from brokenness
to Beauty
Eastminster Women’s Conference 2013

for anyone whose life
didn’t turn out quite
the way they expected...

with guest speaker
Jeanne Damoff
# Table of Contents

Welcome Letter .................................................................................................................. 3

Conference Schedule ........................................................................................................ 4

Keynote Speaker, Jeanne Damoff

  Meet Jeanne ....................................................................................................................... 6

  Presentation Part I: “Beauty from Brokenness: A Testimony to God’s Sovereignty, Love & Faithfulness” ................................................................. 8

  Jacob’s Song, written and performed by Jeanne Damoff ............................................ 10

  Presentation Part II: “God Meant It For Good: A Scriptural Look at God’s Purposes in Suffering” ................................................................. 11


Guest Speaker, Marjorie Morridge-Weniger ............................................................... 15

  Meet Marjorie .................................................................................................................... 16

  Presentation: “The Power of Scripture” ........................................................................ 17

Guest Speaker, Dale Carroll-Coleman ............................................................................ 18

  Meet Dale .......................................................................................................................... 19

  Presentation: “The Power of Testimony” ....................................................................... 20

Guest Speaker, Carol Amstutz ....................................................................................... 21

  Meet Carol ........................................................................................................................ 22

  Presentation: “Power of Community” ............................................................................ 23

Keynote Speaker, Jeanne Damoff ................................................................................. 27

  Presentation Part IV: “Destined For The Throne: It Will All Make Sense In The End” ....................................................................................... 28
A note from your conference hosts …

Welcome to God’s amazing annual women’s conference hosted by the Women’s Ministries Board of Eastminster Presbyterian Church! It is our desire to offer all women a special opportunity to learn Biblical wisdom from exemplary speakers, apply Godly knowledge to our own lives, and fellowship with other women in a welcoming, loving environment. We are blessed that you are able to join us for what we know will be an incredible conference filled with God’s acceptance, love, forgiveness, Biblical wisdom, and spiritual transformations.

We are so excited about the 2013 conference program and we want to thank the many dedicated volunteers who have helped make this conference a reality (see below). We also want to thank our gifted conference presenters, including Jeanne Damoff, Marjorie Morgridge-Weniger, Carol Amstutz, Shelly Green, and Dale Carroll-Coleman; we have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you.

It is our prayer that you will experience God’s blessing throughout the duration of this conference, and beyond as well. Throughout the conference, it is our prayer that all women will be truly transformed from “Broken” to “Beautiful.”

Thank you all again for blessing us by your presence!

With blessings,

The Women’s Conference Planning Team
Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Volunteers:

Food: Debi Davis and Anne Allen and the food committee.
Registration: Sandee Francel and the registration committee.
Prayer: Sandra Middleton and the prayer committee.
Decorations: Abby Bevan and the decorations committee.
Worship: Cassidy Cheray and the worship team.

