Beloved, we have learned how to have “church”; we can produce Sunday morning events that stir and excite. Now, however, the Lord says, “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire compassion, and not sacrifice.’ ” He tells us to not look beyond the hardened or the hopeless. He reminds us, “For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Matt 9:13). The compassions of the shepherd’s heart are unlocked and flow with power.

—from the River of Life Mailer, Francis Frangipane
1. ______ people, flooded and compelled by the burning compassions of God, shall be used mightily in the coming years: they shall transform multitudes.
   a. Wealthy
   b. A few
   c. Common
   d. One hundred and forty four

2. The taproot of revival will be ______
   a. long meetings
   b. compassion
   c. loud music
   d. good preachers

3. A leader might possess effective administrative skills, yet also be void of ______
   a. shepherding
   b. compassion
   c. grace
   d. teaching skills

4. Compassion is not a function of the intellect, but a deeper reality of the ______
   a. mind
   b. soul
   c. spirit
   d. body

5. Because most of us have been exhausted by the limits of our compassions, we must submit again to the ______
   a. exhaustion
   b. limitations
   c. burnout
   d. opening of our hearts

6. Compassion is stronger than ______ and more enduring than ______
   a. mercy, tenacity
   b. sympathy, empathy
   c. love, grace
   d. the ocean, the waves

7. When Jesus saw the crowds, He was moved with ______ (Matt 9:36).
   a. compassion
   b. fear
   c. sympathy
   d. empathy

8. “I desire ______, and not sacrifice” (Matt 9:13).
   a. truth
   b. ashes
   c. doves
   d. compassion