Special thanks to Kat Anderson, Courtney Browning, Steve and Julia Falke and Meg Foreman.
### Schedule for Friday, February 8th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:30 – 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Church Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Welcome Reception (optional) Come early &amp; enjoy visiting with other women before the conference begins!</td>
<td>Fellowship Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 – 5:40 pm</td>
<td>Formal Welcome, Greetings, &amp; Prayer</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:40 – 5:50 pm</td>
<td>Worship &amp; Praise</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:50 – 5:55 pm</td>
<td>Introduction to Keynote Speaker, Jeanne Damoff</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:40 – 6:45 pm</td>
<td>“Jacob’s Song,” written &amp; performed by Keynote Speaker, Jeanne Damoff</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:45 – 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 – 7:50 pm</td>
<td>Dinner &amp; Dinner Activity</td>
<td>Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:50 – 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Reconvening Welcome, Prayer, and Introduction of Keynote Speaker</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 8:45 pm</td>
<td>Keynote Presentation, Jeanne Damoff, Part II: “God Meant It For Good: A Scriptural Look at God's Purposes in Suffering”</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 – 8:55 pm</td>
<td>Worship &amp; Praise</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:55 – 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Evening Wrap-Up, Departure Prayer</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please know that there are multiple prayer rooms with godly women who are available and eager to listen, pray, and share God’s promise of salvation for anyone desiring to exit to a quiet place for the purpose of sharing and prayer. Signage outside the sanctuary provides directional guidance to the prayer rooms. Prayer rooms include the library, library conference room and the music room.
## Schedule for Saturday, February 9th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 9:00 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Church Lobby</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 8:00 – 9:00 am| Continental Breakfast  
  Come early & enjoy time in fellowship, along with morning refreshments! | Fellowship Hall |
| 9:00 – 9:05 am| Formal Welcome, Greetings, & Prayer                                      | Sanctuary  |
| 9:05 – 9:15 am| Worship/Praise                                                          | Sanctuary  |
| 9:15 – 9:20 am| Welcome & Re-Introduction to Keynote Speaker, Jeanne Damoff             | Sanctuary  |
| 9:20 – 10:00 am| Keynote Speaker, Jeanne Damoff, Part III: “Immeasurably More: The Beautiful Irony of God’s Higher Ways” | Sanctuary  |
| 10:00 – 10:10 am| Quick Break                                                            |            |
| 10:10 – 10:15 am| Introduce Marjorie Morgridge-Weniger                                    | Sanctuary  |
| 10:15 – 11:00 am| Presenter: Marjorie Morgridge-Weniger: “The Power of Scripture”         | Sanctuary  |
| 11:00 – 11:05 am| Introduce Testimonial Speaker, Shelly Green                            | Sanctuary  |
| 11:05 – 11:25 am| Testimonial Speaker, Shelly Green                                       | Sanctuary  |
| 11:25 – 11:40 am| Break                                                                  |            |
| 11:40 – 12:15 pm| Lunch & Lunch Activity                                                 | Gym        |
| 12:15 – 12:25 pm| Worship/Praise Band, Prayer                                            | Sanctuary  |
| 12:25 - 12:30 pm| Introduce Presenter Dale Carroll-Coleman                              | Sanctuary  |
| 1:15 – 1:25 pm| Quick “Stand Up & Stretch” Break                                       | Sanctuary  |
| 1:25 - 1:30 pm| Introduce Presenter Carol Amstutz                                      | Sanctuary  |
| 1:30 – 2:15 pm| Presenter: Carol Amstutz: “Power of Community”                         | Sanctuary  |
| 2:15 – 2:20 pm| Worship/Praise Band, Prayer                                            | Sanctuary  |
| 2:20 – 2:35 pm| Break                                                                  |            |
| 2:30 – 3:25 pm| Welcome Back Keynote Speaker, Jeanne Damoff                            | Sanctuary  |
| 2:35 – 2:40 pm| Keynote Speaker, Jeanne Damoff, Part IV: “Destined For The Throne: It Will All Make Sense In The End” | Sanctuary  |
| 2:40 – 3:20 pm| Worlpah/Praise Band, Prayer                                            | Sanctuary  |
| 3:20 – 3:25 pm| Thank You & Concluding Comments                                        | Sanctuary  |

Please know that there are multiple prayer rooms with godly women who are available and eager to listen, pray, and share God’s promise of salvation for anyone desiring to exit to a quiet place for the purpose of sharing and prayer. Signage outside the sanctuary provides directional guidance to the prayer rooms. Prayer rooms include the library, library conference room and the music room.
Meet Jeanne Damoff ...

(written by Jeanne Damoff)

I grew up in Dallas, Texas, a city girl who attended operas, rode horses, visited art museums, swam in a creek, studied dance and classical piano, and played outside with the neighborhood kids until well after dark. Mine was an idyllic childhood in a secure home with a loving family.

At sixteen, Jesus called my name. As though someone had flipped a light switch, in an instant I understood the cost of following Him. He demanded everything I was or ever would be. But God, in His mercy, whispered truth to my soul. I knew I’d been created for a purpose, and the Voice calling me belonged to my Maker, the Architect of my moments, the One who loved me more than anyone else ever would. His plan would far exceed any I could devise. I took the extended, nail-scarred hand and the dance began.

In December of 1977, a diamond fell from the starry night sky and landed in my heart. I met George Damoff, and on the evening of our second encounter, I felt I’d seen his soul and found a home. After nine months of pure, delightful friendship, he proposed on my 21st birthday. It was our first date. Our courtship followed a pattern all its own. On our wedding day, we shared our first kiss and skipped off into Happily Ever After. Or so we hoped.

George and I both graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, in December of 1980. I graduated with honors, a double-major in sociology and social work, a minor in English, and secondary certification in English and sociology. But I didn’t immediately pursue a career in any of those fields. I walked across the stage at graduation with our first son, Jacob, blossoming in my belly. From there I returned to the home nest for a crash course in motherhood. Grace joined the family in 1983. Then Luke in 1985. I had three beautiful, healthy full-time jobs.

In 1987, when George completed his MS in biology, we moved our family to Lynchburg, Virginia, where George taught at Liberty University. I accepted the exalted position of arrow sharpener, i.e., I stayed home with the kids. After Jacob endured a disappointing first-grade year in public school, I began home schooling all three. In 1991, when Luke was old enough to enter first grade, the four of us descended on New Covenant Schools, a classical Christian school, where I taught third grade and Latin.

The following summer of 1992, George accepted a position in the biology department of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. As much as we loved the beauty of central Virginia, George and I wanted our children to grow up near family. Through an unlikely set of circumstances, which we took to be God’s providence, all five of us moved in with a couple who owned a 6000-square-foot, historic home in the heart of town, and I accepted a teaching position at Trinity Episcopal School. All within a week of arriving in Marshall. We enrolled the children at Trinity, bought their uniforms, and school started two weeks later.

In May 1996, the world ended. We traded “Happily Ever After” for brokenness and sorrow. My book, Parting the Waters: Finding Beauty in Brokenness, tells the story of Jacob’s drowning accident and our family’s subsequent journey through a valley of lost dreams and into a deeper understanding of God’s sovereignty. As our eyes adjusted to the shadows, the beauty of God’s plan came into focus. A pebble is dropped into a pond. Ripples are set in motion. Ever widening, they accomplish eternal purposes visible to those who choose to see.

Grace graduated from Seattle Pacific University in June, 2005, with degrees in theology and Spanish. On September 15, 2007, she married Curtis Romjue, and together with their band, JUBILEE, they help promote justice through music. They also direct a non-profit ministry called Arts Aftercare that connects artists of all types with survivors of human trafficking. Their daughter, Harper Sparrow, joined their family on April 24, 2010, and Malia Eden was born October 13, 2012.

Luke graduated from Wheaton College in May, 2007, with degrees in philosophy and English. He spent nine months working as a health intern in Ivory Coast, West Africa, then enrolled in seminary at...
Regent College in Vancouver, BC. After three semesters, he moved to Texas to marry Sarah Wilson on February 29, 2010. They lived in a refugee community in Dallas until early 2011, when they moved in with my parents to help my father care for my ailing mother. They stayed there until we bought a house across the street and took over as Dad’s primary helpers. Now they live five minutes away in their own cozy little house. Their daughter, Naomi Belle, was born June 5, 2011, and our first grandson, Eliot Patrick, is due in March of 2013. Luke attends seminary at Redeemer and works for us as a part-time aide for Jacob. Jacob is a simple but beautiful, brain-injured young man. His life is a powerful testimony to the faithfulness of God, whose ways are higher than our ways, and whose thoughts higher than our thoughts.

George completed a PhD in forest ecology in December, 2008. He’s in the midst of several ongoing research projects. I write, because I love words, both for their meaning and their music. I also speak, and love the opportunity to connect with others around our stories. Photography lets me focus my eye on detail, framing the ordinary and turning it into art, and music is the mystery that never ceases to amaze. I try to approach each day as a gift, living by faith in the One who loves me and laid down His life for me. Each new day is an adventure with Him. I see myself as a child, holding her Father’s hand, looking up into His eyes and beholding a valiant hero and strong protector, a wise and adventurous Friend. I don’t know what lies around the next corner. But He does. And that’s enough.

Thanks for reading. It’s a privilege to share the journey with you.
Session One

“Beauty From Brokenness: A Testimony to God’s Sovereignty, Love & Faithfulness”

Key verse: “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

Every good author writes both conflict and redemption into his stories. God is the Author of our life stories, and He is writing beauty into our lives, but sometimes the challenges we face make it hard to see God’s plan. Our lives or the lives of those we love can appear to be irreparably shattered by loneliness, betrayal, bereavement, disease, pain, and the consequences of others’ evil or foolish choices. How do we find beauty in the midst of so much brokenness?

We can all expect to suffer at least to some extent, but we are not meant to live in fear or dread. And when we do find ourselves faced with great pain or loss, there are right and wrong ways to respond. How can Christians embrace joyful trust in this broken world? And when tragedy does touch our lives, how do we overcome anger, self-pity, and other destructive responses? As we explore these questions, we’ll consider God’s unchanging Word and character alongside true stories that demonstrate His beautiful and purposeful work through suffering and loss in the lives of His children.

Points to ponder:

• God has promised that all things are working for our good. All things are His servants. All things will be made beautiful and new. All. Things.

• Psalm 139:16 says, “Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”

• Matthew chapter 10 tells us that God is so near and knows us so well, He even numbers the hairs on our heads. “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.”

• You have a choice. You can keep staring at the spot where your treasure sank, or you can watch the ripples to see what God is doing.

• Grace is God entering the story He’s written. And when He shows up, He makes all things new.

Notes:
Jacob’s Song
Written and performed by Jeanne Damoff

Sometimes there’s no way to explain it all;
And we question: Lord, why is this the path that I must walk?
Though the shadows fall across our way,
We must know that there’s a better day –

He’s the healer, He’s the keeper, He’s the One who makes it all.
And when you get to the end of your rope, Just let go and fall,
For His arms will catch it all.

Remember a special time of peace from days ago,
Now imagine a greater peace than you have ever known.
This peace awaits your soul;
We only must let go –

He’s the healer, He’s the keeper, He’s the One who makes it all.
And when you get to the end of your rope, Just let go and fall,
For His arms will catch it all.

Still yet we hope and pray and we watch for signs;
But we know in our own hearts is where the healing lies.
There is more God wants to say;
That is why He remolds the clay –

He’s the healer, He’s the keeper, He’s the One who makes it all.
And when you get to the end of your rope, Just let go and fall,
For His arms will catch it all.

Still yet we hope and pray and we watch for signs;
But we know in our own hearts is where the healing lies.
There is more God wants to say;
That is why He remolds the clay –

He’s the healer, He’s the keeper, He’s the One who makes it all.
And when you get to the end of your rope, Just let go and fall,
For His arms will catch it all, For His arms will catch us all.
Keynote Presentation, Jeanne Damoff, Part II: “God Meant It For Good: A Scriptural Look at God’s Purposes in Suffering”
Session Two

“God Meant It For Good: A Scriptural Look at God’s Purposes in Suffering”

**Key verse:** “For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.” 2 Corinthians 1:20

God was not surprised when Adam and Eve chose to eat the forbidden fruit. He knew before creation that mankind would choose selfishness and sin over obedience to His good and loving commands. That’s why He provided the Lamb before the foundation of the world.

God made the world breakable on purpose. But why? If we’re going to embrace our own stories with joy and hope, we need to understand some difficult truths about Who God is and what our lives here on earth are all about.

Does a loving God foreordain tragic events? If God is all-powerful, why doesn’t He make our lives perfect? If God is loving and sovereign, why is there so much evil in the world? How could suffering bring more glory to God than blessings? Is suffering a punishment for sin? We’ll dig deep into God’s Word for answers to these age-old questions.

**Points to ponder:**

- God’s personal involvement with people is a beautiful mystery. He knows us better than we know ourselves.
- God’s wisdom determines our path, and He doesn’t consult our predispositions for suggestions.
- Does a loving God foreordain tragic events?
- If God is all-powerful, why doesn’t He make our lives perfect?
- If God is loving and sovereign, why is there so much evil in the world?
- How could suffering bring more glory to God than blessings?
- Does God use suffering as punishment for sin?
- God wills some suffering in our lives because He loves us. But that doesn’t mean we should live in dread. On the contrary, we should live in joyful gratitude for His amazing blessings, rejoicing in the knowledge that God’s mercies are new every morning. We should marvel at the artistry of His creation and let its majesties fill us with awe. Every day holds promise. Every breath is grace.

**Notes:**
Keynote Speaker, Jeanne Damoff,
Part III: “Immeasurably More:
The Beautiful Irony of God’s Higher Ways”
Session Three

“Immeasurably More: The Beautiful Irony of God’s Higher Ways”

Key verse: “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.” Ephesians 3:20-21

The world says climb the ladder to success. God says the greatest in the kingdom is the servant of all. The world celebrates intellect, beauty, and talent. God looks for a heart after Him. The world says suffering is a curse, a punishment for wrongs done. God says suffering is meant to conform us to the image of His Son. The world applauds power and wealth. God says become as a little child. The Kingdom of God is an “upside down” kingdom, where the last is first, the meek confound the mighty, and the things we cling to as most important are often the very things that are robbing us of a deeper intimacy with Christ. As we continue exploring God’s goodness and purposes in suffering, we’ll look at some of the parables Jesus taught and consider how the metaphors contained in them help us understand our relationship with God. We’ll also hear some more true stories that give us glimpses into God’s ways and magnify His wisdom.

Points to ponder:

• God is working out plans formed long ago with perfect faithfulness, but if we want to see and enter into what He’s doing, we’re going to have to flip a lot of our worldly values on their heads.

• The best gifts are the ones that bow us the lowest, because God draws near to the humble.

• Jesus never said, “Impress presidents, and you’ll impress Me.” He never said, “Win awards on earth, and you’ll win awards in Heaven.” But He did say, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for Me.”

• God is here, now. Immanuel. He is present in the present, and we need to be, too, if we don’t want to miss His gifts.

• The hardest gifts are often the best ones -- the ones He uses to burn away our dross, and prune away our dead branches, and to form and shape us into vessels He can use to fill and pour out His redemption on a thirsty and dying world.

Notes:
Presenter: Marjorie Morgridge-Weniger
Presentation: “The Power of Scripture”
Meet Marjorie ...

Marjorie Morgridge-Weniger has hosted a Christian radio program for 28 years, is a published author, a sought after Bible teacher and presenter, and an accomplished business woman. Marjorie is devoted to her family. She has two amazing daughters, eight lovely grandchildren, and three incredible great-grandchildren.

Marjorie will share her passion for the Word of God. Scripture has challenged, convicted, inspired and healed Marjorie in her own journey of life. Marjorie draws upon her own personal examples to share how the scripture can benefit us all when walking through life, particularly life’s unexpected journeys.

“When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God of Heaven’s Armies” (NLT). Jeremiah 15:16.
“The Power of Scripture”

Presented by Marjorie Morgridge-Weniger

“O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and His wonderful works to the children of men. For He satisfieth the longing soul and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.” Psalm 107: 8-9

I. Introduction

II. The Power of the Gospel

III. The Power of Scripture Studies

IV. The Power of Scripture to Heal a Broken Heart

V. The Power of Scripture to a New Beginning

VI. The Power of Scripture Promises

VII. The Power of Scripture in Growing Your Faith

Only Two Things Endure Through Eternity – People And The Word Of God!
Presenter: Dale Carroll-Coleman
Presentation: “The Power of Testimony”
Meet Dale …

Dale Carroll-Coleman’s purpose in life is to passionately seek God, to humbly encourage and challenge others in their journey with Christ, and to love God and people as God commanded. Dale is married, has two fabulous kids, and has recently moved to Wichita from Champaign, Illinois. Dale’s life is completely different than she had planned and hoped. Today, she would not trade a moment of pain and loss for the sold out joy and hope she has found in Christ.

While living in Champaign, Dale routinely mentored girls in public schools. Dale has also spoken at women’s church events, MOPS meetings, and worked with the Illinois Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Dale’s presentation on The Power of Testimony will prompt us all to look closely inside our own hearts, think seriously about our own spiritual walk with the Lord, and ask ourselves tough questions regarding attitudes, actions, practices, etc. we can change in order to better honor God.

“The heart of man plans his ways, but the Lord establishes his steps.” (----) Psalm 16:9
“What Is Our Testimony, Our Story?”


Questions for Consideration:

1. What words describe your story/testimony today?

2. Where were you a year ago, spiritually? What has God shown you throughout this past year?

3. What do you desire for 2013? Today is February 9, 2013. Write down your desires, hopes, and prayers. Save your handout and during the month of February, 2014, review what you wrote down. You may be amazed at what God can accomplish through you.

4. Where is God leading you? Are you resisting? Are you praying and do you trust God with this?

5. Are you (a) comfortable or (b) feeling stretched as God is molding you to look more like Jesus?

6. Is there a part of your life that is off limits to Him? If so, why? What do you need to do to welcome God wholeheartedly into your life?

7. Assume it is December, 2013. What words do you hope describe your story throughout 2013?

Special verses to commit to memory:

Philippians 4:6-8

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Micah 6:8

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Additional Notes:
Presenter: Carol Amstutz
Presentation: “The Power of Community”
Meet Carol …

Carol Amstutz has led Eastminster Women’s Bible Studies for 10 years, co-teaches an adult Sunday class with her husband, and served as an Eastminster church counselor. Carol greatly enjoys studying and teaching God’s Word, conversing with her three wonderful children, spending time with her husband, exploring the out-of-doors, creating or painting art, and writing.

Through a series of events in her life, the Lord has given Carol the daily task of physical exercise to ward off debilitating stiffness and pain. At the same time, He was also conditioning her to study His Word daily, to instruct her mind and heart in His wholeness. Carol will share about God’s call on His people to be a healthy and healing body, building up each other in Jesus Christ so that the world will know Him and also experience His healing and restoration.

“If one part (of the body) suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” I Corinthians 12:26

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35
“Brokenness: The Power of Community”
The Reality and Role of Community

Presented by: Carol Amstutz

Introduction

Christ came for the brokenhearted

Mark 9:41; Isaiah 58:6-14

1. The Realities of Community

His Body - Ephesians 1:22-23
To Make Known - Ephesians 3:10-11
Equipped - Romans 12:3-13; Ephesians 4
A Holy Priesthood - 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-12
Need to Repent - Revelation 2-3
Need to Respect - I Corinthians 12:21-26

2. The Role of Community – Christ

Matt 28:18-20; Acts 17:26-28
His Glory – Ephesians 1:12; 1 Corinthians 10:31

Isaiah 61:1-3 (43:7,10)

His Faith – Hebrews 12:2-3

Ephesians 3:14-21

His Love – I John 3:1,16-18; John 17:23; Ephesians 4:2; Mark 10:45

Persuasion - Romans 4:20
Expressing Faith - Galatians 5:6
Hard work - Hebrews 13:3; Acts 20:35

His Law – John 13:34-35; Galatians 6:2


His Power – Colossians 1:28-29; 1 Peter 4:10-11

His Light – I John 1:5-10 – truth and confession
His Gifts – Ephesians 2:10; 4:4,11-16; Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:12-26

His Victory – overcomers - Revelation 11:10-12a; 21:2-4

Note: Matthew 18 – protecting vulnerable, valuing/loving each, restoring, forgiving

I Timothy 3-5 – lead, guard the Word, live practically

3. Application: Practically Speaking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grow in Him</th>
<th>Return What He Has Given</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Learn to need.</td>
<td>2. Learn people’s ‘need signals’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Work through resistances… and pray.</td>
<td>3. Ask to help… and pray.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Invite the truth about yourself.</td>
<td>4. Be there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Enter into forgiveness.</td>
<td>5. Tell the truth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Give something back.</td>
<td>6. Go into the world</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taken from Safe People, Cloud and Townsend, 1995, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, pp. 169-187

IV. Further Reading Resources:

Sam Storms, To the One Who Conquers: 50 Daily Meditations on the Seven Letters of Revelation 2-3, 2008, Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL
# The Church: It Is a Spiritual Not a Human Reality

What God did to us, we then owed to others. (Romans 15:7)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spiritual Reality</th>
<th>Human Reality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>pneumatic, spiritual</strong></td>
<td><strong>psychic, human</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basis - manifest Word of God in Jesus Christ</td>
<td>Basis - dark, unclear urges/desires of human mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essence is light (I John 1:5,7)</td>
<td>Essence is darkness (Mark 7:21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truth</td>
<td>Desire - even noble and devout impulses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship of those called by Christ</td>
<td>Fellowship of devout souls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bright love of brotherly service-agape</td>
<td>Dark love of good and evil desires, eros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orderly service</td>
<td>Disordered desire for pleasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humble submission to brethren</td>
<td>Haughty submission to one's own desires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word of God rules</td>
<td>The Word along with men of exceptional powers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God's Word alone binds</td>
<td>Word with men binding others to selves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power, honor, dominion surrendered to Spirit</td>
<td>Personal power/influence sought &amp; cultivated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirit governs</td>
<td>Psychological techniques/methods govern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naïve, unmethodical, helping love toward brother</td>
<td>Psychological analysis and construct toward brother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple and humble brotherly service</td>
<td>Searching, calculating analysis of stranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never, any ‘immediate’ relationship with another</td>
<td>Profound, elemental, human desire for immediate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ defines love – stands between I &amp; Thou</td>
<td>Fusion of I/Thou; forcing human sphere of influence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ's call, relationship with Him is everything</td>
<td>Human ties, suggestions, bonds are everything</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glorifies God</td>
<td>Human absorption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conversion by Holy Spirit</td>
<td>Conversion by man influencing man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love loves for Christ's sake</td>
<td>Love loves for man's gain, irresistible rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love walks in truth</td>
<td>Love acts with little regard for truth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truth at core of loving relationship</td>
<td>Nothing, not even truth allowed between self and beloved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissolves fellowship if false – seeks genuine</td>
<td>Cannot dissolve false fellowship for truth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loves and serves one's enemy</td>
<td>Cannot love an enemy, but becomes hatred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love comes from Christ, serves Him alone</td>
<td>Love becomes an end to itself – an idol, loving self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All is obedience to His Word, His defining</td>
<td>Cannot understand Christ's love and command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allows Christ only to save another – only He mediates</td>
<td>Takes another into own hands – creates own image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commends Christ in everything</td>
<td>Commends self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets other with clarity of God's Word (III John 4)</td>
<td>Personal, direct influence and interference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaks more to Christ about brother – prayer</td>
<td>Speaks more to brother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service ordered by truth</td>
<td>Love ordered by uncontrolled desires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creates freedom of brethren</td>
<td>Produces human subjection, dependence, constraint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creates fruits grown healthily in God's will</td>
<td>Breeds hot-house flowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to distinguish between human ideal and God's reality</td>
<td>Cannot discern spiritual reality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of one Body - does not form orders, societies, etc.</td>
<td>Applies principles of selection and separation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shares actively/passively in sufferings, struggles, and promises of whole Church</td>
<td>Sectarianism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows limitations of community-building power</td>
<td>Exclusion of weak, insignificant, useless... even Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ alone is the unity</td>
<td>Does not know limitations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Live in Brokenness and Vulnerability

The following chart describes two different ways a church lives out her spirituality. Which column best describes you and your church?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROUD &amp; DEFENSIVE</th>
<th>BROKEN &amp; VULNERABLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I am guarded and protective about my imperfections and flaws.</td>
<td>1. I am transparent and weak; I disclose myself to appropriate others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I focus on the “positive,” strong, successful parts of myself.</td>
<td>2. I am aware of the weak, needy, limited parts of who I am, and I freely admit failure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I am highly “offensive” and defensive.</td>
<td>3. I am approachable and open to input.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I naturally focus first on the flaws, mistakes, and sins of others.</td>
<td>4. I am aware of my own brokenness. I have compassion and am slow to judge others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I give my opinion a lot, even when I am not asked.</td>
<td>5. I am slow to speak and quick to listen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. I don’t get close to people.</td>
<td>6. I am open, soft, and curious about others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. I keep people from really seeing what is going on inside of me.</td>
<td>7. I delight in showing vulnerability and weakness, that Christ’s power may be seen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. I like to control most situations.</td>
<td>8. I can let go and give people opportunity to earn my trust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. I have to be right in order to feel strong and good.</td>
<td>9. I understand that God’s strength reveals itself in admitting mistakes, weakness, and statements that “I was wrong.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. I blame others.</td>
<td>10. I take responsibility for myself and speak mostly in the “I,” not the “you” or “they.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. I often hold grudges and rarely ask forgiveness.</td>
<td>11. I don’t hold people in debt to me, and am able to ask others for forgiveness as needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. I deny, avoid, or withdraw from painful realities.</td>
<td>13. I honestly look at the truth beneath the surface, even when it hurts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. I give answers and explanations to those in pain, hoping to fix or change them.</td>
<td>14. I am present with people in their pain, and am comfortable with mystery and with saying, “I don’t know.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. I have to prove I am right when wronged.</td>
<td>15. I can let things go.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. I am demanding.</td>
<td>16. I assert myself respectfully and kindly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. I am highly self-conscious and concerned about how others perceive me.</td>
<td>17. I am more aware of God and others than the impression I am making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. I see people as resources to be used for God.</td>
<td>18. I see people as gifts to be loved and enjoyed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keynote Speaker, Jeanne Damoff, Part IV: “Destined For The Throne: It Will All Make Sense In The End”
Session Four

“Destined for the Throne: It Will All Make Sense In The End”

Key verse: “I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 3:18-22

Scripture assures us that not one word God has written concerning His people will fail, but all will be brought to pass. And what has God written? A love story about a Prince who paid the ultimate price to rescue His bride -- a glorious, mighty Prince who has gone to prepare a place for her and will come again on His white horse to carry her to His kingdom where all her tears will be wiped away, and there will be no sorrow or pain or death.

We long for that day, but even as we await His return, we celebrate, because we know that He is working toward that end. Yes, there are dragons to defeat and evils to overcome while we wait, but the story has been written, and He has promised us victory.

Such good news! This story we’re living has a happy ending! The Prince and His Bride will reign forever. But first the bride has to make herself ready. During this session we’ll shift our perspective from the earthly to the heavenly, from the temporary to the eternal. If the time we spend on earth is like spiritual boot camp, preparing us to reign with Christ, how can we best participate in that process?

Points to ponder:

• God has written a love story about a glorious, mighty Prince who paid the ultimate price to rescue His bride. He has gone to prepare a place for her and will come again to carry her to His kingdom where all her tears will be wiped away, and there will be no sorrow or pain or death.

• If the time we spend on earth is like spiritual boot camp, preparing us to reign with Christ, how can we best participate in that process?

• Ephesians 6:12 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

• 2 Corinthians 10:3,4: “For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.”

• Suffering, sorrow, pain, temptation, oppression, darkness, illness, loss, brokenness. When God chooses these things for us, they are the packages that often conceal His best gifts. He uses them to press us into His presence and to conform us to the image of His Son. Why would we want to be anywhere else but right in the middle of the divine dance, caught up into the purposes of our Almighty God?

Notes:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Verses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and His wonderful works to the children of men. For He satisfieth the longing soul and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.**  
*Psalm 107: 8-9* |
| **Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**  
*Philippians 4:6-8* |
| **He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**  
*Micah 6:8* |
| **If one part (of the body) suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.**  
*I Corinthians 12:26* |
| **As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**  
*John 13:34-35* |
| **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.**  
*Romans 8:28* |
| **Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.**  
*Revelation 18:20* |
For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

2 Corinthians 1:20

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.

Ephesians 3:20-21